

## Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017)

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| <b>Project reference</b>                      | 24-008   |
| <b>Project title</b>                          | Effective marine resource co-management in the Pemba Channel Conservation Area   |
| <b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>            | Tanzania   |
| <b>Lead organisation</b>                      | Fauna & Flora International  |
| <b>Partner(s)</b>                             | Mwambao Coastal Community Network (Mwambao)<br>Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)<br>Department of Fisheries Development, Pemba – Ministry of Natural Resources, Livestock and Fisheries (DFD-Pemba)  |
| <b>Project leader</b>                         | Nicola Frost   |
| <b>Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)</b>    | HYR1   |
| <b>Project website/blog/social media etc.</b> | A recent project blog can be found on the FFI website here:<br><a href="http://www.fauna-flora.org/less-effort-more-reward-good-news-from-a-tanzanian-island/">http://www.fauna-flora.org/less-effort-more-reward-good-news-from-a-tanzanian-island/</a> |

### 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).

Over this period we successfully launched the project, which is progressing well and has been running in line with the anticipated work plan to date. Please find details of progress against each project output, and the overall project management below.

#### **Project Management**

In order to ensure effective project management and delivery, in July the Partnerships Manager visited the project site to hold inception meetings with project partners, review the work plan for year one, ensure the lead implementation partner - Mwambao Coastal Community Network - is aware of the grant conditions, and support the recruitment of the full-time Field Officer, whose start date was a little later than anticipated (see section 2).

#### **Output 1: Six Shehia Fishers Committees (SFCs) have the skills, knowledge and confidence to implement sustainable marine resources management measures in local fishing grounds.**

Over this project period we have continued to provide mentoring to the two sites that formed our pilot project (activity 1.4) – Kisiwa Panza and Kuuu. Darwin Initiative funding has enabled mentoring visits from the project team to Kuuu in particular, focused on supporting the Shehia Fisher Committee's (SFCs) implementation of key aspects of their management plan. Kuuu has closed a fishing area of 84ha twice since April with a brief open period in August. This includes a permanent no-take area of 17ha. We will be conducting scoping visits to select new sites later this year, and will commence work with the third community in the new year (activities 1.1, 1.2 & 1.3).

#### **Output 2: A Collaborative Management Group is formed between the six target SFCs to determine and address seascape management issues.**

In accordance with the work plan, no activities have been implemented for this output to date. Given the staff changes within WCS we are liaising with them to establish the best way forward

regarding the vulnerable species work (activities 2.4 & 2.5). See section 2 for more details.

**Output 3: Training and capacity building provided to the Department of Fisheries Development – Pemba (DFD-Pemba) to effectively support marine resources co-management in the long term.**

A governance capacity review was conducted by project consultant, Pippa Heylings, which will form the basis for this work going forward. Her review identified key training and mentoring areas for the department, which will inform what we deliver under activities 3.1 and 3.2.

Priorities include: governance of coastal and marine resources, facilitation, negotiation and conflict management, enforcement chain effectiveness for all actors involved in law enforcement from rangers to Department of Fisheries Development (DFD) lawyers, and SFC enhancement, including resource mapping.

A key area that our role may differ slightly from our original plan is strategic planning (activity 3.3), as we recently learnt that developing General Management Plan (GMP) for the Pemba Channel Conservation Area (PECCA) is part of the SWIOFish project. That said, during the review we were requested by DFD to mentor the process. We are liaising closely with the SWIOFish Coordinator and the specifics of our role in the delivery of the GMP will become clearer in the coming months.

Through the consultants' governance review, support for DFD to effectively run the PECCA Management Committee (now known as the Fishers Executive Committee) was confirmed, however it also revealed that the PECCA Advisory Committee has never been constituted and given its broad membership base, including Members of Parliament, it may prove too challenging to convene. The consultants' review also revealed plans for a Technical Management Unit to be convened, which enables participation of other government Departments, such as Forestry and Tourism. This could potentially support the blending of local mangrove management with fisheries closure and coastal management areas. We will continue to liaise with DFD about these different governance bodies, in order to establish where best to place our support under activity 3.4.

