



Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2014)

Project Ref No	19-005
Project Title	Underpinning the design and management of Cambodia's first Marine Protected Area (MPA)
Country(ies)	Cambodia
Lead Organisation	Fauna & Flora International (FFI)
Collaborator(s)	Fisheries Administration (FiA); Coral Cay Conservation (CCC)
Project Leader	<i>Sophie Benbow</i>
Report date and number (eg HYR3)	31 st October 2014, HYR3
Project website	<i>This project does not have a dedicated website but is covered in a 'Closer Look' page on www.fauna-flora.org.</i>

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) 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 to end September).

Planned Project Implementation Timetable: *Financial Year Apr 2014-Mar 2015. Key Q1-Q2 Milestones and Activities (AX.X):* Monitoring and workplan adjustments (M1). Management committee meetings, design and review of zoning, management planning, MPA proclamation update (A1.4-7). FiA staff mentoring and Community Fisheries (CFi) representative training (A 2.4, A2.6), CFi zoning consultation and management (A2.7-8), marine surveys (A3.2-3), CCC training in monitoring techniques (A3.5), stakeholder workshops (A4.1), media to raise MPA awareness, best practice documents and national and international dissemination (A4.3-5).

Actual Project Implementation Timetable:

April: Signing of collaborative annual workplan (A0). Research by 2 MSc students, including data collection on sedimentation and the socio-economic impacts of MPA no-take zones (A3.4). CCC completed the 2nd round of coral reef transects on Koh Rong (KR) (A3.2-3). CFi training on law enforcement to involved 51 participants (A2.2, 2.8). A CFi Network was formed between 3 CFis around KR and Koh Rong Sanloem (KRS) (A2.6). CFi equipment provision included boat engines, patrol uniforms, cameras, GPSs, signboards, information boards and torches (A2.8).

May: CCC training workshop on ecology and reef monitoring for 12 participants from national and provincial FiA (A2.2,3.5). Submission by project partners of 3 full papers, 2 short communications on MPA research results, plus a guest editorial on Cambodian marine research (A4.5). Second meeting of the MPA Technical Working Group (TWG), with 26 participants at Preah Sihanouk Provincial Hall, including consultation on the draft MPA proclamation and zoning (A1.4-5,1.7). Eight meetings conducted on KR and KRS with 64 participants to present and discuss CFi progress, especially patrol team activities (A2.7-8).

June: World Ocean's Day celebration, including presentations, rubbish collection and boat racing co-organised with project partners and local organisations (A4.3). Ninety participants attended and 180 t-shirts plus 180 caps were distributed. Twenty two banners were displayed in 3 villages during the event, which was covered by national media (A4.2-3). A speedboat for patrols was distributed to Daem Thkov CFi (A2.8). Five on-site consultation meetings on zoning (A1.5,2.7) were followed by the 3rd TWG meeting, organised to present the results of private sector and community consultation. TWG members voted for final recommendations by zone. Additional village zone consultation meetings followed, involving 32 people (A1.4-5). A quarterly CFi Network meeting sought to strengthen CFi coordination and management (A2.6, 2.8).

July: Inception meeting of the Provincial Management Committee (PMC) for MPAs, chaired by the Deputy Governor and attended by 22 participants, including the final provincial level review of the draft MPA proclamation and zoning map (A1.3-5, 1.7). Training to 19 CFI representatives and Provincial FiA on leadership, conflict resolution and fisheries laws (A2.6) plus 3 meetings with 40 CFI participants to discuss CFI progress, especially patrol team activities during the month (A2.7-8). Consultations were conducted with 23 NGO, government and private sector representatives, including local communities, to inform feasibility and design of a diversified fundraising portfolio, focusing on potential user fees and voluntary donations (A1.6).

