

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	University of the South Pacific
Project Title:	Conservation, Systematics and Cultural Connections of Fiji's Endemic <i>Placostylus</i> Land Snails
Date of Report:	February 2012
Report Author and Contact Information	Dr Gilianne Brodie, Phone 679 3232876; Email brodie_g@usp.ac.fj

CEPF Region: Micronesia/Polynesia

Strategic Direction:

SD – 2 Improve the conservation status and management of prioritized set of KBAs

SD-3 Safeguard and restore a prioritized set of threatened species and community awareness

Grant Amount: \$17,754

Project Dates: 12/11 - 12/12

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

Landcare Research New Zealand – co-supervision and guidance to postgraduate student (by Barker) and provided expertise and facilities for analysis of DNA material (Buckley).

South Pacific Region Herbarium – assistance with associated plant identifications

NatureFiji/MereqetiViti and Birdlife International – logistical assistance with community field work on Gau Island, and Kadavu Island respectively. NFMV also provided additional advice support and guidance.

National Trust of Fiji – permission and assistance to work in Garrick Reserve and support for Fiji land snail database collated by Landcare.

Conservation Impacts

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

The relatively large and species rich land snail genus *Placostylus* was used as flagship species to significantly raise the profile and awareness of Fiji's endemic land snail fauna and their conservation needs. This awareness includes further reinforcement of the intimate connection

between, the level of extinction threat and the general health of Fiji's native forest. Many stakeholders, including associated local and regional postgraduate students at USP, are now more aware that Fiji (and the region) has significant endemic land snail species in need of conservation action – a fact certainly not well recognized before this project and its associated postgraduate research project began. Therefore a central contribution has been not just about the scientific data collected and collated but also about the building of local human resource capacity on the ground to continue the challenging tasks of 1.) trying to put conservation effort into areas with the highest chance of achieving successful conservation outcomes for these threatened endemic species and 2.) successfully communicating the value of these unique species, and the associated natural forest resources they rely on, to landowners.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project against the expected results detailed in the approved proposal.

- Comparative features of recorded endemic species reviewed. Student MSc thesis production, fact sheet production and field ID guide are on-going.
- Local *Placostylus* reference collections established and curation of material in formal USP collections will be finalized once associated postgraduate thesis is completed.
- Molecular samples of selected *Placostylus* species processed, additional species analysis on-going via USP and Landcare. No live material of some rare species yet found.
- Molecular results to be shared with other similar regional research projects (Massey) and also sample contribution to wider study of pulmonate snails (Museum of Victoria).
- Information on endemic and endangered species provided to local education and scientific programs both internal and external to USP.
- Historical human use linkages appear at this stage to be freshwater snail species rather than land snails.

Detailed report written contributed to Conservation International Technical Series 23.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: Not applicable

Species Conserved:

IUCN Red-list Assessments were prepared and assessed for all 14 recorded species of Fiji's endemic *Placostylus* land snails, for the first time. The species, and details of their current published Red List status, are listed in the table below:

Species and Authority	2012 IUCN Red List Status (vers. 3.1)	Assessment Citation
<i>Placostylus elobatus</i> (Gould,	Vulnerable B1ab(iii)	Brodie, G. & Barker, G. 2012.

1846)		<i>Placostylus elobatus</i> . In: IUCN 2012. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2012.2. < www.iucnredlist.org >.
<i>Placostylus fulguratus</i> (Jay, 1842)	Least Concern	Brodie, G. 2012. <i>Placostylus fulguratus</i> . In: IUCN 2012. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2012.2. < www.iucnredlist.org >.
<i>Placostylus garretti</i> Pilsbry, 1900	Data Deficient	Brodie, G. 2012. <i>Placostylus garretti</i> . In: IUCN 2012. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2012.2. < www.iucnredlist.org >.
<i>Placostylus graeffei</i> (Crosse, 1875)	Endangered B1ab(iii)	Brodie, G. 2012. <i>Placostylus graeffei</i> . In: IUCN 2012. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2012.2. < www.iucnredlist.org >.
<i>Placostylus guanensis</i> (Garrett,1872)	Endangered B1ab(iii)+2ab(iii)	Brodie, G. 2012. <i>Placostylus guanensis</i> . In: IUCN 2012. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2012.2. < www.iucnredlist.org >.
<i>Placostylus hoyti</i> (Garrett, 1872)	Endangered B1ab(iii)	Brodie, G. & Barker, G. 2012. <i>Placostylus hoyti</i> . In: IUCN 2012. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2012.2. < www.iucnredlist.org >.
<i>Placostylus kantavuensis</i> (Crosse, 1870)	Endangered B1ab(iii)+2ab(iii)	Brodie, G. 2012. <i>Placostylus kantavuensis</i> . In: IUCN 2012. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2012.2. < www.iucnredlist.org >
<i>Placostylus koroensis</i> (Garrett, 1872)	Critically Endangered B1ab(ii,iii)	Brodie, G. & Barker, G. 2012. <i>Placostylus koroensis</i> . In: IUCN 2012. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2012.2. < www.iucnredlist.org >.
<i>Placostylus malleatus</i> (Jay, 1842)	Vulnerable B1ab(ii,iii)	Brodie, G. 2012. <i>Placostylus malleatus</i> . In: IUCN 2012. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2012.2. < www.iucnredlist.org >.
<i>Placostylus mbengensis</i> Cooke, 1942	Critically Endangered B1ab(iii)	Brodie, G. 2012. <i>Placostylus mbengensis</i> . In: IUCN 2012. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

