



## Darwin Initiative: Final Report

To be completed with reference to the “Writing a Darwin/IWT Report” Information Note:  
(<https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/reporting-forms-change-request-forms-and-terms-and-conditions/>).

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum** of 20 pages in length, excluding annexes)

### Darwin Project Information

Project reference	24-012
Project title	Incentivising community-led marine biodiversity conservation on Atauro Island
Country(ies)	Timor-Leste
Lead organisation	Blue Ventures Conservation
Partner institution(s)	Worldfish Seventythree Ltd Raja Ampat Local Homestay Business Enterprise Association Government of Timor-Leste - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment (Directorate of Biodiversity),</li> <li>● Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries,</li> <li>● Ministry of Arts Culture and Tourism,</li> </ul>
Darwin grant value	£295,215
Start/end dates of project	1st April 2017 - 31st March 2021
Project leader's name	Alasdair Harris
Project website/blog/social media	<a href="http://www.blueventures.org">www.blueventures.org</a>
Report author(s) and date	Asiem Sanyal 30/06/21

# 1 Project Summary

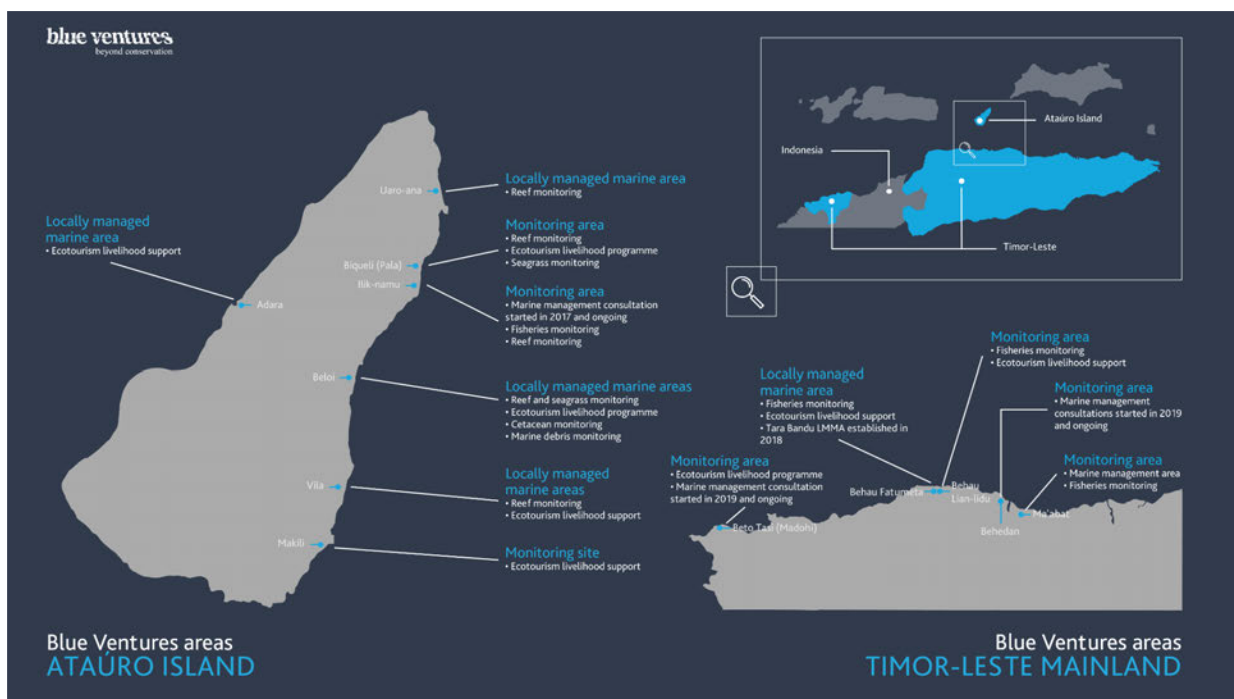


Figure 1: Map of Timor-Leste, with Blue Ventures project implementation areas

Timor-Leste is located in the heart of the Coral Triangle, a region home to the highest levels of marine biodiversity in the world. Coastal communities in the country rely on fisheries for their livelihood and food security, and Timorese culture espouses environmental sustainability through traditional environmental management practices, such as *Tara Bandu* (customary law that regulates access to community resources, and governs community-managed spaces such as Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs)).

However, decades of political conflict, occupation and civil unrest have eroded traditionally held customs and beliefs, including the practice of *Tara Bandu*, and, especially in the near-recent past, a decimation of Timor Leste's critically important marine ecosystems has been brought about due to overfishing and a spate of unsustainable and destructive fishing practices. Declining catches, rapid population growth and a lack of alternative livelihood options has pushed traditional fishers into deepening poverty, forcing communities to resort to such practices. This has threatened not only the resilience of the fragile marine ecosystems that sustain the coastal communities, but also aggravated food security concerns. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the situation.

Women have been 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. Women in coastal communities therefore have very low levels of participation in community decision making about coastal resources and fisheries, hindering marine biodiversity conservation.

This project has made substantial progress in mitigating these concerns - through collaboration with government, local civil society organisations, industry bodies, universities and local businesses to build national and local capacity for marine conservation and sustainable fisheries management. Additionally, the project has provided direct economic incentives to coastal communities to engage in marine management and conservation, through the establishment of homestays.

## 2 Project Partnerships

Blue Ventures has collaborated with different partners throughout the project, and is confident that these relationships will endure due to identified avenues for future collaboration. As we scale up our work with additional Timorese coastal fishing communities, we will rely on our partners for their sustained, specialised support.

Our partnership with [WorldFish](#) has strengthened, with both parties identifying particular areas of work which synergise to inform our Community-based Fisheries Monitoring (CFM) programme in Timor-Leste. WorldFish was consulted during the development of the fisheries monitoring methodology, in order to ensure compatibility between the methodologies used by Blue Ventures and WorldFish and promote data sharing. WorldFish is currently working on improving nutrition in fishing communities, and integrating technology into data collection, both of which strongly supplement our work in Timor-Leste. Both Blue Ventures and WorldFish regularly ensure that any data collected is compatible with the other's work. To augment local capacity for marine resource monitoring, we trained and certified two Timorese WorldFish staff members to the Open Water Diver level over the course of this project.

[SeventyThree Ltd.](#) has continued to provide technical advice to Blue Ventures on homestays, including supporting the visit of the technical staff member responsible for the [Stay Raja Ampat](#) online booking platform, to assess the viability of the booking model in Atauro and Timor-Leste. At the same time, we also facilitated the visit of a representative from [YAPEKA](#), an Indonesian conservation NGO that is considering a homestay programme in North Sulawesi. In collaboration with SeventyThree Ltd. and the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF), we developed a homestay best practice toolkit (see supporting document 1, Homestay Toolkit) to support the replication of the homestay model with more partners in more communities, such as Beto-Tasi.

Blue Ventures launched its country programme in 2016 at the request of the Government of Timor-Leste. Our relationship with the three key ministries in Timor-Leste responsible for fisheries, tourism and environment has been actively maintained. We regularly invited the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) to attend reef and fisheries monitoring data sharing sessions, to encourage government support of marine management and ecotourism. We have had frequent meetings with the Ministry of Tourism and the village chief of Behau Fatumeta to discuss the potential for introducing diver access fees for divers and snorkelers, which could be allocated towards community development needs. Our engagement with MAF regarding the temporary reopening of the LMMA in Behau Fatumeta resulted in us being invited to the quarterly development agency meeting in Manatuto (hosted by MAF) for the first time in October 2020, and again in March 2021. Over the coming months, we intend to share key takeaways from our reef and fisheries monitoring programmes with MAF, to strengthen our working relationship and explore future possible joint activities.

As a founding member of the [Marine Tourism Association of Timor-Leste](#) (*Assosiasaun Turizmu Maritima iha Timor-Leste/ ATM-TL*), formed in April 2019, with Blue Ventures' Country Director elected to the governing body, we have helped the association to support and promote environmentally sustainable community-based tourism. The long-term goal is to ensure that tourism enterprises benefit local communities, build and develop local livelihoods and improve human well-being. We supported the proposal to designate the [Ombai-Wetar Strait](#) as a Hope Spot by [Mission Blue](#) (officially recognised in early March 2020), including a profiling of the Hope Spot on [national Timorese television](#), where our Country Director was featured (at 33:08 minutes). In collaboration with the other members of the ATM-TL, we launched the sustainable whale watching guidelines on World Oceans Day on the 8th of June 2020, at an event hosted by MAF. We also supported ATM-TL to develop a voluntary certification for tour operators to adhere to these guidelines (see supporting document 2, Press release by ATM-TL). Blue Ventures attended the national coordination meeting to determine the 2020-2023 priority programmes of the Secretariat of Fisheries and MAF on the 11th September 2020.

Working closely with the government, the Atauro Homestay Association (AHA) was registered 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 (indicator 0.1). We are also collaborating with

[ATKOMA](#) (Atauro Tourism Association) and a local NGO, Roman Luan, to develop additional tourism opportunities, such as local tours and participatory craft workshops.

In April 2019, we signed an MoU with the local conservation organisation Konservasaun Flora no Fauna ([KFF](#)) to train their members on the [Reef Check](#) snorkel-based monitoring methodology (EcoDiver). This MoU was renewed in January 2021, and three KFF members are currently receiving SCUBA dive training up to the advanced certification level (through partnership with local dive operator [Dreamers Dive Academy](#) under the Darwin COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund), to integrate with a dive-based Reef Check methodology. This will aid our long-term vision of Timorese community members becoming more empowered to monitor their reefs. In addition, we collaborated with the National University of Timor-Leste (UNTL), to provide online training on conducting the 'UNEP/ CMS standardised dugong catch/ bycatch questionnaire' to 20 selected students, to be administered in four communities on the mainland when possible. This training is ongoing.

On the 20th of December 2020, our Country Director was invited to speak at the Blu Hope '[Big Blue Day](#)' [webinar](#), co-hosted by the British High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

### 3 Project Achievements

#### 3.1 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.**

The output was fully delivered during year 1 (Y1) and Y2 of the project. Community consultations for ecotourism (Activity 1.1) were completed in Beloi before the project started, and a homestay programme involving eight households began in January 2017. Beloi Usubemasu was established as the main new ecotourism site, and Adara was selected as a satellite site (for short overnight visits for LMMA diving etc) (indicator 1.1, complete). Consultations were also carried out in Uaro-ana, but activities in the village were discontinued following lack of interest from the community who showed more interest in the establishment of an eco-resort rather than small-scale homestays.

