



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Darwin Initiative Main and Post Project Annual Report

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Darwin Project Information

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Country/ies	East Timor
Lead organisation	Blue Ventures Conservation
Partner institution(s)	Worldfish, Seventythree Ltd., Raja Ampat Local Homestay Business Enterprise Association, Government of East Timor: Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment (Directorate of Biodiversity), Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Ministry of Arts Culture and Tourism
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1. Project summary

East Timor is located at the heart of the Coral Triangle, a region home to the world's highest levels of marine biodiversity. Fisheries underpin the livelihoods and food security of East Timor's coastal communities, and environmental sustainability is deeply enshrined in Timorese culture through traditional environmental management practices such as *Tara Bandu* (local laws that are used, among other things, to govern Locally Managed Marine Areas).

Yet recent decades have resulted in the decimation of East Timor's critically important marine ecosystems by overfishing and a proliferation of destructive fishing techniques, which threaten the resilience of the fragile marine ecosystems upon which the country's coastal communities depend.

Declining catches, rapid population growth and a lack of livelihood alternatives have pushed traditional fishers into deepening poverty, forcing communities to adopt increasingly unsustainable fishing practices to support dwindling catches, and perpetuating the low socio-economic development and high rural poverty seen in coastal zones. Decades of conflict, occupation and civil unrest have eroded traditional local-level marine management practices and customs.

Women are almost invisible in community and national-level decision making on fisheries and coastal management, despite the critical role that gleaning of shellfish, seaweed and fish from reefs by women and children plays in food security and family income. This lack of recognition means that women's fisheries are ignored in national policy discussions, and women in coastal communities have very low levels of participation in community decision making about coastal resources and fisheries.

These challenges have hindered progress in marine biodiversity conservation, with biodiversity conservation in East Timor lagging behind neighbouring countries. Therefore, Blue Ventures aims to tackle these challenges through the implementation of locally-led fisheries management by establishing LMMAs and also through the creation of alternative livelihoods in the form of ecotourism, in order to address poverty alleviation.

toolkit to share lessons learned for establishing homestays, and to support the replication of the homestay model with more partners in more communities (see Activity 3.7 for more details).

We maintained active relationships with the three key ministries responsible for fisheries, tourism and environment, and we have regularly invited representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) to attend fisheries and reef monitoring data sharing sessions; which has been part of our greater efforts to encourage government support of marine management and ecotourism. In July, we presented our progress with community-led marine management and monitoring to MAF, and discussed new partnership opportunities with them, which will be further discussed in 2020 (see Activity 4.6). We have also held regular meetings with the Ministry of Tourism and the village chief of Behau Fatumeta to discuss the potential for introducing access fees for divers and snorkelers, which would be allocated towards community development needs.

Blue Ventures supported the formation of the [Marine Tourism Association of Timor-Leste](#) (Assosiasaun Turizmu Maritima Iha Timor-Leste/ ATM-TL) as a founding member, and the ATM-TL was formed in April and launched in August. Blue Ventures' Country Manager was elected onto the governing body. Amongst other objectives, ATM-TL aims to support and promote environmentally sustainable, community-based marine tourism, to ensure tourism enterprises benefit local communities, build local livelihoods and improve human well-being.

We worked with the government to register the Atauro Homestay Association (AHA), which was completed in September 2019. In February 2020, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with [Empreza Di'ak](#) to further develop the community-led tourism workshops to improve accessibility to tourists and generate additional income (0.1). We are also collaborating with [ATKOMA](#) (Atauro Tourism Association) and a local NGO, Roman Luan, to develop additional tourism opportunities in the form of local tours and participatory craft workshops that allow tourists to make crafts. In April 2019, we signed an MoU with the local conservation organisation Konservasaun Flora no Fauna ([KFF](#)) (see supporting document 1: KFF Memorandum of Understanding) to train their members on the [Reef Check](#) monitoring methodology (see Activity 1.3).

Key meetings from the reporting period can be found in supporting document 2: Key Meetings.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Output 1. Local marine management and ecotourism development plans in place using site identification, zoning and indicator information provided via stakeholder consultations and participatory community marine resource assessment and monitoring

During the reporting period we expanded our support for marine management planning and ecotourism development to an additional three communities, and are now supporting 11 communities in various technical aspects (see supporting document 3: Table of communities we are working in and associated activities). Thanks to the success of our work with homestays in Beloi, we were invited to support the community of Madohi, near Dili. We held formal discussions with representatives from the community to discuss how we might be able to support their community, and in October 2019 we facilitated an exchange visit for eight Madohi community members to visit Atauro and learn about the homestay model (see supporting document folder 4: Madohi Exchange) (Activity 1.1). Further community consultations on homestays and marine management in Madohi will take place throughout Y4.

Additionally, two neighbouring communities of Behau Fatumeta (Behau Lianlidu, a second sub-village of Behau, and Behedan, in the Manatuto district) invited us to support them with marine management, and we conducted consultations to identify measures that the community could implement (Activity 1.2). Community consultations to discuss the development and implementation of an LMMA have begun in Behau Lianlidu (see Activity 4.1 for more

details), with two community-wide meetings taking place in September 2019 (55 community members - 15 women, 40 men) and another in October 2019 (60 community members - 15 women, 45 men). In October 2019, the community of Behedan invited us for an informal consultation to discuss fisheries management. 40 Community members (17 women, 13 men) attended the meeting, and formal community consultations are planned for Y4.

We held four training sessions to refresh seagrass monitoring skills and provide ongoing technical support to the community-led seagrass monitoring team (one team comprised of members from three villages), and we trained six new participants in seagrass monitoring (Activity 1.3). The community seagrass monitoring team will eventually carry out long-term monitoring of the mapped coastline (Activity 1.4), but no monitoring sessions were held during this reporting period because the team chose to conduct four practice sessions, which included six new participants.

In addition to training community members, we began training local organisations on seagrass monitoring so that they can support community groups and ensure the sustainability of the project; between June and December, we trained five members and volunteers from a local organisation, Konservasaun Flora no Fauna (KFF), on seagrass monitoring using the Reef Check methodology so they can ensure the sustainability of the project by assisting with reef monitoring programmes that support LMMAs. In January 2020, a female community fisheries monitoring (CFM) representative from Behau Fatumeta presented the purpose and achievements of the CFM at a community meeting in Behau Lianlidu, and as a result of this presentation, the community of Behau Lianlidu recruited eight women so that they could start their own all-female fisheries monitoring group. In January 2020, both groups received basic data interpretation and fisheries management training.

Community-led fisheries monitoring is taking place in three villages (Ilik-namu, Behau Fatumeta and Ma'abat) and is being developed in a fourth village (Behau Lianlidu) (Activity 1.6). Monitoring is ongoing and conducted several days each week in all communities. With the monitoring programmes established for over a year, we now have a meaningful baseline that can be used to analyse future trends. In July 2019, the three female fisheries monitoring teams from Behau Fatumeta, Ilik-namu and Ma'abat came together for a peer-to-peer exchange (Activity 1.5; see supporting document folder 5: Atauro CFM exchange) in Atauro to learn from each other and gain a better understanding of how their fisheries data contributes to LMMA management (Activity 1.5). The exchange highlighted a need for basic data analysis training, and to address this we designed community-centred data literacy and fisheries management training (see supporting document folder 6: CFM data training), which we facilitated in January and February 2020, including to the new group being established in Behau Lianlidu.

Four data sharing sessions took place between November 2019 and February 2020 (Activity 1.7) (one in each site: Behau Fatumeta/Lianlidu, Vila/Beloi, Ilik-namu and Ma'abat. See supporting document folder 7: Data sharing). BV staff and representatives from the monitoring groups presented the results of the fisheries, seagrass, reef and cetacean monitoring activities. In total, 160 people (around one third of them being women) attended the sessions, including community members and local authorities (e.g. village chiefs and representatives).

We also shared project results and raised awareness on the importance of the reef during other events and occasions. Underwater monitoring footage from Atauro was shared through 360° virtual reality (VR) goggles with fisheries monitoring groups, seagrass monitoring groups, homestay association, and KFF) at several events. We shared data during a fisheries monitoring team exchange (see Activity 1.5 for more details) and with senior ministerial representatives and NGO staff, at an independence day event in Dili. In July, we presented our progress with community-led marine management and monitoring to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), and explored the possibility of new partnership opportunities, which will be further discussed in 2020. In August 2019, we shared data with 40 community members who attended two shark awareness events supported by [Shark Stewards](#), an NGO working on shark conservation, and shared data/experiences in November 2019, at an ocean-themed film night in Ma'abat.

In April 2019, a [blog and video on coral spawning](#) in East Timor was published on our website (see supporting document 8: Links - video 8a) and shared informally with community members during meetings. The rare coral spawning event was witnessed during a coral reef survey with expedition ecotourists.

Output 2. Locally-led fisheries management measures piloted and continued by communities

Progress towards activities under Output 2 was significant in Y2, and largely completed in Y3. In September 2019, two initial consultations took place in a new community, Behau Lianlidu, in response to the community's request to gain assistance with marine resource management (see Activities 1.2, 2.1 and 4.1 for more details). Similarly, community representatives from Behau Fatumeta attended several meetings to gain a better understanding of Blue Ventures' work, and in January 2020 the community decided to start a CFM programme.

In May 2019 (after a six-month closure period for gleaning areas and invertebrate habitats (Activity 2.2), the community of Behau Fatumeta decided to extend the six-month, multi-species, temporary closure established in December 2018 to a full two-year cycle, based on their experiences of the first six months, when fishers' perceived an increase in fish size. As a result, the entire area that they identified has been verbally designated as a no-take zone for two years, and we are drafting the paperwork to make this legally effective (Activity 2.3 and 2.5). In East Timor, communities do not rely on one commercially-viable fast-growing species (e.g. octopus), and this finding has influenced the types of management measures put in place by communities. Despite not implementing short-term single species closures, communities have implemented no-take zones to manage their resources, thereby contributing towards conservation targets (Outcome 0.2).

During the reporting period, we held 14 support meetings with the LMMA coordination group in Behau Fatumeta to provide administrative, management and surveillance support for the LMMA (Activity 2.4). During these meetings, we also supported the group to identify new opportunities for alternative livelihoods and fundraising, such as supporting the community to submit a proposal for funding from the Ministry of Tourism.

In April 2019, a comprehensive two-day biomass survey was undertaken in Behau Fatumeta to establish a baseline that will allow us to adopt an adaptive approach, which regularly reviews monitoring data to inform management measures. We intended to complete the survey before implementing the management measures, but this was delayed by high winds in January and February that restricted our ability to travel across the channel between Atauro (where our boat and dive equipment are stored) and the mainland. In addition, fisheries monitoring data has been collected for about 12 months in Behau Fatumeta, and we now have data to compare changes against a baseline to analyse trends in the future and inform management decisions (Activity 2.5).

Four data sharing sessions took place in Y3 (see Activity 1.7), and preliminary results from [Reef Check](#) monitoring data collected by staff and expedition ecotourists in Atauro were used to produce data summaries (see supporting document folder 7: Data sharing), which we presented to local communities twice during the reporting period (Activity 2.5). However, we have not yet been able to use these data to evaluate management interventions because the data does not cover a sufficient period of time to truly understand if the trends are meaningful, or merely indicative of seasonal changes or irregularities; as we gather more data this should be possible. Although the monitoring programme was set up with control sites that would enable evaluation of the impact of fisheries management, several of those control sites have now been designated as closures by the communities. This makes it difficult to continue with before and after intervention monitoring, as the *Tara Bandu*-governed LMMAs in some sites were implemented before sufficient baseline data were collected. In these cases, we are continuing to collect data and will use data from other control sites for control and intervention monitoring.

