CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Société d'Ornithologie de Polynésie Manu (SOP)
Project Title:	Save the Last Monarchs of Polynesia, Two Critically Endangered Birds, for Future Generations
Date of Report:	08/03/2013
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CEPF Region: Polynesia-Micronesia

Strategic Direction: 3. Safeguard and restore threatened species

Grant Amount $198,578

Project Dates: Jan 1, 2011-Dec 31, 2012

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

This project was implemented by SOP Manu with the staff team (full time employees):
Fatu hiva : Arthur Matohi, field technical officer
Tahiti : Laurent Yan, field technical officer
Caroline Blanvillain, program manager
Thomas Ghestemme, program coordinator (project leader)
Thierry Autai, logistic officer

The team was helped by 4 workers paid by the government for predator/bird control and habitat restoration :
Tahiti : Mikael Tehiva, Bruno Mataua and Rainui Maraetefau : July 2012 to Dec. 2012;
Fatu hiva : Emanuel Terorohauepa : Aug 2011 to July 2012.

A Polynesian student Tehani Whiters participated to the project 3 months in 2012 (University of Hamilton, New Zeland).

Some subcontracted people and some volunteers participated also to the project.

At the end of the project, **Alan Saunders**, expert in island restoration, made an assessment of the programs of both species (mainly paid by the Government of French Polynesia) and a first visit on Fatu hiva for evaluate the possibility of a rat eradication on this island.

The project was supported by :
The Government of French Polynesia through the Ministry of Environment represented by DIREN with funds for both species (see Additional funding). This donor contributed also to the project, as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project for paying one worker on Fatu Hiva island and three on Tahiti. The DIREN support the SOP for technical, administrative or advocacy activities of the project.

Mayors of Paea and Punaauia on the island of Tahiti and the mayor of Fatu Hiva island have been involved in the recovery program through Sites Support Groups meetings and communication for the inhabitants of the districts. Punaauia was a support for building bird traps, printing maps and other logistics. Paea city council helped the project in putting at disposal of

Manu meeting rooms, rooms for storing materials, in people for building traps…The project was presented also in the assembly of mayor of all Marquesas islands.

BirdLife International Fiji. They helped us in fund raising and provided technical support and validation of techniques through their help in the redaction of the Short Species Action Plan of both species in 2011 and in reviewing the recovery plan of both species.

Takitumu Conservation Area A cultural exchange between valley owners of Fatu Hiva, Paea and Punauia and owners of the TCA is going to take place in May 2013 for the creation of Protected Areas (in Tahiti and Fatu Hiva) on the model of the one created for the recovery of the Rarotonga Monarch in Cook island.

Pacific Invasives Initiative and **Invasive Species Specialist Group** (contact: Souad Boudjelas) helped us with the problem of invasive species (control of introduced bird, little fire ant) and a training of the SOP's technician Laurent Yan in the Department of Conservation in New Zealand..

Group "Biotic Interactions and Conservation Biology", IMEP CNRS-Université Paul Cézanne, Marseille-Aix is helping us for stochastic risk of extinction assessment. A first contact was established in Nov. 2012, with the visit of Dr Alexandre Millon and it will continue in 2013 with the participation of one Phd student.

And during the project new partners has been involved in the recovery of the species
The CEPF grant allowed SOP to have 1) financial stability and international recognition 2) better local visibility 3) first promising results. Combination of this allowed SOP to raise additional funds with private and institutional sponsors.

Four local enterprises (EDT, OPT, Vini, Air Tahiti Nui Magazine) sponsored the program in 2011 and 2012, six local schools (Papehue, Tiapa, 2+2, Manotahi, Omo'a and Hanavave) has been involve in the program as partner for habitat rehabilitation, totalizing 700 children in 2011 & 2012, two local ONG (Tamarii pointe des pêcheurs and 2Dattitude) became SOP partner's for the Tahiti Monarch : 2Dattitude through the SEFI allocated 3 subsided workers for the recovery program and Tamarii pointe des pêcheurs built more than 20 traps for us and provided us a 'base camp', 60 trappers (voluntaries) removed a total of 1500 Indian Mynah and 1200 Red-vented Bulbul at the entrance of Tahiti Monarch valleys.

