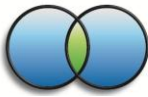


PROJECT READINESS REPORT

Project Name	Eradication of Rats from Far and Away Islands, Republic of Pacifica.
Project Manager	Viliamu Reed
Authors of report	R. View (Moore Consulting Ltd) and N. Moore (Moore Consulting Ltd)
Date of Review	15 June 2011

This report should be cited as: View, R. and Moore, N. 2011. Project Readiness Report, Eradication of Rats from Far and Away Islands, Republic of Pacifica. Unpublished report to National Parks and Conservation Department, Republic of Pacifica.



Review

Explanation: Summarise the findings of the project readiness check.

Prompts:

- *Include a list of documents that have been used in the readiness check.*
- *Remove this Help Box when the Project Readiness report is complete*

We met with the Project Manager (V. Reed) and the Technical Co-ordinator (M. Toa) for the proposed project at the NPC Head Office in Port Pacifica, in the Republic of Pacifica, on 3-4 June 2011. We have also examined in detail the relevant documents relating to the project, with greatest focus on the Operational Plan with respect to assessing the readiness of the project to progress to the Operational phase. We paid particular attention to the Task Schedule, and determined that most tasks were either completed on schedule or 'in hand', with individual team members assigned responsibility to see them completed.

The documents we assessed during this check were the:

- Operational Plan
- Feasibility Study
- Project Plan
- Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
- Biosecurity Plan
- Ground Dove protection plan
- Windward Marine Protected Area Management Plan

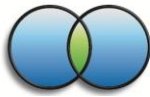
(see Reference Section below for full citations of these documents)

The project has generally been planned very well, and we extend our compliments to the various authors and to the Department of National Parks and Conservation in Pacifica for the comprehensive detail and high quality of the documents and the level of commitment necessary to achieve this.

To fit with work schedules we have undertaken this readiness check ten days earlier than originally planned. Some of the outstanding actions (see table below) are very likely to be achieved within the next week or so. It will be necessary to confirm they have been achieved before we can clearly confirm the project can proceed on time, for baiting to commence on schedule on or about 1 July 2011.

Each of the issues recorded in the Conclusion Section of the Feasibility Study Report were also discussed to see how the project team had addressed the recommendations.

One of the issues raised in the Feasibility Study was the possible Government Planning Authority (GPA) need for an Environment Effects Assessment (EEA). The GPA were provided with the Project Plan (Reed and Toa, 2010) and based on the plan, the GPA decided that an EEA was not required.



The project is almost ready to proceed, but there are a few small issues to resolve before the baiting should commence. Once the project manager confirms that the tasks outlined in the ‘Required Actions’ section (below) have been completed the eradication operation is ready to proceed.

ISSUES RAISED IN THE FEASIBILITY STUDY REPORT

All of the major issues raised in the Feasibility Study Report (Toa and Reed, 2009) have either been resolved or are being satisfactorily managed.

Issue	Status
Technical approach: effect of hermit crab bait uptake	Resolved. Extra bait rate to be used in high crab areas.
Sustainable: need for local communities to implement biosecurity prevention measures	Being managed. Extensive public consultation undertaken by WMPA.
Legally acceptable: One-off MAF permit required for use of brodifacoum	Resolved. Permit received.
Legally acceptable: Possible requirement for EEA from GPA	Resolved. GPA informed NPC they do not require an EEA.
Legally acceptable: Need approval from WMPA to land on islands, cut tracks etc	Resolved. WMPA have approved.
Environmentally acceptable: Threat to ground dove from bait	Being managed. Capture programme inplace.
Environmentally acceptable: Threat to people from toxin-contaminated food	Being managed. Warning signs to be used. Community consultation undertaken.
Need to build capacity of NPC	Being managed. Inclusion of F. Paua as assistant technical co-ordinator.
Socially acceptable: community reservations to application of toxic bait	Resolved. Community consultation completed

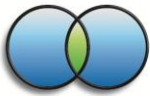
Recommendation

Explanation: Clearly state whether the project is ready (or not) to proceed to the eradication Operation. If it is NOT ready, in the Required Actions Section list what needs to be done before the project can proceed.