Output 3. Community members are trained and employed in ecotourism activities

Activities for Output 3 were largely delivered in the first year of the project. In 2016, eight households in Beloi were selected and received training on ecotourism activities, most notably the development and implementation of homestays (Activity 3.1). Business plans and standards were agreed on by the eight participating families in 2017 (Activity 3.3.), and the registration process for the Atauro Homestay Association (AHA) was finally completed in September 2019, after lengthy delays due to political instability (Activity 3.2. See supporting document 9: AHA registration). The AHA's registration was published in the Timorese government's official gazette, the 'Jornal da Republica', and the AHA has a board of 14 people (seven men and seven women). As a result of the AHA's registration, in November 2019 Blue Ventures expedition ecotourists began using the homestays again (Activity 3.2). The homestay businesses have provided a total income of \$54,945 (3,808 tourist nights) to the eight households since its establishment in January 2017.

In July 2019, we completed a [short video](#) (shared online and with communities) that describes the details of the learning exchange, which took place in November 2018 (Activity 3.4, see supporting document 8: Links, video 8b) and included 10 representatives from other communities in the Coral Triangle. In February 2020, we hosted the technical expert who has supported The Raja Ampat Homestay Association to develop the [Stay Raja Ampat](#) community-owned booking platform, for a week-long learning programme with the AHA. At the same time, a member of [Yapeka](#), an Indonesian organisation, visited the AHA, and is currently considering supporting communities in North Sulawesi with homestays (all funded by match funding) (Activity 3.4). The trip included a series of in-depth reflection sessions and a self-assessment that revealed the need for the AHA to review the agreed standards for the homestays as not all homestay families were still meeting them (standards include: tiled floor, room contains a lockable wardrobe, small fan, and a suitable mosquito net, as well as a recommended nutritious food plan) (Activities 3.3 and 3.6).

In addition to the exchange visits, AHA members have attended various training and workshops to improve the services offered by homestays, including workshops related to health and food safety, cooking, customer service and public speaking (Activity 3.5). Overall, 14 AHA members appear to have more confidence in hosting guests from diverse cultural backgrounds and meeting their specific requirements (e.g. dietary needs). In May 2019, two AHA members attended a USAID-hosted workshop on health and food safety for hospitality providers, and in June 2019, we delivered a training workshop on safe food preparation for six AHA women. As the result of the ongoing cooking training, expedition ecotourists have provided positive feedback on the quality of food provided by the homestays, highlighting the flavours and nutritional value of the meals.

In August 2019, we trained and mentored the AHA Coordinator in public speaking, to prepare him for his role as a panel member during the launch of the Marine Tourism Association of Timor-Leste. In September and October 2019, we provided training to the eight homestay families on customer service, including approaches for welcoming guests and providing tours of the house (Activity 3.5).

We also hosted two community workshops to scope community interest in community-led cetacean tourism (whale and dolphin watching) in October 2019, attended by 26 community members (19 male/7 female) and 16 community members (12 male/4 female) respectively, which included practical exercises in eco guiding. Our expedition ecotourists regularly participated in cooking and craft making workshops targeted at tourists in the communities of Bikeli and Makili (hosted by a total of 20 women) and provided coordinated feedback afterwards, which provided informal training opportunities (Activity 3.5).

To support the daily operations of the AHA, we continue to hold formal monthly meetings with the AHA to discuss progress, issues and future development (Activity 3.6). This period we supported the AHA to run a promotional stall at the International Tourism Fair, which was held in Dili in September 2019, and hosted by the USAID *Tourism For All* project. This one-day event was attended by hundreds of Timorese youth, many of whom are interested in working in the tourism sector and with locally-based tourism providers. We anticipate that the AHA's participation in this fair will help raise the visibility of the homestays and potentially lead to more local customers. Also in September, we trialled a new three-day ecotourism weekend expedition where guests were hosted entirely at homestays, and promoted the homestay model to the domestic expat market.

Discussions on homestay expansion began in 2018, but were delayed because of conflict between the AHA and some community members who wished to join. When the AHA was registered in September, this ended the conflict and will allow us to support expansion of the homestay programme, depending on markets, logistics and community interest. On the mainland, we are helping the coastal community of Madohi to assess the feasibility of replicating the homestay model as a viable alternative livelihood, and we facilitated an exchange between the Madohi leaders and AHA in October 2019. To help with this expansion, a homestay best practice toolkit to share lessons learned in establishing homestays was developed (see supporting document 10: Homestay Toolkit). This was done in collaboration with the Worldwide Fund For Nature (WWF) and Seventythree Ltd. (funded by match funding) and finalised in January 2020 (Activity 3.7).

In addition to the homestays, we are developing new community-led activities to engage ecotourists, increase the economic benefits from the ecotourism programme and to share these benefits more widely amongst the community. We continued to support overnight ecotourist visits to Adara, on the western side of the island, and have trialled visits to the nearby communities of Atekru and Biqueli. In addition, we worked with the communities of Biqueli, Makili and Beloi in offering community-led workshops on making seaweed cakes (made from seaweed farmed by community members using traditional methods), breadmaking and weaving (Activity 3.5). In February 2020, we signed a MoU with the NGO [Empreza Di'ak](#) to trial additional tourism handicraft workshops that could improve tourist accessibility to community activities and also generate additional income (Activity 3.5).

Output 4. Locally managed marine area (LMMA) established.

Output 4 was fully delivered in the second year of the project and additional work has been done since, as we have expanded into new communities.

During the reporting period we met with representatives from the communities of Behau Lianlidu and Ilik-namu to discuss Blue Ventures' community-based marine management work and how we might be able to support them. In Behau Lianlidu, we held two community-wide workshops in September 2019 (32% of those who attended were women) and conducted informal conversations to identify community priorities and develop appropriate management measures. The community voiced an interest in establishing a tourism initiative that could provide some income to fishing families by protecting marine resources and then charging scuba diver access fees, similar to the existing one in Behau Fatumeta (Activity 4.1). Both workshops had high attendance, with 55 community members (15 women) attending the first workshop, and 60 community members (15 women) attending the second workshop. After the workshops, we maintained these conversations through informal discussions, which have helped to identify community priorities for marine management and develop appropriate measures.

Due to the pre-existing community conflict in Ilik-namu, the initial process to formalise the LMMA stalled in 2018. However, in November 2018 and March 2019, we held data sharing sessions and some community members verbalised interest in resuming the consultations (Activity 4.1). To attract a wider cross-section of the community, we added a family-friendly film night to a data sharing session in November 2019 which, as a result, was attended by 43 people (compared to 20 people in March 2019). The draft management plan for the Ilik-namu LMMA is pending formal approval by community leaders (Activity 4.4). We have written two blogs (see supporting documents 11 and 12: "Taking control with *Tara Bandu*", [part 1](#) and [part 2](#)), which provide more information on the community consultation process and how local laws can govern marine management.

A series of training sessions to support communities to manage LMMAs have been held during this period (Activity 4.2) including: a peer-to-peer learning exchange in July 2019, for the three all-female fisheries monitoring teams from Ilik-namu, Behau Fatumeta and Ma'abat to gain a better understanding of how their fisheries data contribute to LMMA management, and other issues surrounding fisheries management. 18 community members participated in the exchange and the outcomes were increased understanding of the role of monitoring in fisheries management, the skills needed to collect data accurately,

as well as learning about the interactions between people, health and environmental issues. There was also an emphasis on team-building, developing confidence and communication skills - including writing our own song about marine conservation (see supporting document 13, Exchange song). In January and February 2020, we provided training on data interpretation for the all-female CFM groups in Behau Fatumeta, Behau Lianlidu and Atauro.

A *Tara Bandu*-governed LMMA was put in place in Behau Fatumeta in December 2018 and we intended to provide formal training on governance and reef ecology to the LMMA management committee during the reporting period, but this activity was postponed because the community requested that we focus our efforts on expanding the *Tara Bandu*-governed area and regulations for tourist access first.

We continue to collaborate with the relevant government ministries to support coastal communities' engagement in marine management, and we continue to build positive relationships with authorities through regular meetings, phone calls and data sharing sessions. These collaborations have included meetings with the Ministry of Tourism to discuss access fees for divers and snorkelers for Behau Fatumeta, supporting the community to prepare a funding proposal to the Ministry of Tourism, presenting progress on community-led marine management and monitoring, plus attending meetings, events and conferences that promote community-based marine management (Activity 4.6).

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1. Local marine management and ecotourism development plans in place, using site identification, zoning and indicator information provided via stakeholder consultations and participatory community marine resource assessment and monitoring

Output 1 was fully delivered during the second year of the project and already reported on. Beloi was selected as our main ecotourism site, and Adara is visited every two months for one or two-night trips to a camping eco resort and a local LMMA. Additionally, several sites were identified for diving activities, and formal partnerships were established with local authorities in Vila, Beloi and Biqueli to regulate diving in their LMMAs (including introducing diver access fees) so that expedition ecotourists are also directly contributing to income in these other sites (Indicator 1.1, target one village, baseline zero). Through consultations with communities and other stakeholders, we began supporting communities to develop ecotourism and natural resource management measures. Two main communities were identified for community-based natural resource management (CBNRM): Ilik-namu and Behau (Indicator 1.1, target one village, baseline zero) and we now support CBNRM in five communities: Behau, Beloi, Biqueli, Ilik-namu and Vila, where we provide ongoing data monitoring and technical support to several LMMAs. A seagrass mapping exercise was completed in the first year of the project (Indicator 1.3, target one assessment, baseline zero), and ten community members were also trained in seagrass mapping in the first year of the project. Eleven community members (72% women) were trained in seagrass monitoring in the second year (Indicator 1.2, target ten operators, baseline zero), and in Y3, we trained six new operators and held four seagrass monitoring training sessions to refresh the operator's monitoring skills. In 2019, we also started training five members and volunteers of the local conservation organisation Konservasaun Flora no Fauna (KFF) in the [Reef Check](#) monitoring methodology. Fourteen women from Ilik-namu and Behau were trained in fisheries monitoring methods in the first two years of the project (Indicator 1.4, target ten, baseline zero), and six women from Behau Fatumeta were trained between June and November 2019, plus a new monitoring group of eight female fisheries data collectors was established in Behau Lianlidu in January 2020 and is currently receiving training in fisheries monitoring.

Fisheries monitoring now takes place several times a week in Ilik-namu and Behau Fatumeta (Indicator 1.5, baseline zero). Once the Reef Check training is fully delivered to all members of KFF, we plan to conduct reef monitoring with KFF in the new sites on the mainland. Since they are a local organisation we hope this will improve the long-term sustainability of these activities. To further incentivise local ownership of these activities we held four major data

sharing sessions in Y3 (November 2019 and February 2020) with community representatives of Biqueli/ Ilik-namu, Beloi/Vila, Behau Fatumeta/Lianlidu and Ma'abat (on the mainland) to share data collected on reef, seagrass, fisheries and cetacean surveys.

Output 2. Locally-led fisheries management measures piloted and continued by communities

Output 2 was largely delivered in the second year of the project and mostly completed in the third year. Fisheries management measures were discussed and formalised by the Behau community, targeting several key fisheries (e.g. cuttlefish, grouper, lobster, fusilier and tuna) in December 2018, and consultations were completed in Ilik-namu, but final formalisation of the *Tara-bandu* framework has stalled in 2018 (Indicator 2.1, target one community, baseline zero). We will continue to discuss management options with Ilik-namu in case this changes, but will not push against community leadership. Results from our participatory monitoring programmes are shared regularly with community members, local authorities and other stakeholders; four major data sharing sessions took place in Y2, and another four outreach events (in Vila, Ilik-namu, Behau and Ma'abat) were held in Y3 to give community members and local authorities feedback on the participatory monitoring data collected to date (Indicator 2.2, target two sessions, baseline zero).

