

## Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2013)

<b>Project Ref No:</b>	20-017
<b>Project Title:</b>	Strengthening the capability of Kenyan communities to conserve coral reefs
<b>Country(ies):</b>	Kenya
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Wildlife Conservation Society
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Fisheries Dept, Stockholm Resilience Centre, University of East Anglia
<b>Project Leader</b>	Dr. Nyawira Muthiga
<b>Report date and number (eg HYR3)</b>	October 2013 (HYR1)
<b>Project website</b>	N/A

### 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).

In the **first quarter**, the two main planned activities were completed: (1) the project inception workshop, and (2) laying down the groundwork for monitoring fisheries and fish prices. The project was launched at a project inception workshop that was held at the Msambweni Turtle Hall, a community resource centre of the Msambweni Beach Management Unit (BMU) at the end of May 2013. A total of 280 participants were invited to the workshop comprising a diverse range of stakeholders including BMU leaders of the eight target *tengefu*, fishermen, community representatives, fisheries officers, Kilifi and Kwale County representatives, conservation NGOs, relevant government departments, local student interns, and WCS scientists. We selected the Msambweni Turtle Hall for the venue because the Msambweni community built it for exactly such a purpose. The workshop was well attended (250 participants) and the project was well received by the participants. Rodgers Charo, a member of one of the longest-standing *tengefu* (Kuruwitu), was appointed as a community liaison officer for the project. He is fluent in Kiswahili and has basic training in socio-economic assessments and data input. Fisheries landing data and fish prices data have been collected at all sites except Mkwiro and Msambweni; collection for those sites will commence in October.

In the **second quarter**, we planned to conduct baseline socioeconomic and coral reef ecosystem health assessments; complete management plans and begin implementation of management actions; assess training and awareness needs; and initiate awareness-raising activities.

*Assess training and awareness needs:* Rodgers Charo (mentioned above) and Caroline Abunge (WCS socio-economist) coordinated consultative meetings at each site to further raise awareness, select community team members for the project, and collect information on the key fisheries management and conservation issues at the project sites. The individuals that were picked at each site were later invited to a meeting to network, become familiar with their roles and responsibilities as members of the project implementation committee (PIC), and complete a questionnaire on their knowledge and past participation in training or conservation awareness activities.

*Initiate awareness-raising activities:* As part of the awareness raising activities all the teams were invited to the Annual Fishers' forum that was held in Mombasa on the 12<sup>th</sup> September. There were 250 fishers at the Fishers' forum this year, providing a great opportunity for the teams to learn from the presentations on fisheries, coral reefs and trap gear modifications and to network. The Fisheries department was represented by the Provincial Head Mr. Ntheketha who updated participants on the changes that have occurred in the Fisheries department due to the implementation of the new devolved government in Kenya.

*Complete management plans and begin implementation of management actions:* We have made some initial progress on the development of management plans, but they have not yet been completed, as

there are some outstanding issues that first need to be addressed. While three of the sites currently have BMU management plans, a review of these plans revealed a lack of detailed management actions (e.g. gear restrictions, sanctions) and no incorporation of the *tengefu*. We are in the process of revising these plans, and are consulting with the fisheries department regarding the process for incorporating revisions into these management plans. The remaining five sites have no management plans and we have developed a template that will be used to guide the process.

*Conduct socioeconomic and coral reef ecosystem assessments:* We have collated coral reef, fisheries, socio-economic and institutional data (from WCS databases and other sources) for the sites. This initial assessment has indicated substantial gaps especially in socioeconomic and biophysical information at some of the sites that we hope to fill in the coming months. All the *tengefu* have been mapped except Msambweni where a conflict over the site arose, however, they have now selected an alternate site called Mpunga, which we will soon map and collect the required information. Regarding research studies, we have recruited a student Shauna Mahajan to study the perceived benefits of *tengefu* to the wellbeing of communities. Dr Tim Daw (UEA) will supervise her. Caroline Abunge is exploring the possibilities of doing an MSc at a local university on a topic relevant to the project and we have also discussed with Dr Crona (University of Stockholm) a research study on communication networks.

**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.**

We underestimated how long it would take to set up the teams and commence the management planning process. As a result, there are delays in some activities that we hoped to have completed by the second quarter. However, we have adjusted our timetable accordingly and don't expect these issues to have an impact on future planned activities or outcomes.

**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 N/A

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

Yes  **No**

**3b. If yes, and you wish to request a carry forward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible through the formal Change Request process.** However, it would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication now of how much you expect this request might be for.

Estimated carry forward request: £

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

We would like to make an adjustment to the workplan to reflect the delay in training activities and management plan revisions and implementation.