Community consultations for natural resource management (Activity 1.2) were carried out in Beloi (approximately six consultations before the project start), Ilik-namu (seven consultations) and Behau (two consultations). Ilik-namu and Behau communities showed interest in natural resource management while Beloi showed interest in community-based natural resource monitoring. Agreements to regulate access and monitoring of *Tara Bandu* LMMAs were signed in January 2018 (see supporting document 3, Tara Bandu Agreement - Beloi, for example) between Blue Ventures and the local authorities of Vila, Beloi and Biqueli to regulate diving in their LMMAs (including paying an access fee), promoting further engagement with the communities.

Ten community members (eight women and two men) from Biqueli were trained in participatory seagrass habitat monitoring (Activity 1.3) by August 2017, and a participatory habitat assessment of Beloi and Biqueli was completed by the communities in March 2018 (indicators 1.2 and 1.3 complete, supporting document 4, Preliminary survey Map March 2018). The team mapped the seagrass meadows of Beloi and Biqueli during Y1 of the project. In Y3 we conducted four training sessions on participatory seagrass monitoring (including six new participants) and in Y4 we conducted two practice sessions to refresh their skills during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eight community members (100% women) from Ilik-namu were trained in fisheries monitoring in March 2018 (Activity 1.5) with their monitoring programme starting the same month (Activity 1.6). By July 2018, four women from Behau had completed a fisheries monitoring training programme, with monitoring starting in August 2018 (indicator 1.4, complete). The community-based fisheries monitoring team (100% women) now comprises 38 women from five

communities (Ilik-namu, Behau Fatumeta, Behau Lian-lidu, Ma'abat and Beto-Tasi), with the programme still in its developmental stages in Behau Lian-lidu and Beto-Tasi.

Data sharing sessions were regularly conducted to provide feedback to the communities (indicator 1.5, complete). In Y4, only two data sharing sessions were possible, one in Atauro and the other as part of the three-day learning exchange on LMMAs conducted in February 2021. In order to better understand the impact of COVID-19 on fisheries in Timor-Leste, particularly given disruptions in data collection, our team conducted two rounds of phone-based questionnaire surveys with respondents from the different communities we support. The results of the first and second round of surveys, conducted May to August 2020, were collated as reports, and produced as infographics in both English and Tetun (see supporting documents 5 and 6, Impact of COVID-19 infographic (July 2020 and March 2021)).

Despite COVID-19 only allowing two formal sessions in communities, we have taken every opportunity to share and discuss results and help raise awareness of the importance of reef and seagrass ecosystems during informal discussions. These have been conducted over various events with strict COVID-19 safety precautions in place. Underwater monitoring footage from Atauro was shared through 360° virtual reality (VR) goggles at a week-long tourism fair in September 2020 promoting local tourism in-country (given the decline of international tourism due to COVID-19). Members of the Beto-Tasi (Madohi) community attended a three-day event facilitated by Blue Ventures in Atauro in September 2020, to learn from the experiences of the AHA and six other ecotourism entrepreneurs. Part of this event included a 'marine conservation and natural resource management' workshop, where members from Atauro's seagrass monitoring and CFM groups were invited to share their experiences. This was followed by a brainstorming session to discuss Beto-Tasi (Madohi) marine resource use.

We are in the process of preparing two comprehensive data reports, analysing results from participatory fisheries monitoring and reef monitoring. The reports (with easy-to-understand infographics) will be shared with the wider community as a basis to make more informed decisions with regard to fisheries management, as well as with other stakeholders.

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

Output 2 was fully delivered by Y2 and Y3 of the project. In Timor-Leste, discussions about fisheries management and community-managed marine areas tend to happen at the same time, as communities are familiar with the LMMA management approach, and fisheries management measures are implemented as part of the *Tara Bandu* law that governs the LMMA.

We started working with the community of Behau in October 2017, when they asked for support with fisheries management. Between April and November 2018, extensive consultations were carried out in Behau to discuss the key fisheries and threats (Activity 2.1). The community chose to adopt fisheries management measures in two adjacent areas (see supporting document 7, Behau Ilimanu Maps) - with a temporary closure (aiming at improving invertebrate fisheries) in one area and a two-year no-take zone for all species in the other area, which were formalised in December 2018 through *Tara Bandu* law (indicator 2.1, complete). The law described the uses of the LMMA including: the temporary closure system (based on a six-month closure, followed by a three-month open season); regulations for the no-take zone (e.g. no fishing, gleaning or anchoring is allowed, but sailing is permitted); penalties for infractions (e.g. buying food for the community), and access for tourists. The two-year no-take zone was based on the concept of a previous *Tara Bandu* law dating back to before the country's colonisation, which restricted access to a very productive reef in order to improve fish populations, but the use of these laws was disrupted during Timor Leste's struggle for independence. 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 to a full two-year no-take zone for the whole area. This was based on their experiences of the first six months, when fishers' noticed an increase

in fish size.

Consultations in Ilik-namu, which started in 2017 (when the fisheries management and conservation measures were decided by the community), slowed down in 2018 due to political conflict within the community. We encountered difficulties in engaging local authorities to formalise the plan through *Tara Bandu* law. We held meetings with local authorities on the 26th of April and the 16th of May 2018, but communications slowed down until November 2018, when the need to establish marine management was raised by the community during a data sharing session (Activity 1.7). We held a meeting with the local authorities to discuss the next steps for finalising the *Tara Bandu* draft on 20th February 2019, but further discussions were stymied by continuing political conflict. This community represents some of our most active marine/ocean advocates (e.g. via the CFM groups) and we will continue to work with them within this capacity and re-engage with them about LMMA management if and when possible, but this will be beyond the scope of this project.

Community outreach events have been conducted once every six months in communities, following the establishment of participatory fisheries monitoring groups, to feed back to the communities the results of monitoring sessions (indicator 2.2, complete). In Y4 we facilitated two such sessions, combined with the data sharing sessions, where we shared the results of two rounds of questionnaires deployed in early and mid-2020 to determine the impacts of COVID-19 on small-scale fisheries in Timor-Leste. Please see supporting document 8, Community outreach events in Y4 for photographs of the events.

The data collected under the project through CFM and volunteer expeditions will provide a robust baseline from which to identify long-term trends, using previous and future monitoring data. Whilst it is very positive that the communities chose long term fisheries management interventions (no take zones as opposed to temporary closures), we need long-term datasets to fully understand the impact of these *Tara Bandu*, as their effect on fisheries and habitat take several years to become apparent and display statistically significant variances (as opposed to seasonal and/or short-term change). In addition, it was initially planned to make short-term comparisons using unfished and fished sites, to allow for earlier analysis of management effects. Unfortunately, this early comparison is not possible, as several control fished sites have now been designated as *Tara Bandu*.

Data from CFM for three *Tara Bandu* has been used in Blue Ventures organisational impact measurements, to calculate change in CPUE (catch per unit effort) for villages associated with these management interventions. A more detailed analysis of fish catch data is in draft.

We will continue to carry out data collection and analysis beyond this project, so that we can better evaluate management interventions and communities can utilise these data to better inform their management efforts.

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

Output 3 was fully completed. 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 AHA was finally completed in September 2019, after lengthy delays due to political instability (Activity 3.2). The AHA's registration was published in the Timorese government's official gazette, the 'Jornal da Republica'. 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 \$ [REDACTED] (3,876 tourist nights) to the eight households (13 members - six men and seven women) since its establishment in January 2017.

The community of Beto-Tasi (Madohi) previously approached us for assistance with homestay development after the success of our work in Beloi. Following formal discussions with the community leaders, from October 2020 we successfully supported the community in establishing 10 homestays and 10 other ecotourism businesses, such as restaurants, tour

guiding, transport services and laundry. This group will be supported in the registration process beyond the scope of this project.

Between the 17th and 19th of September 2020, we facilitated a peer-to-peer learning exchange for 20 selected families from Beto-Tasi (Madohi) to travel to Atauro and interact and learn from the AHA and six other community-based ecotourism enterprises. This included 'Rara'a Tradisional Atauro', the women's group from Biqueli supported by Blue Ventures, that offers workshops in seaweed cake making and cooking other traditional food. Members of AHA shared their experience of starting the homestay business, and what skills they had gained, including how to provide a good level of hospitality to tourists. They spoke from their experience on what activities tourists like to engage in. We also facilitated a marine conservation and natural resource management workshop (Activity 1.7) to discuss ideas around Beto-Tasi (Madohi) marine resource utilisation, as well as coordinated visits to local businesses.

Workshops were conducted with AHA and Rara'a Tradisional Atauro, with 20 people (90% women) and 10 people (90% women) in attendance respectively. Twenty homestay representatives from Beto-Tasi (90% women) were taken on a guided tour around Barry's Place (an eco-lodge on Atauro island), to gain perspective on accommodating tourists, and 10 people (90% women) met with Empreza Di'ak to learn about marketing traditional handicrafts. In October 2020, we conducted an ecotourism scoping workshop with Beto-Tasi, and 10 women and 10 men attended. Five women from AHA attended a workshop facilitated by Rara'a in December 2020, to explore a possible partnership to provide homestay guests with a curated traditional food preparation experience. We will continue to provide support to AHA, the Beto-Tasi homestay group, and Rara'a in different capacities beyond this project. Although this exchange was intended for the Beto-Tasi (Madohi) participants to learn from the communities in Atauro, the latter also identified this as an opportunity to learn from the former. We are working towards this exchange being the start of an ongoing mentoring and collaborative partnership between all communities involved. We also worked with Rara'a to develop promotional pamphlets for distribution to local and international tourists, to provide traditional food-making workshops as an ecotourism business venture for tourists staying at the homestays in Beloi (indicator 3.1, complete).

Since the start of the project, a total of 220 adults (61% female) from target communities have received training from Blue Ventures in ecotourism service provision and other income generating activities (indicator 3.2, complete).