The European Union became major funder through a BEST project allocated to SOP and including the recovery of both Tahiti and Fatu Hiva monarchs and several association based in France: Nature et Découverte and Conservation des Espèces et Populations Animales funded the TM recovery program in 2011 and 2012. BirdLife International through Prince Bernarhd funds funded FHM in 2011.

Conservation Impacts

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

The **Tahiti Monarch** *Pomarea nigra* (**CEPF priority species**) and **Fatu Hiva Monarch** *Pomarea whitneyi* (**CEPF priority species**) are classified as birds critically endangered (**CR**) according to the criteria of the IUCN Red List and they enjoy full protection under the local regulation of French Polynesia. With an known population of only forty individuals, the Tahiti Monarch, endemic to the island that bears its name (**Priorities for Site-Level Investment CEPF n° 124**) is close extinction. The strong decline in the population of Fatu Hiva Monarch (estimated fewer than 300 individuals in 2007 and fewer than 50 individuals in 2011) shows that the situation in this species, endemic to Fatu Hiva (**Priorities for Site-Level Investment CEPF n° 99**), is critical.

Between 2010 and 2012, the decline of both species was reversed:
For the Tahiti Monarch (TM):

- ***7 young fledged in 2011 and 8 in 2012***
- ***36 birds were identified in the end of 2010, 44 birds in the end of 2012 (fledglings not counted), with 5 out of the 13 pairs including at least one bird in juvenile plumage showing the population is getting younger.***
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For the Fatu Hiva Monarch (FHM):

- ***9 fledgling were produced during the project (45 % of young production since the beginning of the project in 2008).***
- ***27 adults were presents in protected areas by the end of 2010, 36 in 2012, with 4 out of the 14 pairs including one bird in juvenile plumage, showing the population is getting younger.***

Species repartition is increasing in the managed areas (7 new territories in Tahiti in 2012; 6 new territories in Fatu hiva in 2011-2012).

No nest predation by rats during the project for both species in managed areas.

Only one failure of breeding of the TM caused by introduced birds in 2011 and none in 2012.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

Project Approach (500 words)

The objective in this project was to improve the status of these species and their long-term preservation. It was essential to secure existing populations. The number of Tahiti Monarch (TM) and Fatu Hiva Monarch (FM) has increased in both managed areas. Intra-island translocation (from valley to valley) has been unsuccessfully tested for both species and Rimatara (Austral Archipelago) identified as suitable for establish a security population of TM in a next future.

Results and actions

Result 1 - **Produce an action plan for these species:**

- Knowledge on TM and FH monarchs' reproductive biology and recovery has been synthetized
- Two Short Species Action Plans (2011) and two recovery plans (2013) have been redacted.

Result 2 - **Protect viable populations, improve the status of species:**

- We secured access to the valleys where the last Monarchs are living by including landowner in their protection;
- We maintained rodent control throughout the year on all accessible areas of both FHM and TM;
- We improved the quality of bird habitats (*Miconia calvescens, Spathodea campanulata* destruction and vegetation restoration experiments);
- We set up the fight against introduced birds (1500 mynah and 1200 bulbul trapped in Tahiti in 2012;
- We decreased cat density in FHM valleys and started a ovariectomy program in Omoa village
- We protected the nests and monitored the breeding pairs and obtained 15 fledgling for the TM and 9 for the FHM in two years
- Through a cultural exchange between landowner's of Tahiti, Fatu Hiva and Rarotonga, we are trying to establish protected areas for TM and FHM

- We built a protocol for watching and reduce colonies of *Wasmania apunctada* threatening TMs' territories;
- An international expert evaluated both programs for predator control and global strategy

Result 3 - **Increasing knowledge on the biology and ecology of these species:**

- We acquired data on these species (reproduction, impact of introduced birds, limiting factors of the environment, diet, habitat structure...).

