Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report (due 31 October 2007)

Project Ref. No.	17-002
Project Title	Managing coral reef fisheries for biodiversity, ecosystem and economic benefits
Country(ies)	Maldives
UK Organisation	Marine Conservation Society
Collaborator(s)	Marine Research Centre, Maldives
Project Leader	Dr Elizabeth Wood
Report date	Oct 2009
Report No.	HYR1
Project website	Under construction

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).

The following activities were scheduled for the last 6 months. Progress is shown in bold.

- Stakeholder meetings to discuss aims, methods, progress. Scheduled as a regular activity, but particularly critical in the first 6 months of the project.
 Good progress has been made. There have been very regular communications within the project team and 2 new staff appointed at Marine Research Centre with project funding: (Mohamed Ushan: Reef Survey Officer and Ahmed Najeeb: Fishery Project Officer). We have held briefings and discussions with the Fisheries Ministry, Tourism Ministry (re involvement of Dive Centres in survey work), Customs Department (re monitoring of reef fish exports) and marine biologists at several Dive Centres. This has enabled us to refine our plans and ensure that all stakeholders are involved.
- Establish network of survey teams. Scheduled for the first 6 months of the project.
 We have linked up to several Dive Centres in particular those that have marine biologists (Banyan Tree, Four Seasons), and they have committed to joining the survey which we are launching as 'Fishwatch Maldives'. We have tested protocols with them and the next step will be to refine these and then bring more Dive Centres on board.
- Develop protocols for monitoring of fish populations and reef health & produce recording sheets & field data sheets etc. Scheduled for the first 6 months of the project.

This is on schedule, with considerable work put into planning and development of methodology. Draft protocols were produced which have now been tested in the field. This included production of illustrated check lists to ensure accuracy and enable a wider range of people to participate. Some adjustments are currently being made following feedback and observations from the trials and then the final survey package will be produced. • Produce daily logbook for reef fishers in collaboration with stakeholders. Scheduled for the first 6 months of the project.

This is also on schedule with separate logbooks produced for the following reef fisheries: a) grouper b) other reef fish (e.g. snappers, emperors etc) and c) aquarium species. We have also devised a logbook for the grouper cages (where groupers are kept and then exported for the live fish trade). These drafts have been submitted to the Fisheries Ministry for their approval and it is possible that adjustments may be made before they are introduced.

Establish website. Scheduled for the first 6 months of the project.
 Most of the content has been written but the site itself is still under construction. We are slightly behind schedule with this but aim to launch before the end of the year.

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.

The nominated Project Co-ordinator in the Maldives – Mariyam Saleem –left the Marine Research Centre in August 09 to work as a consultant. She still remains in touch should the need arise but her official place on the project has been taken by Shahaama Sattar who runs the reef fishery programme in MRC and is equally well placed to act as the local lead person.

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

It was not felt necessary to discuss the above as it has made no significant change to the project.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: no

no/yes, in...No..... (month/yr)

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: no/yes, in... No......(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, nothing thanks

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 <u>planned</u> modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should <u>not</u> 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 <u>Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk</u>. The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. <u>Please</u> <u>state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 14-</u> <u>075 Darwin Half Year Report</u>