



Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31 October 2016)

Project Ref No: 21-010

Project Title: Linking community resilience and sustainable coastal protection in the Philippines

Country(ies)/Territory(ies): Philippines

Lead Organisation: Zoological Society of London

Partner(s): Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Interface Inc

Project Leader: Heather Koldewey

Report date and number (e.g., HYR3) HYR3

Project website/ Twitter/ Blog/ Instagram etc: www.zsl.org/mangroves; www.net-works.com, <https://www.zsl.org/blogs/conservation/>, [@HeatherKoldewey](https://twitter.com/HeatherKoldewey) [@ZSLMarine](https://twitter.com/ZSLMarine) [@nets2carpet](https://twitter.com/nets2carpet) [@nickaohil](https://twitter.com/nickaohil)

Funder (DFID/Defra): DFID

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).

Output 1.10 VSLAs implemented by year 2, and this number >doubled through the Village Agent model by year 3, increasing the financial security of villagers in four provinces (Bohol, Cebu, Iloilo, Capiz) and acting as a platform for community engagement in the management and protection of coastal ecosystems.

Exceeded: The target of 20 VSLAs organized by Year 3 has already been achieved; Bohol (4), Cebu (4), Iloilo (2), Capiz (10). The total number of households engaged in VSLAs to date has reached 388 surpassing the target of 320 households. The distribution is as follows: Capiz - 189, Cebu – 77, Bohol – 93, and Iloilo - 29. VSLA groups are dominated by females with 289 members (74%), with 99 members who are male (26%). 10 Village agents were trained across all Darwin sites, with the exception of the villages of Kodia and Oboob (Bantayan Cebu) and Matabao and Batasan (Bohol) but these trainings are planned.

Total savings generated per household is P217.00/year or ~5.42 USD/HH/year with a shortfall of 14.6 USD or 583 PhP from the target of 20 USD/HH/Year explained by the low share purchase by individual members at P20.00-50.00/share/member (0.5-1.25 USD/share/member). Total Social fund (equivalent to insurance and available for all members in event of emergency) is PhP 38,213.00 (USD 955) and all CoMSCA groups have adopted regular savings in our innovation to introduce regular saving into an environmental fund to VSLAs (to support activities such as MPA management) totaling PhP 21,068.00 (USD 527) to date. Eight groups had their share-out within the last 6 months generating a total of PhP 1,564,260 (USD 39,107) in savings. The Matabao VSLA in Tubigon, Bohol has the highest total savings generated at P323,518 (USD 8,088).

Output 2. The Net-Works project is operating in at least 3 of the target villages in Bantayan (Cebu province) 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.

On target: The target of Net-Works operating in at least 3 villages has been achieved with

Pedada, Ajuy in Iloilo, Oboob, Bantayan in Cebu and Inanoran, Matabao in Tubigon, Bohol, currently engaged in net buying. Nets were collected across 8 communities. Net-buying has just started in the communities hence the shortfall of 12 from the target of 20 communities. Since the volume of discarded nets is relatively low, only a total of 582.8 kg were collected broken down into: Pedada, Ajuy 162 kg Oboob, Bantayan 45 kg and Tubigon, Bohol 375.8 kg. The discarded nets in the Tubigon sites and Ajuy have fed in to the Net-Works business model and used existing collection centres in northern Iloilo and Bantayan Islands. Students from nearby school of Northern Iloilo Polytechnic State College provided assistance in net collection especially in the nearby villages of Pili, Malayuan, Nasidman all in the municipality of Ajuy.

Three major factors affected the volume and pace of net-buying, including (1) misconception of communities that discarded nets are used as lining for coffins, (2) too costly to do aggressive buying, and (3) presence of scrap buyers who compete with net-buying and offer a higher price.

To date a total of 354 households are earning additional income from net-buying surpassing the target of 300 households.

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, mussel culture, ranching sea cucumbers/abalone, and mangrove nurseries.

On target: Diversified livelihoods in the Darwin project sites include: Ecopark management for Oboob and Pedada, Oyster farming in Basiao and Buntod, Driftwood sculpture in Buntod, and Mangrove/ Beach forest seedling production in Pedada and Kodia.

So far, income generated from entrance fees of ecoparks managed by the community group OMAGIECA in Oboob, Bantayan and Pedada, Ajuy were P26,000 (USD 650) and P35,000 (USD 875). The raft method of oyster culture in Basiao, Ivisan is still on-going where an estimated output of 130 sacks (est at 80 kilos/sack) ready be harvested/produced by the 21 rafts with value of P84,500 (USD 2,113) that will be ready by November 2016.