**Output 4: Sufficient knowledge and incentives provided for both male and female fishers from the six target communities to participate in new marine resources co-management measures.**

Plans to produce awareness raising materials (activity 4.1) to communicate the by-laws in Kukuu are underway – including constructing a display board and a radio programme following the opening of their temporary closure in December. Similar approaches will be adopted in Kisiwa Panza and the new sites as they develop their management measures. Kukuu SFC holds meetings with their community following each closed period (activity 4.2). Therefore there has been one meeting this project period.

Prior to the commencement of the Darwin project, an MSc student based at the University of Edinburgh conducted a scoping study into the applicability of IUCN's Community Environment Conservation fund (CECF) in our project area, focusing on Kukuu in particular (activity 4.3). As this model has not yet been trialled in a marine context, it will be a pioneering step in linking marine conservation and credit schemes. The MSc student, Julianne d'Esterre Roberts, found that the community was receptive to the concept, and in a good position to trial it given that they have an existing credit fund in their village, and actively manage their marine resources through the SFC. However, it also raised some challenges which are highlighted in section 2.

**Output 5: Conservation and social outcomes of the project are evaluated and findings shared with target audiences (communities, local government, conservation community).**

The fisher behaviour, household wellbeing, and marine governance effectiveness surveys (activity 5.1) are due to be completed at the first new site before we commence work in the new year, not only to track progress but to help inform management. Self-assessments of the organisational capacity of the SFCs will be completed in November for Kukuu (to review progress over the last two years) and Kisiwa Panza (to serve as a baseline for the recently elected SFC and to inform training needs) (activity 5.2).

We are pleased with the progress made to date, and anticipate that over the next six months our efforts will focus on: engaging a new community and reinstating management measures in Kisiwa Panza, beginning to determine the scale of threats to vulnerable species, conducting governance training for the DFD-Pemba, and piloting a community credit fund in Kukuu.

**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.**

#### **Field Officer role**

Although Ali Said had been proposed as the Field Officer in the project proposal, he was still employed by the Department of Fisheries Development (DFD) which had verbally agreed that he could be appointed fulltime as Field Officer on the project should we be successful in securing this grant. Once we secured the grant, and after the completion of a recruitment process, Ali Said was offered the role. The paperwork to release him from his departmental duties took longer than anticipated, and Ali Said is starting fulltime employment with Mwambao this October 2017. In the meantime, the Community Engagement and Field Supervisor has been fulfilling his duties with support from the In-country Coordinator.

#### **Staff changes in WCS Tanzania**

As flagged by email on 19 May 2017, due to staffing changes with the WCS Tanzania marine team, we have not yet resolved how we will progress with the components of work they will be engaged in (namely under output 2). WCS recently recruited a new team member to replace Gill Braulik, the senior member of staff involved in the project proposal development who left WCS, and we are liaising with them to determine how we proceed in order to have the best outcome for the project. This has not impacted project progress to date and we anticipate resolving the matter soon so it will not have a lasting impact. We will alert the Darwin Initiative of any change requests needed in due course.

#### **PECCA boundaries**

As alerted in an email on 11 August 2017, during recent project inception visit meetings with the Department of Fisheries Development and our implementing partner, Mwambao Coastal Community Network we have learned that there are some uncertainties over the boundaries of the Pemba Channel Conservation Area (PECCA), and that one of the communities (Kukuu) we have worked with during the pilot project (2015-2016) may in fact fall just outside the official boundaries (rather than inside as we had previously understood). It is not entirely clear as there are differing views at the government level, however, we know that fishers in this community fish within PECCA so working with them will still have a positive impact on the health of the protected area. The SFC in Kukuu has been among the most committed we have worked with: in a space of one year have implemented a permanent no take zone for fish and are frequently visited by other communities in PECCA and from Tanzania mainland wanting to implement similar measures, so we see a value in continuing to work with them.