Output 3. Community members are trained and employed in ecotourism activities

Output 3 was largely delivered in the first two years of the project. A successful homestay initiative was set up in Beloi, with eight families participating (Indicator 3.1, target 12 families, baseline zero). In Y3, we provided ongoing support to the AHA through regular meetings (Activity 3.6), and supported finalising the legal registration process. Ongoing political instability continued to affect governmental procedures, but the registration process was completed in September 2019. In Y2 the AHA experienced some conflicts with other community members putting a hold on expeditions ecotourists staying in homestays, however, with its formal registration, and a new spirit of collaboration, the AHA has full legal authority to host Blue Ventures expedition ecotourists, and we supported AHA to undertake a series of awareness raising activities within the Beloi community to discuss the change in legal status, which ended the previous community conflict. We have also worked on developing the independent tourism market for the AHA, and we hosted the technical lead for the [Stay Raja Ampat](#) community-owned booking platform to assess the feasibility of this approach for the AHA. Sites for expansion of the homestay programme (Behau, Baucau and Uaro-ana) were scoped in Y2, but were assessed to be unsuitable for ecotourism. Expansion in Beloi is being considered but it will depend on markets, logistics and community interest. However, we are considering whether it is feasible to replicate the homestay model in Madohi, a community on mainland East Timor.

Over 40 people took part in training programmes organised by Blue Ventures, covering topics such as business management, food preparation and tour guiding in Y2. In Y3, we undertook refresher training with the AHA members in customer interaction and food preparation and an additional 62 people (31 female and 31 male) have participated in informal or formal training programmes. In October 2019, we hosted two community workshops to scope interest in community-led cetacean tours (whale and dolphin watching), which were attended by a total of 31 male and 11 female community members and included practical exercises in eco-guiding. Our expedition ecotourists regularly participated in cooking and craft making workshops targeted at tourists in the communities of Bikeli and Makili (hosted by a total of 20 community members) and gave coordinated feedback afterwards, which provided informal training opportunities. In addition, we recently signed an MoU with [Empreza Di'ak](#) to further develop community-led tourism workshops, which will offer additional training opportunities to a larger number of community members (Indicator 3.2, target 300, baseline zero). To date, the project has provided training which has included 135 participants (calculated from total at training events, including repeat attendees).

Output 4. Locally managed marine area (LMMA) established.

Output 4 was largely delivered in the second year of the project. Consultations engaging the whole community in Behau were completed in November 2018 where the first LMMA supported by Blue Ventures was established in December 2018 (Indicator 4.1, target 100% community members, baseline zero). Training on how to manage an LMMA is ongoing and more structured training and support was provided to the Behau Fatumeta LMMA management group in Y3 (Indicator 4.2, target 50% women, baseline zero). A new LMMA was delineated and formalised through *Tara Bandu* legislation in Y2 (Indicator 4.3, target one LMMA, baseline zero). Consultations were completed in Ilik-namu in the previous reporting period but final formalisation stalled in 2018 and 2019; we are continuing to work with the community to overcome challenges to formalisation and replicate our success in Ilik-namu in the final year of the project.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Outcome: Reducing fishing pressure and protecting priority biodiversity areas in East Timor through community-based marine resource management and sustainable alternative livelihoods benefiting 9,000 people in coastal communities.

Indicator 0.1 25% of households in the target community have increased total income, as a result of eco-tourism. Current progress 42%

The project has continued to support livelihoods through ecotourism activities such as homestays and other income-generating opportunities. Since identifying two key sites for ecotourism activities, the project has continued to focus on assisting community members in establishing the homestay business in Beloi, as well as providing training and support for other ecotourism opportunities that could increase household incomes in the target community of Beloi. The AHA was formally registered in September 2019, and expenditure by expedition ecotourists has supported several additional businesses, including local eco resorts in Beloi and Adara, local restaurants in Beloi and Bikeli, two women's groups offering traditional Timorese food presentation and cooking workshops in Bikeli and Makili, as well as additional services such as laundry, handicraft shops and kiosks, market stalls and *Tara Bandu*-governed LMMA scuba dive access fees. This has provided economic benefits to approximately 202 households.

In Beloi, the homestay business has provided a total income of \$54,945 (3,808 tourist nights) to the eight households since its establishment in January 2017. The annual income increased from \$17,880 (1,192 tourist nights) in 2017 to \$18,300 (1,220 tourist nights) in 2018. Despite the community conflict preventing Blue Ventures expedition eco-tourists from staying at homestays for 15 months (August 2018-November 2019), the 2019 annual income was still \$13,935 (931), made up mostly of independent tourist stays. The first quarter of 2020 already provided an income of \$4,830 (435 tourist nights) (see supporting document 14: Homestay nights tracker), though COVID-19 will likely significantly impact the remainder of the year.

In the community of Beloi Suco (which includes the sub-villages Adara, Usubemasu and others), an estimated 42% of households (178 households out of 427) obtained financial benefits from ecotourism-related activities supported by Blue Ventures, and in the sub-village of Beloi Usubemasu, where most of our ecotourism activities are focused, an estimated 93% (133 households out of 143) benefited financially, exceeding the target.

Indicator 0.2: Fisheries management benefits increase mean fisher incomes by 50%. Baseline was not possible to establish in Y2 and we are working to change the indicator as it is no longer relevant

As previously discussed and reported on, Indicator 0.2 will not be measurable within the project's timeframe as communities have targeted multiple species for management, most of which do not respond to temporary closures and communities have instead implemented no-take-zones, which contribute to conservation targets.

Indicator 0.3: Marine area managed/protected by communities on Atauro increases from 1 area to 3 in Atauro. Baseline 1, current progress additional 1 LMMA on mainland

In Behau Fatumeta, a new LMMA was formalised in December 2018, establishing a temporary closure and a no-take zone, which the community extended to a two-year no-take zone for the whole area in 2019. In Ilik-namu, a draft of the *Tara Bandu* legislation that would establish an LMMA to regulate fisheries, protect important habitats and establish a core conservation area was drafted with the community but is still pending final formalisation (Indicator 0.3). Consultations for fisheries management and another locally managed marine area in the neighbouring community of Behau Lianlidu are currently underway.

Indicator 0.4: Key biodiversity indicators (reef fish, coral, invertebrate) within locally managed/protected areas remain stable or increase. Baseline established in Y1 - Y3, which will allow us to measure the stability or increase of key biodiversity indicators by the end of Y4.

The project established two participatory monitoring programmes focusing on collecting data on seagrass and fisheries respectively. The seagrass monitoring programme consists of 11 trained members (3 male/ 8 female) from three communities (Beloi, Biqueli and Ilik-namu) focusing on data collection in Beloi. The community-led fisheries monitoring programme has expanded to four sites (Ilik-namu, Behau Fatumeta, Ma'abat, Behau Lianlidu) and consists of a total of 28 women monitoring fishing catches several times a week (with the exception of the group in Behau Lianlidu which is currently undergoing training and is not collecting data yet). Additionally, the project staff, supported by diving expedition ecotourists, collect data on reef fish, coral, invertebrates and cetaceans. After having established a baseline in the first three years of the project (no data were available before the start of the project) we are now able to monitor ecological change (Indicator 0.4), which will help inform adaptive management to protect key biodiversity areas in East Timor and eventually measure the conservation impact of the LMMAs. However, means of verification

0.4c *Commercially exploited invertebrate abundance surveys within managed areas* is no longer relevant as the communities do not target invertebrate species.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption 1: Shift from fishing to ecotourism for income generation reduces number of people dependent on fishing.

Comments: Assumption is still valid. Anecdotal evidence (i.e. comments from AHA hosts) suggests that homestay participants are fishing less.

Assumption 2: Knowledge from participatory monitoring is used to design community-led management plans.

Comments: Assumption is still valid. During consultations on marine management and data sharing sessions, community members clearly discussed and showed comprehension of the importance of data to inform the management of LMMAs.

Assumption 3: Income from local fisheries management and income from ecotourism acts as a catalyst for further local natural resource management.

Comments: Assumption is still valid, as demonstrated by communities' eagerness to engage in marine management. Homestay hosts are taking part in several conservation initiatives: one AHA member was appointed the manager of a LMMA, six members are involved in seagrass monitoring; the association is organising regular beach clean-ups and one AHA member was instrumental in the founding of [Ekipa Tasi Mos](#), a locally run marine

debris removal movement; all participants in our project activities show great interest in sharing their experiences and lessons learnt with their wider community and other villages.

Assumption 4: Legislation and policies in East Timor do not change, and/or the legal provision for allowing locally-led marine resource management is maintained.

Comments: Assumption is still valid; however, the Ministry of Fisheries is currently supporting the potential formation of a marine protected area (MPA) network, which may result in a decree law change.

Assumption 5: Fisheries management initiatives do not increase number of people fishing, but allow people to fish less and catch more.

Comments: Assumption is still valid. Anecdotal evidence (e.g. comments from fishers in communities that have established LMMAs) suggest that they are dedicating less time to fishing and have an increase in catch. This served as enough evidence for the community of Behau Fatumeta to extend the timeframe of their temporary closure until we are able to analyse the data to confirm this.

Assumption 6: Communities are interested in participating in monitoring, and results can be used to guide marine management and planning to improve fishing livelihoods.

Comments: Assumption is still valid, as demonstrated by the ongoing and increasing number of participatory monitoring programmes taking place in Beloi, Biqueli, Ilik-namu, Behau Fatumeta, Ma'abat and, most recently, Behau Lianlidu. The programmes have been praised by local authorities, community members and government representatives as a useful tool to inform marine management.

Assumption 7: Economically important marine fisheries resources exist with species that can respond quickly to management and will incentivise broader local engagement in fisheries management and marine conservation.

Comments: Assumption did not hold true. As previously reported on, Atauro's fisheries are very unspecialised. While some species exhibit a quick response to management (e.g. octopus), they are not considered economically important by local fishers. Additionally, the country does not have a commercial market for fisheries products, either internal or for export, which limits the size of financial benefits coming from management. However, communities have been incentivised and motivated to engage in broader local engagement despite this and it has not been necessary to implement temporary closures as a catalyst to longer-term management.

Assumption 8: Sufficient local leadership and community cohesion for local management to be developed successfully and respected.

Comments: Assumption is context dependent and varies from village to village. The framework of *Tara Bandu* customary law promotes community cohesion in developing marine management. We encountered high levels of community cohesion, strong local leadership (both political and spiritual) and respected representatives of fishers' and women's groups in Behau Fatumeta and its neighbouring sites. However, in other sites

such as Ilik-namu, local leadership is weaker and communities are prone to internal conflict, which has been affecting progress with that community.

Assumption 9: A site exists in East Timor that can provide both the requirements for ecotourists (e.g. infrastructure, diving, safety) and also a nearby community that is keen to participate in provision of accommodation and services.

Comments: Assumption is still valid and has been demonstrated through selection of Beloi site.

Assumption 10: Blue Ventures can maintain the number of tourists currently joining ecotourism expeditions in East Timor.

Comments: Assumption did hold true in Y3. Tourist numbers to our expeditions were higher in Y3 than Y2, despite tourism challenges in East Timor generally (see Assumption 11), due to our efforts to increase our marketing and diversify the ecotourism packages. However, COVID-19 began to, and will further, impact this from March 2020 onwards.

Assumption 11: East Timor continues to be a safe and attractive destination for ecotourists to visit.

Comments: Assumption is still being reviewed. While destination marketing of East Timor's tourism operators is becoming more coordinated through the establishment of industry bodies, such as the Marine Tourism Association (refer to Annex 1. 4.6), a dive operator group and the USAID funded 'Tourism for All' project, the limited number of flights into the country, high flight prices and high in-country costs are discouraging tourism numbers to grow and as a result are affecting the success of our ecotourism initiatives. Implications of the COVID-19 pandemic will further impact this and will be discussed with LTS.

Assumption 12: Incentives from improved local fisheries management and new income from ecotourism promote further local marine natural resource management.

Comments: Assumption is still valid, as demonstrated by the participation of AHA in several conservation initiatives (e.g. management of the LMMA, beach cleans and seagrass monitoring).

3.5 Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty alleviation

Blue Ventures activities in Atauro, both conservation and expeditions, have had significant positive impacts on biodiversity and poverty alleviation. The presence of our expedition eco-tourists on the island has not only made a direct financial contribution to communities through volunteer spending, but has provided a market for individuals and groups to establish tourism offerings. These include workshops, guided walks and catering. It is assumed that by boosting household incomes, reliance on fishing is decreased. By collecting biodiversity data within LMMAs we are providing information to communities to enable them to make informed marine management decisions.

