#### CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Species Recovery Plan for the Fijian Crested Iguana
Project Title:	National Trust for Fiji
Date of Report:	01 February 2013
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CEPF Region: Polynesia and Micronesia

**Strategic Direction:** 3. Safeguard and restore threatened species

**Grant Amount:** \$228,930

**Project Dates:** June 1, 2009-June 30, 2012

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):

Taronga Zoo – technical advisor – iguana health checks, translocation protocols for iguana transfer, support to Kula EcoPark for captive breeding program

PII – technical advisor – invasives management, capacity building

USP/IAS/South Pacific Regional Herbarium – technical advisor

Birdlife International, Nature Fiji MV – technical advisor, partner

Kula EcoPark – partner – captive breeding component

Department of Culture and Heritage – community liaison

Provincial Office – community liaison office

Community Members – community partners

#### **Conservation Impacts**

Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.

1 (Prevent, control and eradcate invasive species in Key Biodiversity Areas)

Implemented Biosecurity protocols and prevented the spread of key invasive species to two identified KBA sites – Monuriki Island and Yaduataba Island.

Implemented a weed management plan for a KBA site – Yaduataba Island.

Eradicated a key invasive species-goats – from a KBA site - Monuriki Island.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal):

Stable, self-sustaining and viable populations of the Fijian Crested Iguana at selected priority sites in Fiji, including Yaduataba Crested Iguana Sanctuary.

#### **Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:**

Stable, self-sustaining population of crested iguana at Yaduataba island sanctuary.

Successful captive breeding for the Monuriki species of crested iguanas at Kula EcoPark with a view to successfully populate Monuriki islands by 2015.

#### Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal):

Re-establish a population of the Fijian Crested Iguana at selected site(s) in Fiji.

Successful management of identified key invasive threats to the Fijian Crested Iguana Population at Yaduataba Island and selected site(s) in Fiji.

Successful captive breeding for the Monuriki crested iguanas at Kula Eco Park.

#### **Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:**

Successful management of identified key invasive plant species at Yaduataba Island. Successful captive breeding for Monuriki crested iguanas at Kula EcoPark.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

**Hectares Protected: 550ha** 

Species Conserved: Fijian Crested Iguana

Corridors Created: Bua, Yaduataba, Monuriki to Lautoka

Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.

The project was successful in achieving its short term and long term objectives.

There were challenges faced with respect to time taken for community consultations and to attain community consensus and approvals.

## Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The goat eradication was not anticipated. Therefore it was an unexpected but positive development for the project.

#### **Project Components**

**Project Components**: Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.

**Component 1 Planned:** Priority translocated site(s) established for re-introduction of the Fijian Crested Iguana.

#### **Component 1 Actual at Completion:**

## Activity 1.1 Feasibility Study and background research on Fijian crested iguana

An assessment was carried out in November, 2009 on the 17 islands surveyed between 2000 and 2005 and listed as potential translocation sites in the Fijian crested iguana species recovery plan (2008-2012). Islands were assessed for:

- Presence / absence study of iguana species
- Habitat preference
- Existing predators and competitors

Lists of the following priorities were identified:

- 1. islands for possible reintroduction/translocation and identified land owning units.
- 2. islands for in-situ conservation and identified land owning units.
- 3. islands for ex-situ conservation and identified land owning units.

Namenalala Island, was identified as the highest priority <sup>1</sup> islands for reintroduction and translocation as *Brachylophus vitiensis* and *B.faciatus* populations have recently been identified on Devuilau, Castaway and Makodraga Islands.

It was also identified that Makodraga, a government owned island was a possible suitable site for translocation. Surveys were made on the island of Makodraga in 2009 and 2010<sup>2</sup>. The island vegetation is supportive for iguana habitat and its government ownership status makes it an ideal candidate for security as a translocation site. However, an estimated population of 2,000 Banded Iguana were found on Makodroga Island in the 2010 survey ruling out its suitability for translocation. The island remains a candidate for conservation as a sanctuary for *B. Fasciatus*.

