

Darwin Initiative

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the increased number of reports expected in 2005, we will not be able to confirm receipt of reports but will contact you individually should any questions arise

Project Ref. No.	162/13/029
Project Title	Conserving Giant Clams Through a Community Reserve in the Lakshadweep Islands, India
Country(ies)	India, UK
UK Organisation	LEAD UK
Collaborator(s)	Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)
Report date	31 October 2005
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR1
Project website	www.lead.org (specific project web resources will be set up in coming year)

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up).

Project Start Up

During the first six months of the project the following activities have been undertaken:

- Deepak Apte, Conservation Officer and Principal Investigator travelled to Lakshadweep to establish the project office. Necessary permissions to undertake the research work were procured from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, and the Department of Environment & Forests, Lakshadweep Administration for field surveys.
- Deepak Apte Mr. Parimal Rai, (I.A.S.), Administrator, Union Territory of Lakshadweep and briefed him about the project. Mr. Rai has assured full administrative support for the project.
- Several meetings were arranged with Dr. Sayd I. Koya, Deputy Director, Dept. Science and Technology (DST) and acting Deputy Conservator of Forests. The meetings were very crucial, as DST is the main project partner.
- The posts of Project Officers were recruited through local adverts in the Lakshadweep Times. Following interview the following candidates were selected for the project: Mr. Jaffer Hisham T., Mr. Idrees Babu K.K. and Karamathulla Sahib P.
- A local house has been rented to use as the site office on Kavaratti Island.
- Memorandums of Understanding have been established with all necessary organizations.
- A team of UK and Indian based experts has been identified to act as Technical Advisors on the project.

Project implementation

The project team and other technical advisors from Lakshadweep have divided the project objectives in four components as follows; research, tourism, education; and fisheries.

Summary of Project Activities to Date:

- Baseline data of Giant Clam populations was collected on ten transects on Kavaratti and Agatti Island reefs.
- Satellite imageries of 10 islands were procured from DST and will be used for mapping of clam distribution.
- Education activities were launched on World Environment Day, 5th June 2005, including a painting competition involving 228 students.
- Through interaction with school teachers and education department an Environmental Education

strategy has been developed. Several activities including meetings and presentations have taken place.

- Lakshadweep Digest: A weekly collection of news from the Lakshadweep islands was started to keep the islanders aware on various activities related to environment and development.
- The Education unit also organized programmes to celebrate International Ozone Day, Green consumer Day and International Tourism Day. A traveling film festival on environment was arranged at Kavaratti and Agatti.
- The education need analysis is underway and will be further refined during the visit of Ms. Andrea Deri from LEAD-UK in December 2005.
- International Cleanup Day – 2005 The project team organized a beach and underwater cleanup in Kavaratti to mark international cleanup day on 17th September 2005. The program was organized along with PADI Project AWARE foundation and Dolphin Dive Center (SPORTS) Lakshadweep Tourism. 123 youths participated in the lagoon cleanup.

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

Due to delays in Darwin decision making process project start date was delayed by one year. The result of this was that activities around a conference (Marine Parks Congress) originally scheduled to take place in year 2 of the project actually took place in year one. This resulted in some small changes to work schedule and expenditures.

Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Yes. Revised payment schedule was issued by Darwin Secretariat.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: Yes **no/yes, in...June 2005..... (month/yr)**

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: Yes **no/yes, in.....July 2005....(month/yr)**

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

No

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with the Darwin Secretariat directly.

Please send your **completed form by 31 October each year per email** to Stefanie Halfmann, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme, stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message.**