



Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2014)



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Project Ref No	21-011
Project Title	Securing livelihoods and conserving marine biodiversity through rights-based fisheries management
Country(ies)	Madagascar
Lead Organisation	Blue Ventures Conservation
Collaborator(s)	Regional Direction of Forests and Environment, Regional Direction of Fishing and Marine Resources
Project Leader	Alasdair Harris
Report date and number (eg HYR3)	HYR1
Project website	www.blueventures.org

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).

We have reported below on activities due to start during this period in the submitted workplan. We have also reported on activities where work has started, even if outside the proposed workplan.

Activity 1.1 – Consultation of local and migrant fishing communities for management plan development

Initial community consultations for management plan development were put on hold whilst waiting for the deliverance of the official decree for the protected status. However, consultations were held for putting in place a marine *dina*, or local law, to serve as the cornerstone for community-based MPA management. Actions included:

- Consultations with all coastal villages and island communities to finalize the structure of the *dina* committees, who will be enforcing the fisheries management measures.
- Workshop held in May 2014 to elect central *dina* committee and consolidate *dina* rules and structure. A *dina* committee was put in place, and the final text of the *dina* was submitted to the tribunal.

Activity 1.3 – Workshop with all MPA stakeholders to determine management plan, zoning and management association

Due to the necessity of including fisheries management measures into a management plan, the current project focus has been on elaborating a fisheries management plan before beginning a management plan for the MPA. This should be finished by the end of the Year 1, allowing for a MPA management plan planned for Y1Q4 to have a solid foundation of small-scale fisheries management measures to draw upon.

Activity 1.5 – Creation of MPA management committee

Preliminary steps have been taken to investigate MPA management options. In June 2014, fisher representatives from all fishing associations based in Maintirano decided to create a preliminary steering committee for the MPA, which was pending protected status. However, upon consultations with migrant fishers staying on the islands in July 2014, it became clear that such a steering committee based on membership in fishers associations would not be fully representational, as many migrant fishers do not belong to any formal associations. Malagasy law stipulates a complicated procedure for creation of an association and these fishers did not have the capacity to create one themselves. During the consultations, the fishers agreed to wait

for the official decree created the protected area before elaborating a management structure or creating a steering committee.

Activity 1.7 – Assessment of legal mechanisms to secure fishing rights for communities and enable rights-based management, lessons learned and policy recommendations

Early discussions with the Ministry of Marine Resources and Fishing have yielded some information about legal mechanisms in place.

- In conversations with the Secrétaire Générale of the national Ministry of Marine Resources and Fishing, we discussed the possibility of implementing a “GELOSE” – a legal tool for decentralizing management of resources to the community-level. Because fishing resources are classified by Malagasy law as “strategic”, the Secrétaire Générale declared that it would not be possible to explore GELOSE as options for securing fishers’ rights to their own resources.
- In the regional fisheries management plan terms of reference (TOR), one of the primary objectives outlined was to assess the legal mechanisms for securing fishing rights for communities. As the fisheries management plan is developed over the next 6 months, this aspect of the project will advance significantly.
- The Barren Isles (BI) Temporary Protected Status is still pending. However, when this is approved by an interministerial decree (expected in October 2014), this will secure the traditional fishers legal rights to work in the protected area. The decree will be followed by the elaboration of an environmental and social safeguard plan (PSSE), which will outline a conflict resolution process in the event of illegal or industrial fishing in the zone. Achieving permanent protected status, which is contingent on the validation of a management plan (PAG) and a PSSE, will secure the zone the exclusive use of traditional fishers. *[During reporting period the status of the BI MPA was pending, but before submission Blue Ventures received the news that the Barren Isles received official temporary protected area status.]*

Activity 2.1 – Consult with Ministry of Fisheries at national and regional levels to develop fisheries management plan terms of reference

In September 2014 our Maintirano-based team received approval from the National and Regional Ministry to move forward with the terms of reference that was drawn up with their inputs throughout June and July 2014. It is expected that the fisheries management plan will be finished by the end of Y2.