The most recent survey for Namenalala Island was carried out in 2008 on Namenalala Island. Only 6 acres of the land on Namenalala Island is leased out for a low impact eco-tourism resort, while the remaining 50 acres is held as conservation/protection forest by the lessee. The forest is still intact with little disturbance to the vegetation. There is a need to re-survey the island only for mapping of invasive alien species.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> IAS. 2009. Technical Report: Makodroga Island Rapid Preliminary Survey Report

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Fisher,R. and P.Harlow. 2010. Makodraga Survey Report

#### Activity 1.2 Invasives assessment of Yadua Taba and of selected potential sites

A major contributor to habitat degradation and thus extinction of plants and animals from islands is the invasion of alien species into unsuspecting ecosystems. Native species are impacted most in these cases as they take on new threats in terms of predation and competition for food and space.

Weed control has been a part of the management aspect of the sanctuary since 2003. An initial weed management plan was developed in 2005 which has formed the basis of most of the initial weed work being carried out<sup>3</sup>.

Leucaena leucocephala is a 'conflict tree' being widely promoted for tropical forage production and reforestation whilst it spreads naturally and is widely reported as a weed. This tree can form dense monospecific thickets and is difficult to eradicate once established. It renders extensive areas unusable and inaccessible and threatens native plants.

Once established, *L. leucocephala* is difficult to eradicate and furthermore, the soil seed bank can remain viable for at least 10 - 20 years after seed dispersal. Flowering and seeding may occur throughout the year as long as moisture permits. This species has been nominated as among 100 of the "World's Worst" invaders (IUCN Global Invasive Species Database, 2008) and considered to be a significant invasive species in Fiji. (Meyer, 2000)

*L. leucocephala*, threatens the Tropical Pacific Dry Forest Vegetation on Yadua Taba that is home to roughly 95% of the remaining endemic Crested Iguana population in Fiji. Long, dry winters are typical in the northwest of Fiji's large islands and have produced extensive dry forest communities unique in the Pacific. Unfortunately, this forest which once covered 7557  $\rm km^2$  is now found on less than 100  $\rm km^2$  and is one of the most endangered habitats in Tropical Pacific.

In Yadua Taba, *L. leucocephala* is expanding from three major patches on the Northern end of island. These patches are at very high density and occur at almost pure stands towards the centre of the patches. In addition, there is likely to be large quantities of viable seed within the soil seed bank. Further distribution surveys were conducted as new patches of *Leucaena leucocephala* were identified. Leucaena control work (basal hacking and ring-barking) carried out on the island was seen to be relatively effective with majority of treated plants killed. However there were still signs of regeneration from some treated plants but the reason for this regeneration has not been established. More work is required in this area.

Removal of wedelia is an ongoing activity. 6 sites for wedelia eradication were completed and continue to be monitored.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Peter Harlow et al. 2005. Invasive-Plant Assessment and Weed Management Plan for the Fijian Crested Iguana Sanctuary Island of Yadua Taba, Bua.

# Activity 1.3 Community discussions and approval for the Project. Research on legal implications of project.

#### Denimanu village

The consultation between NTF and Denimanu was not difficult due to the long term association between the NTF and the community. Community consent was achieved.

#### Nabouwalu community – "Buli Raviravi"

NTF began consultation with Yadua Taba landowners, the Chiefly family of the 'Buli Raviravi' in Nabouwalu for approval to translocate 50 pairs of breeding crested iguanas onto Namenalala island.

The consultation was challenging. The family of the 'Buli Raviravi' rejected the proposal citing the current status quo as proof of the security of the iguanas on Yaduataba..

Several initiatives for discussion were carried out. Presentation of findings were made to communities and stakeholders in order for Nabouwalu community to have a better understanding and awareness on why translocation is critical and why this should occur with the Yadua Taba population.

Following two years of consultation with Yadua Taba landowners a letter of approval was signed by the community authorising the NTF to translocate 50 breeding pairs of iguanas to Namenalala Island. An MOU was drafted for all parties to sign. This did not eventuate as the Namenalala landowners did not consent to receive the iguanas.