The homestay programme has provided participating families with an income of \$54,945 for 3,808 overnight stays since 2017 (Indicator 3.1). The annual income increased from \$17,880 (1,192 tourist nights) in 2017 to \$18,300 (1,220 tourist nights) in 2018. Despite the community conflict that prevented Blue Ventures expedition ecotourists from staying at homestays for 15 months (from August 2018-November 2019), the 2019 annual income was still \$13,935 (931) made up mostly of independent tourist stays. The first quarter of 2020 provided an income of \$4,830 (435 tourist nights). Based on feedback gathered after each expedition, the estimated total that BV expedition ecotourists spent on food, drink, souvenirs, laundry and other items in the community was \$3,448 for the year, with an average spend of \$93 per person, per expedition (see supporting document 15: Expedition ecotourist spending). Diving

activities continue to support the existing LMMAs around Atauro with 1,707 dives in ten LMMAs with \$1.5-\$2 per dive per LMMA, giving a total of \$3,401 in Y3 (\$3,357 in Y2. Activity 1.1).

The project team has already supported communities to establish one LMMA, protecting biodiversity in critical habitats in the Coral Triangle, and continues to work with communities to monitor and manage their marine resources to ensure long term sustainability. During Y3 we continued to train community members on marine management and participatory monitoring methods for multiple species. To share the impact and importance of these efforts, we supported four data sharing sessions with community members and representatives from the relevant ministries, and we trained five members from Konservasaun Flora no Fauna (KFF) in [Reef Check](#) monitoring methodology.

4. Contribution to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

SDG1 - No poverty. The project has made significant progress towards local economic development. The ecotourism initiatives established by the project continue to contribute to poverty alleviation: the expeditions are providing income to the local community and supporting several LMMAs through access fees, and the Atauro Homestay Association (AHA) continues to host tourists and provide income for eight households (3,808 overnight stays and a total income of \$54,945 since 2017). We are also exploring other alternative livelihood opportunities, such as community-led workshops that engage tourists in making seaweed cake, breadmaking and weaving.

SDG3 - Zero hunger. The project has been working with fishing-dependent coastal communities to establish sustainable fisheries management through LMMAs, ultimately promoting long-term food security. In Behau, the LMMA's goal is to rebuild fisheries and promote food security. During Y3 we continued to hold community consultations in Behau Lianlidu, Behedan, Madohi, Behau Fatumeta, and Ilik-namu to support the development of sustainable fisheries management measures to contribute to food security.

SDG5 - Gender equality. (Refer to section 7, Project support to gender equality issues). Promoting gender equity is a priority in all our activities ranging from ecotourism, alternative livelihoods, community consultations plus participatory fisheries and habitat monitoring. Through these initiatives women have been provided a rare and valuable opportunity to develop their leadership skills, ultimately promoting their standing within the community and contributing to improving gender equality.

SDG14 - Life below water. The project continues to engage local communities in marine management through our work towards establishing LMMAs and our fisheries and seagrass monitoring programmes. Data from both programmes, and from the expedition's reef monitoring programme, are supporting the management of existing LMMAs and the establishment of new marine management measures, such as the *Tara Bandu*-governed LMMA in Behau.

5. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

The project is contributing to the three main objectives of the CBD as planned, in particular Articles 6, 8, 10 and 11. Firstly, the project is working in a participatory way with fishers in Ilik-namu and Behau on marine resource management (articles 7 and 8), taking steps towards community-led protection and conservation of critical ecosystems, and ensuring coastal communities are able to benefit from biodiversity (articles 6, 10, 11, 14). The project has promoted full participation of communities in the establishment and maintenance of a marine protected area in line with decision VII/28 on protected areas, aligning with the Programme of Work on Marine Biodiversity. The project has fulfilled articles 7 and 8 of the basic principles of the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity by working in a participatory way with fishers to manage biodiversity with the goal of reducing poverty and protecting preferential access rights. Following extensive community consultations and field visits, community representatives from Behau approved regulations (Activity 2.1) creating a

new LMMA and contributing towards sustainable fishing, and therefore benefiting the target coastal communities. Additionally, data from the fisheries and seagrass programmes, and from the expedition's reef monitoring programme, are supporting the management of existing LMMAs and the establishment of new marine management measures.

By reinforcing the effective management of marine resources through a community-managed LMMA, and taking practical actions to rebuild fish populations and protect key habitats, the project is helping to protect critical ecosystems and ensure local, poor communities are able to benefit sustainably from biodiversity; helping East Timor achieve CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets 6, 10, 11 and 14.

6. Project support to poverty alleviation

The project works towards poverty alleviation by supporting alternative livelihoods and encouraging families to diversify their income, such as establishing a successful homestay association and programme that directly benefits the community members in Beloi and other interested villages. The AHA was formally registered in September 2019, which gave legal authority for Blue Ventures expedition ecotourists to use the homestays. The homestay programme has provided a total income of \$54,945 from 3,808 tourist nights and continues to provide indirect benefits to restaurants, handicraft shops and kiosks. We are developing additional community-led activities for ecotourists that will help to increase economic benefits from our ecotourism programme and share them amongst the wider community. Some examples include: making seaweed cakes (using seaweed farmed by community members using traditional methods), breadmaking and weaving.

Both the homestay and fisheries regulation initiatives have positively impacted communities, alleviating poverty and promoting sustainability in the long-term. In addition, LMMAs have received incomes from tourists diving in the LMMA (see 3.5).

7. Consideration of gender equality issues

Due to the prevalent patriarchal structure and male dominance in East Timor's society, we are ensuring that women participate in several initiatives thereby promoting gender equity and equality in ecotourism, alternative livelihoods, community consultations and are prioritised for participatory fisheries and habitat monitoring activities. Through these initiatives women have been provided a rare and valuable opportunity to develop their leadership skills, ultimately promoting their standing within the community and contributing to improved gender equality. The AHA board comprises 14 members, with equal representation of men and women. These seven women who are engaged in the homestay programme (previously eight but sadly, one deceased) continued to grow in confidence, which in turn increased their leadership role in running the business, as well as taking a more active role in community meetings. An additional twenty women were supported by Blue Ventures in improving the format of their food and craft workshops for tourists through increased participation and utilisation of tourist feedback. Anecdotally, Blue Ventures has observed greater levels of confidence in these women in their interactions with tourists and a sense of pride and self-worth by generating income.

Our local female Dive and Scientist Assistant, who is the first (and only) Timorese woman in the country to have achieved PADI Divemaster and Reef Check EcoDiver level, has further established herself as a conservation leader by leading marine debris clean up activities, delivering outreach events in the community and fostering an understanding of marine resources in the community (see supporting document 8: Links - 8c). She is respected amongst the communities on Atauro and further afield. She was also promoted internally to the role of Community Liaison Officer which, as the face of Blue Ventures in the community, further empowered her to be a female role model. An independent filmmaker is currently producing a short documentary about her achievements in a patriarchal society.

To counterbalance traditionally low participation rates of women in *Tara Bandu* consultations, our monitoring work prioritises involving women, empowering them to take part in monitoring consultations and sharing their knowledge with local authorities and other participants. Both the fisheries and seagrass monitoring programmes are mainly led by women (100% and 72% respectively), which was mentioned as a source of pride by local authorities. This is a promising sign that the programme is having a positive impact on their status in the community. To support the development of a learning network and a community of best practice, in July 2019, we supported the three all-female fisheries monitoring teams from Ilik-namu, Behau Fatumeta and Ma'abat to come together for a peer-to-peer exchange in Atauro. They shared their experiences and gained a better understanding of how their fisheries data contributes to LMMA management. As a result, participants were eager to bring back new knowledge to their communities and proposed several awareness raising activities about sustainable fisheries and resource management. This included a female CFM representative from Behau Fatumeta attending a community meeting in Behau Lianlidu in January 2020 to present the purpose and achievements of the CFM group. This meeting triggered the establishment of a new all-female fisheries monitoring programme in Behau Lianlidu, made up of eight women. To date, 39 community members (36 of which are women) have been engaged in participatory fisheries and habitat monitoring (Output 1) as a way of empowering communities to manage their own marine resources. Furthermore, we held four data sharing sessions between November 2019 and February 2020, with women accounting for around one third of the 160 people in attendance. Due to social norms, the representation of women varied from meeting to meeting, ranging between 0% and 61%. However, women's attendance in workshops is generally higher now than it was earlier in the project, and we attribute this increase to the women-only CFM groups.

To continue to promote female leadership with national and regional authorities, in September, Blue Ventures supported three female (Timorese) staff members from the ministerial department responsible for agriculture and fisheries (MAF) to present Blue Ventures' gender and fisheries work in East Timor at the Coral Triangle Initiative's Women Leaders Forum in Bali, Indonesia.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

Blue Ventures delivers projects using principles of adaptive management, as part of a cycle that moves from project design, implementation and monitoring, to reviewing results, and back to project design (adapting / revising strategy and plans). The outputs' and activities' contribution to the project outcome is detailed in a theory of change that we refer to at all stages in this cycle. Review happens at a range of frequencies, depending on the thoroughness of the review, with the broad strategy reviewed less frequently (usually every three years), and the day-to-day implementation of activities reviewed more frequently (at least monthly).

We use data from monitoring and evaluation activities (described below) to continually assess the rationale behind our theory of change, and the assumptions that underpin it, reviewing the relevance of the outputs and activities of the project. The indicators provided in the project proposal are outlined in the logframe. These are largely being used, with one exception (Indicator 0.2), and expected results for the reporting period have been met. As previously reported, Indicator 0.2 is based on the assumption that a commercially-valuable, fast-growing species could be identified (e.g. octopus or other invertebrates), and would be chosen for management, allowing for the provision of regular financial benefits. This was not the case as communities have targeted multiple species, most of which do not respond to temporary closures. However, communities have implemented no-take-zones, which contribute to conservation targets. Participatory monitoring (habitat and fisheries) is proving to be a suitable approach and is progressing, collecting baseline biodiversity information to inform marine management. A smart phone-based data collection methodology was implemented for fisheries monitoring and by doing so, we can collect the necessary data needed to work towards achieving the project outcome of reducing fishing pressure and protecting priority

biodiversity areas in East Timor and using these data to inform decisions. For the homestay programme, we monitor the total number of nights provided to AHA (see supporting document 14: Homestay nights tracker), to calculate their income, as well as tourist feedback on their performance.

Our monitoring systems have not changed since the last reporting period, however, we are investigating how these monitoring plans and systems might change in the future, especially at the end of the project, as well as how to measure the social impact of our work.

9. Lessons learnt

During Y3 we have learnt that community conflict is not easily or quickly resolved, and it is better to allow time for the conflict to settle rather than forcing progress. We experienced this with our work with the AHA and the conflict that resulted with some community members who were unable to join the association. However, we continued to work with the communities on non-conflict related conservation activities, such as habitat and fisheries monitoring, data sharing and outreach events while we waited for the conflict to settle. Since the formal registration of the AHA, this conflict has subsided and we are able to investigate opportunities for expanding the homestay model in other communities while still supporting the development of the AHA. Similarly, we have learnt that community engagement can take time, and that by starting with a small pilot we are able to foster community ownership and allow members to become increasingly proactive, as observed with the AHA. Over the course of the past three years, the AHA has gradually become more autonomous, with the association leading conversations with community leaders to discuss hosting BV expedition ecotourists again and proposing ideas for conservation activities, marketing and business improvements. Based on the successes of these activities, and others within the project, we have been approached by communities who want to learn more about community-based marine resource management and ecotourism, and this community interest is promising for both the sustainability and replication of the project activities. With these lessons in mind, we are more aware of community dynamics in East Timor and will avoid actions or incidents that might allow community conflict to reoccur or persist in the future and detract from the progress of our conservation and ecotourism work.

Since the last report, we have continued to engage community chiefs in by informing them of every activity, but not requiring them to take part, and where we are responsible for community outreach and communications. This is so far working well.

