

**Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project
Half Year Report
(due 31 October 2017)**

Project Ref No	22-016
Project Title	Securing livelihoods, health and biodiversity through seascape-scale sustainable fisheries co-management
Country(ies)/Territory(ies)	Madagascar
Lead Organisation	Wildlife Conservation Society
Partner(s)	GRET, Ministry of Marine Resources and Fisheries (MRHP), Ministry of Public Health (MSP), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINAGRI), Committee for the Sustainable Development of Antongil Bay (PCDDBA) - Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
Project Leader	Chico BIRRELL
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	31 October 2017; HYR3
Project website/ Twitter/ Blog/ Instagram etc	
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 (Increase enforcement and compliance of marine use policies for a more productive fishery):

1.1 Improve engagement and accountability of all stakeholders in Antongil Bay Fishery Management Plan (ABFMP)

a) The third meeting of the ABFMP Steering Committee

The ABFMP Steering Committee conducted its third meeting in Fenerive-Est from 14-15 September 2017. Resolutions from the meeting included the approval of the ABFMP 2016/2017 progress report and the 2017/2018 work plan. The Ministry of Fishery announced the launch – by the end of 2017 - of the World Bank Project “SWIOFish II”, which aims to support sustainable management of fisheries in three priority sites including the Antongil Bay. They also pledged to reinforce their representation in the Bay by appointing a second representative in Maroantsetra and opening a new office in Mananara Nord.

b) Dina Homologation

Further to the Maroantsetra Court’s suggestions in 2016, the FPBA, the Ministry of Fisheries representative, the Committee for the Sustainable Development of Antongil Bay (PCDDBA), and WCS worked together to review the ‘Dinabe’ and conducted advocacy with the Court’s representatives to have the revised version approved. In this context, public consultations were held in 14 communes in the Bay to ensure the fisher communities’ agreement with the revised ‘Dinabe’. The FPBA will submit the approved version to the Court, which has agreed to review it in October 2017.

1.2 Strengthen the ability of coastal communities to more effectively manage the network of 25 LMMAs

a) Establishment of the Federation of Antongil Bay Fishers (FPBA)

The FPBA, which groups traditional fishers, was officially registered (63-PREF/FEN-EST/ASS) in May 2017. The FPBA is hosted at the Ministry of Fisheries local office (CirRHP) in Maroantsetra, and is recognized as a key stakeholder in the implementation of the ABFMP. Currently, the Federation comprises 112 groups of fishers with 3155 members. A census is underway in order to obtain information on each group, their members, and their needs in terms of support (capacity building, official registration...).

b) Training on social mobilization and running an association for LMMAs in the Bay

To reinforce their ability to raise awareness on the ways to encourage other fishers to join LMMA associations, series of training sessions occurred for 26 LMMA representatives on different topics such as meeting facilitation, awareness-raising, and roles and responsibilities of association members.

Organization of debates and networking between LMMA representatives and local authorities

c) Annual meeting of LMMAs in Antongil Bay

The annual meeting of the 26 LMMAs in Antongil Bay was held from 7-9 June 2017 with a focus on LMMAs facing challenges on conservation and sustainable management of resources. This was also an opportunity to discuss the revised 'Dinabe'.

d) Annual forum of LMMA network – MIHARI

Three Antongil Bay LMMA representatives (including one woman) and WCS staff participated in the MIHARI national forum in Fort Dauphin from 25-31 July 2017. Antongil Bay LMMA representatives facilitated sessions on local funding mechanisms as well as talks on regulations and patrols. Among other resolutions, three key requests were prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Fishery on (i) the importance of the recognition and homologation of 'Dina'; (ii) the regulation on fishing gears; and (iii) the zoning for fisheries, with particular reference to the overlap between small scale fishery zone and artisanal and industrial zones.

1.3 Raise knowledge and awareness about existing fishing regulations, unsustainability of destructive fishing practices and benefits of LMMAs

Following the MIHARI forum, the four participants from Antongil Bay conducted an exchange visit with the LMMA in Soariake, southwest Madagascar that is very advanced in terms of community governance and natural resources management. During a four-day field trip, the two communities shared experiences on each LMMA and discussed challenges and success stories.