#### Navatu community (Namenalala landowning unit)

Namenalala Island is registered under the TLTB as Native Land and is owned by the Mataqali Dalomo Delaiovalau of Yavusa Nasuva, Navatu, Kubulau, Bua (Vanua Levu). A 43ha volcanic island was leased out for a small, low impact eco tourism resort in 1983. Bound by lease conditions to restrict resort development to less than approximately eight hectare of the island, it also provides an active protection to the remainder of the island comprising undisturbed forest. Namenalala Island and Namena Barrier Reef fall within the proposed park reserve by National Trust back in the mid 1970s.

Consultation with the Namenalala landowners began in 2010 commencing with a traditional approach carried out to the Mataqali Dalomo Delaiovalau, village of Navatu, in the district of Kubulau.

Results of these meetings revealed that Namenalala landowners were not satisfied with current lease conditions thus their unwillingness to support translocation, assuming additional discomfort. Namenalala landowners residing in Navatu village referred the matter to Suva residents (including the head of the Mataqali Dalomo) who refused the request.

#### Community issues:

- Navatu community & the lessee, have a dispute in court over the island
- Navatu community & the lessee have a dispute over the fishing grounds
- Community feel inclusion of crested iguanas on the island will give more advantage to the lessee

- Navatu community requested NTF to intervene in the court case NTF declined
- History on NGO intervention has not been viewed positively by the community.

All community discussions were facilitated by retired Native Land Commissioner, Ratu Viliame Tagiveitaua and four Roko Tui officers from the Provincial Office: Roko Tui Bua, Mr. Jale Sigarara, Assistant Senior Roko, Mr. Rupeni Kunaturaga, Assistant Senior Roko, Ratu Ramakutu Nagagavoka, Senior Assistant Roko and a member of the Buli Raviravi family, Ratu Semi Ramatai.

Activity 1.4 Establish Project team, agree to short/long term indicators, design pre-and post-release monitoring program, and release strategy. Determine process of veterinary health checks for wild population to be released.

Blood analysis and health status checks of Fijian crested iguanas species on Yaduataba Island were made by Dr. Robert Johnston and Dr. Peter Harlow in preparation for translocation. Iguanas at Kula Eco Park were also assessed for health status.

A translocation protocol paper was developed in consultation with the Durrell Wildlife Institute.

Translocation information paper was developed and translated into the Fijian language for dissemination to communities.

Project team was established. Advisory committee was appointed and meeting held during the course of the project to provide direction and advise to the project team.

**Component 2 Planned:** Invasives management plan implemented at priority translocation site(s) and at Yadua Taba Island Sanctuary.

#### **Component 2 Actual at Completion:**

#### **Capacity Building**

## 1) Invasive Plant Project Management Training<sup>4</sup>

Two week training on Invasive Plant Project Management Training was carried out in Sigatoka May 2011. PII facilitated this training attended by NTF staff at HQ and Rangers from Sigatoka Sand Dunes National Park, Waisali Rainforest Reserve, Yadua Taba Iguana Sanctuary Conservation site and a representative from Yanuya working on Monuriki Island.

The purpose of this course is to:

- Give weed control personnel the skills and confidence necessary to manage invasive plant projects,
- Further develop skills in the collection and management of data for project planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and accountability purposes and,
- Provide an efficient and effective data collection and management system that is easy to use and maintain and is adaptable to similar projects across the Pacific.

# 2) Island Biosecurity Training<sup>5</sup>

One week training was conducted in 2010 with 12 participants. PII carried out this training with key staff involved in the project, partner NGO representatives and community representatives. The course objectives were to:

- Enhance an understanding of island biosecurity, its purpose and how to maintain effective biosecurity programs
- Enhance the knowledge and skills necessary to undertake basic biosecurity prevention, surveillance and incursion response actions and
- Collate information required for development of a biosecurity plan for Yadua Taba.

As a result of the training, site invasive management plans are in progress for four NTF sites.