In Y3 we have learned that our current approach to seagrass monitoring will need to be adjusted because the chosen location has proven difficult for completing transects, especially with a group of voluntary community members who have limited swimming skills and a small windows of time to complete the surveys because of large tidal sea level differences. In addition, these time windows often coincide with when community members complete their domestic chores and duties, and as a result, we had a large turn-over of surveyors and needed to focus our efforts on retraining rather than collecting data in the reporting period. To be more efficient, we are now training a larger pool of data surveyors than needed so that we have sufficient capacity in the community. Additionally, due to the development of a new road, we are assessing whether we should change the surveying area to a new site that has more shallow seagrass meadows and is now accessible by road.

10. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

The reviewers made some comments which we have been working to address in Y3:

Revise Indicator 0.2:

Since the last annual report we have contacted LTS International to discuss revising Indicator 0.2 (Fisheries management benefits increase mean fisher incomes by 50% by Y4 (against Y2 baseline)). As previously discussed and reported, Indicator 0.2 may not be measurable within the project's timeframe as

communities have targeted multiple species, most of which do not respond to temporary closures. We will adjust this indicator as part of a change request in year 4.

Can homestay programmes be set up in three communities by the end of Year 3 (Activity 1.1)?

We have clarified with LTS that as per the wording of the logframe, we were due to carry out consultations in 2-3 villages, which we have done (Beloi, Uarohana and Madohi), rather than establishing homestays in all three. However, we have been approached by a second community for support on setting up homestays and hope to do this in Y4, but since the first homestay association took longer than expected to establish and the number of tourists in East Timor remains low, we recognise that this may not be feasible in the timeframe available.

Quickly identify and resolve any further community-based conflict issues:

The conflict between the Homestay Association and the community of Beloi has now been resolved and expedition ecotourists were able to return to homestays in November.

Upon the advice of [Belun](#), an NGO dedicated to conflict resolution, we waited until after the New Year's ceremonies to hold discussions about resolution as these ceremonies traditionally provide an opportunity for apologies, forgiveness and to start the new year with a clean slate. Between February and March 2019, our new Country Manager led a series of individual meetings with local government authorities, some of those involved in the community conflict, the AHA members and the community leaders who wanted to serve as mediators. The Country Manager was new in her role and this provided a strategic advantage that allowed her to discuss the conflict from a more neutral perspective. These individual meetings were necessary to support the AHA in facilitating the conversations with all affected stakeholders and enabling the association to resume its business.

In addition to discussing the conflict with community stakeholders, we worked tirelessly with the Registry Office in Dili to formally register the AHA in September 2019, giving the association full legal authority to host Blue Ventures expedition ecotourists. After a period of awareness raising in the wider community about the change in legal status, the community leaders allowed for expedition ecotourists to use the homestays again. This change of legal authority for the AHA was perceived as a distinct turning point, and served to end the community conflict. Resolving these issues has taught us some important lessons about initial homestay set-up and how to avoid and monitor issues in future. See lessons learned section 9 for more details.

Other:

Reviewers suggested that we create a meeting record for key government and civil society partnerships. A supporting document showing these has been included in the partnerships section.

11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

The first official case of COVID-19 was reported in East Timor on 21st March and the Government of East Timor declared a state of emergency on 26th March. Travel restrictions within the country are in place, as are social-distancing guidelines. International staff were evacuated just before borders closed and are now working remotely, as are the remaining local staff. COVID-19 will undoubtedly influence the number of tourists that come to East Timor and the economic opportunities from ecotourism. Therefore, Blue Ventures took the difficult decision to suspend all expedition activities until the end of 2020. Unfortunately, given the unknown timescale involved, all team members that were involved in supporting expeditions have been made redundant or

provided notice of reduced working hours. All Y4 planned activities stated in Annex 1 were developed before COVID-19 and will be reassessed in the coming months.

During the reporting period we participated in multiple meetings, conferences and consultations dedicated to improving marine resource management. We attended meetings with ministries to coordinate our work in protected areas, participated in consultations and a two-day workshop co-chaired by MAF and Conservation International to design a marine protected area network in Atauro, supported three Timorese women from MAF with developing their presentation of Blue Ventures' gender and fisheries work in East Timor at the [Coral Triangle Initiative's Women Leaders Forum](#) in Bali, Indonesia, and we provided input for identifying East Timor's seascape as part of a project under the Coral Triangle Initiative. In March 2020, we were also invited to be part of the MAF-chaired Fisheries working group.

Additionally, we established a new partnership with the Australian Volunteers for International Development programme (AVI), and in January 2020, Blue Ventures became a formal partner of the initiative. The partnership has enabled us to recruit a volunteer who has expertise in social science and can assist in monitoring and evaluating the social impacts of our work. Unfortunately, due to the outbreak of COVID-19, the AVI programme suspended all activities globally, but we hope to be able to support more AVI volunteers once the programme is re-established in East Timor.

Due to the success of the Darwin-funded all-female CFM groups established in Atauro and Behau Fatumeta, we were approached by an additional community, Ma'abat to replicate the CFM programme. Using match funding, the same staff members who established the CFM programme recruited a new all-female group in Ma'abat, delivered training and provided mobile phones so that they are now collecting fish landings data.

12. Sustainability and legacy

The project aims were widely discussed before the project and these discussions continue throughout the project with local authorities and communities on Atauro, and on mainland East Timor, promoting local support that will ultimately ensure sustainability. Evidence of this is that in Y3 three communities on the mainland (Behau Lianlidu, Madohi and Behedan) approached us for assistance with managing their marine ecosystem and exploring alternative livelihood opportunities through ecotourism (Outputs 2 and 3). We anticipate that this trend will spread along the northern coast of East Timor as other communities learn about the benefits of marine monitoring, LMMAs and ecotourism initiatives that we have piloted on Atauro and we are supporting peer-to-peer learning where possible.

To work towards long-term sustainability and local ownership of initiatives, we have started to connect the various groups and local leaders in order to create networks of learning and best practice. To date, 33 community members (30 of which are women) have been engaged in participatory fisheries and habitat monitoring (Output 1) as a way of empowering and engaging communities in managing their own marine resources now, and in the future with less support from Blue Ventures. In July, we supported the first exchange between three of the groups and since then, communication among the groups is happening with limited facilitation by Blue Ventures.

The project team continued to support existing and new partnerships in Y3, reaching out to both international and local organisations, thereby raising the profile of the project in East Timor. In particular and in order to work towards local sustainability, we focused on closer working relationships with community partners such as KFF, AHA, local authorities, *Tara Bandu*/LMMA Coordinators, [Empreza Di'ak](#) NGO, Roman Luan NGO, ATKOMA (Atauro Tourism Association), as well as the three key ministries (Fisheries, Tourism and Environment) and the newly launched Marine Tourism Association of Timor-Leste.

The project continued to prioritise local capacity building and promoting long-term sustainability of project activities, including mentoring one Timorese staff member into the role of Operations Manager (which has already seen him take on duties as Acting Country Manager on four occasions), creating a new local field scientist role to replace an international role, intensive training of a third Timorese staff member towards PADI Divemaster level, and promoting four local staff in roles with increased responsibilities and leadership capacity. We hired a local Dive and Science Assistant, replacing another international role, who has completed Reef Check training and achieved Eco Diver certification in July 2019, which makes him the third local staff member to obtain this certification.

The homestay association's formal registration was a significant step towards its goal of independence. We will continue to support the homestays with marketing efforts in the final year of the project in order to continue promoting tourism independently of Blue Ventures, diversifying the customer base and building resilience. We will continually consult with communities to develop new alternative livelihoods that can work to reduce poverty and encourage long-term community engagement in fisheries management and ecotourism.

13. Darwin identity

Throughout the project we have worked with various government, civil society and community partners to implement project activities and have openly and transparently acknowledged the Darwin Initiative and the UK Government's funding of these activities as part of a larger programme. Project update reports submitted to the ministries always recognised the Darwin Initiative funding. As a result, we have noticed that partners and communities in the project host country are well-informed of BV's activities funded by the Darwin Initiative. In addition, we have presented project findings at various conferences (see Annex 3, table 2), which has enabled us to share key project findings and promote the work funded by the Darwin Initiative.

14. Safeguarding

Blue Ventures works with remote coastal communities where people often struggle with severe environmental, economic, and educational challenges. These challenges can heighten communities' vulnerability. For Blue Ventures, safeguarding means protecting communities from the potential harm that arises from coming into contact with anyone working for or with us, or from our activities or our programmes. We have clear policies, procedures and governance in place that have been reviewed and updated in the last two years with new training provided to the project team, to ensure we provide a safeguarding framework that everyone who works with us is made aware of through induction and training. We also now have a dedicated position within the organisation (UK based) to oversee Safeguarding and Health and Safety matters. We are committed to ensuring that our staff, partners and anyone working with us, are fully aware of what safeguarding means, our policies and procedures - including reporting mechanisms. These policies include: Protection Policy for Children and Vulnerable Adults, Ethical Photography Guidelines, Terms of Reference for Safeguarding and Reporting Committee, Whistleblowing and Reporting Guidance Procedure, and our Code of Conduct. Our primary objective in safeguarding is to do no harm, and we take a zero tolerance approach to anyone who contravenes our policies.

In May 2019, all Blue Ventures staff working in East Timor received safeguarding training.

15. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020)

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2019/20 Grant (£)	2019/20 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL				

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2019-2020

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact Incentivising community-led marine biodiversity conservation on Atauro Island</p>		<p>The project has successfully incentivised community-based natural resource management, marine monitoring and ecotourism activities in several communities on Atauro island and on the mainland. Through these community-led approaches, communities are taking ownership of, and steps towards, sustainably managing their own marine resources.</p> <p>Most notably, three communities on the mainland (Behau Lianlidu, Madohi and Behedan) approached us for assistance with managing their marine ecosystem and exploring alternative livelihood opportunities through ecotourism (Outputs 2 and 3) during this reporting period. We continued to support the community of Ilik-namu (on Atauro) in establishing an LMMA and implementing fisheries regulations (Outputs 2 and 4), and we supported the community of Behau Fatumeta (on the mainland) in managing its LMMA, which was established in December 2018 (Output 4).</p> <p>To date, 44 community members (37 of which are women) have engaged in participatory fisheries and habitat monitoring (Output 1) as a way of empowering communities to manage their marine resources. This includes a new fisheries monitoring group of eight women data collectors in Behau Lianlidu who is currently undergoing training.</p>	

		<p>Atauro Homestay Association (AHA) was formally registered and supported to improve its marketing. An additional homestay site is being assessed (Output 3).</p>	
<p>Outcome Reducing fishing pressure and protecting priority biodiversity areas in East Timor through community-based marine resource management and sustainable alternative livelihoods benefiting 9,000 people in coastal communities.</p>	<p>0.1 25% households in target community have increased total household income as a result of ecotourism by end Y3 and continuing in Y4, against baseline to be established end Y1.</p> <p>0.2 Fisheries management benefits increase mean fisher incomes by 50% by Y4 (against Y2 baseline).</p> <p>0.3 Marine area managed/protected by communities on Atauro increases from 1 area in Atauro in Y1 to 3 areas by end Y4.</p> <p>0.4 Key biodiversity indicators (reef fish, coral, invertebrate) within locally managed/protected areas remain stable or increase by end Y4.</p>	<p>0.1 In Atauro, our main focus is the ecotourism site of Beloi, with other tourism related income going to Adara, Makili, Vila and Biqueli communities.</p> <p>In Beloi, the homestay business has generated a total income of \$54,945 (3808 tourist nights) to the eight households since January 2017 (see supporting document 14: Homestay nights tracker).</p> <p>Ecotourism activities have economically benefited approximately 202 households across Atauro (see section 3.3 of this report for more information).</p> <p>0.2 Indicator no longer relevant see section 3.3 for further details.</p> <p>0.3 On the mainland, one LMMA, including regulations for fisheries management, was established in Behau Fatumeta in Y2.</p> <p>0.4 Participatory monitoring for reef fish, coral, invertebrates, seagrass and cetaceans is ongoing in several communities on Atauro and in Behau Fatumeta, and a new monitoring group is currently being established in Behau Lianlidu.</p>	<p>We will continue to support the newly registered AHA with training and marketing to develop their business skills.</p> <p>Development of the fisheries and seagrass monitoring programmes will continue with regular training and knowledge sharing exchanges. We have developed training in basic fisheries management and data literacy and are planning an exchange between communities on Atauro, Behau and Ma'abat in Y4.</p> <p>Marine resource management consultations are ongoing in Ilik-namu, Behau Lianlidu, Madohi and Behedan.</p>
<p>Output 1. Local marine management and ecotourism development plans in place, using site identification, zoning and indicator information</p>	<p>1.1 At least 1 site for CBNRM and ecotourism activities identified by end of Y1.</p>	<p>Output 1 was achieved by the end of Y2 and some activities remain continuous.</p> <p>Community consultations were held to identify potential project sites (Activities 1.1 and 1.2, complete), and training in seagrass and fisheries monitoring was delivered to community members (Activities 1.3 and 1.5, complete). A habitat assessment for the east coast of Atauro was completed (Activity 1.4, complete), and seagrass and fisheries</p>	