Activity 2.2 – Conduct stakeholder consultations

Before initiating stakeholder consultations, the national and regionally-based team are searching for a consultant with significant experience in small-scale fisheries management. Once this consultant or team of consultants has been selected, the stakeholder consultations for the fisheries management plan will commence. This is expected to begin in December 2014.

Activity 2.4 – Develop implementation plan with DRPRH and Barren Isles MPA Management Committee

This activity is due to start in Y2Q3. However, the Maintirano based team has spoken with the DRPRH (regional fisheries ministry) about how the plan (once elaborated) can be best operationalized. The DRPRH has requested support for surveillance in the form of a boat to patrol and ensure that fisheries management rules are respected. Due to the rampant corruption protecting illegal fishing in the Barren Isles zone, the Maintirano team feels it is best that communities themselves take charge of fisheries management and a monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) programme is incorporated into the fisheries management plan. In the event of illegal fishing activities, fishers themselves will have a direct link to the CSP (centre for fisheries surveillance), who will then be able to send reinforcements to the DRPRH.

Activity 3.1 – Liaise with CSP to develop plan for improved community-based MCS

In Antananarivo, the nationally based and Maintirano-based team has met with CSP officers to propose a community-based MCS programme in May 2014. The CSP agreed to collaborate, sending a written statement of consent and support in June 2014.

Activity 3.3 – Conduct trainings and field trials in ICT with community members

Although not scheduled to start until Y1Q4, eight community members have been trained to use ICT to monitor key fisheries in August 2014. By using smartphones and an Open Data Kit application, the community members are able to record shark catches on the islands. This pilot training and test of using ICT in the field is a base of knowledge that we will draw on when developing an MCS programme.

Activity 4.1 – Participatory fisheries monitoring established in five villages

Participatory fisheries monitoring is ongoing in two villages. This data is being disseminated regularly to communities, and this information acts as a baseline for understanding changes in Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) for traditional fishers. This programme cannot be expanded until the rainy season is over in April of 2015 due to logistical difficulties of keeping monitors on the islands during the cyclone season. Towards the end of Year 1, fisheries monitoring will expand to 4 more sites on the islands and in coastal villages to measure how bans on industrial fishing are affecting fish catches and stocks.

Activity 4.2 – Community-based turtle nest monitoring at 8 sites

This activity is ongoing. The community-based turtle nest monitors will be leaving in November 2014 to spend the next five months intermittently on the islands for nest surveying.

Activity 4.3 – Community-based monitoring of marine habitats at 10 sites

This activity will be integrated into the Barren Isles MPA zoning plan (Activity 1.3), where communities will select the target conservation habits and a monitoring programme will be developed.

Activity 4.4 – Disseminate monitoring results to communities and stakeholders (presentations, resource status dashboard, etc.)

This activity is ongoing on a quarterly basis. Communities are presented with fisheries data, prompting discussions of conservation and a simple question and answer session. As we expand data collection, the Maintirano team is piloting the distribution of simple, written reports to all fisher households with some key facts to supplement the current dissemination sessions.

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.

1. There were severe bureaucratic delays with obtaining the Barren Isles protected area status (over 6 months of waiting on interministerial signatures). Due to these delays, some early stakeholder workshops had to be pushed back until the status of the protected area was officialised. This may affect the time table slightly, though should not affect the budget or the timetable of project activities.

2. The local implementation partner, the MMTD (Melaky for the Protection of the Marine Environment), has been compromised and is no longer representative of local fisher communities. Many fishers feel that the organization is neither transparent nor effective. Furthermore, the President of the MMTD has been involved with extractive industries attempting to work in the protected area. To rectify this, the Blue Ventures team is working to put in place a Management Committee for the protected area that can incorporate fishers from all coastal villages, with a transparent and clear management structure, as well as regular elections.

3. Security issues have intensified significantly since the start of the project period. The Melaky region is notorious for having bad infrastructure, and with recent fatal attacks on the buses traveling between Maintirano and the capital Antananarivo, it is necessary and prudent to shift national travel budgets to accommodate for more frequent flights. We have submitted a change request to account for this.

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 (budget changes for point 3).

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?

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 eg Subject: 20-035 Darwin Half Year Report**