#### 3) Community Networking

Nine community representatives from Yanuya Island (landowners for Monuriki Island) visited Yadua Taba in 2010. It was an opportunity for the community representatives in Yanuya to see Vatu i Ra island, an important bird areas for Fiji (IBA) and to experience first-hand the conservation initiatives for Yaduataba Island which the landowners are engaged in.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> PII. 2011. Fiji Islands Weed Management Training Report.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> PII. 2010. Fiji Islands Biosecurity Training Report

#### 4) NZ Training for NTF Staff

An exchange program also occurred twice in 2010; NTF staff attended training programs with PII New Zealand with the following purpose:

- Make presentation to the Island Eradication Advisory Group (IEAG), Department of Conservation, and New Zealand for the purpose of reviewing the goat eradication. Members of the IEAG are provincial, national and regional level employees of the Department of Conservation in New Zealand who have a wide variety of skills and experience working with communities, non-governmental and governmental organizations around the World eradicating invasive species to save endemic and native flora and fauna;
- 2. Completion of Feasibility Study Visit Report and;
- 3. Completion of Project Plan for Goat Removal program.

#### Goat Eradication - Monuriki Island

Monuriki is approximately 40ha in size and circular in shape. It has steep and broken terrain with two narrow strips of flat land with coconut beach forest on the south coast and the eastern tip. Located in the Mamanuca island group, it is two hours by ferry from the mainland port of Denarau.

The opportunity to eradicate goats as part of the restoration of Monuriki Island occurred after the land-owning community visited Yaduataba and had discussions with the communities of Yaduataba. A feasibility study was carried out in 2010 by Pacific Invasives Initiative (PII) and NTF on Monuriki Island, Yanuya. Goat removal from Monuriki Island also began in 2010.

219 goats were eradicated from the island of Monuriki with the assistance provided by PII, Birdlife International and members of the Yanuya community. Further surveys will determine whether the eradication has been 100% successful but indications are very positive that it has been.

#### **Invasives Management**

Weed work at Yaduataba has been ongoing for several years and has some good planning in place and some very experienced field workers. Further training in the use of herbicide techniques has greatly increased weed management progress on Yadua Taba.

With new training and development of a new weed management plan for the island, weed species now targeted will require different techniques to those used in the past. A GIS map of vegetation distribution and plant invasive distribution was completed and anticipated to be a useful management tool. Raintree (*Samanea samans*) distribution was assessed in detail for the first time for the island.

Seven invasive species are identified as key invasive species for eradication or control as part of this project.

- 1. Goat (Capra hircus)
- 2. Trailing daisy (Wedelia trilobata)

- 3. Leucaena leucocephala
- 4. Lantana camara
- 5. Raintree (Samanea samans)
- 6. Guava (Psidium guajava)
- 7. Yaqoyaqona (Piper aduncum)

A major emphasis is also now placed on biosecurity and surveillance measures as indentified in the Biosecurity Plan for Yaduataba. Biosecurity Plan for Monuriki is to be developed as part of the second phase of the project.

**Component 3 Planned:** Subgrant to Kula Eco Park: Captive breeding program for the Monuriki crested iguana established at Kula EcoPark.

#### **Component 3 Actual at Completion:**

Following extensive community consultation with the landowners of Monuriki Island, an MOU was signed in 2010 between the National Trust of Fiji, Kula Eco Park and the Monuriki landowners agreeing to the captive breeding program for the Monuriki species of Crested Iguana.

The new captive breeding facility was built at Kula Eco Park in 2010.

From 2010 to 2011, a total of 10 adult male and 10 female crested iguanas were captured from Monuriki Island and transferred to Kula Eco Park (KEC). By June 2012 a total of 15 indivduals were hatched at KEC as part of the program. This season Kula artificially incubated 8 more eggs.