#### **Output 4: Locally managed marine area (LMMA) established**

This output was fully delivered during the second year of the project, with the *Tara Bandu* formalisation ceremony on 12th December 2018, to delineate the boundaries of the Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) by the sinking of marker buoys in Behau Fatumeta. The community had previously marked the zones of the new LMMA using a GPS on the 5th of June 2018. Consultations on the development of a LMMA (Activity 4.1), workshops on LMMA criteria (Activity 4.3) and capacity building activities (Activity 4.2) were completed in Behau in parallel with consultations for fisheries management (indicator 4.1, complete, see supporting document 7, Behau Ilimanu Maps), as the two are both regulated by *Tara Bandu* and often implemented at the same time in Timor-Leste. The agreed measures were outlined in *Tara Bandu* law, with terms of reference outlined by the community in Behau; the area was designated as a No-Take Zone (NTZ) for two years, with its status to be reviewed in December 2020 (indicator 4.3, complete). In Y3, 36 people received training on various aspects of LMMA management (100% women) (indicator 4.2, complete). However, in July/August 2020, the community of Behau Fatumeta invited us to two community meetings to discuss emergency measures to increase income in the light of COVID-19-related developments. During these meetings, we provided technical guidance regarding the possible impacts of a temporary/early opening of the *Tara Bandu* LMMA, including possible short and long-term steps, and potential scenarios regarding the LMMA. The community decided to reopen their *Tara Bandu* LMMA for day-time fishing, and agreed that the reopening would be temporary (for six months from the 15th of September 2020). Due to restrictions on gatherings, the community in Behau Fatumeta decided to postpone the reclosing of the LMMA (originally planned for the 15th of March 2021), until it becomes possible and safe to do so.

The coordinates of the LMMA in Ilik-namu were marked on a GPS prior to the reporting period; however, due to pre-existing conflict in the community, the process of formalising the LMMA stalled in 2018. The draft management plan to formalise the Ilik-namu *Tara Bandu* is pending formal approval by community leaders.

Due to our efforts in Behau Fatumeta, the neighbouring community of Behau Lian-lidu, as well as the community of Beto-Tasi, approached us to discuss how Blue Ventures' might be able to support them with our community-based marine management approach. In Behau Lian-lidu, we held two community-wide workshops in September 2019 (32% of attendees 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) and 60 community members (15 women) attending respectively. Further informal discussions have helped to identify community priorities and measures for marine management. In September 2020, we organised a learning exchange for AHA and the Beto-Tasi homestay families, where the representatives from Beto-Tasi expressed an interest in marine management through *Tara Bandu* around their community. In February 2021 we facilitated a three-day learning exchange for representatives from nine communities we work with, which centred on the theme of LMMAs, where representatives from Beto-Tasi expressed their interest in marine management once again. We intend to carry out consultations in both these communities as soon as restrictions on gatherings are lifted.

Some training sessions to support communities to manage LMMAs were held (Activity 4.2), including: in December 2020, the all-female CFM group from Beto-Tasi received training on data collection methodologies alongside a refresher training for the group from Behau Lian-lidu, bringing the total number of women engaged in community-based fisheries monitoring to 38.

We have continued 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 Outcome

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

**Indicator 0.1 25% households in the target community have increased total household income as a result of ecotourism by end Y3, against baseline to be established by end Y1**

Since the identification of the two key sites for ecotourism activities (Beloi Usubemasu and Adara), we have focused on assisting community members to establish the homestay business in Beloi, and have provided training and continued support for other ecotourism opportunities that could boost household incomes. Following the AHA's formal registration in September 2019, ecotourists through the Blue Ventures Expeditions programme continued to support various allied businesses, including local restaurants in Beloi and Bikeli, eco-resorts in Beloi and Adara, two women's groups offering traditional Timorese food presentation and cooking workshops in Bikeli and Makili, the payment of *Tara Bandu*-governed LMMA access fees while diving, as well as additional services such as laundry, handicraft shops and kiosks and market stalls. All of these businesses have cumulatively provided economic benefits to approximately



42% of the households of the community of Beloi Suco (178 households out of 427 [Beloi Suco includes the sub-villages Adara, Usubemasu and others]). In the sub-village of Beloi Usubemasu alone, where most of our ecotourism activities are focused, an estimated 93% (133 households out of 143) benefited financially, exceeding the target (indicator 0.1, complete).

In Beloi, the homestay business has provided a total income of \$ [REDACTED] (3,876 tourist nights) to the eight households since its establishment in January 2017. The annual income increased from \$ [REDACTED] (1,192 tourist nights) in 2017, to \$ [REDACTED] (1,220 tourist nights) in 2018 and \$ [REDACTED] (961 tourist nights, mostly through independent tourist stays) in 2019, despite the community conflict preventing Blue Ventures expedition eco-tourists from staying at homestays for 15 months (August 2018-November 2019). In 2020, the annual income was \$ [REDACTED] (500 tourist nights) and in 2021 (January-March) the income was \$ [REDACTED] (3 tourist nights).

In Beto-Tasi, the newly established homestay business has provided a total income of \$ [REDACTED] (61 tourist nights) to the ten households (4.25% of households) since its establishment in October 2020.

### **Indicator 0.2 CPUE is stable in 4 monitored sites**

Based on initial analyses of fisheries data collected by female community data collectors in Behau Fatumeta, Behau Lian-lidu, Ma'abat and Ilik-namu, Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) increased each year in Behau (both Behau Fatumeta and Behau Lian-lidu data contribute to the 'Behau' data-set) from 2018 to 2020, whereas in Ilik-namu it increased from 2018 to 2019, and dropped in 2020. For Ma'abat, CPUE dropped from 2019 to 2020. It is likely that these changes are the results of COVID-19 restrictions, which limited large groups or long trips for fishing (Oates et. al., in review). Since the CFM groups were established during the course of this project, it was difficult to obtain CPUE data pre-project, and therefore these calculations are based on when the CFM groups started their data collection. Moreover, due to the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic in Y4, there were fluctuations in CPUE; CPUE will likely increase over the years, but further data are required to corroborate this (indicator 0.2, ongoing).

### **Indicator 0.3 Marine area managed/protected by communities on Atauro and the mainland increases from 1 area in Atauro in Y1 to 3 areas by end Y4**

In Behau Fatumeta, an LMMA was formalised in December 2018, establishing a temporary closure and a no-take zone, adjacent to each other, 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, ongoing). Consultations for fisheries management and another LMMA in the neighbouring community of Behau Lian-lidu, as well as in the community of Beto-Tasi, were planned during Y4, but were delayed due to the pandemic, and will be carried out beyond the project.

### **Indicator 0.4 Key biodiversity indicators (reef fish, coral, invertebrate) within locally managed/protected areas remain stable or increase by end Y4**

Based on an initial analysis of data, when grouping all fish species together, the density of fish across all surveyed sites increased significantly over the three years from 35 fish per 500m<sup>3</sup> in 2017 to 40.3 fish per 500m<sup>3</sup> in 2019. Interestingly, while the percentage of hard coral cover decreased over the years at the survey sites, the percentage of soft coral cover increased. Key invertebrate indicators such as giant clams showed an increase over the years at the survey sites (indicator 0.4, complete). The survey years considered during the data analysis were 2017, 2018 and 2019. We will be running these data through multiple analyses to ascertain the significance of these changes.

## **3.3 Monitoring of assumptions**

### **Assumption 1: Shift from fishing to ecotourism for income generation reduces the**

### **number of people dependent on fishing.**

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

### **Assumption 2: Income from fisheries management incentivises further community-based natural resource management (CBNRM)**

Comments: Assumption is still valid, as demonstrated by communities' eagerness to engage in marine management. Homestay hosts have taken part in several conservation initiatives: one AHA member was appointed the manager of a LMMA, six members have been involved in seagrass monitoring; the association has organised regular beach clean-ups and one member was instrumental in the founding of [Ekipa Tasi Mos](#), a locally-run marine debris removal movement. All participants in our project activities have shown great interest in sharing their experiences and lessons learnt with their wider community and other villages.

### **Assumption 3: 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 but have increased catch when they do fish. This served as enough evidence for the community of Behau Fatumeta to extend the timeframe of their temporary closure; though the closure was reopened during the COVID-19 pandemic, it reiterated this assumption, contributing to the food security of the community.

### **Assumption 4: 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 have shown comprehension of the importance of data to inform the management of LMMAs, as well as a desire to integrate these data into subsequent management plans.

### **Assumption 5: 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, Behau Lian-lidu, and most recently Beto-Tasi. The programmes have been praised by local authorities, community members and government representatives as a useful tool to inform marine management.

### **Assumption 6: 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, 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 extent of financial benefits deriving 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 for longer-term management.

### **Assumption 7: 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 continued to affect progress with that community.

**Assumption 8: A site exists in Timor-Leste that can provide both the requirements for ecotourists (eg. infrastructure, diving, safety) and also a nearby community that is keen to participate in provision of accommodation and services**

Comments: Assumption is still valid. Evidenced by the selection of Beloi as a site.

**Assumption 9: Blue Ventures can maintain the number of tourists currently joining ecotourism expeditions in Timor-Leste**

Comments: Assumption held true until Y3. Tourist numbers to our expeditions were higher in Y3 than Y2, despite tourism challenges in Timor-Leste generally (see Assumption 10), due to our efforts to increase our marketing and diversify the ecotourism packages. However, COVID-19 began to impact this from March 2020. Our expeditions programme was made dormant from April 2020 onwards, and this is the status quo at the time of writing this report.

**Assumption 10: Timor-Leste continues to be a safe and attractive destination for ecotourists to visit**

Comments: Assumption held partially true. While destination marketing of Timor-Leste's tourism operators has become more coordinated through the establishment of industry bodies, such as the Marine Tourism Association, 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 have discouraged international tourism numbers from increasing. Our ecotourism initiatives have also been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, due to severe restrictions on international travel into Timor-Leste. However, these conditions have fostered the growth of the domestic ecotourism sector, and we are hopeful this sector will continue to grow post-pandemic.

**Assumption 11: 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).

**Assumption 12: Legislation and policies in Timor-Leste do not change, and the legal provision for allowing locally-led marine resource management is maintained**

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

### **3.4 Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty alleviation**

**Impact statement:** The livelihoods of coastal communities in Timor-Leste are improved and diversified through effective local management of inshore coastal resources and alternative livelihoods.

The activities conducted by Blue Ventures during the grant period through both its Expeditions and conservation programmes on Atauro and mainland Timor-Leste have contributed significantly to ameliorating the livelihoods of coastal small-scale fishing communities. Expedition eco-tourists not only contributed through direct financial support to communities via

volunteer spending, but also created a market for the provision of ecotourism and allied services. The largely untapped potential of domestic ecotourism became apparent in Y4 of the grant, promising a sustained market for alternative livelihoods through ecotourism.

On Atauro, the homestay programme has generated a net income of \$ [REDACTED] for 3,876 overnight stays since 2017 (see details/breakdown above in Outcome section, indicator 0.1). After the registration of AHA, and increased visibility at events in Dili (such as the USAID 'Tourism Fair and Expo' in September 2020), we are confident that the homestay families will be able to tap into the domestic tourism market in the current absence of international tourists. This will also be aided by the online booking platform for homestays that we will develop after this project. On the mainland, the community of Beto-Tasi, where homestays were established during the pandemic, through which a net income of \$ [REDACTED] has been generated so far, will also benefit from this online platform.