1.4 Organize joint community/ local authority patrols to enforce fishery regulations

The CCS organized 17 patrols and the Ad'Hoc Committee conducted five joint patrols with local authorities. Six types of offences were identified during these patrols, including use of beach seines (five cases), use of illegal fishing nets (five cases, and fishing in restricted areas (five cases). The law enforcement application leads to the confiscation of an illegal fishing net and four beach seines. Four offenders were subjected to pay fines and one was sent to the local police station.

Trial the use of SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tools)

Due to further internal organization among the patrol teams on the use of the Cybertracker, the launch of SMART use via cybertracker in patrols had to be postponed to the fourth quarter of 2017.

1.5 Conduct reef surveys and fish catch monitoring to assess impacts of LMMA on coral reef health and fisheries

Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) surveys continued in six villages on a biweekly basis. Analysis is underway. Ecological surveys of coral cover and diversity, on shark communities via baited remote underwater videos (BRUVs), and on shark and ray catch are planned for October 2017.

Output 2 (Livelihoods are diversified and food security is improved)

2.1 - Train and support a network of 50 pilot farmers on rice production

To date 136 beneficiaries have received training on rice production and close monitoring. Follow-up revealed that more than 200 farmers have adopted intensive rice-cropping techniques following those trainings.

Plans for the extension of the Hoalampano Micro Irrigation Scheme (MIS), which will support water supplies for 32 people, were finalized in August 2017. Construction work will begin in November.

2.2 - Train two village vaccinators in each site to organize vaccination campaign

To improve chicken farming two village vaccinators were trained in each village and a special workshop was conducted in July to organize the vaccine supply chain. To date 179 villagers benefit from chicken farming (54 women and 125 men) with a total number of 3150 chicken.

2.3 - Identify vulnerable households/women and give them technical and financial support (with a financial share form beneficiary) to develop a new income generating activity

Currently, 35 women are involved in breeding chicken (+75% compared to March 2017), 23 in smoked fish activities (+64%), and 84 women practise gardening (+ 71%).

As the call for tender related to the supply-chain study on smoked fish was unsuccessful, GRET's team will work on the improvement of the commercialization of this product. Results from study on additional needs for oven showed that needs are already fully covered.

With regards to the importance of vanilla industry on local community daily life, the focus was shifted towards vanilla production. The idea is to find out how vulnerable people can benefit from this value chain. Activities for this value chain will be launched in November.

Output 3 (Demonstrate the health and livelihood benefits of sustainable fisheries co-management)

3.1 In five communities adjacent to the LMMAs, collect information on dietary intake

In April, a last clinical assessment was conducted, a limited assessment of anthropometric measurements and a rapid diagnostic of malaria. Throughout this period ending in September 2017, monthly socio-economic, health, and dietary assessments were continued.

In April, and again in September, an assessment of coping strategies was conducted to best understand how local communities were grappling with the post-cyclone disaster. The incidence of Food Stress was measured using the Coping Strategy Index (CSI). This reflects a household short term level of food insecurity. A third (34%) of households have a CSI of 0, reflecting no food stress on this scale. The other two thirds experience food stress of various severities.

Regarding shock among village, the most common shock is crop damage due to the cyclone, with between 15% and 40% of households reporting loss of crop. Likely because of this, many of them anticipate running down their stores of rice in the subsequent months.

Laboratory analyses are still underway at the USDA and OmegaQuant, which will enables WCS to determine the relationship between access to seafood in the diet and nutritional status for iron, zinc, vitamin B12, ferritin, and fatty acid profiles.

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.

Cyclone Enawo aftermaths

In March 2017, Antongil Bay was victim of a devastating cyclone – Enawo which was a massive shock to the social, economic, and ecological systems. The principal road (RN5) was badly affected, increasing duration of travel time and maintenance fees for motorcycles, mainly for activities related to output 2.

Moreover, it was difficult to access local healthcare professionals to be working with the team as they were engaged in other priorities after the cyclone. Similarly, we struggled to maintain adherence to interviews during this period as local people would rather deal with other pressing tasks than answering questions, which ultimately disrupted our ability to analyse our longitudinal health data.

Impact of vanilla harvest on the project other activities

As a consequence of the increasing price of vanilla in the region, farmers are less motivated to cultivate rice and vegetables. Efforts have been increased to still reach the number of targeted beneficiaries: awareness-raising among the Chiefs of the villages on the project to have their buy-in and to identify key potential beneficiaries. There is also follow-up among pilot farmers on eventual contact from new potential beneficiaries.

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 (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?

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 e.g., Subject: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**