

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Taupulega Fakaofu

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): Protection of fakaofu from Myna Birds Invasion

Implementation Partners for This Project: Taporoporoanga Ipukarea Society of The Cook Islands is currently working on a project to eradicate mynas from Mangaia.

Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research is a Crown Research Institute based at Lincoln, New Zealand providing a broad range of research and advice on pest and biodiversity management throughout the world.

Pacific Invasives Initiative - The Pacific Invasives Initiative (PII) is hosted by the Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) - an expert group of the Species Survival Commission of The World Conservation Union (IUCN). The goal of the PII is *'To conserve island biodiversity and enhance the sustainability of livelihoods of men, women and youth in the Pacific'*.

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): April 1, 2006 – June 30, 2006

Date of Report (month/year): July 30, 2006

II. OPENING REMARKS

Provide any opening remarks that may assist in the review of this report.

The isolation of Tokelau presents challenges to managing invasive species, conserving biodiversity and sustaining livelihoods.

III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. What were the initial objectives of this project?

The objective of this project was to prevent Mynas establishing on Tokelau's islands and the expected result is that the nation of Tokelau will become, and remain, free of Mynas.

This project will deliver:

- a. A feasibility study report that will:
 - i. Assess the social acceptance by Tokelauans of eradicating Mynas and of the methods to be used;
 - ii. Determine the distribution of Mynas across Fakaofu;

- iii. Describe the possible pathways of reinvasion and suggest remedies;
 - iv. Recommend the potential eradication tools, strategies;
 - v. Identify any training necessary to achieve success and for any ongoing survey and eradication work to prevent reinvasion.
- b. A Project Design Document to eradicate Mynas if the feasibility study is positive.
 - c. An Operational Plan for successful eradication.
 - d. Eradication of Myna.

2. Did the objectives of your project change during implementation? If so, please explain why and how.

Yes. Three jungle mynas (*Acridotheres fuscus*) were found on Fakaofu. This was unexpected as the birds had been identified as common mynas (*Acridotheres tristis*) and early observations suggested there were up to 40 birds. A decision was made to change the project from a feasibility study to an eradication. An Operational Plan was prepared, a training needs analysis done, training completed and the eradication began.

3. Briefly describe the methods used in achieving the objectives of this project. Consultation with officers of Taupulega Fakaofu, officers of the Tokelau Public Service, the Administrator of Tokelau and other members of the Tokelau Unit of the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the people of Fakaofu was an essential part of implementing this project. Following consultation, a feasibility study team of four people (2 from Fakaofu, 2 from New Zealand) completed observations on Fakaofu and decided to proceed with eradication using a cage trap and nestbox traps.

4. Was your project successful in achieving the expected objectives? If no, explain why not. If yes, please explain how the project was successful and the key factors that contributed to its success.

Yes, with the exception of the Project Design Document. The eradication is proceeding. Factors which contributed to the success include the contacts and expertise provided by PII and assistance from CEPF/CI

5. Describe what was achieved in terms of:

a) capacity development;

Two officers of Taupulega Fakaofu were trained in identifying and trapping mynas

b) developing partnerships;

Despite the isolation of Tokelau, the partnerships contributed to the project.

c) raising awareness of invasive species and generating community support for their management;

A General Fono was being held on Fakaofu during the feasibility study. This gave an opportunity to raise awareness and gain support from Faipule, Pulemuku and

Fono delegates from all three of Tokelau's atolls and the Acting Director for Economic Development & the Environment.

d) involving the local community and other stakeholders:

The General Fono involved all people on Fakaofu but every opportunity was taken to discuss the project with the community.

e) providing benefits to the local community and other stakeholders.

The mynas were taking food from pig pens and there were reports of them damaging bananas. Eradication will stop that.

6. What was the impact of the project at the local level?

The feasibility study team will review local effects when eradication is completed

7. What was the impact of the project (if any) at the national level?

Considerable. Tokelau is governed by the Fono (Council for the Ongoing Government of Tokelau), consisting of three Faipule (village leaders) and three Pulemaku (village mayors). The Ulu-o-Tokelau (titular Head of Government of Tokelau) for 2006 is Aliko Faipule Kolouei O'Brien, who is also the Faipule of Fakaofu.

8. Did your team experience any disappointments or failures during implementation? If so, please explain and comment on how the team addressed these disappointments and/or failures.

No. The project went, and is going, well

9. Describe the key positive and negative lessons learned from this project that would be useful to share with other organizations interested in implementing a similar project.

Positive reinforcement of the need for early detection and rapid response to invasive species. Confirmation of the need for feasibility studies before invasive species management projects can be implemented. Unfortunately, the travel constraints did not allow enough time on the atoll for the visiting members of the feasibility study team.

10. How has the project been promoted? (Please enclose/attach press clippings, brochures, publications, videos, websites, photos, etc). Please describe the products developed during the project and how and to whom these were disseminated.

The feasibility study team was interviewed by Tokelau radio.

11. Describe any follow-up activities you wish to implement and how you intend to do so (eg other invasive species management actions you wish to pursue, or how you plan to scale up the project to a broader area).

12. Please provide any additional information you think may assist CEPF in understanding any other aspects of your completed project.

IV. ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes

**Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:*

- A Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)*
- B Complementary funding (Other donors contribute to partner organizations that are working on a project linked with this CEPF project)*
- C Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)*
- D Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

Provide details of whether this project will continue in the future and if so, how any additional funding already secured or fundraising plans will help ensure its sustainability.

V. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This project is supported by the Australian government's Regional Natural Heritage Program through the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund.

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund is a joint initiative of Conservation International, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank. A fundamental goal is to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation.

VI. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF aims to increase sharing of experiences, lessons learned and results among our grant recipients and the wider conservation and donor communities. One way we do this is by making the text of final project completion reports available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and by marketing these reports in our newsletter and other communications. Please indicate whether you would agree to publicly sharing your final project report with others in this way.

Yes Y _____

No _____

If yes, please also complete the following:

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