

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2008)

Project Ref. No.	162/16/002
Project Title	Building capacity for sustainable fisheries management in the Wallacea region
Country(ies)	Indonesia
UK Organisation	Operation Wallacea Trust
Collaborator(s)	Forkani
Project Leader	Dr Tim Coles
Report date	1 April - 30 September 2008
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR/2
Project website	http://www.wallaceatrust.org/

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).

Fisheries monitoring and database development

The weekly monitoring of all landings over a 24 hour period in each of the 9 main fishing villages has continued throughout the report period and all data have been entered into the database on Kaledupa. In May 2008 a summary report of all the data collected from from July 2007 by the Fisheries Monitors employed as part of the Darwin Initiative was completed. This report was based on 161,000 fish caught by fishermen in the 9 villages on Kaledupa over this period. Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) was calculated for each fishing technique and this, along with analyses of species composition and percentage maturity, were used to assess the health of the reef fisheries around Kaledupa.

A six week survey in 2005 provided some comparisons with contemporary CPUE and the general picture from the data is one of gradual decline, although some villages are performing better than others. Sombano is consistently ranked lowest or second lowest in CPUE comparisons for all villages and shows the most concerning change of all the data, with CPUE for gill net set parallel now just 10 % of what it was in 2005. The analysis highlights the dependence of the fishery on four main families, Lethrinidae, Mullidae, Scaridae and Siganidae. The dominance of certain species makes the results from percentage maturity analyses even more concerning because common species in the catches that mature at sizes greater than 20 cm are being caught before they have the opportunity to spawn. In fact, 82 % of *all* species that mature at a size greater than 20 cm are caught before they are mature. In general, the largest species such as groupers and trevallies, precisely those species that are highly sought after by divers, recreational anglers and fishermen, are caught many years before they spawn. For several of the larger species, not a single mature individual was recorded in catches from July 2007- May 2008. These data have been used in the Village Fishers Forum meetings (see below), so the milestone of completing weekly landing data for 12 month period, and these data used for proposals on how local perdas (laws) could be introduced by September 2008 has been achieved.

Reef monitoring

Dr Dave Smith from the University of Essex and a team of marine biologists completed an annual survey of the reef fish and coral communities from 108 fixed transects each 50m in length around Kaledupa Island. The milestone of completing this survey being completed by September 2008 has been achieved.

Fisheries Byelaws and Regulations

As noted in the previous report the approach recommended by the Bupati (head of the Wakatobi Government) and the village heads was to start on the byelaw development and fishers registration consultation before the Kaledupa Fishers Forum (KFF) was formed. That would give the team time to introduce the concept of a democratic process by which each village would have its own Forum consisting of a representative from local government (BPD) and all the fishers from that village to meet regularly to discuss ways in which the fishery on the local reefs can be managed. A representative from

each of the village Forums would then be elected to a Kaledupa Fisheries Forum to work alongside the sub-district heads (Camats), and police, army and Park ranger representatives. This process has been followed with 17 of the 25 villages completed before the end of September (the remainder were completed in October). In each village a Village Fishers Forum has been formed and a representative elected to the Kaledupa Fishers Forum. In addition all fishers and their equipment have been entered into the database for each village and two local fishers trained in the process needed to ensure all boats are registered. Completion of the painting of all boats in each village will be achieved within a few weeks and the milestone of completing boat registration by the end of November 2008 is on target.

The consultation process in each village has also obtained views from the fishers in each village on required byelaws. The date for the inaugural Kaledupa Fishers Forum was postponed from September 2008 to allow for completion of this consultation and the meeting is now scheduled for November 2008. The Bupati has agreed to chair the meeting and the Wakatobi government has agreed to pass Wakatobi level byelaws that implement the decisions of the KFF, meeting the agreed milestone of September 2008 when the Wakatobi Government empowered the KFF to manage Kaledupa reef fisheries. Achieving the milestone of implementation of fisheries regulations, which is not due to be completed until May 2009 is well on its way to completion on target.

Development of businesses to provide income for licence buy outs

As reported in the previous annual report the business cases for various income generation activities to provide income were considered by the Trustees of the Operation Wallacea Trust and it was agreed that the carrageenan extraction plant had the capability of generating more than enough income to cover the costs of buying out the required fishing effort. A contract has been let to complete the design of the carrageenan plant and the Bupati has donated a large disused building next to the jetty with associated large storage area as the location for the plant. Moreover the Bupati has put \$200,000 in the Wakatobi government 2009/10 budgets to fund the development of the plant. The milestone of deciding which business to develop and to take actions to implement the decision by April 2008 has been achieved.

Publicity

The project was well ahead on the publicity targets so it was agreed that the next batch of publicity would be targeted at demonstrating completion of the boat registration and the Kaledupa Fishers Forum which will occur just outside this report period.

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.

Dr Duncan May who was the main UK based fisheries scientist for the project and had done much of the initial research to make the project possible resigned in May 2008 to take up another full time contract. This obviously caused a major problem and it was overcome by contracting, a UK fisheries consultant (Richard Stanford) to manage the fisheries monitoring programme and complete analysis of the data. Fortunately Richard who has a Masters in fisheries biology from University of British Columbia was based in Indonesia at the time and was looking for a coastal management project to use as the basis for a PhD study at a UK university. In addition Piotr Kalinowski, the main consultant developing the alternative income streams was informed by his doctors in May 2008 that he should not travel to remote locations too far from emergency hospital help. Since his task was to complete the detailed on site planning for the carrageenan plant in Kaledupa this was a problem! This was solved by sending seaweed samples from Kaledupa to the UK and the detailed chemical engineering calculations are being completed here.

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

The problems and solutions were discussed with the Darwin Secretariat. No changes to the original agreement were required.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: Yes no/yes, in...May 2008..... (month/yr)

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: No no/yes, in.....(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 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**