Result 4 - **List and assess the sites that can accommodate its birds:**

- We identified 23 islands with forest suitable which have or not ship rat, the main risk for the two species and identified only Rimatara as suitable for introduce the TM
- Collaboration between SOP and town halls has started for the bio-security of Rimatara against black rat
- We tested unsuccessfully hard release technique for move TM and FHM in other valleys.
- An international expert evaluated that rat eradication in Fatu Hiva is possible

Result 5 - **Increase local community involvement in these projects:**

- We identified leaders and people interested in natural heritage and its preservation within the islands: more than 250 volunteers in Tahiti, 60 trappers, 2 NGOs, implication of town halls of Punaauia and Paea,
- We established and animated the Sites Support Groups (SSG),
- We developed communication measures to all local actors (mayors/SSG, 6 schools involved : 700 children following conferences, 300 going into the field for visit the birds, homeowners, farmers.).
- We developed communication for public in general

Link to CEPF Investment Strategy

Conservation of the TM and FHM has been defined as priority in the environmental profile of the hot spot for CEPF Polynesia - Micronesia with the **strategic direction 3** : “Build awareness and participation of local leaders and community members in the implementation of protection and recovery plans for threatened species” and more specially the **investment priority 3.1** “develop and manage conservation areas that conserve currently unprotected priority sites, especially critical refuge such as large forest blocks and alien-free habitats”.

The establishment of Site Support Group for the conservation of these species on the islands of Tahiti and Fatu Hiva increased greatly the awareness of communities and local leaders. This completed the **investment priority 3.3** “Raise the environmental awareness of communities about species and sites of global conservation concern through social marketing and participatory planning and management approaches”.
The fight against invasive species (rat, cat, introduced birds, invasive plants, little fire ant) led the project to fulfill the **investment priority 1.2** “control or eradicate invasive species in key biodiversity areas, particularly where they threaten native species with extinction” and the **investment priority 1.3** “perform research, provide training in management techniques, and develop rapid response capacity against particularly serious invasive species”.

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

- operational strategy for the conservation of Tahiti Monarch and Fatu Hiva Monarch
- Improved conservation status of both species
- increase the number of viable populations of monarchs if a Black Rat free island can be located/established
- allow the preservation of native species (birds, invertebrates, plants) through the restoration of sites (if possible) or protection of the monarchs on their territory
- establishment of protected areas where resident monarchs (in agreement with stakeholders) and management of these local communities

Actual Progress towards Long-term Impacts at Completion:

- An operational strategy for the conservation of Tahiti Monarch and Fatu Hiva Monarch is now defined in the recovery plan of both species redacted for 2013-2017 period. They provide a brief overview of each species, their status and population trend, and agents of decline and current threats to them. For the Tahiti monarch, the plan has three plan-period goals, covering management, community relations and engagement, and research. The implementation section sets out 12 topics, 42 issues, 49 objectives and 70 prioritized actions.

- Improved conservation status of both species: The decline of both species has been reversed in managed areas and the SOP has greatly improved the skill to protect those birds efficiently in the future (rat, cat and introduced bird controls; management of habitat; involvement of local population into the recovery program) even if each component could be improved as stated in the recovery plan
- We know that Rimatara is suitable for TM translocation and the establishment of a population in this island will increase the number of viable populations of Tahiti monarch. For the FHM, as no suitable island was identified in French Polynesia, Alan Saunders visited Fatu Hiva and stated that rat eradication is technically feasible in this island. We also list the islands suitable in French Polynesia for FHM if rat eradication is performed in the future.
- The recovery of both monarchs is also including the preservation of other native species (birds, invertebrates, plants) through the restoration of sites and exotic invasive species control performed and improved for several direct predators/competitors.
- The creation of protected areas (on the model of Takitumu Conservation Areas on Rarotonga : TCA) will allow the establishment of protected areas holding monarch populations (in agreement with stakeholders. We reached the first step in identifying key people and owners on both islands through SSG and will send 7 communities member in Rarotonga in May 2013.

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

- operational strategy for the conservation of Tahiti Monarch and Fatu Hiva Monarch
- increase knowledge on the biology and ecology of these species
- list and assess alternative sites that could accommodate Monarchs
- ensure local community involvement

Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:

- The TM and FHM Species Action Plans have been redacted and include operational strategy for the period 2013-2017.

- The knowledge on both species increased significantly during the project (biology, impact of threats, habitat selection…)

- In French Polynesia, we identified only one island: **Rimatara: absence of ship rat and absence of another monarch species.**

The Monarch Recovery Group comments were collected in 2011 and **Rimatara is identified as suitable for Tahiti Monarch**. The establishment of a population in this island is planned in 2014 and 2015, depending on funds. Collaboration between Rimatara city council, inhabitants and SOP has started for the biosecurity of the island against ship rat as it is an essential measure for this introduction project.