Diving activities during the Expeditions programme have supported the LMMAs around Atauro, through the payment of *Tara Bandu* access fees of [REDACTED] per dive per LMMA, generating a total income of \$ [REDACTED] since the start of the project (\$ [REDACTED] in Y4, \$ [REDACTED] in Y3, \$ [REDACTED] in Y2, \$ [REDACTED] in Y1). The project team worked alongside the community of Behau on mainland Timor-Leste to establish an LMMA, thereby contributing towards biodiversity conservation in the Coral Triangle region. Through sustained training on participatory monitoring of fisheries and marine habitats, we have strived to provide communities with a scientific basis for marine management measures. We have regularly conducted data sharing, feedback and outreach sessions to present a real-time view of the status of marine ecosystems around Atauro, for community members to make informed decisions regarding marine resources. CFM and seagrass group members have regularly spoken at these sessions, reaffirming the importance of this data collection to communities. The COVID-19 pandemic provided us the impetus to shift from international expedition volunteers collecting ecological data, to empowering community members and Timorese youth to be trained in, and thus drive data collection efforts. In December 2020, the CFM group from Beto-Tasi was established and received initial training in fisheries monitoring, and we are currently training three KFF members in the SCUBA-based Reef Check methodology.

## **4 Contribution to Darwin Initiative Programme Objectives**

### **4.1 Contribution to Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)**

**SDG1 - No poverty.** The project made significant progress towards the economic development of small-scale fishing communities. The ecotourism initiatives have contributed to poverty alleviation: the expeditions provided income to the local community and supported several LMMAs through diver/snorkeler access fees, and the Atauro Homestay Association (AHA) has continued to host tourists and provide income for eight households. The Beto-Tasi homestay programme is also gaining traction. We have also explored other alternative livelihood opportunities, such as making seaweed cake, breadmaking and weaving, supporting the all-women local group in Biqueli (Rara'a) to cater to local tourists.

**SDG3 - Zero hunger.** We worked with fishing-dependent coastal communities to establish sustainable fisheries management through LMMAs, promoting long-term food security. In Behau, the goal is to rebuild fisheries and promote food security. During Y3 we continued to hold community consultations in Behau Lian-lidu, Behedan, Beto-Tasi (Madohi), Behau Fatumeta, and Ilik-namu to support the development of sustainable fisheries management measures to contribute to food security. In Y4, Behau Fatumeta decided to reopen their LMMA ahead of time, to address food security issues.

**SDG5 - Gender equality.** (Refer to section 4.4, Project support to gender equality issues). Promoting gender equity has been a priority in all our activities ranging from ecotourism, alternative livelihoods, community consultations plus participatory fisheries and habitat monitoring. 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. We have continued 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, have supported the management of existing LMMAs and the establishment of new marine management measures, such as the *Tara Bandu*-governed LMMA in Behau.

#### **4.2 Project support to the Conventions or Treaties (e.g. CBD, Nagoya Protocol, ITPGRFA, CITES, Ramsar, CMS, UNFCCC)**

The project contributed to the three main objectives of the CBD, specifically Articles 6, 8, 10, and 11. The project focused on a participatory approach to marine resource management (articles 7 and 8), creating space for community-led stewardship and conservation of critically important marine ecosystems, and ensured that communities are able to derive benefits from biodiversity (articles 6, 10, 11 and 14).

We promoted full participation of communities to establish and maintain a marine protected area in line with decision VII/28 on protected areas, aligning with the Programme of Work on Marine Biodiversity. 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. Data from the fisheries and seagrass monitoring programmes, and from the expedition's reef monitoring programme (now solely Timorese-led and undertaken), have supported 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, low-income communities are able to benefit sustainably from biodiversity; helping Timor-Leste achieve CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets 6, 10, 11 and 14.

The project contributed to the CMS through the training of the 20 UNTL students on the dugong survey methodology. While still a non-party to the CMS, Timor-Leste is a [signatory](#) to the Dugong MoU.

#### **4.3 Project support to poverty alleviation**

We focused on encouraging small-scale fishing families to diversify their income by exploring alternative livelihoods, such as the establishment of a successful homestay association, AHA, in Atauro, and a similar homestay setup in Beto-Tasi. The homestay programme provides indirect benefits to restaurants, handicraft shops and kiosks. We developed community-led activities for ecotourists that helped to increase economic benefits including: making seaweed cakes, breadmaking and weaving.

#### **4.4 Gender equality**

The patriarchal structure of male dominance in Timorese society has meant that women have historically not had fair and equal representation and participation in community decision-making. We have endeavoured to ensure that women participate in multiple initiatives, thereby creating a space for the promotion of gender equity and equality in ecotourism activities, alternative livelihoods and community consultations. We prioritised women in all our participatory monitoring activities, which have provided valuable avenues for the development of leadership skills, increasing standing within their communities, and an overall movement towards gender equality through increased visibility. The AHA board comprises 13 members, predominantly women (six men and seven women). The seven women continued to grow in confidence, and so leadership in running the business, as well as taking a more active role in community meetings. Out of the ten Beto-Tasi homestays, established in 2020, seven of them have officially nominated a woman from their household to take primary responsibility for the operation of their homestay business. Additionally, the homestay families together with the community leaders nominated a woman to hold the position of coordinator for the homestays.

We supported an additional eight women to improve the format of their food and craft workshops for tourists through increased participation and utilisation of tourist feedback. We have observed greater levels of confidence in these women in their interactions with tourists and a sense of pride and self-worth by generating income on their own merit.

To actively work against traditionally low participation rates of women in *Tara Bandu* and other community consultations, our monitoring work has prioritised the participation of 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 83% respectively), which have been mentioned as a source of pride by local authorities. This is a promising sign that the programme has had a positive impact on the status of women 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 in a peer-to-peer exchange in Atauro, where 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 Lian-lidu 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 Lian-lidu, made up of eight women, who, along with the newly established CFM group in Beto-Tasi, received training on participatory monitoring methods in December 2020. Currently, 50 community members (48 of whom are women) are engaged in participatory fisheries and habitat monitoring (Output 1) as a way to empower communities to manage their own marine resources. Due to social norms, the representation of women has varied from meeting to meeting. However, women's attendance in workshops and meetings is generally higher now than it was earlier in the project, and we attribute this increase to the women-only CFM groups.

Owing to the increased visibility of the CFM groups in their respective communities, women have also attended important government-level meetings, such as the quarterly MAF meeting in Manatuto district in March 2021. CFM group members have also consistently spoken about their work at community data sharing meetings and learning exchanges.

Our Timorese female Dive and Scientist Assistant, who is the first 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. She has gained the respect of communities both in Atauro and the mainland. She was also promoted internally to the role of Community Liaison Officer which, as the face of Blue Ventures in the community, has further empowered her to be a female role model to Timorese youth, especially young women. An independent filmmaker has produced a [short documentary](#) about her achievements in a patriarchal society. She is currently further developing her skills, by training to become Timor Leste's first Timorese Reef Check EcoDiver Trainer.

#### 4.5 Programme indicators

- **Did the project lead to greater representation of local poor people in management structures of biodiversity?**

Yes, the project amplified their representation in structures of biodiversity management by:

- Contributing to the development and formalisation of the *Tara Bandu*-protected LMMA in Behau Fatumeta
- The formation and continued activities of the all-women CFM groups and the seagrass monitoring group
- The establishment of AHA and the Beto-Tasi homestay groups deriving income from ecotourism activities and therefore focusing on marine conservation and management

- Increasing their visibility in high-level meetings and discussions on marine management measures, as well as in outreach events as speakers.

- **Were any management plans for biodiversity developed and were these formally accepted?**

Yes, the management plan for the *Tara Bandu*-protected LMMA was developed and formally agreed on by the community in Behau Fatumeta.

- **Were they participatory in nature or were they ‘top-down’? How well represented are the local poor, including women, in any proposed management structures?**

All management plans have been developed by the communities we worked with, based on their fishing needs. Though patriarchal regimes still dominate the small-scale communities in Timor-Leste, the communities have expressed pride in their women being involved in fisheries and habitat monitoring, and local women from communities we work with have continued to increase their social standing within their communities.

- **How did the project positively influence household (HH) income and how many HHs saw an increase?**

The project led to a percentage increase of 368.33% against the baseline established in Y1, and impacted an estimated 212 households.

- **How much did their HH income increase (e.g. x% above baseline, x% above national average)? How was this measured?**

HH income increased by 368.33% above the baseline and by an estimated 127.3% above the national average. The Household Income change during this project was measured by estimating the number of beneficiaries from project activities and calculating their income through these aforementioned activities. This was then tallied against the baseline established in Y1, and against census data to calculate the comparison against the national average.

#### **4.5 Transfer of knowledge**

The Darwin project has provided a platform for the development of various skill-sets within the communities we worked with. Most of these have been achieved through training sessions which did not result in formal qualifications, but did result in an increased development of capacity, which continue to be shared with other communities and partners through knowledge-exchange and learning sessions. Following our organisational ethos of ‘Communities First’, we have focused on any knowledge transfer at the community-level first and foremost. In addition, please note the SCUBA diving training qualifications gained below.

#### **4.6 Capacity building**

The project has contributed to the increased standing of women in the communities we work with, through the community-based habitat and fisheries monitoring programmes. CFM members have spoken at various events facilitated by Blue Ventures, thereby developing confidence in public speaking and leadership. CFM group members have also been involved in governmental meetings such as the quarterly meeting held by MAF at Manatuto in March 2021, and being involved in pre-consultations for the development of a National Fisheries Strategy in Timor-Leste.

Given the focus of our work on marine management and conservation, we have endeavoured to provide formal SCUBA training to partners and other Timorese nationals. One Timorese WorldFish employee (male) was trained to the PADI Open Water level in 2018, and two WorldFish employees (including the previous employee, both male) received training to the PADI Advanced Open Water level in 2019. Three male members of KFF received training up to SDI Open Water in March 2021.

The project has also contributed to the increased capacity of Timorese Blue Ventures staff, both through training as well as through promotions (and increased work portfolios) over time. Two staff (1 female, 1 male) have transitioned from Dive & Science Assistant to Community

Liaison Officer, one staff (male) has transitioned from Administrative Assistant to Conservation Officer to most recently Conservation Coordinator, and one staff (male) has transitioned from Community Conservation Coordinator to Community Conservation & Operations Coordinator to Operations Manager (and Acting Country Manager on occasion). Two staff members (1 female, 1 male) have been trained to PADI Divemaster level, with one of them being Timor Leste's first female Divemaster.

