



Darwin Initiative Main Project Half Year Report (due 31 October 2015)

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| Project Ref No | 19-020 |
| Project Title | Responding to fish extirpations in the global marine biodiversity epicentre |
| Country(ies) | Philippines |
| Lead Organisation | Newcastle University |
| Collaborator(s) | Dr Margarita Lavidés |
| Project Leader | Prof. Nicholas Polunin |
| Report date and number (e.g., HYR3) | 31 October 2015: HYR4 |
| Project website/Twitter/Blog/Instagram etc | |
| Funder (DFID/Defra) | |

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).

The underwater survey component of this project was successfully completed in mid-June after nine weeks of data collection marking the completion of activity 2.2 and progressing towards milestone 3. During this period the team surveyed all five mKBAs with a total of 700 transects covering 175,000 m² of reef (see photos attached). Work was carried out with the help of local partners, the Zoological Society of London and the Western Philippines University, which contributed towards an active working relationship. Meetings were organised with local community leaders at the beginning of the fieldwork in each area and presentations were given to them afterward to help disseminate preliminary findings. The analysis of the underwater data is near completion and a draft manuscript will be prepared. 12 out of the 54 target species were completely absent from all the surveys and those that were present were mostly very low in abundance. Preliminary results show that there was a significant difference in the reef fish assemblages between the five areas visited (see Annex; Fig. 1) but the impact of fishing pressure is still being analysed. A weighted fishing pressure index has been calculated using the information gathered during the social surveys and ArcGIS mapping software to provide highly detailed fishing pressure data at site level, which to our knowledge is a first. Comparisons between UVC abundance data and fishermen's current knowledge data showed no significant correlation and there was a negative relationship between the two (see Annex, Fig. 2). Temporal data is being supplied from UPMSI. The MoU between them and Newcastle University is currently passing through administration and is expected to be finalised this month (YR4Q3). Three oral presentations were given to disseminate findings at the 13th Philippine Marine Science Symposium (see photos attached). All presentations displayed the Darwin finch logo and were titled as follows: 1) Widespread local disappearances of finfish species in 5 marine key biodiversity areas inferred from fishers knowledge, 2) Grouper catch trends (1995s-2014) in 5 marine key biodiversity areas inferred from fishers knowledge using linear mixed methods and 3) Initial insights on fish extirpations in fished areas in 5 marine key biodiversity areas. The first revision of the PlosONE article is underway following comments from anonymous reviewers. There has been significant progress with the KAAMPAKA social enterprise program with multiple training activities occurring with consistently high attendance and successful results. Training activities occurring in the last 6 months were: Introduction &

Installation of ICS (May 2015), Operations Management Training (June 2015), Leadership Skills (July 2015) and Team Building (July 2015). Those giving the training for these activities are identified along with their organisations in a table and the activity reports (see Annex; Table 1 and following activity reports). Despite the delay in commencement of activities progress has been made and is now making profit. From June to September the association gained gross income of over P17, 862.50 and expenses of P14, 254. Total net income was thus P3608 during its 8 rounds of production. In addition to this the FSSI granted KAAMPAKA which was released in June 2015 and will be used for purchase of equipment and for continued capacity building of the association. This grant will be used to facilitate the exit strategy and ensure that the danggit enterprise can run independently of Darwin funds.

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt 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 new problems of note or unexpected developments.

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

Formal change request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/No

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

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

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?

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 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 e.g., Subject: 20-035 Darwin Half Year Report**