

## Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2014)

<b>Project Ref No</b>	21-010
<b>Project Title:</b>	Linking community resilience and sustainable coastal protection in the Philippines
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Philippines
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Zoological Society of London
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Interface Inc.
<b>Project Leader</b>	Heather Koldewey
<b>Report date and number (eg HYR3)</b>	31 October 2014
<b>Project website</b>	<a href="http://www.zsl.org/mangroves">www.zsl.org/mangroves</a> ; <a href="http://www.net-works.com">www.net-works.com</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 to end September).**

### Project initiation

The project started with a detailed planning session with the Senior Management Team of ZSL-Philippines 14-15 April 2014 in Cebu City. Scouting of applicants (April 16-30), interview (May 1-10) and hiring of Community Organisers (CO) and Local Community Organisers (LCO) then commenced (May 15-18), with one CO and 2 LCOs deployed at each of the project sites.

A detailed project orientation and planning session with the new staff took place in Cebu-Bohol (16 May 2014) and Panay (19 May 2014). The COs then started on-site immersion, part of which are courtesy calls and project presentations to Local Government Units (LGUs) and PO partners 16 May to 28 June 2014. The contents of the Memorandum of Agreements (MOA) that spelled out the partner's roles and responsibilities were defined in the project presentations. To date, 3 MOAs (with LGU Ajuy, Madrideojos and Tubigon) were signed. The rest are either awaiting signatures by the Mayors or passage of resolution from the local legislative council giving authority to the Mayor to sign the agreement. Heather Koldewey met the full Darwin team and conducted a review and planning session and site visits in July 2014.

**Output 1. Six (6) VSLAs implemented by year 2, and this number >doubled through the Village Agent model by year 3, increasing the financial security of villagers in three provinces (Bohol, Cebu, Panay) and acting as a platform for community engagement in the management and protection of coastal ecosystems. STATUS – ON TARGET**

The establishment of Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) started first at the sites in Capiz. ZSL organised a training and standardisation workshop on 19 June 2014 amongst all staff involved in VSLA formation.

ZSL, in partnership with the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction, organised a VSLA Training of Trainers in Ivisan 26-30 August 2014 with 38 community members participating. Of these, 6 came from the Darwin project sites of Buntod (2), Balarang (1), Pedada (2) and Basiao (1). A simultaneous VSLA training was conducted for 45 community members (to serve as village agents) from Matabao, Tubigon (another Darwin site). On 29 September 2014, 3



The Peoples Organisation (PO) in Balarang, Ivisan, Capiz, conducting a VSLA meeting.

VSLA groups were formed in Buntod, Panay. Matabao also organised 2 VSLA groups. Therefore the Darwin project has already implemented a total of 8 VSLAs, the status of which are shown in the table below.

Table 1. Formed VSLAs and status

Name of VSLA group	Start date	# members	Value of share	Amount of savings as of 30 September
Queen Fishers Savings Group 1 (Boneless Group)-Basiao	25 May 2014	28	PhP20.00	PhPXX
Queen Fishers Savings Group 2 (Dilis Group)-Basiao	31 June 2014	25	PhP30.00	PhPXXX
Zealous Savers Legion- Balaring	9 June 2014	25	PhP50.00	PhPXXX
Baybay Savers Group-Buntod	29 Sept 2014	20	PhP50.00	-
Extension Savers Group-Buntod	29 Sept 2014	21	PhP50.00	-
Proper Savers Group-Buntod	29 Sept 2014	18	PhP50.00	-
Matabao Savers and Credit Association (MaSCA)- Matabao	10 September 2014	18	PhP20.00	PhPXXX
Inanuran Saving and Loan Association (ISLA)-Inanuran, Matabao	1 September 2014	17	PhP20.00	PhPXXX

Socioeconomic and biological profiles are underway (baselines for new sites and updated for old sites). The COs and LCOs underwent a Training of Trainers on data gathering using participatory tools on 21 June 2014. After this, onsite training commenced for the Local Research Assistants (LRA - 5 community members per site). The LRAs facilitated focus group discussions (FGD) and household surveys that took place from July to September. Data collection is now complete but still need community validation and analysis.

**Output 2. The pilot Net-Works project is operating in the 6 villages in Bantayan and Bohol, with villages feeding into the two sustainable business units (one in Bohol, one in Bantayan) that engage 20 communities in collecting an average of 200kg of discarded fishing nets per month and per village by year 3; cleaning beaches, preventing ghost fishing, and providing sustainable income. STATUS – ON TARGET**

Scoping was conducted in North Iloilo 9-16 July 2014 by the Net-Works team and identified the municipalities of Concepcion, Ajuy, Barotac Viejo and Banate as potential sites for Net-Works. The volume of discarded nets was estimated at 4,034 kilos monthly for 4 Concepcion villages and 1 Ajuy village. The targeted communities in Concepcion were already trained by ZSL on Mangrove and Beach Forest conservation 28 April-1 May 2014 and each site also has mangrove rehabilitation plans where implementation is on-going with support from Concern Worldwide (international NGO based in Concepcion).