## 5 Sustainability and Legacy

Throughout the project, discussion on the project aims continued with local authorities and communities on Atauro and mainland Timor-Leste, promoting local support that will ultimately ensure sustainability. Evidence of this is that in Y3, three communities on the mainland (Behau Lian-lidu, Madohi and Behedan) approached us for assistance with managing their marine ecosystem and exploring alternative livelihood opportunities through ecotourism (Outputs 2 and 3), and we successfully helped establish homestay and ecotourism businesses in one of these communities in Y4 (Beto-Tasi, Madohi). We anticipate that this trend will spread along the northern coast of Timor-Leste as other communities learn about the benefits of marine resource monitoring, LMMAs and ecotourism initiatives and we are supporting peer-to-peer learning where possible. Under the Darwin COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund, in February 2021, in a first-of-its-kind learning exchange, representatives from nine communities we work/partner with gathered in Beto-Tasi for a three-day learning session focused on LMMAs, to share learning and best practices for *Tara Bandu* management in Timor-Leste. We are certain that this is an important step towards long-term sustainability and local ownership of initiatives.

The project team has continued to support existing and new partnerships, reaching out to both international and local organisations, thereby raising the profile of the project in Timor-Leste. 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 Marine Tourism Association of Timor-Leste.

The project prioritised 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), intensive training of a 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 completed Reef Check training and achieved Eco Diver certification in July 2019, which makes him the third local staff member to obtain this certification. Our Community Liaison Officer, the country's first female PADI Divemaster, is currently undergoing her training to become a Reef Check EcoDiver Trainer.

The AHA's formal registration was a significant step towards its goal of independence. We have continued to support the homestays with marketing efforts in Y4 in order to continue promoting tourism independently of Blue Ventures, diversifying the customer base and building resilience..

## 6 Lessons learned

One of the most important things we have learnt during the project is that engagement with communities needs time and patience. Resolution needs to be created from within the community, rather than through external mediation. This was our experience with AHA and certain community members who were not able to join the association. Since the formal registration of the AHA, this conflict has subsided and we were able to investigate opportunities for expanding the homestay model to other communities such as Beto-Tasi, while still supporting the development of the AHA.

We learnt that it is better to begin work with a small pilot (rather than grandiose plans), to foster community ownership and stewardship, and allow for the gradually increasing engagement of community members. Over the course of the past three years, the AHA has become more autonomous, proposing ideas for conservation activities, marketing and business



improvements. With these lessons in mind, we are more aware of community dynamics in Timor-Leste 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. Taking a new approach since Y3 and continuing in Y4, we have informed community chiefs of every activity, but not required them to take part. This has worked well for us so far.

The global COVID-19 pandemic in Y4 forced us to stop, reassess and change certain aspects of our project delivery, as detailed in section 8. However, we are confident that these decisions have paved the way for a more sustainable collaboration with the communities we work with.

## **6.1 Monitoring and evaluation**

The core principle of adaptive management underlies Blue Ventures' project activities, 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 is referred 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. The indicators provided in the project proposal are outlined in the logframe. These were largely 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 quickly to temporary closures. However, communities have implemented no-take-zones, which contribute to conservation targets. Participatory monitoring (habitat and fisheries) has proven 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 could collect the necessary data needed to work towards achieving the project outcome of reducing fishing pressure and protecting priority biodiversity areas in Timor-Leste and using these data to inform decisions. For the homestay programme, we monitored the total number of nights provided to AHA, 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 continue to investigate how these monitoring plans and systems might change in the future, especially following the life of this project, and are currently in the process of developing indicators to measure the social impact of our work.

See also the logframe change request submitted in July 2020.

## **6.2 Actions taken in response to annual report reviews**

The reviewers made some comments following the Y3 annual report which we addressed in Y4 (there were no outstanding queries from previous annual reviews). The question to be answered in the next annual report is below and the remaining comments are in supporting document 9, Actions taken in response to annual report reviews.

### **Was a fishery management pilot project for one target fishery completed by end of Year 3 (Output 2.1)?**

We started working with the community of Behau in October 2017 (Y1), when they asked for support with fisheries management. Following extensive consultations, the community selected grouper, tuna, fusilier, lobster and cuttlefish as the key species to focus on (Activity 2.2), and

chose to adopt fisheries management measures in the form of a temporary closure (aiming at improving invertebrate fisheries, such as octopus and cuttlefish) and a two-year no-take zone for all species, which were formalised and piloted in December 2018 (Y2) through *Tara Bandu* law.

## 7 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 Blue Ventures' activities funded by the Darwin Initiative. In addition, we have presented project findings at various conferences, which has also enabled us to promote the Darwin Initiative.

This project references the Darwin Initiative when publicising major project accomplishments. The Darwin Initiative is listed on our [partner's page](#) and acknowledged in all blogs (see publication list in Annex 5).

On social media, Blue Ventures regularly tweets updates on the status of the Timor-Leste project, showcasing the project's day-to-day work and the island's incredible biodiversity. The Blue Ventures twitter account has over 9,000 followers, and is a primary communication tool with the public.

## 8 Impact of COVID-19 on project delivery

The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged us to adapt our approaches to community-led marine conservation and ecotourism in Timor-Leste. However, this has reaffirmed our overall approach of 'community first' and encouraged us to focus on avenues for bolstering and developing Timorese leadership.

An initial State of Emergency was announced in the country on the 27th of March 2020, resulting in the closure of international borders and strict restrictions imposed on gathering and travel throughout the country. Subsequent restrictions have been less strict, but borders have largely remained closed. While the country only began reporting cases of community transmission of the virus from 2021, the impact on the economy and food security has been severe. Then in March 2021, a 'sanitary fence' and mandatory home confinement was [mandated](#) in the Municipality of Dili from the 8th to 15th of March 2021 (later [extended to the 2nd of April 2021](#)). This significantly affected planned activities in March, and coupled with the [ongoing State of Emergency](#), meant that the in-country team were unable to travel to community sites as needed (see the impact in section 9.1). The true long-term implications of COVID-19 will become apparent as work continues. The impacts in relation to various areas are detailed below.

### Fisheries

Global fish consumption decreased due to the reduced presence of international buyers. In general, fish prices decreased, which led to a reduced income for fishers (fish prices subsequently increased as demand continued to reduce). Government restrictions on fishing activities further impacted the fisheries sector.

To determine the effects of the pandemic on fisheries in Timor-Leste, our team conducted questionnaire-based surveys via phone in Beloi, Biqueli (Pala and Ilik-namu), Manatuto (Behau and Ma'abat) and Dili. The results of the first and second round of surveys, conducted between April and August 2020, have been collated into two infographics (see supporting documents 5 and 6, Impacts of COVID-19 infographics) and translated into Tetun for the communities.

In response to the pandemic and to address concerns of food security, the community in Behau Fatumeta decided to reopen their *Tara Bandu* LMMA for day-time fishing, and agreed that the

reopening would be temporary (for six months from 15th of September). Plans to close the LMMA in March 2021 were delayed due to restrictions on travel and gatherings of people.

Various planned consultations with communities and in-person check-ins with the CFM groups needed to be conducted over telephone.

## Tourism

In the absence of international tourism, and our own eco-tourism expeditions, we adjusted our activities to focus on national tourism. We supported existing ecotourism groups (such as AHA, the Beto-Tasi group and Rara'a) to promote themselves as part of the 'Hau Nia Timor-Leste' campaign that launched in September 2020 and has been ongoing since then - a large-scale campaign currently rolled out nationwide targeting domestic tourism. We are confident we can refocus ecotourism to a wider international market once the impacts have subsided. The reduction of international volunteers to carry out coral reef monitoring encouraged us to transition to an entirely community-led and -focused data collection programme, and to train more community members in scuba diving and underwater reef monitoring to enable greater sustainability and community ownership of the monitoring going forward.

## Team in Timor-Leste

With restrictions and our responsibility to follow safe practices, we needed to carry out extra planning for field activities. For example, we duplicated meetings in the same day (with the same agenda) to keep group sizes low, which resulted in our team having a very high workload, but allowed for more active participation via smaller groups.

All expatriate staff were repatriated in March 2020. The Country Manager gained permission to return to the country in October 2020, and the Livelihoods Manager returned in March 2021. However, the remaining two expatriate staff have continued to support the team remotely from their countries of origin.

## 9 Finance and administration

### 9.1 Project expenditure

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2020/21 Grant (£)	2020/21 Total actual 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)				
Others (see below)				
<b>TOTAL</b>				

\* Due to the lockdown happening unexpectedly in the last month we did not have time to ask for an amendment. We apologize for the inconvenience

<b>Staff employed (Name and position)</b>	<b>Cost (£)</b>
Jenny House (Monitoring and Evaluation Lead)	
Asiem Sanyal (Science Manager)	
Stephanie Rowbottom (Livelihoods Manager)	
Dedy Martins (Conservation Coordinator)	
Jemima Gomes (Community Liaison Officer)	
Armindo Marques (Community Liaison Officer)	
Oldegar Soares (Operations Manager)	
Cristina Torres (Operations and Administration Officer)	
Filip Wieckowski (Conservation Manager)	
Richard Nimmo (Director of People Operations)	
Al Harris (Executive Director)	
<b>TOTAL</b>	

<b>Capital items – description</b>	<b>Capital items – cost (£)</b>
Laptop - HP Notebook 15.6" Core i5/8/256 GB 13 x Oppo cell phones	
<b>TOTAL</b>	

<b>Other items – description</b>	
1.Translation of documents 2.Subscriptions and course (Including language, photography) 3.Hand sanitisers, masks, soap, cleaning 4.Non capital office equipment (including flash drives, laptop stands, fans, chairs) 5.Office consumables 6.Printing 7.Bank charges 8.Small field equipment (including rope, buckets) 9.Job advertisements 10.Medical fees	
<b>TOTAL</b>	

## 9.2 Additional funds or in-kind contributions secured

<b>Source of funding for project lifetime</b>	<b>Total (£)</b>
Wilstar	
GEF	
<b>TOTAL</b>	

Source of funding for additional work after project lifetime	Total (£)
Wilstar	
The Darwin Initiative	
<b>TOTAL</b>	

### 9.3 Value for Money

The project has maintained the value for money principle promised at the proposal stage via focusing on local suppliers and staff and ensuring community-based approaches that are proven to be cost effective and support local ownership.

The COVID-19 pandemic has only increased this aspect as we have moved towards more virtual delivery approaches and further developed national capacity building and staff responsibility (as detailed in the above sections).

The main focuses of the project are sustainable fisheries management and long term means of livelihood diversification for communities, creating micro-enterprises that will collectively raise funding that will eventually exceed the original project budget and last long into the future.