As no island has been found for Fatu Hiva Monarch, discussions with BirdLife international Fidji led to build a mission for an expert, Alan Saunders from LandCare research, on Tahiti and Fatu Hiva to give advices about both programmes and assess the feasibility of rat eradication on this island. This mission takes place in December 2012. Eradication seems technically feasible; a detailed feasibility study needs to be redacted.

- The local community involvement is secured by the two SSG created in both islands. The successful implication of schools in habitat rehabilitation, and of the population through introduced bird control, will continue over the years. The establishment of protected areas in Tahiti and Fatu Hiva on the model of Takitimu Conservation Areas on Rarotonga is planned in 2013-2014.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: 0 (150 ha managed)
Species Conserved: 2
Corridors Created: 0

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

With the success of the present program (efficient rat, cat and introduced bird control & demographic data on bird improving) the imminent extinction of both species has been reversed (population of both species increased the last 2 years). The situation of the Fatu Hiva Monarch is still critical with only 4 fertile pairs in 2012 and considerable efforts have to be pursued in a next future to really save this bird. In comparison, Tahiti Monarch gets 9 pairs with breeding attempts in 2012.
SOP need now to improve its financial visibility. The conservation status of both species will continue to improve only if fundraising is continuing, improved and secured multi-annually. Indeed a long-term financial plan, in parallel with the recovery plan, will help us to continue to save those birds in the medium and long terms.
Very few islands were finally suitable to species translocation (presence of black rat / other monarchs). The translocation of Tahiti Monarch to Rimatara Island is planned for 2014 with the first translocation of 4-6 birds. This operation need to be carefully prepared in order

1. to obtain the agreement of both islands stakeholders,
2. a clear improvement of biosecurity of Rimatara island as no quarantine exist in the island for its protection against black rats, but SOP is working successfully on this aspect with the creation of a SSG in Rimatara
3. to avoid the introduction of new diseases with the introducing a new bird species in this island also containing 2 threatened species : the Rimatara warbler and the Kulh's Lorikeet
4. to prepare the operational plan.

The rat eradication in Fatu Hiva is going to be a difficult challenge to reach because it will cost a lot and need a very strong implication of the local population in order to obtain their support and agreement for the project. This operation can be planned for the 2017-2022 period. The recovery program on Fatu hiva can have an additional goal: it would be now to make the birds waiting for this operation.

In order to protect the habitat and the other species presents in monarch valleys, SOP must improve the 'Umbrella species' status of both species near the Polynesian stakeholders. Recent political instability and the occurrence of new election in March 2013 is a new challenge for SOP because each time the new political staff is ignorant (but not indifferent) in respect to this problematic.

Even if landowners of both islands said that they are agree with the idea of protected areas, this remains the main challenge to reach early 2014. The entrance of Hopuetamai valley is colonized by new inhabitants – all landowners – in a quite aggressive way for the valley habitat.

The study of the reproduction of Fatu Hiva Monarch is relatively difficult because of particularly high level of sterility in the population and a long pre-egg-laying period during which birds are

'incubating' empty nests. It is therefore difficult to know what is really happening in the nest. With a lesser extent, there is a similar problem in TM. The ecology of fledgling after emancipation is also very difficult to study and understand.

For SSG, it was very difficult to mobilize the population so alternative solutions (from doors to doors campaigns and questioner, communication after other meetings, collaboration with schools, churches, familial meetings) were used successfully. Multiplicity of problematic (6 introduced animals to control: 2 rats, cats, harriers, mynas and bulubuls), habitat restoration, creation of the protected areas also increased the number of meetings but the success is here. Indeed, an increasing number of people are participating to 'official' Sites Support Groups meetings, (27/06/12 and 13/01/13 in Paea (20 then 50 peoples), 27/07/12 in Punaauia (25 peoples). The second SSG of the Fatu Hiva monarch has taken place in Omo'a on 15/08/11 (20 people) and the third one on 08/02/13 (30 people). Overall, more than 700 children and much more than 600 adults have been implicated/contacted for both projects (in Tahiti and Fatu Hiva, more if we include Rimatara).

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The main unexpected negative impacts occurred when owners found:
- 1 dead rat in the river of the valley (for Tiapa valley)
- or 1 dead pig (for Fatu Hiva)- killed by dogs -
- or hunting dogs with poison in their mouth (for Fatu Hiva) because of bad use of poison by subsided workers
- or when one owner rejected the cat control program because he loves cats as pets (Fatu hiva)
- or because one dog was injured by a connibear trap not correctly set (Fatu hiva).

