



Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2014)

Project Ref No	21-021
Project Title	Enhancement of wellbeing and conservation in Cape Verde's biodiversity hotspots (Ref: 2324)
Country(ies)	Cape Verde
Lead Organisation	Fauna & Flora International (FFI)
Collaborator(s)	Fundacao Maio do Biodiversidade (FMB)
Project Leader	<i>Sophie Benbow</i>
Report date and number (eg HYR3)	31 st October 2014 HYR1
Project website	<i>This project will not have a dedicated website but will be featured on www.fauna-flora.org</i>

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:

A1.1: May: Meeting with DGA to discuss newly developed co-management agreement drafted by the consultant who led the development of the management plan for RAPIM. **June-July:** Preparation of project baseline social questionnaire and individual interviews with 164 local community members in 12 coastal villages. This will be repeated in project Year 3. Results indicate few respondents know who is responsible for marine resource management on the island, but most agreed they should be managed. The priority management measures cited by respondents focussed on improving the enforcement of existing regulations, and awareness raising activities.

A1.2: September: Two staff from DGA and 1 from took part in a 10 day residential training course in South Africa on business planning for protected areas organised by the Earth Skills Network in collaboration with UNESCO and IUCN. The co-management team for Maio is expected to be finalised and an office opened by the end of this year.

A1.3: April: 4 community monitors and 5 FMB staff trained in biodiversity monitoring, local threat and impact mapping, use of equipment and interaction with tourists. **August:** 2 community monitors and 23 fishers trained in local shark species identification, the role of sharks in the marine ecosystem, shark behaviour observations, data recording on datasheets.

A1.4: April-September: We are in regular communication with the main project partners and held the following meetings in this reporting period: DGA (May, June, July, September), CMM (at least monthly), fisher interviews (April-May), Calheta fisher meeting (August), UniCV (May, August). Local authorities have stressed the importance of dedicating more effort to the creation of sustainable income opportunities for local communities adjacent to protected areas on the island. Over 20 local youths from the village of Calheta expressed an interest in learning more about protected areas and practical involvement on a voluntary basis.

A1.6 During the first 6 months of this grant the following additional grants have been secured to co-fund project activities: Arcadia Foundation grant (98,570 USD); Fondation Ensemble (5,000 EUR); Rufford Small grant in collaboration with Groningen University (5,000 GBP). In addition to these secured funds we currently have applications pending with the Save our Seas Foundation (35,130 USD response expected April 2015); NOAA sea turtle conservation (60,000 USD response expected May 2015) and the World We Want Foundation (76,665 USD response expected early 2015)

Output 2:

A2.1: April- May: Monitoring protocols, data collection sheets and databases developed for indicator fish species sampling, in-water megafauna surveys, sea turtle nesting beach monitoring, biodiversity and anthropogenic threat baseline assessment in protected areas was adjusted for use by the community environmental monitors and. **August:** Monitoring protocols, datasheets and databases for participatory shark and ray surveys were adapted for use by local fishers. **August:** public megafauna surveys introduced to 109 participants from the National Volunteer Association. **September:** Monitoring protocols, datasheets and a database for genetic shark sampling were developed. **September:** 13 UniCV students, 3 UniCV professors, 1 CMM representative, 4 national volunteers trained in conservation biology, conservation genetics, field monitoring surveys, data collection methodologies, statistical analysis and reporting.

A2.2 April-May: Participatory PA monitoring databases, protocols and datasheets developed. 4 community monitors trained to record biodiversity and impacts for the baseline assessment in the network of protected areas with the special focus on National Park Norte do Maio. The same 4 community monitors also started training in computer use and data entry including GPS and photo camera use. **August:** 2 more community monitors and 2 new FMB staff trained in protected area monitoring and baseline data collection by FMB marine research and conservation programme staff Edita Magileviciute, Amanda Dutra and Sergio Portugues.

A2.3 April-September: Sourcing of specialist and technical equipment has been delayed due to lack of availability on Cape Verde, and restrictively high costs where it is available. We are still in the process of acquiring all budgeted equipment, but have so far sourced GPS x 2, binoculars x 2, scuba and snorkelling gear (various items), photo cameras x 2.

A2.4: June- July: We have started to identify a range of incentives to encourage fisher involvement in participatory monitoring including non-material benefits such as increased enforcement of existing national fisheries regulations, as well as simple material items which can increase fisher quality of life e.g. GPS and raincoats. Meetings with local youth clubs indicate that sports equipment and musical instruments could also serve as good incentives to encourage the younger generation to become more involved in conservation. **August:** a meeting with the fishers in Calheta suggested that an interest in learning more about the marine could serve as an incentive to report megafauna sightings. **September:** Fishers that tend to catch sharks through incidental by-catch requested replacement hooks and line in return for the safe live release of entangled sharks since this gear is being damaged.

