

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

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 2010
Report No. (HYR)	HYR2
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.

- **Stakeholder meetings to discuss progress.**

Over the past 6 months we have had further meetings and useful discussions with the Fisheries Ministry (re development of the Grouper Management Plan for key atolls), Maldives Environmental Management Project (re survey & data collection protocols), Environment Agency and Maldives Defence Force (re current issues relating to enforcement of fishery regulations), grouper fishers (re data collection & log books) and marine biologists at Dive Centres (re underwater surveys and end user log books).

- **Further build up network of survey teams & conduct training workshops.**

We have continued to bring more Dive Centres into the survey & monitoring scheme (Fishwatch Maldives) over the past 6 months. We have found that it is most productive to approach and train the Dive Centres individually rather than expect them to attend a 'central' training event (their time is limited and it is important to develop personal contacts and make taking up the project as easy as possible). We will continue to build up the survey centres during the rest of this year so that we have good national coverage.

- **Data collection/field surveys/data entry (Fishwatch; Sharkwatch; spawning aggregations).**

This has been proceeding well, with the Fishwatch & Sharkwatch participating Dive Centres collecting and submitting data on a regular basis (usually monthly). Initial research into spawning aggregations has been carried out through discussions with fishers.

- **Implementation of fisher logbooks**

This is slightly behind schedule as we had planned for the logbooks to be in operation by the beginning of yr 2. However, progress is being made. The grouper catch & cage logbooks are currently being tested with the fishers and the other logbooks are being printed and will be trialled shortly.

- **Collection & analysis of export data**

This has been on-going over the past 6 months and is proceeding well. A summary report is being prepared.

- **Identification guide to reef fish for stakeholders**

Following production of the ID posters, work has continued on an A4- ring-bound and laminated resource / field guide. The grouper guide has been completed and the reef fish guide is at final draft stage.

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.

Nothing to report

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

N/A

Discussed with LTS: no/yes, in..... (month/yr)

Formal change request submitted: no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

Received confirmation of change acceptance no/yes in.....(month/yr)

3. Do you expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

No

If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible. It would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication of how much you expect this request might be for.

Estimated carryforward request: £

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

No, nothing thank you

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.