At other Darwin sites, the island village of Batasan in Bohol is an old Net-Works site where buying of discarded nets started in 28 January 2013. However, the volume of nets in Batasan was not that significant as only 135 kilos were reported gathered January-September 2014 so this is being reviewed. Bantayan Island and Tubigon celebrated the yearly International Coastal Clean-up 20 September 2014 with members of the fishers group cooperating.

**Output 3. Business models developed and implemented at buffer zone sites adjacent to mangrove MPAs that diversify community livelihoods and include income from seaweed farming, ranching sea cucumbers/abalone, mangrove nurseries and mangrove eco-parks. STATUS – ON TARGET**

**a. Aquaculture.** The team implemented a programme of bamboo distribution to rehabilitate oyster farms destroyed by Typhoon Haiyan (match funding). 57 oyster farmer beneficiaries (who are recipient of the bamboo materials) met in Basiao, Ivisan 4 July 2014 to agree on the number and the manner of distribution. In that meeting several agreements were reached to abide with existing Municipal Fisheries Ordinance (MFO) of Ivisan LGU and improve previous practices, i.e. mapping of individual oyster farms, payment of licenses, mariculture zoning and regulation of distances between bamboo stakes ( $\frac{1}{2}$  meter).

Several livelihoods related to aquaculture were identified i.e. value adding of oyster and anchovies, culture of sea cucumber and seaweed farming but these require more thorough

studies (in the next 6 months).

The Training of Trainers on Goods Manufacturing Practices and Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures organised by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) 3-4 September 2014 was attended by 6 leaders from Ivisan, Panay and Pedada will eventually help them in value adding fisheries products.

**b. Mangrove related enterprises.** The Darwin project staff initiated a collaboration with SMART Communications who were providing alternative sources of income to help communities recover from typhoon Haiyan. Training was provided to the members of Buntod Katibyugan PO in driftwood sculpture. Three trainings were conducted until the members were able to produce art pieces that were exhibited by Smart Communications at a large shopping mall in Manila on 29 August 2014. The exhibit was featured (with the PO leader from Buntod) in a widely circulated local newspaper (26 October 2014 issue of Philippines Daily Inquirer).

The project team are also working with the Pedada mangrove ecopark (Ajuy, initiated by the LGU with ZSL in 2010) to repair damage from Typhoon Haiyan and construct additional 120 meters of footwalk 1-22 July 2014. The village of Oboob, Bantayan has an existing ecopark which was also badly damaged by Typhoon Haiyan. The ecopark needs clearing of debris and footwalk/facility repair. Systems within the PO and the capacity to manage the ecopark also need enhancement which will be progressed in coming months.

The four years of mangrove experience of the POs in Pedada, Balaring and Buntod and the complete documentation (e.g. receipts, bank books, registration, accreditation, constitution and bylaws) gave the POs the opportunity to engage in the National Greening Program (NGP) of the government. The mangrove devastation brought by Typhoon Haiyan and the NGP increased the demand for mangrove seedlings nationwide thus prompted ZSLs POs to engage in seedling production. This year the Darwin team helped the



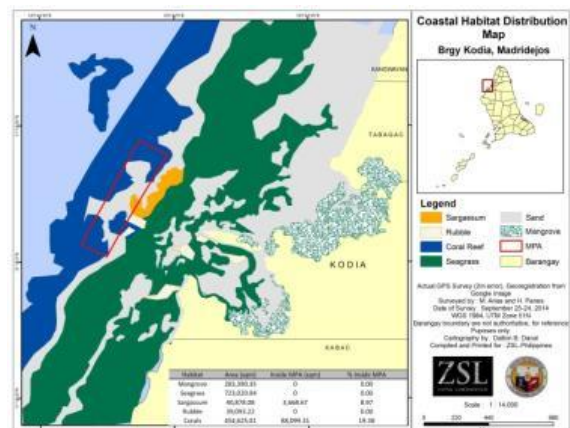
A backyard nursery in Pedada, Ajuy.

POs secure a contracted fee for nursery establishment, seedling production, outplanting, monitoring and maintenance for 88 ha (including Buntod) of PhP1.5M (~£20K). The Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation (PTFCF) also helped by providing each PO with PhP100,000 (~£1,400) for mangrove cleaning and seedling production after Typhoon Haiyan. To date Pedada has 70,000 seedlings, Balaring has 60,000 and Buntod has 66,000.