The success of this program was highlighted in several media articles:

- Interview was carried out on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010 shortly after the signing of the MOU which was around 6.30pm. This was aired on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2010 at 2.30pm through the Radio Fiji One.
- The Fiji one news featured the iguana captive breeding in September 2010.
- CEPF newsletter and articles were circulated to stakeholders. Articles were also published through PII newsletter particularly on work

Awareness programs were also conducted in schools and hotels in the Mamanuca and Malolo groups. Updates were also provided to the Mamanuca Environment Society and information is shared through activities implemented in hotels, hotels and communities they visit.

A vernacular summary was also provided on a six months basis to the Provincial office as agreed in the MOU. Discussion with the Provincial office has been very positive with the full commitment the Ministry of Indigenous Affairs has towards the Captive Breeding program on Monuriki Island. Youth were actively engaged in the collection of iguanas in the wild, goat surveys and mustering.

# Were any components unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?

Component 1: Priority translocated site(s) established for re-introduction of the Fijian Crested Iguana Constraints

The project initial focus was to acquire community approvals for the captive breeding program for the Monuriki iguanas, facilitating proper agreements in place, conducting preliminary surveys and collecting iguanas, addressing the threat of goats on the island, and undertaking a goat feasibility study, socioeconomic survey and biosecurity training.

This process took longer than was anticipated however, in order to ensure the proper support and participation by the communities it was agreed to follow proper protocols and procedures.

#### Some constraints faced:

- Non-availability of relevant government officials to mediate community discussions. This created delays in the timeframes.
- Lease condition for Namenalala Island unknown. This was resolved through meetings with the legal lesee of the island on his return from abroad. However this also created delays with the project implementation timeframe.

RAP Survey was not conducted for Namenala Island. It was discussed and agreed with advisors that the island terrestrial environment was well protected and a RAP survey would not be necessary. Funds for the RAP Survey were then diverted towards the goat eradication program.

All consultations leading to the decision to translocate iguanas to Namenala Island have been positive. The final decision to disallow the translocation clearly indicated that the community have not overcome issues they have had with other partners - mainly the current leasee

The NTF made an assessment of the issues facing the Namenalala landowning community. Many of the issues have occurred over decades and despite the occurrences of several NGOs working in that area over time the barriers have been difficult to break through as the key issues are based around land ownership, rights, legal recourse and compensation.

The NTF is currently generating more awareness initiatives on iguana conservation and other related issues in Navatu and Kubulau District and with Namnalala landowners residing in the cities (thus expanding the scope of community interactions). This should improve community understanding of the program and generate more support.

A matrix of potential islands was prepared byt he NTF to asertain the next best island for translocation. however based on the study, many earlier identified islands have now become unsuitable to to recent sightings of other species of iguanas. It is also recommended that the continued exploration of other islands for translocation still continue.

Component 2: Invasives management plan implemented at priority translocation site(s) and at Yadua Taba Island Sanctuary.

Product/Deliverable: Impact of rats on iguana populations researched.

This was not carried out following consultation with members of the Advisor Group. Surveys of rat impacts have been completed by Suzanne Morrison and supervised by Dr. Peter Harlow (Taronga Zoo). It was agreed that a Biosecurity Plan for Yaduataba, Monuriki and Namenala Islands is necessary to support achieving component 2. In discussion with PII, a Biosecurity training was undertaken by PII for the purpose of developing a Biosecurity Plan for these Islands.

This component was realised but not with respect to rat impacts as this was completed by a PhD student Suzanne Morrison. The focus of component 2 was therefore diverted to:

- 1. eradication of goats from Monuriki this was fully completed with a Feasibility Report written and implemented.
- 2. weed control on Yaduataba Island a Weed Management Plan was written and implemented successfully as part of the project. This work is now on-going and is built into the work activities for the site.

Please describe and submit (electronically if possible) any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

#### Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.

<u>Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)</u>

Proper stakeholder analysis especially for community and resource owner groups essential to ensure all relevant community stakeholders are engaged in the project. Ensuring a proper stakeholder analysis at the beginning of the project and during the project lifecycle is important as new actors come into play during the project implementation period. We need to know the level of interest different stakeholders have int he project and the degree to which they can be involved.