### 10 OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

I agree for the Darwin Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here)

Women fulfil various roles within Timor-Leste's fisheries sector, including fishing and postharvest activities. Despite the valuable contribution that women's fishing activities make to food security and livelihoods, their role within the fisheries sector is often overlooked. In the recent past, there have been efforts to document the nature and value of women's fishing activities in Timor-Leste. Awareness of women's fishing activities is an essential part of overcoming marginalisation of women within the small-scale fisheries sector, but increasing women's participation in management activities and decision-making is also needed.

Participatory monitoring is one tool in CFM which can enhance engagement and enable people to make informed decisions, and can be an empowering process in itself. Participatory monitoring can enable community members to respond to their own interests and concerns through several parts of the monitoring process; from collecting, analysing and understanding data, through to decision-making. Just as women are overlooked in fisheries management, fisheries monitoring programmes often overlook gender dimensions of fisheries management. Fisheries monitoring programmes which involve women mainly focus on management of women's fishing activities. However, acting as data collectors within community-based fisheries monitoring can be an opportunity for women to have a voice in fisheries management decisions which impact their community, even if the fisheries are male-dominated.

This project has made significant progress in this regard, by working with communities to establish four CFM groups (with a fifth one in training). Our CFM group members are all women (38 currently), and the monitoring work undertaken by them as part of their CFM activities has significantly contributed to their increased credibility within their communities, with CFM group members having been invited to key stakeholder meetings at both community and governmental levels. Although patriarchal regimes within the small-scale fisheries sector in Timor-Leste still persist, this is a very important initial step towards dismantling those hierarchies

## Annex 1 Project’s original (or most recently approved) logframe, including indicators, means of verification and assumptions.

Note: Insert your full logframe. If your logframe was changed since your Stage 2 application and was approved by a Change Request the newest approved version should be inserted here, otherwise insert the Stage 2 logframe.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<b>Impact: The livelihoods of coastal communities in Timor-Leste are improved and diversified through effective local management of inshore coastal resources and alternative livelihoods.</b>			
<p><b>Outcome: Reducing fishing pressure and protecting priority biodiversity areas in Timor-Leste through community-based marine resource management and sustainable alternative livelihoods benefiting 9,000 people in coastal communities.</b></p>	<p><b>0.1</b> 25% households in target community have increased total household income as a result of ecotourism by end Y3, against baseline to be established end Y1.</p> <p><b>0.2</b> CPUE is stable in 4 monitored sites.</p> <p><b>0.3</b> Marine area managed/protected by communities on Atauro and the mainland of Timor-Leste increases from 1 area in Atauro in Y1 to 3 areas by end Y4.</p> <p><b>0.4</b> Key biodiversity indicators (reef fish, coral, invertebrate) within locally managed/protected areas remain stable or increase by end Y4.</p>	<p><b>0.1a</b> Household income surveys conducted pre- (Y1) and post-ecotourism development (Y4);</p> <p><b>0.1b</b> Data from ecotourists documenting average spend per week on Atauro, collected via feedback surveys every 6 weeks.</p> <p><b>0.2</b> Participatory fisheries landings.</p> <p><b>0.3</b> Documents formalising Taru Bandu and/or community endorsed zoning/delimitation maps.</p> <p><b>0.4a</b> Surveys of fish diversity (SpR/SDI) and/or fish biomass (kg/ha) protected within managed areas.</p> <p><b>0.4b</b> Surveys of benthic diversity (% cover of key benthic groups) within managed areas.</p> <p><b>0.4c</b> Surveys of invertebrate indicator species density 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 number of people fishing, but allow people to fish less and catch more.</p>

<p><b>Outputs:</b></p> <p><b>1.</b> 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><b>1.1</b> At least 1 site for CBNRM and ecotourism activities identified by end of Y1.</p> <p><b>1.2</b> At least 10 community members (≥50% women) trained in participatory ecological assessment methods by end Y1 Q1.</p> <p><b>1.3</b> Participatory habitat status assessment completed by communities by end Y1 Q2.</p> <p><b>1.4</b> At least 10 community members (≥50% women) trained in fisheries monitoring procedures by end of Y1.</p> <p><b>1.5</b> Communities are conducting ongoing participatory ecological and fisheries monitoring, including quarterly feedback to community leaders and managers by end of Y2.</p>	<p><b>1.1</b> Site selection matrix based on information gathered; selection of sites verified through ongoing activities.</p> <p><b>1.2</b> Record of completion of training in methods photos / participation lists from training sessions)</p> <p><b>1.3</b> Participatory habitat status assessment survey database and summary results.</p> <p><b>1.4</b> Record of completion of training in methods photos / participation lists from training sessions)</p> <p><b>1.5a</b> Resource monitoring database.</p> <p><b>1.5b</b> 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><b>2.</b> Locally-led fisheries management measures piloted and continued by communities</p>	<p><b>2.1</b> Fisheries management measures (e.g. periodic fishing site closures), decided by the target local community in Y2, piloted by end Y3.</p> <p><b>2.2</b> Community outreach events held at least twice a year, to give feedback of participatory monitoring and results of local resource management.</p>	<p><b>2.1a</b> Minutes and documents from meetings on community decisions.</p> <p><b>2.1b</b> Management Plan documenting management measures, map of closure area(s)/ calendar of seasonal restrictions.</p> <p><b>2.1c</b> 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>

		<b>2.2</b> Photos of community events and sessions.	
<b>3.</b> Community members are trained and employed in ecotourism activities.	<p>3.1 New locally owned ecotourism services (e.g. homestay services) are established in 1 target community (12 families) (Beloi) in Timor-Leste by end Y1, and in 2 further communities by end Y3.</p> <p>3.2 220 adult attendees from target communities (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><b>3.1</b> Contracts and MoUs with target community to provide ecotourism facilities and provisions.</p> <p><b>3.2a</b> Census data to establish number of people in population.</p> <p><b>3.2b</b> Photographs from training workshops and exchange trip to Raja Ampat.</p> <p><b>3.2c</b> Photos / participation lists from training sessions.</p>	<p>A site exists in Timor-Leste 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.</p> <p>Blue Ventures can maintain the number of tourists currently joining ecotourism expeditions in Timor-Leste.</p> <p>Timor-Leste continues to be a safe and attractive destination for ecotourists to visit.</p>
<b>4.</b> 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 Timor-Leste 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>4.1a Meeting minutes, and attendance record sheets from village meetings.</p> <p>4.1b Census data to establish number of people in population.</p> <p>4.2a Training attendance sheets (include gender).</p> <p>4.2b Copies of training documents, materials and participant assessments.</p> <p>4.3 Management plans/documentation formalising establishment of LMMA through Tara Bandu.</p>	<p>Incentives from improved local fisheries management and new income from ecotourism promote further local marine natural resource management.</p> <p>Legislation and policies in Timor-Leste do not change, and the legal provision for allowing locally-led marine resource management is maintained.</p>



**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).

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.

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 (eg. 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.

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.
- 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. 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 (eg. 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 2 Report of progress and achievements against final project logframe for the life of the project

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements
<p><b>Impact:</b></p> <p><b>The livelihoods of coastal communities in Timor-Leste are improved and diversified through effective local management of inshore coastal resources and alternative livelihoods.</b></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 mainland Timor-Leste. Through 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 Lian-lidu, Beto-Tasi (Madohi) and Behedan) approached us for assistance with managing their marine ecosystem and exploring alternative livelihood opportunities through ecotourism during the grant period. Consultations with Behau Lian-lidu began in September 2019, but we could not continue them in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Consultations with Beto-Tasi and Behedan, planned for Y4, are now to be conducted after the grant period. We continued to support the community of Ilik-namu (on Atauro) to establish a LMMA and implement fisheries regulations, and we supported the community of Behau Fatumeta (on the mainland) to manage its LMMA, which was established in December 2018, especially during the pandemic, when the community decided to reopen it.</p> <p>To date, 50 community members (48 of which are women) have engaged in participatory fisheries and habitat monitoring (Output 1), which has empowered them to manage their marine resources. This included a new fisheries monitoring group of eight female data collectors in Beto-Tasi, who are currently undergoing monitoring training alongside the group from Behau Lian-lidu.</p> <p>Atauro Homestay Association (AHA) was formally registered as a homestay business in Beloi for ecotourists, and we provided support to improve its marketing. Beto-Tasi was established as a second homestay site in Y4.</p>
<p><b>Outcome Reducing fishing pressure and protecting priority biodiversity areas in Timor-Leste through community-based marine resource management and sustainable alternative livelihoods benefiting 9,000 people in coastal communities.</b></p>	<p><b>0.1</b> 25% households in target community have increased total household income as a result of ecotourism by end Y3, against baseline to be established end Y1.</p> <p><b>0.2</b> CPUE is stable in 4 monitored sites.</p>	<p><b>0.1</b> In Atauro, our main focus was the ecotourism site of Beloi Usubemasu with Adara as a ‘satellite’ site and other tourism related income going to Beto-Tasi (Madohi), Vila and Biqueli communities.</p> <p>In Beloi, the homestay business has generated a total income of \$ [REDACTED] (3,876 tourist nights) to the eight households since January 2017.</p> <p>Ecotourism activities have economically benefited approximately 178 (42%) households in Beloi and 10 households across Beto-Tasi (see section 3.3 of this report for more information).</p> <p>Diving activities have supported the LMMAs around Atauro, through the payment of Tara Bandu access fees of \$1 [REDACTED] per dive per LMMA, generating a total income of \$ [REDACTED] since the start of the project.</p>

	<p><b>0.3</b> Marine area managed/protected by communities on Atauro and the mainland of Timor-Leste increases from 1 area in Atauro in Y1 to 3 areas by end Y4.</p> <p><b>0.4</b> Key biodiversity indicators (reef fish, coral, invertebrate) within locally managed/protected areas remain stable or increase by end Y4.</p>	<p><b>0.2</b> Based on initial analyses of fisheries data collected by female community-data collectors in different communities, Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) increased each year in Behau from 2018 to 2020, whereas in Ilik-namu it increased from 2018 to 2019, and dropped in 2020. For Ma'abat, CPUE dropped from 2019 to 2020. It is likely that these changes are the result of COVID-19 restrictions, which limited fishing in groups or via long trips. It is expected that CPUE will stabilise over time, but this will likely be beyond the life of this project.</p> <p><b>0.3</b> On the mainland, one LMMA, including regulations for fisheries management, was established in Behau Fatumeta in Y2. In Ilik-namu, a draft of the <i>Tara Bandu</i> legislation that would establish an LMMA was drafted with the community but is still pending final formalisation.</p> <p><b>0.4</b> Participatory monitoring of 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 Beto-Tasi. Based on an initial analysis of data, when grouping all fish species together, the density of fish across all surveyed sites increased significantly over the three years from 35 fish per 500m<sup>3</sup> in 2017 to 40.3 fish per 500m<sup>3</sup> in 2019. The percentage of soft coral cover increased (12.9% in 2017 to 16.5% in 2019) and key invertebrate indicators such as giant clams increased over the years at the survey sites.</p>
<p><b>Output 1.</b> 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><b>1.1</b> At least 1 site for CBNRM and ecotourism activities identified by end of Y1.</p> <p><b>1.2</b> At least 10 community members (≥50% women) trained in participatory</p>	<p><b>Output 1 was achieved by the end of Y2 and some activities remain continuous.</b></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 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><b>1.1 Complete and previously reported on</b></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 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><b>1.2 Complete and ongoing</b></p> <p>In Y2, eleven operators (72% women) from Beloi and Biqueli were trained in seagrass mapping and monitoring, based on the <a href="#">Seagrass Watch</a> methodology. Over the course of Y3, we trained six new seagrass monitors and four seagrass</p>