<p>provided via stakeholder consultations and participatory community marine resource assessment and monitoring.</p>	<p>1.2 At least 10 community members (≥50% women) trained in participatory ecological assessment methods by end Y1 Q1.</p> <p>1.3 Participatory habitat status assessment completed by communities by end Y1 Q2.</p> <p>1.4 At least 10 community members (≥50% women) trained in fisheries monitoring procedures by end of Y1.</p> <p>1.5 Communities are conducting ongoing participatory ecological and fisheries monitoring, including quarterly feedback to community leaders and managers by end of Y2.</p>	<p>monitoring programmes were established (Activity 1.6, complete and ongoing) in several villages. Data collected by our participatory monitoring programmes is regularly shared with local communities, the government, and other stakeholders (Activity 1.7, ongoing).</p> <p>1.1 Complete and previously reported on</p> <p>In 2016, Beloi was selected as our main ecotourism and homestay site, and Adara as a satellite site for short overnight visits. We have established community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) programmes in five communities: Behau, Beloi, Biqueli, Ilik-namu and Vila, where we provide ongoing data monitoring and technical support to several LMMAs.</p> <p>1.2 Complete and ongoing</p> <p>In Y2, eleven operators (72% women, no = 8) from Beloi and Biqueli were trained in seagrass mapping and monitoring, based on the Seagrass Watch methodology. Over the course of Y3, we trained six new seagrass monitors and four seagrass monitoring training sessions took place to refresh the operator’s monitoring skills. In 2019, we started training five members and volunteers of the local conservation organisation Konservasaun Flora no Fauna (KFF) in the Reef Check monitoring methodology.</p> <p>1.3 Complete and previously reported on</p> <p>Seagrass meadows covering 6km of coast were mapped using the Seagrass Watch methodology between 2017 and 2018.</p> <p>1.4 Complete and ongoing</p> <p>Fourteen female community members were trained in fisheries monitoring: eight women from Ilik-namu in March 2018, and six women from Behau Fatumeta between June and November 2019. A new monitoring group of eight women data collectors was established in Behau Lianlidu in January 2020 and is currently receiving training in fisheries monitoring.</p> <p>1.5 Complete and ongoing.</p> <p>Fisheries monitoring takes place several times a week in Ilik-namu and Behau Fatumeta and the seagrass monitoring group held four practice sessions during this reporting period.</p> <p>In November 2019 and February 2020, we held four major data sharing sessions with community representatives of Biqueli/ Ilik-namu, Beloi/Vila, Behau Fatumeta/Lianlidu and Ma’abat (on the mainland) to share data on reef, seagrass, fisheries and cetaceans.</p>	
<p>Activity 1.1 Community consultations on ecotourism homestay workplan and activities at 2-3 villages, consulting communities and women’s groups.</p>		<p>Complete and previously reported on.</p> <p>- Additionally, community leaders from Madohi (near Dili) approached us for</p>	<p>Support the AHA to improve and expand their business (e.g. supporting them to decide, and subsequently design, a suitable marketing and booking platform, such as the</p>

	<p>assistance with homestay development and marine resource management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In September 2019, formal discussions were held with representatives from Madohi to discuss support. - Eight community members from Madohi (3 female and 5 male representatives) visited Atauro to learn about the homestay model. 	<p>Stay Raja Ampat website which will be supported with match funding).</p> <p>Support the community of Madohi to develop homestays.</p>
<p>Activity 1.2 Community, NGO and wider stakeholder consultations for natural resource management at 2-3 villages, with local consultations consulting both communities and women's groups</p>	<p>Completed in Behau Fatumeta and Ilik-namu before the reporting period.</p> <p>Two neighbouring communities of Behau Fatumeta invited us to support them with marine management.</p> <p>Community consultations started in Behau Lianlidu (see Activity 4.1 for more details), with two wider community meetings taking place in September 2019 (55 community members in attendance - 15 women, 40 men) and in October 2019 (60 community members in attendance - 15 women, 45 men).</p>	<p>We will support an exchange visit to discuss <i>Tara Bandu-governed</i> LMMAs and other marine resource management options, in the hope that Behau Lianlidu will designate a <i>Tara Bandu-governed</i> LMMA similar to what is already in place in Behau Fatumeta.</p> <p>Marine resource management consultations will continue in Ilik-namu on Atauro, in Madohi and Ma'abat on the mainland, and are planned in Behedan (mainland).</p>
<p>Activity 1.3 Train (minimum) 10 community members in habitat monitoring (minimum 50% women), including use of underwater 360° video.</p>	<p>Complete and ongoing.</p> <p>During Y3, we held four training sessions to refresh monitoring skills and provide ongoing technical support to the team, and we:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trained six new participants in seagrass monitoring. - Trained five KFF members on the Reef Check methodology. <p>As previously reported, 360° video was found to be unsuitable for ongoing monitoring purposes, but we have used the footage for outreach purposes (see Activity 1.7 for more details).</p>	<p>We will collaborate with KFF to further train and certify their five members in the Reef Check monitoring methodology, and continue to gather ecological data throughout our work sites. Once KFF is adequately trained in the Reef Check monitoring methodology, they will be able to support data collection needs on many of the mainland sites. We will also continue to support community-led groups to collect fishing landings and seagrass data. If possible, we will provide additional seagrass monitoring training to KFF and other community groups.</p>

<p>Activity 1.4 Conduct participatory habitat assessments across southeast and northeast coastal zones of Atauro</p>	<p>Complete in Atauro before this reporting period.</p>	<p>We will continue to support KFF in assisting more communities on mainland East Timor to conduct participatory habitat assessments.</p>
<p>Activity 1.5 Train (minimum) 10 community members in fisheries monitoring, simple analysis and presenting information back to communities (minimum 50% women).</p>	<p>Complete. Between March 2018 and March 2019, 20 women (six from Behau Fatumeta, six from Ma'abat and eight from Ilik-namu) have completed fisheries monitoring training.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Held a learning exchange for fisheries groups - Delivered a community-centred data literacy and fisheries management training in January and February 2020 with three communities. <p>During the reporting period, CFM groups participated in the following support sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ilik-namu (12 sessions): May, July, August and September, October, November 2019, February and March 2020 • Behau Fatumeta (eight sessions): April, June, July, August, October, November 2019, February and March 2020. • Ma'abat (six sessions): May, July, August, October, November 2019, March 2020. 	<p>We will support the two all-female CFM groups of Behau Fatumeta and Behau Lianlidu in gathering and presenting on fisheries landing data, which will be used to inform future marine resource management measures in their respective communities.</p> <p>We will deliver additional training sessions for the CFM group in Behau Lianlidu over the next six months to ensure that they are at the same skill level as the other, more established groups. We will also deliver new training on basic data interpretation and fisheries management measures for the CFM group in Ma'abat.</p> <p>Once all four groups have received the same baseline training, they will participate in an exchange visit in Y4 that will enable the four CFM groups to share their experiences and attend a new training in data visualisation. It will also be an opportunity for the wider communities to share their experiences of marine resource management, marine monitoring, and ecotourism opportunities.</p>
<p>Activity 1.6 Establish participatory fisheries monitoring programme in 2-3 villages for duration of project.</p>	<p>Complete. Participatory fisheries monitoring is now taking place in three villages (Ilik-namu, Behau Fatumeta and Ma'abat) and is being developed in a fourth village (Behau Lianlidu). Monitoring is ongoing and conducted several days each week in all communities. See section 11 for details about participatory fisheries monitoring in Ma'abat.</p>	<p>Form the new CFM group in Behau Lianlidu and continue training.</p>

<p>Activity 1.7 Disseminate results of participatory monitoring to communities, community leaders and women's groups on Atauro, including through use of 360° VR engagement tools showcasing underwater monitoring footage.</p>	<p>Ongoing. With the monitoring programmes established for over a year, we now have a meaningful baseline that can be used to analyse future trends.</p> <p>Four data sharing sessions took place in Y3, November 2019 and February 2020, where Blue Ventures staff and representatives of the monitoring groups presented the data from Reef Check, fisheries and seagrass monitoring, and biomass survey. Results were disseminated at a series of other events (see section 3.1 Output 1 for details).</p>	<p>Meetings to share fisheries and habitat data will continue in all the communities involved in participatory monitoring.</p> <p>In addition to the 360° video outreach, we will pilot participatory video and/or photo voice monitoring methods, the results of which could be shared at data sharing meetings.</p> <p>Furthermore, we have developed some outreach material for conservation talks at schools, which we have created based on the results from participatory monitoring that we will trial in Y4.</p>
<p>Output 2. Locally-led fisheries management measures piloted and continued by communities</p>	<p>2.1 Fisheries management measures (e.g. periodic fishing site closures), decided by the target local community in Y2, piloted by end Y3 for at least one key fishery species</p> <p>2.2 Community outreach events held at least twice a year, to give feedback of participatory monitoring and results of local resource management.</p>	<p>As previously reported on, progress towards Output 2 was significant in Y2, and mostly completed in Y3.</p> <p>2.1 Complete and ongoing. Fisheries management measures targeting grouper, lobster, fusilier, tuna and cuttlefish, were formalised in Behau in December 2018. Formalisation of management measures discussed in Ilik-namu in 2017 are ongoing.</p> <p>2.2 Complete and ongoing. Four outreach events were held in Vila, Ilik-namu, Behau and Ma'abat in Y3 to give community members and local authorities feedback on the participatory monitoring data.</p>
<p>Activity 2.1 Village level workshops, with communities and women's groups, to discuss fisheries management options based on participatory monitoring data, and discussions on key fisheries and threats.</p>	<p>Complete in Ilik-namu and Behau Fatumeta before the reporting period and now ongoing in additional villages.</p> <p>- Two community consultations took place in a new community, Behau Lianlidu, in response to the community's invitation to gain assistance with marine resource management (see activities 1.2 and 4.1 for more details).</p>	<p>In Y4 we will begin consultations with Madohi and Behedan to discuss possible marine management measures.</p> <p>Will continue the consultation process with Behau Lianlidu, inviting representatives from Behau Fatumeta who are able to advocate for <i>Tara Bandu</i>.</p>
<p>Activity 2.2. One key fishery selected for trial management measure through further consultations with communities and women's groups, with minimum 1 village.</p>	<p>Complete in Behau Fatumeta. Ilik-namu has identified target species, and management measures but hasn't adopted the trial management measures. We continue to support new</p>	<p>In Y4 we will consult with the community of Madohi whether they would like to establish a female-run community fisheries monitoring group and will train and assist the group to be established. Furthermore, we will work</p>

	communities that approach us for support with marine management.	with the communities of Behau Lianlidu and Madohi to trial fisheries management measures with the view to establish a <i>Tara Bandu</i> area.
Activity 2.3 Work plan agreed upon with community – including women’s groups – for timeline for local fisheries management (e.g. location, duration, rules).	Complete with Behau Fetumeta and additional work done as we have supported more communities.	In Ilik-namu, communities identified target species that they are interested in managing, but have not yet agreed or adopted specific management measures for those target species. An additional consultation with Ilik-namu is planned in Y4 but will depend on information gathered during our regular data sharing meetings, engagement with the CFM group and informal discussions in the community. The internal political conflict creates a complicated atmosphere and we will not start a conversation about <i>Tara Bandu</i> legislation and LMMAs until we feel confident that the community will be open to the discussion.
Activity 2.4 Support provided to community and women’s groups for implementation of workplan.	Ongoing. During Y3, we held 14 support meetings with the mixed gender LMMA coordination group in Behau Fatumeta to assist the group with administration, management and surveillance of the LMMA.	Support meetings will continue with the LMMA coordination group in Behau Fatumeta.
Activity 2.5 Results of management measure evaluated with the community and improvements suggested and implemented.	<p>In April 2019, a comprehensive two-day biomass survey was undertaken in Behau Fatumeta to establish a baseline to inform management measures.</p> <p>Fisheries monitoring data has been collected for about 12 months in Behau Fatumeta (April 2019 - March 2020), and we now have data to compare changes against a baseline to analyse trends in the future and inform management decisions.</p> <p>In May 2019, the community decided to extend the timeframe of their temporary closure (put in place in December 2018) to the full two-year cycle based on their experiences of the first six months.</p>	<p>The biomass survey will be repeated in Y4 following staff training, which will enable us to evaluate appropriate management measures.</p> <p>At the end of Y4, the CFM groups will have collected data for over two years, at which point we will be able to compare the data and analyse trends and share the results with the communities.</p> <p>We will produce a report that analyses the reef ecology data that we have collected through Reef Check monitoring over the past three years. The report will include more detail than is typically included in a community presentation and will allow us to</p>