August: Publication of an aquatic special addition of the [Cambodian Journal of Natural History](#), including 2 peer reviewed papers on spatial planning and seagrass monitoring from the MPA, and a guest editorial by the FiA Senior Manager (A4.5). Additional publications include a report on CFI financing options, reviewing enabling policy and possible benefit sharing mechanisms (A1.6) and an assessment of CFI committee perceptions and involvement in local fisheries management (A2.7,3.7). To share lessons learnt a poster on private sector engagement in MPA zoning was presented by the Project Leader at the International Marine Conservation Congress, Glasgow, UK (A4.5). On-site 3 monthly CFI meetings were conducted involving 43 participants. Two provincial FiA field officers joined to strengthen CFI patrols (A2.8) while also carrying out public awareness raising about fisheries laws and the MPA in 4 villages (A4.3).

September: FiA national legal team review of the draft proclamation for adjustments prior to submission to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries (MAFF) (A1.7). An FFI/CCC report synthesised research and recommendations, to support the submission of the proclamation to MAFF (A3.7). Three days of training was provided to 10 national and provincial FiA staff to review Geographical Information System (GIS) use, with an introduction to the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) to assist with evaluation of the effectiveness of CFI patrols (A2.2). The CFI Network meeting included the 3 island CFI committees and provided an opportunity to review and discuss activities from the previous quarter with FFI and FiA field officers, including 75 patrols in the quarter (A2.6, 2.8). Provincial FiA also involved 138 local people in awareness raising across 4 villages (A4.3). The FiA Director General signed and approved the 2014-2016 management plans for each of the 3 CFIs (A1.6, 2.8).

2a. 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.

As mentioned in the YR2 annual report, CCC closed operations in Cambodia in June 2014 due to funding shortages/low volunteer numbers. Advanced notice from CCC enabled FFI and FiA to consider alternative options. A collaborative agreement was signed between FFI and the [Song Saa Foundation](#) (SSF) in February 2014 and a full Project Agreement in April 2014 on the basis that SSF is a key local stakeholder in the MPA and a strong potential replacement for CCC. An approved change request will support solid delivery of research and monitoring (Output 3.a+b) by SSF in the final two project quarters, including dry season reef surveys (A3.3) from January-March and permanent transect installation (A3.6), plus awareness and dissemination (Output 4.). The change, if approved, will increase the total project budget contribution to host-country partners from 33% to 35%, as SSF is a nationally registered NGO.

Significant effort has been applied by FiA and FFI in the reporting period to push the legal proclamation documents through the various levels of government review and sign-off (A1.7). Specific activities linked to the approval of the zoning scheme, such as MPA media campaigning (A4.3) have only partially been implemented and require pushing once the proclamation is signed, including approved zoning. The project team has also been allocating resources and time to continue to refine the design of diversified financing mechanisms for the site. While this is expected to benefit project sustainability, it has also drawn some effort from other project elements. This, coupled with the unexpected delay to in the final signing of individual CFI management plans to September 2014, has further stalled participatory MPA management planning (A1.6). The 3 year management plans for each CFI are a major step and contribution, but considerable progress is required to achieve a government approved overarching MPA management plan in the final quarters of the project (Output 1.b).

2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with LTS: Yes/No (regarding partner change)

Formal change request submitted: Yes/No (submitted 22/10/14)

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/No

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

Yes No Estimated underspend: £ 0.0

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully as it is unlikely that any requests to carry forward funds will be approved this year. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project and would like to talk to someone about the options available this year, please indicate below when you think you might be in a position to do this and what the reasons might be:

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

With the unexpected CCC departure from Cambodia during YR3, several questions arose about transfer of equipment (in this case, various research equipment used for dive surveys, non-capital items). Some detailed guidance and/or requirements from the Darwin Initiative on expected transfer of project assets beyond the life of the project might be useful to include in reporting and finance instructions or a similar suitable document available to project partners (including guidance on transfer of capital items and smaller equipment that may not retain significant value but would remain nonetheless useable within the project site).

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 can be discussed in this report but **should also be raised with LTS International through a Change Request.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk . The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 20-035 Darwin Half Year Report**