In some extreme case, the entrance of the valley was refused to SOP
Each time, the opinion and fear of the owner(s) was respected and the rat or cat control halted in the valley. Solutions were talks to explain our actions, the status of the monarch, the absence of toxicity of the baits to river water and the low risks for feral pigs. Sometimes, consensus has been reached: to shift bait stations by snap traps. We can now circulate everywhere.

The real success was to obtain 7 new territories for the TM in 2012 (against only one new in 2011) due probably to the combination of good recruitment (7 fledgling in 2011) and the elimination of so many introduced birds (2700 in valley entrances only!) by a unexpected staff (3 workers paid by local government) and 60 volunteers for the trapping of introduced birds in the urban area near to the valleys. This success was unexpected and started by an reversal impact: the phone standard of the SOP was submerged by call from voluntaries from all the island and sometime from other islands: more than 250 peoples called us in less than 15 days! 1% of them were not happy because of this elimination, 99 % others supported the project mainly for personal reasons: Bulbul and Mynah are important noise/cultural pests for them. Finally the trapping project leads to a very good way of awareness about TM and invasive species.

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:
Protect, establish and maintain viable populations of both Tahiti Monarch and Fatu Hiva Monarch in order to improve their conservation status.

Component 1 Actual at Completion:

1.1. Improve the status of both species by improving at least one of productivity or survival rates at their currently occupied sites.

Between 2010 and 2012, the decline of both species was reversed thanks to breeding and survival improvements:

For the Tahiti Monarch (TM):
- 7 young fledged in 2011 and 8 in 2012 (twice than the previous period, see reports)
- 36 birds were identified in the end of 2010, 44 birds in the end of 2012 (fledglings not counted)
- 5 out of the 13 pairs present in 2012 (only 2 before the project) include at least one bird in juvenile plumage showing population is getting younger.

For the Fatu Hiva Monarch (FHM):
- 7 fledgling were produced in 2011 and 2 in 2012. Poor results of young production is the result of highest level of sterility in pairs, high number of young pairs, climatic conditions and one failure caused probably by the cat.
- 27 adults were presents in protected areas by the end of 2010, 36 in 2012, with 5/14 pairs present in December 2012 including one bird in juvenile plumage
- No adult in the managed have been predated by cats (10 % in 2009)

For protect those birds and obtain those results:
- Rat control has been improved on both islands and its range increased:
On Tahiti, the number of bait stations was increased from 273 in 2010 to 365 in 2012 (and only 91 in 2007).
- On Fatu Hiva, the number of bait stations increased from 470 in 2010 to 700 in 2012 (130 in 2007)
- No predation occurred on nests of both species caused by rats and mynas during those two years (the 2 direct predators, see reports).
- Cat control has been improved in Fatu Hiva: 13 Feral cats killed in 2011, only 5 in 2012, showing risk decrease for cat predation; 10 domestic females were also ovariectomized in Omoa village in 2012.

Introduced bird control has been improved greatly in Tahiti:
-18 birds were shot around nest in 2011, 6 in 2012
-15 birds were poisoned in Monarch territories in 2011, 30-50 in 2012
-5 birds were trapped in 2011 against 2700 in 2012 (1500 mynahs and 1200 bulbuls, in urban area near to monarch's valleys)
-1 TM nest failed in 2011 because of introduced birds (bulbuls), none in 2012 (see reports)

Finally, 2 colonies of the little fire ant *Wasmania apunctada* were re-localized at the entrance of the valleys. This invasive ant seems to be still absent from TM's valleys (checked with stick of peanut butter). The protocol of control has been written.

Documents produced:

Bilan des activités menées en 2011 et 2012 pour la conservation du Monarque de Tahiti, *Pomarea nigra* et du Monarque de Fatu hiva *Pomarea whitneyi*. 2012 Blanvillain C. & Ghestemme T.

Invasive fire ant and Tahiti monarch conservation: risk and activities to undertake. 2013. Withers T.

1.2. Produce Species Action Plans for both species indicating the vision for the species and the short term steps required to progress toward that vision

The TM and FHM Species Action Plans have been redacted at the end of the project and provide an overview of each species, biology and ecology.