Identifying SMART partners and attaining their support for and involvement in the project can help the project progress further. There may also be opportunities to leverage the project funding and share resources and expenses. A good example is the partnership generated by NTF with Birdlife International and PII and the Yanuya community which resulted in the successful eradication of goats and rats from the island.

<u>Project Implementation: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)</u>

Project managers facilitation methods can be improved through a more efficient project management, planning and communication. Engaging of relevant technical partners is especially relevant to the success of the project.

Time taken to carry out ecological surveys on prioritised islands took too long. Important that strict criteria for selection of sites is agreed to by the project team to ensure surveys of only priority islands.

Time frame for work required for the captive breeding component of the project was increased beyond planned timeframe due to low numbers of Monuriki iguanas caught. This required more field surveys and a larger number of field personnel involved.

The community desire to remove goats from Monuriki island immediately using their methodology vs a proper goat feasibility study and clearly defined methodologies. The project team had to manage community and project team expectations to ensure a win win situation for both.

#### Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

#### STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS AND INFORMATION SHARING

- Using the current governance structures in the community ensures there is no breach in protocols
- Using the appropriate government departments as entry points into the community
- Having a Briefing note circulated to the Advisory Body was very useful as the Advisory Body only meets twice a year
- Try to circulate this briefing note to a wider audience to generate more awareness of program
- Only one Radio Interview and One Newspaper article was generated during this period. A documentary is currently being prepared to be aired on the local TV station. The NTF website is currently being revamped and a new page for the CEPF project has been created.
- Important to ensure proper and timely feedback on project progress is made to the community
- A particular challenge faced was to balance the need for community acceptance and support for this project (bottom up approaches) vs the National priority for this project under the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (top down approaches).

#### TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

- NTF gained widely from association with PII through the linking of technical personnel to NTF staff to assist with actions for invasive management;
- other associations such as IAS and Taronga Zoo also provided support through the provision of technical experts to the project
- sharing of ideas, methods and knowledge between communities and technical experts was facilitated through the Biosecurity Workshop and Goat Eradication Feasibility study.

Short field sessions led to delayed results - both for fieldwork and community consultations.

Mantain a consistent approach to presentation of project progress to communities and stakeholders. Sharing of information to all stakeholders including the relevant government officials is important. There is a need to reinforce to stakeholders the national policies which the project supports.

Community initiatives to support this project need to be highlighted to the relevant government departments and the role of the communitites acknowledged by government.

Training provided by PII was very relevant to the invasives component of the project. It also opened doors to the opportunity to create partnerships with other NTF sites and capacity building opportunities in NZ and American Samoa.

Goat eradication was not part of the original proposal. A more thorough discussion with the Yanuya community should have been held during the proposal preparatory phase and their consent sought. This would have resulted in the eradication being a part of the original proposal with its on\wn component and budget for activities.

More media outputs are needed.

Weed training for NTF staff and community had impacts beyond Monuriki island. Other NTF staff were able to develop weed mangement plans for their sites and commence with the implementation. Techinical support to these staff have been provided by PII. This is an excellent example of how this project has extended to build capacity and impacts beyond the target geographical area.

Including a component for captive breeding within the program requires a longer term vision for sustainability. With the success of the captive breeding program, the operating cost of the program is expected to rise with the increase in the number of individuals in captivity and the demands in terms of food and accommodation.

#### Additional Funding

Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of the CEPF investment in this project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes

<sup>\*</sup>Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:

**A** Project co-financing (Other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)

- **B** Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project.)
- **C** Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)

#### Sustainability/Replicability

Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.

#### Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

Identified risk - selected translocation site unsuitable habitat. This risk was well adressed through two site surveys of Makodroga Island (an identified translocation site). The second survey identified populations of banded iguanas not noted during the initial survey, thus removing this island from the list of feasible sites for translocation.

Newly identified risk - population of Monuriki iguanas too low to support captive breeding program. In order to address this risk, additional surveys were conducted over longer periods of time. Local expert iguana officer from Yaduataba was brought in to join the survey teams. More local youth were also engaged as part of the survey team. All iguanas sighted were tagged and deposited at Kula. More care given to handling of iguanas to minimise risk during transfers.