		Preliminary results from Reef Check monitoring data collected by staff and expedition ecotourists in Atauro have been used to produce summary statistics.	analyse the data to better understand general trends.
Activity 2.6 Twice yearly outreach events with wider community – women and men – to disseminate results from local management and monitoring.		Four data sharing sessions took place in Y3. See Activity 1.7 for more details on dissemination of monitoring and biomass survey results.	We will continue to disseminate the data collected by our expeditions programme, the CFM programme, the seagrass monitoring programme and future biomass surveys.
Output 3. Community members are trained and employed in ecotourism activities	<p>3.1 New locally owned ecotourism and homestay services are established in 1 target community (12 families) (Beloi) in East Timor by end Y1, and in 2 further communities on the island by end Y3.</p> <p>3.2 50% (approx. 300 people) of adults in target community (at least 50% women) receive training by Blue Ventures, and by trained homestay members, in ecotourism service provision as hosts, ecoguides and other income generating activities by end Y2.</p>	<p>In Y3, we provided ongoing support to the AHA through regular meetings (Activity 3.6), and supported finalising the legal registration process, which was completed in September 2019.</p> <p>We have also worked on developing the independent tourism market for the AHA, and we hosted the technical lead for the Stay Raja Ampat community-owned booking platform to assess the feasibility of this model for the AHA. With its formal registration, the AHA has full legal authority to host ecotourists, and we supported the AHA to undertake a series of awareness raising activities within the Beloi community. Blue Ventures expedition ecotourists began using the homestays again in November 2019.</p> <p>3.1 Partially complete and ongoing. Eight homestays have been established in Beloi. Expansion of the homestay programme will be attempted in Y4 but will depend on markets, logistics and community interest. In addition, we are considering whether it is feasible to replicate the homestay model in Madohi, a community on mainland East Timor.</p> <p>3.2 Ongoing. In total training events have included 62 people (31 female and 31 male) have participated in informal or formal training programmes facilitated by Blue Ventures in Y3. We hosted two community-led cetacean tourism workshops in October 2019 attended by 42 community members (31 male/11 female). Our expedition ecotourists regularly participated in and reviewed community-led tourism workshops in the communities of Bikeli and Makili (hosted by a total of 20 women). We recently signed an MoU with Empreza Di'ak to further develop community-led tourism workshops, with additional training.</p>	
Activity 3.1 First round of homestay participants selected.		Complete (with 8 families) and already reported on. Eight households in Beloi were selected in 2016.	
Activity 3.2 Homestay Association set up with legal paperwork completed, with equal representation of women within Association board.		Complete. The registration of the Atauro Homestay Association (AHA) was completed in September 2019 (see supporting document 9: AHA Registration). The AHA board	

	comprises 14 members (7 men, 7 women).	
Activity 3.3 Business plans developed and standards for homestays agreed upon.	Complete and already reported on. Business plans and standards were agreed on by the eight participating families in 2017.	During workshops in February 2020 (refer to Activity 3.4), the AHA identified a need to review their existing standards to ensure compliance and create consistent standards. We will support the AHA in doing this and identifying a process to self- monitor.
Activity 3.4 Exchange trip to Raja Ampat, Indonesia, to meet and learn from a successful homestay group.	Complete and already reported on. - An additional return exchange was organised in November 2018, hosting 10 representatives from other communities in the Coral Triangle (see supporting document 8: Links, 8b, to view the short video completed in July 2019).	Together with the AHA, we are currently evaluating the new insights gathered during the workshops in February 2020 and will create an action plan to follow.
Activity 3.5 Training given on key areas such as health and safety, cuisine and catering, language and hospitality, budget management, tourist expectations and ecoguiding.	Complete and ongoing. Six training sessions were held this period with a total of 14 attendees. Two community workshops to gauge interest in eco-guiding for cetacean trips attended by 26 and 16 community members respectively. Additionally, we are developing new community-led activities to engage ecotourists, to be shared amongst the wider community, if undertaken successfully.	Refresher training sessions will be conducted in Y4 to ensure the standards set by the homestay association are maintained.
Activity 3.6 Ongoing support to Homestay Association through monthly meetings focusing on continuous improvement through feedback, and facilitated induction of first guests.	Complete and ongoing. We continue to hold formal monthly meetings with the AHA to discuss progress, issues and future development. These are supported by weekly phone calls and informal meetings. Additionally, we continue to support the AHA to develop their marketing skills and become an independent and viable business that advertises the homestays in Dili and facilitates visits from NGO	To ensure the long-term sustainability of the AHA, we will hand over additional responsibilities to the homestay association as it continues to mature and become more autonomous. However, we will continue to be available to offer support when necessary, as some of our staff members live in homestays, and our expedition ecotourists spend a portion of their time in homestay accommodation.

		staff and travel groups (see section 3.1, Output 3 for further details).	
Activity 3.7 Workshops with further villages for subsequent expansion of homestay association.		<p>Ongoing. Discussions on homestay expansion in Beloi began in 2018, but proved difficult as they resulted in conflict between the AHA and some community members. In Y3 we continued to work closely with the AHA, local authorities, and the wider community to defuse the conflict.</p> <p>We are in the process of assisting the coastal community of Madohi in assessing the feasibility of implementing homestays.</p> <p>A homestay best practice toolkit to share lessons learned in establishing homestays was developed in collaboration with the Worldwide Fund For Nature (WWF) and SeventythreeLtd (see supporting document 10: Homestay Toolkit).</p>	See Activity 1.1 for details on the Madohi homestay expansion.
Output 4. Locally managed marine area (LMMA) established.	<p>4.1 By end Y2, 100% of target community has been engaged in discussions on LMMAs.</p> <p>4.2 Community stakeholder group (at least 50% women) receives training on how to establish and manage an LMMA in East Timor by end Y3.</p> <p>4.3 Target community delineates LMMA and develops zoning and management plan by end Y3, coming into effect by end Y4.</p>	<p>Output 4 was largely delivered in the second year of the project and previously reported on.</p> <p>4.1 Complete and previously reported on.</p> <p>4.2 Ongoing. Training and support was provided to the Behau Fatumeta LMMA management group.</p> <p>4.3 Complete and ongoing. A LMMA was formalised in Behau Fatumeta in December 2018. The formalisation of a <i>Tara Bandu</i>-governed LMMA in Ilik-namu was delayed, and we will continue working with the community towards this in Y4.</p>	
4.1 Workshops with community (from activities 2.2 to 2.5) and women's groups to discuss potential benefits of developing an LMMA and locally relevant mechanisms for management (eg. <i>Tara Bandu</i>).		Complete. We held two workshops with the community of Behau Lianlidu, 55 community members (15 women) attending the first workshop, and 60	Workshops/consultations will be carried out in Behau Lianlidu, Madohi, Behedan and other mainland communities as and when they approach us asking for support. The

	<p>community members (15 women) attending the second workshop.</p> <p>In September 2019, we held initial discussions with community members in Behau Lianlidu (32% female attendees), to discuss Blue Ventures' work in neighbouring Behau Fatumeta. Following this initial meeting, we conducted informal, gender-focused discussions that resulted in the establishment of a 100% female CFM group in Behau Lianlidu.</p>	<p>LMMA management group from Behau Fatumeta will help to facilitate discussions at these workshops.</p> <p>An additional consultation with Ilik-namu is planned in Y4 but will depend on the situation. The internal political conflict creates a complicated atmosphere and we will not start a conversation about <i>Tara Bandu</i>-governed LMMAs until we feel confident that the community will be open to the discussion.</p>
<p>4.2 Training in LMMA management and what it means for the village, including exchange trips to meet other villages engaged in LMMAs, with minimum 50% participation by women.</p>	<p>18 community members participated in a peer-to-peer learning exchange in July 2019, for the three all-female fisheries monitoring teams from Ilik-namu, Behau Fatumeta and Ma'abat.</p> <p>In January and February 2020, we held training on data interpretation for the CFM groups in Behau Fatumeta and Atauro (Total 18 attended 100% women).</p>	<p>LMMA management training in Behau Fatumeta.</p> <p>See Activity 1.5 for details about the new data literacy and fisheries management training that will continue to be rolled out across the CFM programme.</p> <p>See Activity 2.1 for details on the knowledge sharing exchange involving five communities.</p>
<p>4.3 Workshops to decide on LMMA criteria (eg. size, zoning, rules), with minimum 50% participation by women.</p>	<p>Completed in Ilik-namu and Behau Fatumeta before the reporting period. Work with Ilik-namu ongoing see Activity 4.4.</p>	<p>Depending on the outcomes of Activity 4.1, next steps for this activity will include facilitating workshops as part of the consultation process to designate an LMMA in Ilik-namu and decide on management criteria.</p>
<p>4.4 Workshops to draft a local management plan for the LMMA, with minimum 50% participation by women.</p>	<p>Complete with Behau Fatumeta before the reporting period.</p> <p>The draft management plan for the Ilik-namu LMMA is pending formal approval by community leaders.</p>	<p>Depending on the outcomes of Activity 4.1, next steps will include facilitating workshops as part of the consultation process to designate an LMMA.</p>
<p>4.5 Delineation of LMMA and outreach by communities.</p>	<p>One LMMA covering 225 m² was delineated in Behau Fatumeta in 2018.</p> <p>Delineation was completed in Ilik-namu in 2017 and is pending formal approval.</p>	<p>Depending on the outcomes of activity 4.1, next steps will include delineation of the respective LMMA and outreach by communities</p>
<p>4.6 Support on any required administration with Ministries.</p>	<p>Attended > 9 meetings and consultations with ministries to support</p>	<p>Depending on the outcomes of activity 4.1, next steps will include facilitating workshops</p>