Prompts:

- Delete the option that is not recommended.
- Remove this Help Box when the Project Readiness Report is complete

- **The project is NOT ready to proceed to the Eradication Operation. See required actions for the work that needs to be done.**

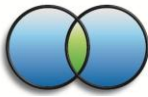


Once the identified actions have been completed, we believe the project is ready to start the Eradication Operation, and if it is carried out in accordance with the prescriptions in the Operational Plan it should have a high chance of success.

Required Actions

Explanation: Record what needs to be done before the project is ready to proceed to the eradication operation, and why the actions are necessary.

Action number	Action description
1.	Confirm the secure bait storage area in Port Pacifica is treated with residual-type insecticide. <i>This is necessary to reduce the possibility of insect infestation of the bait whilst in storage, and to minimise the subsequent risk of accidental introduction to the islands (especially for crazy ants, which are known to be in the Port Pacifica area).</i>
2.	The designated bait storage area in the NPC equipment store currently has full fuel containers in it, and these must be removed before the bait arrives. Ensure bait storage area is free of items that may potentially contaminate bait. <i>Bait accidentally contaminated with other substances may become unpalatable to rats, causing the operation to fail.</i>
3.	A Biosecurity Plan has been developed (Sagolo et al 2010) with wide stakeholder consultation and agreement but there has been no formal sign-off and/or commitment to the Biosecurity Plan by the Dept of National Parks and Conservation or the management committee of the Windward Marine Protected Area. <i>This needs to occur to reassure us that the Biosecurity Plan and its resourcing have institutional support into the long-term future.</i>
4.	The estimated number of boat trips required (and costing for such) is probably too low, and we consider perhaps double the required number of trips will be required for all the purposes outlined in the various plans. Project Manager should confirm capacity within the overall budget to cover this extra cost. (This can probably be covered by the contingency portion of total budget allocation, but PM needs to review the current situation with regard to the actual expenditure against allocated budget to ensure there is enough flexibility in the overall budget to cover this)
5.	Confirm safe arrival of bait in Port Pacifica. <i>The project cannot proceed until this bait is received and deemed to be in good condition.</i> (The PM advises us that delivery has been slowed due to industrial action at the port of loading, but it is due in Port Pacifica any day).
6.	Confirm minimum quota of ground doves have been captured and transferred to captivity. <i>A minimum number of doves need to be captured to ensure the population as a whole is adequately protected from possible non-target effects of the bait.</i>



References

Explanation: Use this section to record other documents that have been used and referred to in preparing the Project Readiness Report

Prompts

- *List the references alphabetically*
- *Remove this Help Box when the Project Readiness Report is complete.*

Sagolo, D. and Reed, V. 2010. Biosecurity Plan for the Eradication of Rats from Far and Away Islands, Republic of Pacifica. Unpublished report to National Parks and Conservation Department, Republic of Pacifica.

Paua, F. & Hawke, B. 2010. Outline of plan and requirements to capture and hold ground doves from Far Island during rat eradication project. Unpublished report, National Parks and Conservation Department (Republic of Pacifica) and Auckland Zoo, New Zealand.

Toa, M. and Reed, V. 2009. Feasibility Study for the Eradication of Rats from Far and Away Islands, Republic of Pacifica. Unpublished report to National Parks and Conservation Department, Republic of Pacifica.

Toa, M. and Reed, V. 2010. Operational Plan for the Eradication of Rats from Far and Away Islands, Republic of Pacifica. Unpublished report for Department of National Parks and Conservation, Republic of Pacifica.

Reed, V. 2010. Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for the Eradication of Rats from Far and Away Islands, Republic of Pacifica. Unpublished report to National Parks and Conservation Department, Republic of Pacifica.

Reed, V. and Toa, M. 2010. Project Plan for the Eradication of Rats from Far and Away Islands, Republic of Pacifica. Unpublished report to National Parks and Conservation Department, Republic of Pacifica.

WMPA Committee 2008. Windward Marine Protected Area management plan 2008-2010. Unpublished Management Plan, Port Pacifica.