#### **Output 4. >1,000 ha of mangrove, seagrass and coral reef habitats are effectively protected through MPA ordinances and community-based forest management agreements in three provinces (Bohol, Cebu, Panay) by year 2. STATUS – ON TARGET**

Potential sites to establish new Marine Protected Areas (MPA) integrating mangroves were surveyed by the biologist team using standardised SCUBA methods i.e. Kodia, Madrideojos (28.3 ha mangroves and 19 ha coral MPA) and Oboob, Bantayan (31 ha mangrove and 15 ha coral MPA) May-June 2014. The mangrove and seagrass ecosystems in Matabao and Batasan in Tubigon were surveyed 13-15 August 2014. The MPA in Batasan is 19 ha while mangrove is 60 ha. Matabao coral MPA is 15 ha with the mangrove area still to be determined.

The local legislative council of Ivisan, Capiz approved the MPA ordinance for Ivisan Marine Fish Sanctuary and Fishery Reserve on 25 June 2014. The establishment of the MPA in Ivisan integrating mangroves was started with the Waterloo project in June 2012. The construction of the patrol boat to secure the mangrove MPA in Ivisan is now undergoing construction.



**Output 5. 8 mangrove MPA management plans are being implemented by year 2 from a baseline of 0, with MPAs enforced by 20 legally deputised fish and forest wardens, rated between Levels 3-5 under the national MPA Rating System. STATUS – ON TARGET**

An Organisational Diagnosis (OD) done in July 2014 for the POs in Kodia and Oboob were conducted to identify the status and interventions needed to build the PO capacity as MPA managers and revealed that both groups needed strengthening. Workshops that set Vision, Mission and Goal (VMG) and amend Constitution-by-Laws (CBL) for both POs were done in September 2014. Leaders of both groups also underwent training in leadership and Mangrove and Beach Forest Training Course 5-6 and 15-17 September 2014.

In Batasan, the 3 fisher's organisations that existed in the area agreed to form one group in a leaders meeting 20 August 2014. The developed constitution and bylaws of the new group was approved by the General Assembly 24 September 2014 and a review of the MPA management plan was undertaken.

The management of the mangroves in MPAs were tasked to the MPA Management Councils (MMC). Two of the three MMCs were formed in Darwin match-funding projects (Matabao-Selfridges and Ivisan-Waterloo).

Several facilities in the MPAs in Tubigon that were damaged by the earthquake in 2013 were rehabilitated. The guard houses in Batasan and Matabao were repaired April and May 2014 using counterpart funding.



The repaired Matabao MPA guardhouse, Tubigon, Bohol.

**Output 6. Presentation at the 2014 IUCN World Parks Congress provide the forum for dissemination, that result in stakeholder cross-visits and training sessions to replicate the approach in 2 DFID priority countries with mangroves. STATUS – ON TARGET**

A proposal was submitted to and accepted by the World Parks Congress (12<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> November, Sydney Australia) and has been scheduled for the 'Ecosystem restoration and protected areas: delivering socio-economic and environmental benefits' session on 17 November 2014. Dr Nick Hill from the Darwin project team will be delivering the presentation.

**Other**

- Project partners Interface Inc. organised a film crew to produce materials on the Net-Works project that feature the Darwin Initiative. The film is hosted on the front page of the new Net-Works website [www.net-works.com](http://www.net-works.com) which explains the project and our work and is available in 7 languages.
- Dr Heather Koldewey (ZSL) gave a plenary talk '*An overview of building hope and innovation in marine conservation*' at the *International Marine Conservation Congress in Glasgow, 14<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> August 2014, Making Marine Conservation Matter* which featured several ZSL Darwin projects including our work in the Philippines.
- Members of the Darwin project team (Heather Koldewey, Jurgenne Primavera and Louise Baldwin) have organised an international symposium '*Turning the Tide on Mangrove Loss: the status of mangroves and their associated fauna*' to be held at ZSL on the 6-7 November. Over 100 participants from 16 countries are registered to attend. The Darwin project will feature in presentations by Heather Koldewey and Jurgenne Primavera <http://www.zsl.org/science/whats-on/turning-the-tide-on-mangrove-loss>. The symposium is followed by a 2 day IUCN Mangrove Specialist Group workshop, co-chaired by Jurgenne, where we will share experiences from the Darwin project and gain valuable insights from the international mangrove conservation and research community.



**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.**

The CO hired for Bantayan resigned effective Sept 1 due to family problems. Instead of hiring a new CO for Bantayan, the LCO was promoted to CO with additional mentoring from the Project Manager.

**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 (eg 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?**

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](mailto: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**