	<p>sharing of information and consultations on marine management (see section 3.1 Output 4 for further details and supporting document 2: Key Meetings).</p>	<p>as part of the consultation process to designate an LMMA and consulting ministries as necessary.</p> <p>We will continue to proactively participate in forums and discussions for a possible MPA network in Atauro.</p> <p>We will continue to work together with the conservation, community, government and tourism members of the ATM-TL to fully develop and implement its two-year program and action plan to develop marine tourism, first in Atauro and Dili Municipality and eventually expanding to other parts of the country.</p>
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Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: The livelihoods of coastal communities in East Timor are improved and diversified through effective local management of inshore coastal resources and alternative livelihoods.</p>			
<p>Outcome: Reducing fishing pressure and protecting priority biodiversity areas in East Timor through community-based marine resource management and sustainable alternative livelihoods benefiting 9,000 people in coastal communities.</p>	<p>0.1 25% households in target community have increased total household income as a result of ecotourism by end Y3 and continuing in Y4, against baseline to be established end Y1.</p> <p>0.2 Fisheries management benefits increase mean fisher incomes by 50% by Y4 (against Y2 baseline).</p> <p>0.3 Marine area managed/protected by communities on Atauro increases from 1 area in Atauro in Y1 to 3 areas by end Y4.</p> <p>0.4 Key biodiversity indicators (reef fish, coral, invertebrate) within locally managed/protected areas remain stable or increase by end Y4.</p>	<p>0.1a Household income surveys conducted pre- (Y1) and post- ecotourism development (Y4);</p> <p>0.1b Data from eco tourists documenting average spend per week on Atauro, collected via feedback surveys every 6 weeks.</p> <p>0.2 Participatory fisheries landings and market price monitoring.</p> <p>0.3 Documents formalising Tara Bandu and/or community endorsed zoning/delimitation maps.</p> <p>0.4a Surveys of fish diversity (SpR/SDI) and/or fish biomass (kg/ha) protected within managed areas.</p> <p>0.4b Surveys of benthic diversity (% cover of key benthic groups) within managed areas.</p> <p>0.4c Commercially exploited invertebrate abundance surveys within managed areas.</p>	<p>Shift from fishing to ecotourism for income generation reduces number of people dependent on fishing.</p> <p>Income from fisheries management incentivises further community-based natural resource management (CBNRM).</p> <p>Fisheries management initiatives do not increase the number of people fishing, but allow people to fish less and catch more.</p>

<p>Output 1</p> <p>Local marine management and ecotourism development plans in place, using site identification, zoning and indicator information provided via stakeholder consultations and participatory community marine resource assessment and monitoring.</p>	<p>1.1 At least 1 site for CBNRM and ecotourism activities identified by end of Y1.</p> <p>1.2 At least 10 community members (≥50% women) trained in participatory ecological assessment methods by end Y1 Q1.</p> <p>1.3 Participatory habitat status assessment completed by communities by end Y1 Q2.</p> <p>1.4 At least 10 community members (≥50% women) trained in fisheries monitoring procedures by end of Y1.</p> <p>1.5 Communities are conducting ongoing participatory ecological and fisheries monitoring, including quarterly feedback to community leaders and managers by end of Y2.</p>	<p>1.1 Site selection matrix based on information gathered; selection of sites verified through ongoing activities.</p> <p>1.2 Record of completion of training in methods (test results/certifications).</p> <p>1.3 Participatory habitat status assessment survey database and summary results.</p> <p>1.4 Record of completion of training in methods (test results/certifications).</p> <p>1.5a Resource monitoring database.</p> <p>1.5b Feedback session documentation (meeting minutes, photos).</p>	<p>Knowledge from participatory monitoring is used to design community-led management plans.</p> <p>Communities are interested in participating in monitoring, and results can be used to guide marine management and planning to improve fishing livelihoods.</p>
<p>Output 2</p> <p>Locally-led fisheries management measures piloted and continued by communities.</p>	<p>2.1 Fisheries management measures (e.g. periodic fishing site closures), decided by the target local community in Y2, piloted by end Y3 for at least one key fishery species.</p> <p>2.2 Community outreach events held at least twice a year, to give feedback of participatory monitoring and results of local resource management.</p>	<p>2.1a Minutes and documents from meetings on community consultations and decisions.</p> <p>2.1b Management plan documenting management measures, map of closure area(s)/ calendar of seasonal restrictions.</p> <p>2.1c Catch monitoring data and analysis from before and after implementation of fisheries management measure(s).</p>	<p>Economically important marine fisheries resources exist with species that can respond quickly to management and will incentivise broader local engagement in fisheries management and marine conservation.</p> <p>Sufficient local leadership and community cohesion for local management to be developed successfully and respected.</p>

		2.2 Photos of community events and sessions.	
Output 3 Community members are trained and employed in ecotourism activities.	3.1 New locally owned ecotourism and homestay services are established in 1 target community (12 families) (Beloi) in East Timor by end Y1, and in 2 further communities on the island by end Y3. 3.2 50% (approx. 300 people) of adults in target community (at least 50% women) receive training by Blue Ventures, and by trained homestay members, in ecotourism service provision as hosts, ecoguides and other income generating activities by end Y2.	3.1 Contracts and MoUs with target community to provide ecotourism facilities and provisions. 3.2a Census data to establish number of people in population. 3.2b Photographs from training workshops and exchange trip to Raja Ampat. 3.2c Certificates from training as hosts/ ecoguides.	A site exists in East Timor that can provide both the requirements for eco tourists (e.g. infrastructure, diving, safety) and also a nearby community that is keen to participate in provision of accommodation and services. Blue Ventures can maintain the number of tourists currently joining ecotourism expeditions in East Timor. East Timor continues to be a safe and attractive destination for eco tourists to visit.
Output 4 Locally managed marine area (LMMA) established.	4.1 By end Y2, 100% of target community has been engaged in discussions on LMMAs. 4.2 Community stakeholder group (at least 50% women) receives training on how to establish and manage an LMMA in East Timor by end Y3. 4.3 Target community delineates LMMA and develops zoning and management plan by end Y3, coming into effect by end Y4.	4.1a Meeting minutes, and attendance record sheets from village meetings. 4.1b Census data to establish number of people in population. 4.2a Training attendance sheets (include gender). 4.2b Copies of training documents, materials and participant assessments. 4.3 Management plans/documentation formalising establishment of LMMA through Tara Bandu.	Incentives from improved local fisheries management and new income from ecotourism promote further local marine natural resource management. Legislation and policies in East Timor do not change, and the legal provision for allowing locally-led marine resource management is maintained.

Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)

Output 1: Local management and ecotourism plans in place, using site identification, zoning and indicator information provided via participatory community marine resource assessment and monitoring.

- 1.1 Community consultations on ecotourism homestay workplan and activities at 2-3 villages, consulting communities and women's groups.
- 1.2 Community, NGO and wider stakeholder consultations for natural resource management at 2-3 villages, with local consultations consulting both communities and women's groups.
- 1.3 Train (minimum) 10 community members in habitat monitoring (minimum 50% women), including use of underwater 360° video.
- 1.4 Conduct participatory habitat assessments across southeast and northeast coastal zones of Atauro.
- 1.5 Train (minimum) 10 community members in fisheries monitoring, simple analysis and presenting information back to communities (minimum 50% women).
- 1.6 Establish participatory fisheries monitoring programme in 2-3 villages for duration of project.
- 1.7 Disseminate results of participatory monitoring to communities, community leaders and women's groups on Atauro, including through use of 360° VR engagement tools showcasing underwater monitoring footage.

Output 2: Locally-led fisheries management measures piloted and continued by communities

- 2.1 Village level workshops, with communities and women's groups, to discuss fisheries management options based on participatory monitoring data, and discussions on key fisheries and threats.
- 2.2 One key fishery selected for trial management measure through further consultations with communities and women's groups, with minimum 1 village.
- 2.3 Work plan agreed upon with community – including women's groups – for timeline for local fisheries management (e.g. location, duration, rules).
- 2.4 Support provided to community and women's groups for implementation of workplan.
- 2.5 Results of management measure evaluated with the community and improvements suggested and implemented.
- 2.6 Twice yearly outreach events with wider community – men and women – to disseminate results from local management and monitoring.

Output 3: Community members are trained and employed in ecotourism activities

- 3.1 First round of homestay participants selected.
- 3.2 Homestay Association set up with legal paperwork completed, with equal representation of women within Association board.
- 3.3 Business plans developed and standards for homestays agreed upon.
- 3.4 Exchange trip to Raja Ampat, Indonesia, to meet and learn from a successful homestay group.
- 3.5 Training given on key areas such as health and safety, cuisine and catering, language and hospitality, budget management, tourist expectations and ecoguiding.
- 3.6 Ongoing support to Homestay Association through monthly meetings focusing on continuous improvement through feedback, and facilitated induction of first guests.
- 3.7 Workshops with further villages for subsequent expansion of homestay association.

Output 4: Locally managed marine area (LMMA) established.

- 4.1 Workshops with community (from activities 2.2 to 2.5) and women's groups to discuss potential benefits of developing an LMMA and locally relevant mechanisms for management (e.g. *Tara Bandu*).
- 4.2 Training in LMMA management and what it means for the village, including exchange trips to the village of Adara to meet other villages engaged in LMMAs, with minimum 50% participation by women.
- 4.3 Workshops to decide on LMMA criteria (e.g. size, zoning, rules), with minimum 50% participation by women.
- 4.4 Workshops to draft a local management plan for the LMMA, with minimum 50% participation by women.
- 4.5 Delineation of LMMA and outreach by communities.
- 4.6 Support on any required administration with Ministries.

Annex 3: Standard Measures

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures

Code No.	Description	Gender of people (if relevant)	Nationality of people (if relevant)	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
Established codes								
3	Number of people to attain other qualifications: Dive Master certification	1 - male 1- female	Timorese		2	0	2	2
7	Training materials for use by host country	NA	NA	1		2	3	2
14A	Workshops to disseminate data	NA	Timorese, British, German, Italian	1	4	4	9	8
23	Value of resources raised from other sources: other funders	NA						
Established codes								

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (author s, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
Taking Control with <i>Tara Bandu</i> , Part 1	Blog post	Nick Piludu, 2019	Male	Italian	Blue Ventures, London	https://blog.blueventures.org/en/taking-control-with-tara-bandu/
Witnessing the unknown: coral spawning in Timor-Leste	Blog Post	Roxane Sylvie de Waegh, 2019	Female	Belgium	Blue Ventures, London	https://blog.blueventures.org/en/witnessing-the-unknown-coral-spawning-in-timor-leste/
Taking Control with <i>Tara</i>	Blog post	Oldegar Massin	Male	Timorese	Blue Ventures, London	https://blog.blueventures.org/en/taking-control-with-tara-bandu-part-2/

<i>Bandu, Part 2</i>		ga, 2019				
An unforgettable medical elective	Blog Post	Nick Hurn, 2019	Male	British	Blue Ventures, London	https://blog.blueventures.org/en/an-unforgettable-medical-elective/
Why I keep coming back to BV	Blog Post	Roger Vaughan, 2019	Male	United States	Blue Ventures, London	https://blog.blueventures.org/en/why-i-keep-coming-back-to-bv/
Jam Baleia: A two-week cetacean expedition to remember	Blog Post	Asiem Sanyal, 2020	Male	Indian	Blue Ventures, London	https://blog.blueventures.org/en/jam-baleia-a-two-week-cetacean-expedition-to-remember/
Eco-tourism and community-based marine conservation; the benefits of working together.	Presentation	Roxane de Waegh and Jenny House, 2019	Female	Belgium	Timor-Leste Study Association (TLSA) conference, Dili	See supporting document 16: Roxanne TLSA Presentation 2019
Fisheries monitoring as a tool for empowering women and informing marine management.	Presentation	Jenny House, 2019	Female	British	Timor-Leste Study Association (TLSA) conference, Dili	See supporting document 17: Jenny TLSA Presentation 2019
Use of customary practices in co-management of small-scale fisheries in Timor-Leste	Presentation	Jenny House, 2019	Female	British	Charles Darwin University, Darwin	See supporting document 18: CIFAS Abstract
Opportunities for increasing gender equality and sustainability in Timor-	Presentation	Jenny House, 2019	Female	British	Charles Darwin University, Darwin	See supporting document 19: Futures conference abstract

Leste's small-scale fisheries						
Fisheries monitoring as a tool for empowering women	Presentation	Jenny House, 2019	Female	British	ICT4Fisheries, Cape Town	See supporting document 20: ICT4Fisheries Presentation

Annex 4 Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the Subject line.	✓
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	X
Have you included means of verification? You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	✓
Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	X
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	X
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	✓
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	