	<p>ecological assessment methods by end Y1 Q1.</p> <p><b>1.3</b> Participatory habitat status assessment completed by communities by end Y1 Q2.</p> <p><b>1.4</b> At least 10 community members (≥50% women) trained in fisheries monitoring procedures by end of Y1.</p> <p><b>1.5</b> Communities are conducting ongoing participatory ecological and fisheries monitoring, including quarterly feedback to community leaders and managers by end of Y2.</p>	<p>monitoring training sessions took place to refresh the operator’s monitoring skills. Currently, the seagrass monitoring group comprises 12 members (83% women, no. = 10). In 2019, we started training five members and volunteers of the local conservation organisation Konservasaun Flora no Fauna (KFF) in the <a href="#">Reef Check</a> snorkel-based monitoring methodology. In 2021, we started training three members of KFF in the Reef Check SCUBA-based monitoring methodology, which is ongoing.</p> <p><b>1.3 Complete</b></p> <p>Seagrass meadows covering 6km of coast were mapped using the Seagrass Watch methodology between 2017 and 2018.</p> <p><b>1.4 Complete and ongoing</b></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 monitoring group of eight female data collectors was established in Behau Lian-lidu in January 2020, and a new monitoring group of eight women data collectors was established in Beto-Tasi in December 2020. The total number of female fisheries data collectors is now 38.</p> <p><b>1.5 Complete and ongoing</b></p> <p>Fisheries monitoring takes place several times a week in Ilik-namu, Behau Fatumeta and Ma’abat, and the seagrass monitoring group held two practice sessions during this reporting period.</p> <p>In December 2020 and February 2021, we held two data sharing sessions with community representatives to share data on reef, seagrass, fisheries.</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. Approximately six community consultations were completed in Beloi before the start of the project, with eight households ready to host ecotourists in January 2017. Adara, on the west coast of Ataúro, was selected as a satellite site; regular trips to the village were organised, with tourists staying at a local eco-resort and diving in a LMMA. A further two consultations were held in Uaro-ana in August 2017, but communities were less interested in homestays. A potential new site at Behau was scoped (and one at Baucau, later deemed unsuitable), and further engagement in the village was carried out in Y2.</p> <p>Additionally, agreements with communities around accessing LMMAs were drawn up to provide benefits from ecotourism to more communities (see supporting document 3, Tara Bandu Agreement - Beloi, for an example).</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 and both communities requested support with establishing fisheries management.</p>

		Community consultations started in Behau Lian-lidu in September 2019, but further consultations planned for Y4 were delayed due to COVID-19, and will be conducted beyond the scope of this project.
Activity 1.3 Train (minimum) 10 community members in habitat monitoring (minimum 50% women), including use of underwater 360° video.		Complete and ongoing. We are currently training three members of KFF in SCUBA-based reef monitoring using the Reef Check methodology.  360° video was found to be unsuitable for ongoing monitoring purposes, but we have continued to use the footage for outreach purposes.
Activity 1.4 Conduct participatory habitat assessments across southeast and northeast coastal zones of Atauro.		A habitat assessment for the east coast of Atauro was completed in March 2018. The team regularly monitors the seagrass meadows of Beloi and Biqueli, with the majority of sites falling within the LMMAs (see supporting document 4, Preliminary survey map March 2018).
Activity 1.5 Train (minimum) 10 community members in fisheries monitoring, simple analysis and presenting information back to communities (minimum 50% women).		Complete and ongoing. In Y4 we trained the new fisheries monitoring group of eight women from Beto-Tasi, bringing the total number of community members engaged in participatory fisheries monitoring to 38 (100% women).
Activity 1.6 Establish participatory fisheries monitoring programme in 2-3 villages for duration of project.		Complete and ongoing. Participatory fisheries monitoring is now taking place in three villages (Ilik-namu, Behau Fatumeta and Ma'abat) and is being developed in two villages (Behau Lian-lidu and Beto-Tasi). Monitoring is ongoing and conducted several days each week in all communities.
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.		Complete and ongoing, as further data becomes available from our monitoring programmes. We are currently writing up the results of three years' worth of data collection (2017, 2018 and 2019) to be published as two reports, which will first be shared with communities, and then with other partners and stakeholders.
<b>Output 2.</b> Locally-led fisheries management measures piloted and continued by communities	<p><b>2.1</b> Fisheries management measures (e.g. periodic fishing site closures), decided by the target local community in Y2, piloted by end Y3.</p> <p><b>2.2</b> Community outreach events held at least twice a year, to give feedback of participatory monitoring and results of local resource management.</p>	<p><b>Progress towards Output 2 was significant in Y2 and completed in Y3, with one activity remaining continuous</b></p> <p><b>2.1 Complete</b></p> <p>Fisheries management measures were formalised in Behau in December 2018. The community chose to adopt fisheries management measures in two adjacent areas (see supporting document 7, Behau Ilimanu Maps) - with a temporary closure in one area and a two-year no-take zone for all species in the other area, which were formalised in December 2018 through Tara Bandu law.</p> <p><b>2.2 Complete and ongoing</b></p> <p>Two community outreach events were held in Y4, to provide feedback to communities - since data collection efforts were either halted or slowed down during the COVID-19 pandemic, we focused on sharing the results of two questionnaire-based surveys conducted by Blue Ventures staff in early- and mid-</p>

		2020, to ascertain the impact of COVID-19 on small-scale fisheries in Timor-Leste. Please see supporting document 8, Community outreach events in Y4 for photographs of the events.
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.		Completed in Ilik-namu and Behau Fatumeta before the reporting period and now ongoing in additional villages. Consultations planned in Behau Lian-lidu and Beto-Tasi for Y4 were delayed due to COVID-19, and will now take place beyond this project.
Activity 2.2 One key fishery selected for trial management measure through further consultations with communities and women's groups, with minimum 1 village.		Complete in Behau Fatumeta. Consultations held in Behau in Y2 resulted in the community deciding on the same target species as Ilik-namu, with the addition of cuttlefish. During these meetings the community decided to trial a six-month closure to see the effect on octopus and cuttlefish, which have fast reproduction rates, and also establish a two-year complete no-take zone on a section of their reef (see supporting document 7 - Behau Ilimanu Maps, a. Behau Ilimanu Tara Bandu). The managed area covers 225 m <sup>2</sup> (72 m <sup>2</sup> no-take zone, 153 m <sup>2</sup> temporary closure).
Activity 2.3 Work plan agreed upon with community – including women's groups – for timeline for local fisheries management (eg. location, duration, rules).		Complete with Behau Fetumeta where a two-year no-take zone for all species and temporary closures in an adjacent area were formalised in December 2018 through Tara Bandu. The no-take zone was later extended to both areas. Additional work has been done to support more communities but despite a proposed work plan in the community of Ilik-namu, political conflict in the community meant that this could not be taken forward within the project period.
Activity 2.4 Support provided to community and women's groups for implementation of workplan.		Complete and ongoing. During Y4, we held support meetings with the mixed gender LMMA coordination group in Behau Fatumeta to assist the group with administration, management and surveillance of the LMMA, especially in light of food security concerns due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in the community deciding to reopen their LMMA ahead of time.
Activity 2.5 Results of management measure evaluated with the community and improvements suggested and implemented.		Complete and ongoing as more data are collected. The biomass survey planned during Y4 in Behau Fatumeta was postponed due to the pandemic, and will now be conducted beyond this project. We are currently working on two data reports to summarise the results of monitoring from 2017, 2018 and 2019, to be shared with the communities.
Activity 2.6 Twice yearly outreach events with wider community – men and women – to disseminate results from local management and monitoring.		Complete and ongoing. We conducted two data sharing sessions in Y4, in December 2020 and February 2021. Please see supporting document 8, Community outreach events in Y4 for photographs of the events.
<b>Output 3.</b> Community members are trained and employed in ecotourism activities.	3.1 New locally owned ecotourism services (e.g. homestay services) are established in 1 target community (12 families) (Beloi) in Timor-Leste by end	<b>Output 3 was achieved by Y4</b> <b>3.1 Complete</b>

	<p>Y1, and in 2 further communities by end Y3.</p> <p>3.2 220 adult attendees from target communities (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>Eight homestays were established in Beloi, forming the Atauro Homestay Association (AHA) which was formally registered in September 2019. We replicated the success of our homestay model with ten families in Beto-Tasi (Madohi) on the mainland in Y4. Ten other families from Beto-Tasi were selected to provide other ecotourism activities (such as restaurants, tour guiding, laundry and other services). In Y4 we also supported the 12 female members of the Rara'a Tradisional group from Bikeli by creating pamphlets for traditional food-making workshops to be distributed to ecotourists in the Beloi homestays.</p> <p><b>3.2 Complete</b></p> <p>220 adults (61% female) from target communities have received training by Blue Ventures on various activities relating to ecotourism and other income-generating activities since the start of this project. In total, training events have included 85 people (77 female and 8 male) who have participated in informal or formal training programmes facilitated by Blue Ventures in Y4.</p>
<p>Activity 3.1 First round of homestay participants selected.</p>		<p>Complete (with 8 households). Eight households in Beloi were selected in 2016 and received training on ecotourism activities. Business plans and standards were agreed on by the eight participating families in 2017.</p>
<p>Activity 3.2 Homestay Association set up with legal paperwork completed, with equal representation of women within Association board.</p>		<p>Complete in Beloi and ongoing in Beto-Tasi. The registration of the AHA (Beloi) was completed in September 2019. The AHA board comprises 13 members (6 men, 7 women).</p>
<p>Activity 3.3 Business plans developed and standards for homestays agreed upon.</p>		<p>Complete. Business plans and standards were agreed on by the eight participating families in 2017.</p>
<p>Activity 3.4 Exchange trip to Raja Ampat, Indonesia, to meet and learn from a successful homestay group.</p>		<p>Complete. Between the 17th and 19th of September 2020, we facilitated a peer-to-peer learning exchange for 20 selected families from Beto-Tasi (Madohi) to travel to Atauro and interact and learn from the AHA and six other community-based ecotourism enterprises, including 'Rara'a Tradisional Atauro' and the women's group from Biqueli. AHA shared their experience of starting the homestay business.</p>
<p>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.</p>		<p>Complete and ongoing. A total of 220 adults (61% female) from target communities have received training from Blue Ventures in ecotourism service provision and other income generating activities.</p>
<p>Activity 3.6 Ongoing support to Homestay Association through monthly meetings focusing on continuous improvement through feedback, and facilitated induction of first guests.</p>		<p>Complete and ongoing. We have continued to hold formal monthly meetings with the AHA to discuss progress, issues and future development (by telephone during the COVID-19 pandemic). These have been supported by weekly phone calls and informal meetings. Additionally, we have continued to support the AHA to develop their marketing skills and become an independent and viable business.</p>