Documents produced:

Species Action Plan for Tahiti Monarch, *Pomarea nigra*, Dec. 2012, Blanvillain C. & Ghestemme T.

Species Action Plan for Fatu Hiva Monarch, *Pomarea whitneyi*, Feb. 2012, Ghestemme T. & Blanvillain C.

The documents are still in reviewing process by Mark O'Brien from BirdLife International. Then, they will be submitted for modification/improvement by the Monarch Recovery Group. Remember that Short Species Action Plans for both monarch species were redacted in early 2011 for collecting comments from the Monarch Recovery Group. These comments are included in the full version of the Species Action Plan.

1.3. Increase current knowledge regarding the conservation, biology and ecology of both species by preparing at least one report outlining findings obtained during the course of the current project.

A synthesis on TM reproduction has been done (including statistical analysis of data). It includes reproduction data from 1998-2001 and 2008-2012 breeding seasons. For FHM, as no paper exists on the species, we focused on producing an overview of the different knowledge and conservation results.

The increasing knowledge needs were linked to the main conservation problematic. It focused on:
- Which is the impact of introduced birds on TM breeding and its survival?
- Increasing the knowledge on breeding biology and ecology of both species for better management.

Scientific paper on the recovery and reproduction of both species (one paper for each) were redacted and will be proposed to journals in 2013.

Documents produced (confidential/ unpublished):

Breeding biology and impact of introduced birds on reproductive success of the Tahiti monarch (*Pomarea nigra*). 2013. Blanvillain C. & Ghestemme T.

Biology, ecology and conservation of Fatu Hiva monarch (Pomarea whitneyi). 2013. Thomas Ghestemme & Blanvillain C.

1.4. Identify alternative islands/sites that could accommodate the Monarchs and prepare a report on how the sites have been selected.
Based on a 2010 study, we identified 23 islands with forest suitable which have or not ship rat, the main risk for the two species:
* Society archipelago: Me'etia, Maupiti, Bora-bora, Mo'orea, Tahaa, Huahine, Raiatea, Maiao: presence of ship rat
* Tuamotu archipelago: Makatea: presence of ship rat
* Marquesas archipelago: Nuku Hiva, Hiva Oa, Tahuata, Ua Pou, Eiao: presence of ship rat
Mohotani: absence of ship rat but presence of another monarch species P. m. motanensis
Ua Huka: absence of ship rat but presence of another monarch species P. iphis
* Australes archipelago: Rurutu, Tubuai, Rapa, Raivavae : présence of ship rat; **Rimatara: absence of ship rat and absence of another monarch species.**

The Monarch Recovery Group comments were collected in 2011 and Rimatara is identified as suitable for Tahiti Monarch. The establishment of a population in this island is planned in 2014 and 2015, depending on funds. Collaboration between Rimatara city council, inhabitants and SOP has started for the biosecurity of the island against ship rat as it is an essential measure for this introduction project. As no island has been found for Fatu Hiva Monarch, discussions with Pacific Invasive Initiative and BirdLife Pacific led to build a mission for an expert, Alan Saunders from LandCare Research (New Zeland), on Tahiti and Fatu Hiva to give advices about both programs and assess the feasibility of rat eradication on this island. This mission takes place in December 2012. Eradication seems technically feasible; a detailed feasibility study needs now to be redacted.

Documents produced:

Sélection de sites favorable à l'introduction du Monarque de Tahiti, *Pomarea nigra* et du Monarque de Fatu hiva *Pomarea whitneyi*. 2012, Ghestemme T.

Managing invasive species to recover Polynesian monarchs; Achievements and future directions. DRAFT. February 2013. Saunders A.

Component 2 Planned: Ensure local community involvement.

Component 2 Actual at Completion:

2.1. Establish Site Support Groups/Local Conservation Groups in association with each of the main sites for both Tahiti Monarch and Fatu Hiva Monarch
Site Support Groups (SSG) were created in November 2010 for the Tahiti Monarch, August 2010 for the Fatu Hiva Monarch. During the project, SSG took place on 27/06/12 and 13/01/13 in Paea (20 then 50 people), 27/07/12 in Punaauia (25 people). The second SSG of the Fatu Hiva monarch take place in Omo'a on 15/08/11 (20 people) and the third one on 08/02/13 (30 peoples). Details are provided in the reports below.

