

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: SOP MANU

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): *Restoration of Vahanga Atoll*

Implementation Partners for This Project: Société d'Ornithologie de Polynésie Manu;
Eco Oceania Ltd

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): 1 February 2006 - 30 June 2006

Date of Report (month/year): July 2006

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

The restoration of the Vahanga atoll is an important project for the conservation of indigenous biota including several threatened bird species.

Two meetings in March 2006 (Auckland) and May 2006 (Papeete) allowed us to produce the 'Operational Plan for Rat Eradication on Vahanga Atoll (French Polynesia)'. This document reviewed by PII is attached as a PDF document. We identified some technical and logistical issues that are currently being addressed and which should be resolved by September 2006.

The development of this operational plan has involved the local community, local agencies and other decision-makers, all of whom have expressed their support and approval and wish to be involved throughout the project. The project will also provide a benefit for the local community at the economic level.

III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. What were the initial objectives of this project?
*Our objective for this project was to produce an operational plan to eradicate rats (*Rattus exulans*) from Vahanga Atoll*
2. Did the objectives of your project change during implementation? If so, please explain why and how.
No change
3. Briefly describe the methods used in achieving the objectives of this project.
The methodology was mainly to work on draft proposals written by partners and to exchange information. Electronic mail was widely used due to distance. We also met twice for working sessions in Auckland (March) and Papeete (May). We were able to get advice from scientists and specialists of rat eradication on islands.
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.

The main goal that was to prepare an operational plan for the rat eradication on Vahanga. This was achieved but we still need to refine some data and check the situation on the atoll. It seems consumption of baits by hermit crabs may induce a risk of failure that needs to be studied on the spot through different trials. There is also a need to field-truth many logistic aspects, e.g. getting bait ashore, time taken to get baits out and complete lines, etc.

5. Describe what was achieved in terms of:
 - a) capacity development :
a lot of technical data is now available to SOP MANU members through the collaboration and cooperation established with PII -ISSG (Auckland University) and New Zealand DoC.
 - b) developing partnerships :
good links have been established with Eco Oceania Ltd, PII-ISSG, DoC
 - c) raising awareness of invasive species and generating community support for their management :
SOP MANU was invited at the 1st PILN meeting where we were able to present the project, subsequently we reported to local partner in French Polynesia about the outcomes of the PILN meeting
 - d) involving the local community and other stakeholders:
as the island of Vahanga is uninhabited, we sought support from the Catholic church who owns the atolls of the Acteon group. Our main contact and community leader is Father Joel Aumeran. We have also been able to meet with the Archbishop of Papeete Mgr Hubert Coppenrath to present the project. Other local people from different island from the Tuamotu are involved (Hans Gfeller : land owner Rangiroa, Jean Kape : cultural leader in the Tuamotu).
 - e) providing benefits to the local community and other stakeholders.
No direct benefit yet for local people but, when implemented, the project will have positive effect on copra production and on local hygienic condition of human life.

6. What was the impact of the project at the local level?
No direct impact as we only produced an operational plan but the different meetings were a good occasion to raise awareness amongst Manu members and local authorities and institutions. There the occasion for MANU to built capacity on rat eradication project (methodology, logistical aspect...).

7. What was the impact of the project (if any) at the national level?
The government, at the level of the Ministry of sustainable Development, has been informed during a special meeting with the Minister, M. Georges Handerson, who assured us of his total support. Manu is now able to give scientifically based technical advice to different agencies (service du développement rural)

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 special disappointment but some issues are not yet solve (as the impact of hermit crabs on the availability of bait to rats)*

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. *We found that the exchanges we had we PII and DoC were highly profitable to the project.*
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 project was promoted mainly through personal information at different levels. Two stamps featuring the birds which are going to benefit from the project where released by the Post Office in collaboration with SOP MANU
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).
We need to assess the situation of rats / hermit crabs on Vahanga to be sure our data and plans are going to be efficient when we will carry on the eradication (survey and test on Vahanga due on September 2006). Then we hope to do the eradication work on June-July 2007. Further options are rat eradication on other atoll of the Actéon Groupn namely Tenarunga and Maturei Vavao. Other atolls are targeted in the future, which will benefit from the acquired experience in designing such operational plans.
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
BirdLife International	Logistic support to Manu	\$500	
Govt of French Polynesia	Project leader paid by Govt	\$6000	
Department of Conservation (NZ)	Experts paid by DoC		(2 persons 15 days)
PII - ISSG	Experts paid by ISSG		(15 days)

****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.

The additional survey and trial on Vahanga will be partially funded by SOP Manu, BirdLife International and Government of French Polynesia (\$8000-9000)

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 _____
No _____

If yes, please also complete the following:

For more information about this project, please contact:

Name: Philippe Raust

Mailing address: c/o SOP Manu, P.O. Box 21098, 98713 Papeete, Tahiti, French Polynesia

Tel: +(689)506209

Fax: +(689)429555

E-mail: sop@manu.pf