A2.5 Due to the logistical challenges in acquiring biodiversity monitoring equipment, and limitations on the availability of trained and certified personnel to start baseline assessment surveys in Q1 as planned in water surveys began in June. Community based monitoring started in April. Bad weather also restricted the days where in-water survey work was feasible. The following biodiversity survey effort was conducted during this reporting period: **April-May:** megafauna hotspots and by-catch assessment (f109 fisher interviewed). **April-September:** PA monitoring by community environmental monitors (daily/weekly). **June-October:** Endangered loggerhead sea turtle and nesting beach monitoring (daily). **June-September:** Endangered green and Critically Endangered hawksbill turtle monitoring and tagging (weekly). **April-June:** land based cetacean surveys (weekly). **June-September:** dedicated shark monitoring and diversity assessment (weekly). **June-July:** In-water fish sampling started (sea conditions prevented surveys in August and September, restart planned in October)

Output 3:

A3.1 May: Meeting with DGA PA communication assessment consultant to collect recommendations for the development of social questionnaires. **June-July:** Questionnaires developed by a sociologist from Praia and interviewers trained. 164 interviews were conducted. Results show that only 46% of respondents know what an MPA is, but 85% thought they would bring positive benefits.

A3.2 April-September: The following paths for the spread of information, raising awareness and communicate specific issue were identified: Maio Community Radio station, FMB and FFI Facebook pages and websites, monthly FMB newsletters, regular meetings with in-country project partners CMM, DGA, UniCV, regular community meetings and training events, communications on national TV, national news pages, DGA website and Facebook page, peer-reviewed publications (Zoologia Caboverdiana), international conferences and workshops, and national meetings. In addition PA messages will be incorporated into the education and outreach activities of other FMB projects.

A3.4 Meetings with DGA- **May, June, July, September** and more regular updates via email/phone; PRAO manager and technicians- **May**, PRAO local staff in Maio- **June, July, August**, UniCV- **May, August, September**, meeting the President of PRCM in Maio- **May**, UniCV visit to Maio; meetings with CMM- monthly or more regularly depending on the activities; PescaMaio fisher association- **April,**

August; Fisher community in Calheta- **August**.

Output 4:

A4.1: June-August: Literature review started, in particular cases studies from Thailand, Malaysia, Iran, Nepal, and Kenya were analysed, and a 3 year implementation plan for developing the homestay programme was prepared and is included with this HYR1 report as a supplementary material. **August:** Scoping and learning trips were conducted to Fogo National Park, Fogo Island and Sao Lorenzo das Orgaos, Santiago Island where community based homestay accommodation is currently offered. The scoping report is included as a supplementary material with this HYR1 report.

4.2 June-July: Interviews were conducted with 29 women who expressed an interest or would consider participating in the homestay programme. Results indicate the majority of respondents own their own house, but that not all may have suitable conditions (running water, bathroom facilities) to host tourists. **June:** List of recommended criteria for the set up of the potential houses for homestays used in Fogo was provided by M. Fornuto (NGO Africa70). The criteria will be discussed with project participants and adapted to suit the local conditions on Maio Island.

Output 5

A5.1 June- July: Interviews conducted with 82 fishermen and 25 fish sellers (women only). Findings indicate fish sellers earn more than fishermen, but in both groups one third of respondents have no savings scheme in place.

A5.2 April-May: An analysis of income saving schemes offered by the local banks with branches on Maio was prepared. **May, July, August:** Meetings with MORABI, a microfinance NGO in Praia and Cidade do Porto Ingles, and in September an agreement was reached for them to work with us to increase uptake of microfinance schemes in our target communities.

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.

Overall, the project implementation is progressing according to the plan.

(A2.5) There were some delays and changes in some of biodiversity baseline data collection (mainly diving surveys) due to the challenges of acquiring the necessary equipment, and poor sea conditions that prohibited surveys being undertaken in the southern part of the island. These surveys will begin in October when the rainy season is over and the southern swell is low.

(Output 1) The approval of the management plan for the RAPIM is still pending with the Ministry of Environment of Cape Verde which means the co-management team is not finalised. However, Moises Borges, the Director General of the DGA informed FMB during a meeting in September that the RAPIM co-management team will be assembled and the management plan approved by the end of the year.

(A1.1) There are delays in assessing the capacity of members of the co-management team given the delays detailed above in approving the management plan and selecting and forming the DGA and CMM representatives of the co-management. These activities are thus postponed to Q4 of year 1. However, the capacity and knowledge of FMB, as one of the RAPIM co-managers, and community members from villages on Maio has already been assessed. As a result of this needs assessment a programme of required skills training is currently underway. When the co-management team is finalised the same training will be delivered to the remaining members. This delay does not currently affect the overall delivery of the project.

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: No

Formal change request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance No

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

NO Estimated underspend: At the present moment we do not envisage a significant underspend of more than £5000 in this project year.

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.

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

Based on the expenditure in this period and the planned activities for the next six months we would like to propose the following budget changes for year 1. We will request this formally through a separate change request in addition to notifying you here as requested. These requests all refer to the budget for Partner Organisations:

1. We request to change £XXX from "Training Materials" to "Training workshops" to cover the costs of the FMB Marine Programme Manager to attend a statistical training course.
2. We request to change £65 from the budget line "Dropbox" to the budget line "Laptop for marine manager". This is to facilitate the purchase of an additional computer which will be used by the PA rangers for community monitoring data entry etc.
3. We request to change £XXX from the budget line "Sociologist Salary" to a new budget line we propose to call "Office Guard Salary". These funds will cover the office guard position for 5 months.