Thanks to SSG meeting, two local NGO (Tamarii pointe des pêcheurs and 2Dattitude) became SOP partner's for the Tahiti Monarch: 2Dattitude through Ministry of Employment allocated 3 subsided workers for the recovery program and Tamarii pointe des pêcheurs built more than 20 traps for us and provided us a 'base camp' for trapping activities.

2.2. If islands are identified where introduction can feasibly be undertaken aim to establish site support groups here to create favourable conditions for the introduction programme.
A SSG was created in June 2012 in Rimatara Island (with 20 participants). It took place again in December 2012 (with 8 participants) but during this journey, 123 homes representing 381 adults were consulted about a quarantine project in order to protect the island against black rat (and

protect their unique birds) and 379 of them were favorable to this project. 106 children were met to increase awareness on their natural heritage and on the biosecurity measures.

2.3. Develop communications with all interested parties (mayors, schools, homeowners, farmers, landowners, etc) and raise awareness about the uniqueness of the species within the region.

Land owners were consulted frequently during the course of the program during more private or family meeting (3 in Hopuetamai, 4 in Maruapo) and inhabitants of each important valleys (Papehue, Maruapo, Hopuetamai and Omo'a) were consulted during door to door campaign and/or questioner. Talk after church in Omo'a allowed us to contact 80 adults in Fatu Hiva whereas the questioner allowed us to contact 66 home representing 274 adults in this island. On Tahiti, this method allowed us to establish the net of trappers (250 volunteers) and finally 60 trappers removed a total of 1500 Indian Mynah and 1200 Red-vented Bulbul at the entrance of Tahiti Monarch valleys.

Educative programs initiated with six schools allowed us to implicate more than 700 children and their educative staff in both recovery projects: Papehue, Manotahi, 2+2 and Tiapa in Tahiti, Omo'a and Hanavave in Fatu Hiva. Those programs include: conferences, habitat restoration through the creation of 4 tree nurseries in Tahiti, origami sessions, and 300 children have been into the field for visit the birds with SOP staff and volunteers.

A call for save the Tahiti Monarch was initiated in 2011 near 80 enterprises, four of them (EDT, OPT, Vini, Air Tahiti Nui Magazine) sponsored the program in 2011 and 2012.
A call for the sponsorship of banded FHM started in 2012 to raise money from private people (two sponsors to date).

Through those different aspects, much more than 600 adults has been implicated/contacted for both projects, much more if we include Rimatara where 286 adults were contacted door to door and declared favorable to quarantine for the protection of the island against black rat.

Documents produced:
Actions de sensibilisation de l'île de Rimatara relatives au projet d'introduction du Monarque de Tahiti. 2013. Blanvillain C & Ghestemme T

Sensibilisation et Groupe de Gestion participative 'Monarque de Tahiti' et 'Monarque de Fatu Hiva' 2013. Blanvillain C & Ghestemme T

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

No component unrealized, only not enough time to redact detailed reports and send for reviewing the different reports before submitting. Implementation activities for protecting the species and involving people took most of our time but showed very good results

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

- 1 poster on FHM
- 1 poster on TM
- 2 leaflets on TM conservation and invasive bird trapping
- 1 powerpoint presentation for trapping operation on Tahiti
- 1 powerpoint presentation for the SSG meeting in Tahiti
- 1 contract for trapping by volunteers
- Several papers in local newspapers

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.

- Bad weather sometimes makes it hard work. The valleys are very deep and the rain makes the unstable rock face. The lesson learned is to have an open schedule for field operations, based on climatic forecasts.

- The owners or users of the valleys, where are the birds, have low interest for bird/valley protection. It is sometimes difficult to mobilize them to participate in the SSG. The main lesson of the current period is to create a SSG for EACH valley and we need organize those meetings at the entrance of each valley. - Oral and personalized communication is the way for best result in awareness of stakeholders but need a lot of time from Manu staff. In 2012, people living in the area of monarchs start to be very aware of the conservation of this bird regarding to the exotic birds such as mynas and bulbuls: the better way to involve people is to find something that interest them directly : the protection of fruits/noise of their gardens from myna and bulbul.

- In 2011, French Polynesia government gave small funds (25 % of resources expected), and SOP Manu decided to reduce employees numbers and abandon programs less prioritary. The lesson learned is to diversify our funding sources (we start successfully to raise money from private sponsors like societies and people).

