



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

<b>Project Ref No</b>	23-028
<b>Project Title Connecting</b>	Coastal Communities for integrated seascape management in Atlántida Honduras.
<b>Country(ies)/Territory(ies)</b>	Honduras.
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Fauna & Flora International
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Honduras Tourism Communities Association (LARECOTURH), Centre for Marine Studies (CEM), Cayos Cochinos Foundation (FCC), Bay Islands Foundation (FIB) and Cuero-y-Salado Foundation (FUCSA)
<b>Project Leader</b>	Vance Russell
<b>Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)</b>	HYR2 31 October 2017
<b>Project website/ Twitter/ Blog/ Instagram etc</b>	
<b>Funder (DFID/Defra)</b>	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).

The project continues to be implemented largely as planned with several highlights during the past 6 months. All partners presented their activities to communities at the Inter-Community Roundtable meeting held in August. A field tour with project partners to visit Kanan Kay in Mexico to learn about sustainable fisheries management techniques. A Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) workshop was carried out in August. Project partners are increasingly using this methodology for patrols leading to increased decommissioning of illegal activities, particular fishing gear. Planning for a seascape wide governance workshop was initiated with a stakeholder survey and subsequent agenda development. Overall, coordination and collaboration between partners improved during the past 6 months.

**Output 1 - Coordinated planning and management action across the seascape - FUCSA** and FIB augmented their work on mangroves by increasing nursery capacity as well as adding new tree species for integrated mangrove and upland forest restoration. LARECOTURH developed a nursery with more than 2,000 plants in the community of Salado Barra. Flagship species conservation continued successfully with increased awareness

raising across communities in addition to the patrol activities under other outputs. FIB continued implementation of the Utilan Iguana breeding programme. LARECOTURH and FIB carried out a birdwatching workshop for local tourist guides with 25 participants. All partners presented their activities to communities at the Inter-Community Roundtable meeting held in August. A forum meeting with agencies and additional partners is planned for November.

**Output 2 - Compliance with regulations** – A highlight during the past semester was the SMART workshop with project partners and protected area guards. FUCSA immediately incorporated the methodology into their reserve patrols and it paid dividends with further

#### Acronyms Key

**APROCUS**-La Rosita Artisanal Fishers Association

**CEM**-Centre for Marine Studies

**FCC**-Cochinos Cays Foundation

**FIB**-Bay Islands Foundation

**FUCSA**-Cuero-y-Salado Foundation

**LARECOTURH**-Honduras Tourism Communities Association

decommissioning of illegal fishing gear and reduction of other illegal activities. The collaboration with Navy personnel continues—CEM made a formal request for inclusion of a training plan within the naval school and meetings were held with Rear Admiral Jesús Humberto Benítez current Commander of the Naval Force to continue to explore ways to incorporate marine protected area and illegal fishing searches into Navy training and patrols. FCC, with the participation of 76 university and community volunteers, park guards and the Navy, carried out 6 weeks of night patrols during the marine turtle nesting season thereby helping to protect beaches from turtle and egg poaching.

**Output 3 – Evidence base for coordinated seascape management** – CEM drafted a final report on yellowtail connectivity through the seascape project area. It is currently being reviewed and will be available widely upon completion. CEM drafted a report on the shrimp trawler industry along the north coast of Honduras. Monitoring for the three focal species continues. FUCSA started water quality monitoring using various parameters of water quality. Information on the fishery is due to be presented at the upcoming Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute conference, an important regional forum.

**Output 4 – Seascape stakeholder forum and network** – Project partners led an Inter-Community Roundtable meeting on August 11. Thirty five community leaders participated of which 15 were women. At the meeting, each of the partners presented their project commitments, responsibilities, deliverables and expected results. Partners reinforced the overall goal of the project to improve management based on social cohesion and informed decision-making.

**Output 5 – Community capacities and empowerment** –To date, all APROCUS fishers are registered and hold fishing licenses. During August, project fisher licensing activities focused on the island of Utila, registering a total of 91 licenses for crafts, trade, sports and boat by the General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DIGEPESCA), and 48 resident licenses. A co-management agreement between FUCSA and APROCUS is drafted but the communities and foundation planned a 3-day workshop for the next trimester to ensure everyone understands the responsibilities and requirements outlined.

**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.**

The largest problem continues to be the decline in the value of sterling. We managed to mitigate this somewhat through use of internal FFI funds as complementary grants to each of the partners. Reviewers pointed out in the audit of the year 1 report that partners did not list the DI on their websites, although all of the partners were clearly using DI logos on their Twitter, Facebook pages and in workshops agendas, diplomas and email signatures. Two of the partner's websites are under construction but will list DI as a logo once revisions are completed. Partners clearly listed the DI in all workshop notices, agendas and meeting notes and reports and continued to use the logo prominently in social media postings.

**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: Budget shortfall due to decline in sterling - **Yes**

Formal change request submitted: For CEM personnel change - **Yes**

Regarding budget shortfall, FFI raised the issue with LTS International for all FFI projects.

**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?**

None

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