New sustainability issues include impacts on communities through goat removal. Loss of income and source of peoples' livelihoods through goat sales is a real and tangible impact. Community involved in the goat eradication earned income to purchase a boat and engine to start a business hiring boats and fishing.

The NTF submitted a proposal to the CEPF to further this aspect of the project by:

- enabling restoration of the native forest,
- re-introduction of the captive bred iguanas into the wild
- establishing a biosecurity protocol for the island, and
- developing a nature tourism plan for the island.

#### Safeguard Policy Assessment

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

Removal of goats will have an immediate impact on the vegetative growth of the island of Monuriki. This will impact the population growth of the remaining goats on the island and the need to remove them before Dec 2011 is critical. There are two immediate actions necessary:

- 1. Remove all remaining goats before December 2011
- 2. Monitor vegetative growth on the island.

The NTF is working closely with Birdlife International to support their submission of a proposal for islands in the same region which are identified IBAs. The NTF component includes

implementation of the Goat Eradication Plan as identified in the Goat Eradication Feasibility Report.

In 2011 the NTF will prioritise the monitoring of the vegetative growth on the island.

The use of shooters for the goat eradication was not planned. As a result there were social and environmental safeguard issues that were not included in the planning stage. Measures taken to address these were:

- 1. Involve Police Force in the planning.
- 2. Letters to all hotels and resorts in the area were sent advising the period for closure of the island.
- 3. Involvement of the Mamanuca Environment Society in teh process to engage with Hotels and Resorts in the region.
- 4. Presentations were made to all hotels and resorts int he region.
- 5. Presentations were made to the local community on the process. The schedule of the shooters involved presentations and explanations to the local community. Safety measures were undertaken.
- 6. No personnel except for the shooters, were allowed on the island and the immediate vicinity during the period of shooting.
- 7. Contracts between the NTF and shooters were signed. The contracts included appropriate standards of behaviour and safety by the shooters.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

### **Information Sharing and CEPF Policy**

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

# Please include your full contact details below:

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E-mail: eerasito@nationaltrust.org.fj

\*\*\*If your grant has an end date other than JUNE 30, please complete the tables on the following pages\*\*\*

# **CEPF Global Targets**

# (Enter Grant Term)

Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant. Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.

			Provide	
Project Results	Is this questio n relevant ?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	your numeric al respons e for project from inceptio n of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	Yes	430ha	550ha	Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.  Yaduataba Island Sanctuary 70ha Monuriki Island 40ha Waisali Reserve 120ha Sigatoka Sand Dunes National Park 320ha
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	Yes	40ha	40ha	Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Yes	40ha	40ha	Monuriki Island 40ha

4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	No	Monuriki Island 40ha
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1below.		Landowners for Monuriki Island wi benefit further through improve ecotourism. A socioeconomic survey t measure the tangible benefits will onl be done in 2013.

If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table

# **Table 1. Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities**

Please complete this table if your project provided concrete socioeconomic benefits to local communities. List the name of each community in column one. In the subsequent columns under Community Characteristics and Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit, place an X in all relevant boxes. In the bottom row, provide the totals of the Xs for each column.

, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Со	mm	unity C	hara	cteris	stics		Na	ture	of S	Soci	ioeco	nomi	с В	enefi	it									
Name of Community	Small landowners	econom	Indigenous/ etnnic Pastoralists/nomadic	Recent migrants	unities	Communities falling below the poverty rate	Other	sustainable '' natural o		_	urism revenues	Park management <b>as</b> activities <b>pp</b>	ental	due to the adoption of	fishir	hunting, or agricultural	water resources	or other natural resource	 Reduced risk or natural disasters (fires,	flooding	,	education, health, or	traditional knowledge for environmental	decision-making due to strengthened civil society	Other

Total																
If you marked "Other", please p	f you marked "Other", please provide detail on the nature of the Community Characteristic and Socioeconomic Benefit:															