- French Polynesia has changed government leaders early 2011 (13 times in 8 years), projects falling behind and this organizations are weakened by political instability. The lesson learned is to keep out of the political organizations, because the agreement from one can lead to refusal of another one.

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

The 2 years CEPF project design length and design fit perfectly to conservation problematic of both species. The design helped us to have a better view of both programs and to build strategy for the recovery of the species (e.g. production of action plans)

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

Fatu hiva: At the beginning of 2012, 1 landowner prevent us to go in his valley for controlling rats because he was afraid of bait for wild pigs. We decided to fix the problem in choosing trapping control with snap traps in 2 areas instead of baiting.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

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
Government of French Polynesia	A	64 270.69	Ministry of Environment support years 2011-2012
European Union	A	65 126.57	BEST project year 2012
Government of French Polynesia	B	23 256.48	Workers paid by Employment Ministry
CEPA	B	5 468.25	Support of Fatu hiva monarch program
Private Sponsors (VINI, OPT, EDT, ATN)	B	6 550.23	Support of Tahiti monarch program
BLI/Prince Bernaard Fund	B	23 284.02	Support of Fatu hiva monarch program

****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.

French Polynesia has experienced in the first half of 2011 its thirteenth government in eight years. In addition to the fact that this is disruptive for economic activity in French Polynesia, cases requiring funds allocated by the local government or requiring permits issued by those authorities are at best delayed and at worst canceled. In addition, the interlocutors change and new priorities are set by the directors of services (Department of the Environment and Rural Development Service, for example) or ministries (eg Environment or Agriculture) newly appointed. The actions are slowed because of changes that involve repeat the awareness of these actors.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

The main action taken is for Fatu Hiva : the protection of the last sanctuary of monarch and stopping the project of a new road in this site (see Safeguard Policy Assessment). The creation of

a reserve appears now as indispensable, but need a strong support of local communities to be effective. SOP started in the end of the project to rent the public land of the last area of FHM.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

The main action taken is for Fatu Hiva: the protection of the last sanctuary of monarch and stopping the project of a new road in this site. The mayor of the island, after stopping the project in Jan 2011 after lobbying of the program manager and the Ministry of Environment of FP. In Dec. 2011, during a meeting with the program manager, he announced he wanted to build again this road. A letter have been sent to the mayor from the Ministry of Environment of FP in the period, with communications to people who have interest/functions in the UNESCO project on Marquesas island. Finally, after some pressures from SOP and the implementation of a questioner in Omoa village, the mayor of Fatu Hiva decided officially during a meeting of all the Marquesas mayors to abandon this project.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

Apologies for the English, nobody available at SOP for reviewing the language. Please make the corrections before publications.

These documents are confidential (unpublished):
Breeding biology and impact of introduced birds on reproductive success of the Tahiti monarch (*Pomarea nigra*). 2013. Blanvillain C. & Ghestemme T.

Biology, ecology and conservation of Fatu Hiva monarch (Pomarea whitneyi). 2013. Thomas Ghestemme & Blanvillain C.

Thank you for the CEPF support!

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

Performance Tracking Report Addendum

CEPF Global Targets

Grant Term : 31 December 2012

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.

Project Results	**Is this question relevant?**	**If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.**	**Provide your numerical response for project from inception 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.	no			
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	no			
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	150 ha	150 ha	
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	yes	15 km²	15 km²	
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1below.	no			

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.

Name of Community	Community Characteristics								Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit												
									Increased Income due to:												
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists/nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Communities falling below the poverty rate	Other	Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices	Ecotourism revenues	Park management activities	Payment for environmental services	Increased food security due to the adoption of sustainable or fishing, hunting, agricultural practices	More secure access to water resources	Improved tenure in land or other natural resource due to titling, reduction of colonization, etc.	Reduced risk of natural disasters (fires, landslides, flooding, etc)	More secure sources of energy	Increased access to public services, such as education, health, or credit	Improved use of traditional knowledge for environmental management	More participatory decision-making due to strengthened civil society and governance.	Other
Tahiti valleys owners	X											X								X	
Fatu hiva valleys owners	X											X		X						X	
Inhabitants of Paea and Punaauia on Tahiti						X							X								
Total																					

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

Increased food security for inhabitants of Paea and Punaauia on Tahiti by removing Mynas and Red ventred Bulbuls