A downward trend in beach forest and mangrove seedling production has been observed for Pedada, making it less feasible as a sustainable livelihood option and demonstrating the importance of livelihood diversification vs totally switching people from one livelihood to another. The reduced market is due to the ending of government (National Greening Program) and post-typhoon Haiyan rehabilitation projects combined with competition from other groups who are now also seedling producers. The People's Organisation (PO) has agreed to add on P3.00 to the price of seedlings to fund ZSL's biological support activities for mangrove and beach forests in the future to increase project sustainability. To deal with the reduced income from their nurseries, two additional livelihoods were tested by the PO (BPFA); beekeeping, which successfully produced 1.3 litres of honey sold at P900.00 (USD 23) after 4 months of culture and, seaweed farming trials proved successful after 50 days of culture (with 2 kilos producing 180 kilos harvest offering potential income of P5,400 or USD135).

Since the seaweed farming trial was so successful, the culture farm was expanded to include 13 BPFA members for another 50 day trial period. The beneficiaries sign an agreement with BPFA to pay back the materials in 3-4 production cycles. BPFA provided for the boats at P2,000/farmer. This new endeavor is jointly conducted with the South-east Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC) in Iloilo who are providing the technical inputs while the government's Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources is providing the materials.

Output 4. >1,000 ha of mangrove, seagrass and coral reef habitats are effectively protected through MPA ordinances and community-based forest management agreements (CBFMAs) in four provinces (Bohol, Bantayan Island (Cebu province), Capiz, Iloilo) by year 3.

Exceeded: The target total area of habitat protected as mangroves in Marine Protected Areas (MMPAs) is 2,111.43 ha, already exceeding >1000ha target; Batasan (209.93 ha), Matabao (52.6 ha), Ivisan (1628.40 ha), Oboob (116.5 ha) and Kodia (104 ha), with the final two newly delineated. All the MMPAs are protected with local ordinances. Four MMPAs have organized MPA Management Councils (MMC) while Ivisan has to reorganize its MMC as soon as the new mayor is in position following the national elections in May 2016. The total no-take area from the 2,111.43 ha is 257.99 ha.

The total mangrove area protected is 265.99 ha with the highest in the Ivisan MMPA at 95.56 ha. Applications for tenurial instrument on mangroves were passed to the DENR especially for Ivisan and Bantayan MMPAs, however all these applications are put on hold for review by the DENR as part of a major policy revision. Strip planting in Balaring to enhance the MMPA using germinated mangrove seedlings from community nurseries is planned to be conducted in early months of 2017.

Output 5.10 mangrove MPAs and community-based mangrove forest 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 (MEAT).

On target: Three MMPAs (Batasan, Matabao and Kodia) have in place management plans, two (Ivisan and Oboob) stills has to formulate their management plans. Three MMPAs, Ivisan, Batasan and Matabao have trained and deputized fish wardens. In Kodia and Oboob fish warden training is to be completed in November 2016. The MEAT (MPA Effectiveness Assessment Tool, a national standard) were conducted in all the MMPAs except Ivisan although results highlighted that further improvements to management are required. Ivisan has to wait for the reorganization of the MMC before MEAT can be conducted.

Output 6. Side event at CBD SBSTTAs and/or COP and 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 1 DFID priority countries with mangroves.

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.

Update from points raised in independent review:

1. Net-Works initiative seems unlikely to yield the planned poverty-alleviation benefits.

Progress has been made against this activity as reported above. As net volumes are relatively low in the project sites, we have focused on livelihood diversification as a mechanism to bring the planned poverty-alleviation benefits. This will be reported fully in the final report.

2. Availability of anchovy for boneless dilis industry.

In collaboration with local university partners, we have been conducting some studies on boneless dilis populations and the sustainability of the fishery to ensure this is an integral component of the development of this livelihood. This will be reported fully in the final report.

3. Arrangements to cover the absence of Darwin project manager Josephine Savaris.

Josephine Savaris returned to work on a part time basis in January 2016 and was back to work fulltime in March 2016. In the interim, she was supported by Rona Joy Loma who took on more management responsibility. Rona Joy Loma then went on maternity leave in June for 3 months (Philippines statutory) and in that time maternity cover and additional project support was provided by biologist Christian Montilijao. Further management support was provided by ZSL-Philippines Country Manager Glenn Labrado and Project Leader Heather Koldewey. We are fortunate to have a strong, mutually supportive team and are delighted Josephine is back to work and managing the project effectively.

The CO supervisor was changed to Isidore Ancog in Bantayan Island (primarily assigned to another project so provided as counterpart funding) since the former CO supervisor Perfecto Auxilio focused in the Bohol sites. This development has not affected the project in fact closer activity monitoring was put in place since the new supervisor resides on site.

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:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes/ <input type="checkbox"/> No
Formal change request submitted:	Yes/ <input type="checkbox"/> No
Received confirmation of change acceptance	Yes/ <input type="checkbox"/> 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. 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 please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary.

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

There have been substantial changes in the exchange rate of the GBP to PhP (which is pegged to the USD) following the Brexit vote and depreciation of the GBP. This has effectively reduced our Darwin project budget. We are looking at areas of cost savings, but would appreciate any guidance from Darwin on any other options, particularly during the final 6 months of the project.

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: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**