

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

Project Ref. No.	162-13-029
Project Title	Conserving Giant Clams Through A Community Reserve In The Lakshadweep Islands
Country(ies)	India
UK Organisation	LEAD International
Collaborator(s)	Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)
Project Leader	Simon Lyster
Report date	31 October 2007
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR3
Project website	http://www.lead.org/page/89

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 activities are on track.

The project has developed an extraordinarily successful approach for setting up a co-managed marine protected area which is gaining exceptional attention both in India and globally.

Research

Ecological & biological data on clams gathered & analysed as planned. Following up on the Year1 baseline survey of giant clam population, annual monitoring is taking place. During the current reporting period we gathered data around Kiltan, Kalpni, Bitra and started comprehensive data analysis.

Details of the above are set out in *Attachment: Research, page 3-16*

Community Engagement

A remarkable number of almost 1,400 stakeholders - >39 % of Agatti's adult population - have participated in 110 community consultations to date, with the leadership of the ten 'Community Facilitators' who were trained in Year2. Most of the stakeholders (807, 58%) were engaged in the current reporting period in 79 community meetings and household surveys.

These consultations have significantly developed the local community's capacity for planning and managing the proposed 'Agatti Conservation Reserve'.

Details of the above are set out in *Attachment: Community Engagement, page 17-22*

Implementation of Management Plan

The implementation of 'Agatti Conservation Reserve Management Plan' has successfully began.

Both the local community and the government authorities are supportive and expressed their willingness to implement the proposed MPA:

- Community members have made it clear that they would be willing to take volunteer measures to implement the MPA Management Plan by e.g. responsible collection of cowry and octopus.
- The appointed government is willing to support the proposed 'Agatti Conservation Reserve Management Plan' as the Deputy Collector demonstrated in the 'Our Island' film and subsequent meetings with the project team.
- The elected local government ('panchayat') is also very supportive. The Panchayat Chairperson has endorsed the idea of the co-managed MPA and plans to submit a formal request to the Administration of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep in November 2007 to declare the 'Agatti Conservation Reserve Management Plan'.

Interaction with the Ministry of Environment and Forests and local government offices for the Community Reserve establishment continued successfully in the current reporting period.

Details of the above are set out in *Attachment: Implementation of MPA Management Plan, page 23-24*

Communication

An incredibly successful promotional campaign on project approach and results has been initiated in the current reporting period as follows:

- 15 new partnerships established
- 9 formal presentations made
- 2 documentary films developed
- 3 posters published
- Project website has been regularly updated: <http://www.lead.org/page/89>

Details of the above are set out in *Attachment: Communication, page 25-27*

Capacity Development

Project core team members - Andrea Deri, Deepak Apte, Babu Idrees - had a series of strategic project management meetings at LEAD International office in London and attended several meetings and gave presentations for various organizations in the UK during 1-12 July and 19-28 July 2007. These meetings addressed two major issues: (1) effective and efficient delivery of Year3 activities, and (2) long term sustainability of the project.

Deepak Apte completed his data validation process in the US and made a successful presentation on key project results at the World Malacological Conference in Belgium.

- Details: *Attachment: Capacity Development, page 28*

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.

No notable problems occurred in the current reporting period what would affect our project delivery.

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

A revised Year 3 timeline will be submitted soon to the Darwin Secretariat: see below. The revisions have no implications on the project budget or timely delivery of planned project results.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: Not yet. **no/yes, in..... (month/yr)**

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: Yes, in second half of Year3 as follows:

Proposed rescheduled activities

We are in the process of informing the Darwin Secretariat about a proposed schedule revision of the following two activities:

- Bi monthly Local Governing Council meetings
- An "Assessment Task Force " constituted by the Local Governing Council

These activities were originally scheduled to start in the first half year of Year3, however, they need to be rescheduled to the second half of Year3 to observe the legal requirements of setting up a 'conservation reserve' according to the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

See Attachment page 24 for the process of setting up the 'Agatti Conservation Reserve'.

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 email** to Eilidh Young, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme at Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 14-075 Darwin Half Year Report**