		Version 2012.2. <www.iucnredlist.org>.
<i>Placostylus morosus</i> (Gould, 1846)	Least Concern	Brodie, G. 2012. <i>Placostylus morosus</i> . In: IUCN 2012. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2012.2. <www.iucnredlist.org>.
<i>Placostylus ochrostoma</i> (Garrett, 1872)	Endangered B1ab(iii)	Brodie, G. 2012. <i>Placostylus ochrostoma</i> . In: IUCN 2012. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2012.2. <www.iucnredlist.org>.
<i>Placostylus seemanni</i> (Dohrn, 1861)	Endangered B1ab(iii)+2ab(iii)	Barker, G. & Brodie, G. 2012. <i>Placostylus seemanni</i> . In: IUCN 2012. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2012.2. <www.iucnredlist.org>.
<i>Placostylus subroseus</i> Fulton, 1915	Data Deficient	Brodie, G. 2012. <i>Placostylus subroseus</i> . In: IUCN 2012. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2012.2. <www.iucnredlist.org>.

Corridors Created: Not applicable

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

This project has been successful at collating and making available existing data about placostylid land snails, adding to that data, and then establishing and supporting a local individual to develop expertise specifically with this endemic and threatened taxon. This project has therefore established an essential foundation for future conservation work in Fiji that was previously lacking in-country.

There is still much work to do, the occurrence of different *Placostylus* species on many different islands probably required several field workers, but we now have very clear priorities for addressing our future conservation efforts.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

This project was originally set-up as a postgraduate research scholarship to support a local young researcher with a strong interest in land snail species conservation. However, the student unexpectedly gained a scholarship from another source and permission was then granted to amend the original budget to cover project implementation expenses. This was fortuitous because the original funding source for that part of the overall budget became unexpectedly not available. Although this had positive long-term benefits it did consume significant time within

the already tight 12-month project timeframe – making it hard to get the project up and running quickly.

The unexpected establishment of a “Fiji snail” website at Landcare Research will further improve awareness and provide improved linkage to our Fiji based endemic species conservation efforts and associated local websites such as NatureFiji/MereqetiViti and the National Trust of Fiji.

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.

Make sure you know who else is conducting conservation related projects in a particular geographical area and what their project timeframes are, particularly timeframes related to fieldwork plans.

Beware that the academic requirements for postgraduate students may not always fit neatly into external collaborator work plan timeframes.

Don't assume that if a person included in your project comes from a particular cultural background that they can speak their local language confidently in a public setting.

Be aware that even local people from a particular location still need to follow protocols and have landowner permissions before fieldwork can be started.

One year can go very fast, particularly if there are unexpected financial or logistical changes early in the project – 2 -3 year projects probably better than 12 months.

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

One of the strengths of this project's design was its strong inclusion of human resource capacity building and long term-training. However, the inclusion in the project of an experienced full time dedicated field biologist (without teaching commitments) would have produced faster results.

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

Multi-stakeholders are a strength, however they also substantially increase the time involved with all aspects of the study particularly communications.

As detailed above in other sections, the budget change (positive) introduced unexpected timeline limitations.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

Working in remote locations particularly at the top of relatively high mountains in dense native forest areas requires very physically fit individuals. Working on less developed, and several different “off-shore” islands is also logistically difficult and requires finding experienced individuals in multiple partner organizations, each with existing on the ground geographical knowledge and strong linkages into landowning communities to ensure successful implementation.

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
USP (Research Office)	A	\$14,976 FJD	GA postgraduate scholarship
USP (FSTE)	A	\$10,046 FJD	Research funds to postgrad student

**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 Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF 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.

The expertise and knowledge developed during this project, and the cross organizational collaborations strengthened, will allow on-going conservation projects to be developed that build on the solid foundation this project has created. In the longer term, and with increased local human resource capacity, the work could also be extended into Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands which also have significant *Placostylus* fauna that is not well known or documented.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

The opportunity to involve a USP postgraduate student in the associated IUCN-Red list training (including GIS mapping training) and allow them to spend several days directly in a very small group with international land snail experts (brought to Fiji for the two IUCN training and assessment workshops) was an unplanned activity that will without doubt increase the chances of future collaborations and support for gathering the data required for further species assessments and future prioritized conservation actions.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

Placostylid land snails now specifically named and added to Fiji's formal protected species decree and associated policies via Department of Environment.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

Thanks CEPF you have made a difference, and the plan to facilitate us spending time with potential new donors (via the end of program workshop) to carry on work to build on this project work is much appreciated.

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:

Name: Dr Gilianne Brodie

Organization name: University of the South Pacific

Mailing address: Biology, SBCS, FSTE,

University of the South Pacific, Private Bag, Suva, Fiji Islands.

Tel: 679 3232876; Fax: 679 3231512; E-mail: brodie_g@usp.ac.fj

*****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

(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.

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 (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			Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	No			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			Gau Island, Nabukelevu (Mount Washington)
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	yes			Nakorotubu and Nakauvadra Ranges
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	no			

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