#### **Marine Conservation Unit regulations and procedures**

The pilot project, and work of Mwambao our project partner, has highlighted areas within the Marine Conservation Unit (MCU - responsible for marine protected areas) regulations and procedures that would benefit from clarifying and strengthening in order to support effective co-management. In particular, the procedures for by-law development by SFCs to formally co-manage their fishing grounds, and clarity of enforcement roles by the various government actors co-managing the areas with the SFCs. With co-finance, the project team has made recommendations for the MCU regulations and procedures. The revised regulations are due to be approved early in the new year, and a broader review of co-management procedures is due to be completed under the SWIOFish project next year. In the meantime, we have agreed an interim procedure for establishing SFC by-laws with DFD in Pemba.

### **Decentralisation in Zanzibar**

Following general elections in 2016, the Government of Zanzibar has committed to a process of decentralisation. For the management of PECCA, this means that the District Commissioner's Office will play more of a role in marine resources management than it has done to date. This provides potential opportunities for supporting SFCs at the district level: raising awareness and support amongst district authorities, and providing an avenue for accountability regarding enforcement. During the recent PECCA governance review, the Mkoani District Administrative Secretary was keen to support our project by replicating our approach in any remaining SFCs within the District and sharing progress updates in District reports (which feed into a report for the President of Zanzibar). We will be tracking the decentralisation process as it evolves, and will ensure we include relevant District Commissioner Office employees in any training delivered to DFD-Pemba.

### **Community Environment Conservation Fund**

The feasibility study conducted by Julianne, brought to light several factors that require more consideration than originally anticipated prior to establishing CECF. This is largely because it has not been trialled in a marine context before nor in communities of the size we are working with. As a result, determining the most appropriate management structures, disbursement, and control mechanisms will take more time than originally anticipated. Julianne is now working for a company called GreenFi which is interested in collaborating with us (at their own cost) to pilot the fund in Kuuu (activity 4.3). Given the expertise of this organisation and their sister company, F3Life, in supporting the implementation of CECF in eastern Africa together with IUCN; we see this as a great opportunity to ensure effective delivery of this activity. Given the additional set-up time required, it is anticipated that we may need to request budgetary and work plan changes, however additional planning with project partners is required before we can make these requests to the Darwin Initiative.

### **2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?**

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| Discussed with LTS:                        | Staff changes at WCS and PECCA boundaries have been discussed with LTS International. |
| Formal change request submitted:           | N/A to date.  |
| Received confirmation of change acceptance | N/A to date.  |

### **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: £0

**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?**

We would like to request a change in key project personnel, namely that of the Partnerships Manager. In the project application, the role of Partnerships Manager was held by Hannah

Becker, however following a restructure of the Africa Programme which saw the development of a new Marine Programme Manager role for the region, and an evolution of the current Partnerships Manager's role, it is felt that the Partnership Manager position would be best held by the Africa Marine Programme Manager.

In May 2017 the new Marine Programme Manager for the Africa region joined FFI as a dedicated resource to develop and manage a portfolio of marine projects across the region. Recruitment of this role was a strategic decision, given the scale of this project, and the need for dedicated marine expertise to drive forward the region's marine programme and maximise learning across the portfolio of projects.

Since joining FFI the post holder, Mr Tanguy Nicolas, has been working closely with the current Partnerships Manager to understand the project, its partners, and the context. With seven years' experience working with coastal communities in the Western Indian Ocean with both Blue Ventures and IUCN he has a wealth of relevant experience to take this role forward. It is anticipated that he will take on full responsibility for this role in January, following six months of careful handover. In addition, it is anticipated that the current Partnerships Manager will maintain a role supporting the project – in particular focusing on the project's monitoring and evaluation – therefore preventing a loss of institutional knowledge for the project.

We enclose a formal change request and CV for Tanguy Nicolas alongside this report.

**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. Additionally, if you were funded under R23 and asked to provide further information by your first half year report, please attach your response as a separate 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**