<p>Activity 3.7 Workshops with further villages for subsequent expansion of homestay association.</p>	<p>Complete in Beto-Tasi (Madohi) in Y4. Between August and October 2020, we carried out consultations with the community to establish the homestay model, as a result of interest expressed by them. In October 2020, ten homestays were successfully established in Beto-Tasi.</p>
<p><b>Output 4.</b> Locally managed marine area (LMMA) established.</p>	<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 Timor-Leste 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><b>Output 4 was largely delivered in the second year of the project and previously reported on</b></p> <p><b>4.1</b> Complete. Consultations on the development of a LMMA, workshops on LMMA criteria were completed in Behau in parallel with consultations for fisheries management (see supporting document 7, Behau Ilimanu Maps).</p> <p><b>4.2</b> Complete. (36 members received training in Y3, 100% women). We provided training and support to the Behau Fatumeta LMMA management group both prior to, and after establishing the LMMA. In Y4, we provided additional technical guidance on the potential impacts of early reopening of the LMMA, including potential short- and long-term steps to take, and various scenarios resulting from this decision.</p> <p><b>4.3</b> Complete and ongoing. An 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 after Y4.</p>
<p>Activity 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. Tara Bandu).</p>	<p>Complete. Consultations on the development of an LMMA were completed in Y2 in Behau Fatumeta. In September 2019, we held discussions with community members in Behau Lian-lidu (32% women), 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 Lian-lidu.</p>
<p>Activity 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.</p>	<p>Complete. In February 2021, we organised and facilitated a three-day learning exchange for representatives from nine communities we work with (14 women, 16 men), focused on LMMAs.</p>
<p>Activity 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. Workshops on LMMA criteria were undertaken in Y2 in Behau. Work in Ilik-namu is ongoing and will extend beyond the project.</p>
<p>Activity 4.4 Workshops to draft a local management plan for the LMMA, with minimum 50% participation by women.</p>	<p>Following consultations on the development of an LMMA, workshops on LMMA criteria and capacity building activities in Behau Fatumeta, agreed fisheries management measures were included in Tara Bandu law in Y2.</p> <p>The draft management plan for the Ilik-namu LMMA is pending formal approval by community leaders.</p>
<p>Activity 4.5 Delineation of LMMA and outreach by communities.</p>	<p>One LMMA covering 225m<sup>2</sup> was delineated in Behau Fatumeta in 2018.</p> <p>Delineation was completed in Ilik-namu in 2017 and is pending formal approval.</p>

Activity 4.6 Support on any required administration with Ministries.

Attended 23 meetings and consultations with ministries to support sharing of information and consultations on marine management.

## Annex 3 Standard Measures

Code	Description	Total	Nationality	Gender	Title or Focus	Language	Comments
<b>Training Measures</b>							
1a	Number of people to submit PhD thesis	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1b	Number of PhD qualifications obtained	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2	Number of Masters qualifications obtained	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3	Number of other qualifications obtained	20	Timorese British Belgian Indian	1F, 1M	PADI open water (3) PADI advanced (1) PADI rescue (1) PADI Divemaster (2) Reef Check Ecodiver (8) Reef Check Ecodiver Trainer (4) Reef Check Ecodiver Course Director (1)	English	Jemima Gomes and Amos Da Costa, Timorese Dive and Science Assistants with Blue Ventures, underwent this training to improve their in-water confidence and confidence in presenting information to groups of Expeditions volunteers.
4a	Number of undergraduate students receiving training	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
4b	Number of training weeks provided to undergraduate students	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

4c	Number of postgraduate students receiving training (not 1-3 above)	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
4d	Number of training weeks for postgraduate students	6	Australian	F	Internship for homestay marketing	English	Studied at the University of Melbourne
5	Number of people receiving other forms of long-term (>1yr) training not leading to formal qualification (e.g., not categories 1-4 above)	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
6a	Number of people receiving other forms of short-term education/training (e.g., not categories 1-5 above)	127	Timorese	98F 29M	<b>Homestays &amp; tourism activities</b> - business management, food preparation & hygiene, English, eco guiding, customer service and guest management  Fisheries monitoring  Data literacy  Seagrass monitoring  Reef monitoring - snorkel	English Tetun	
6b	Number of training weeks not leading to formal qualification	13	Timorese	102F 32M	<b>Homestays &amp; tourism</b>	English,	

					<b>activities -</b> business management, food preparation & hygiene, English, eco guiding, customer service and guest management	Tetun	
7	Number of types of training materials produced for use by host country(s) (describe training materials)	3	N/A	N/A	Training materials on monitoring methodologies	English, Tetun	
<b>Research Measures</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>Nationality</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Language</b>	<b>Comments/ Weblink if available</b>
9	Number of species/habitat management plans (or action plans) produced for Governments, public authorities or other implementing agencies in the host country (ies)						
10	Number of formal documents produced to assist work related to species identification, classification and recording.						
11a	Number of papers published or accepted for publication in peer reviewed journals						
11b	Number of papers published or accepted for publication elsewhere						

12a	Number of computer-based databases established (containing species/generic information) and handed over to host country						
12b	Number of computer-based databases enhanced (containing species/genetic information) and handed over to host country						
13a	Number of species reference collections established and handed over to host country(s)						
13b	Number of species reference collections enhanced and handed over to host country(s)						

<b>Dissemination Measures</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>Nationality</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Language</b>	<b>Comments</b>
14a	Number of conferences/seminars/workshops organised to present/disseminate findings from Darwin project work						
14b	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops attended at which findings from Darwin project work will be presented/ disseminated.						

<b>Physical Measures</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>Comments</b>
20	Estimated value (£s) of physical assets handed over to host country(s)	██████	Capital expenditure across the project for assets located in Timor Leste. This includes mobile phones, laptops, harddrives, camera, GPS, boat engine.
21	Number of permanent educational, training, research facilities or organisation established	0	
22	Number of permanent field plots established	0	Please describe

<b>Financial Measures</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>Nationality</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Language</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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23	Value of additional resources raised from other sources (e.g., in addition to Darwin funding) for project work <i>(please note that the figure provided here should align with financial information provided in section 9.2)</i>		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
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## Annex 4 Aichi Targets

Please note which of the Aichi targets your project has contributed to.

Please record only the **main targets** to which your project has contributed. It is recognised that most Darwin projects make a smaller contribution to many other targets in their work. You will not be evaluated more favourably if you tick multiple boxes.

	Aichi Target	Tick if applicable to your project
1	People are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.	
2	Biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.	
3	Incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.	
4	Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.	
5	The rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.	
6	All fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.	✓
7	Areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.	
8	Pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.	
9	Invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.	
10	The multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.	✓
11	At least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.	✓
12	The extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.	
13	The genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and	



	implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.	
14	Ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.	✓
15	Ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.	
16	The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.	
17	Each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.	
18	The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.	
19	Knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.	
20	The mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.	

## Annex 5 Publications

Provide full details of all publications and material that can be publicly accessed, e.g. title, name of publisher, contact details. Mark (\*) all publications and other material that you have included with this report

Type *	Detail (title, author, year)	Nationality of lead author	Nationality of institution of lead author	Gender of lead author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. web link, contact address etc)
Blog post	Diving into Timor-Leste, Fiona Westheim, 2017	Belgian		Female	Blue Ventures, London	<a href="https://blog.blueventures.org/en/diving-timor-leste/">https://blog.blueventures.org/en/diving-timor-leste/</a>
Blog post	A warm welcome on Ataúro, Mackenzie Burke, 2017	American		Female	Blue Ventures, London	<a href="https://blog.blueventures.org/en/warm-welcome-atauro/">https://blog.blueventures.org/en/warm-welcome-atauro/</a>
Blog post	Having a whale of a time in Timor-Leste, Harrison Root, 2017	American		Male	Blue Ventures, London	<a href="https://blog.blueventures.org/en/whale-time-timor-leste/">https://blog.blueventures.org/en/whale-time-timor-leste/</a>
Blog post	Sea Change: Ataúro's first female scuba diver lends her voice to marine conservation efforts, Christina Saylor, 2017	American		Female	Blue Ventures, London	<a href="https://blog.blueventures.org/en/sea-change-atauros-first-female-scuba-diver-lends-voice-marine-conservation-efforts/">https://blog.blueventures.org/en/sea-change-atauros-first-female-scuba-diver-lends-voice-marine-conservation-efforts/</a>
Blog post	The crocodile's children: community-led marine management on Atauro, Nick Piludu, 2017	Italian		Male	Blue Ventures, London	<a href="https://blog.blueventures.org/en/crocodiles-children-community-led-marine-management-atauro/">https://blog.blueventures.org/en/crocodiles-children-community-led-marine-management-atauro/</a>
Blog post	A fisherman's journey into deeper seas: scuba diving	American		Female	Blue Ventures, London	<a href="https://blog.blueventures.org/en/fishermans-journey-">https://blog.blueventures.org/en/fishermans-journey-</a>

	and conservation in Timor-Leste, Christina Saylor, 2017					deeper-seas-scuba-diving-conservation-timor-leste/
Blog post	The whales are coming: cetacean surveys around Ataúro Island, Nick Piludu, 2017	Italian		Male	Blue Ventures, London	<a href="https://blog.blueventures.org/en/whales-coming-cetacean-surveys-around-atauro-island/">https://blog.blueventures.org/en/whales-coming-cetacean-surveys-around-atauro-island/</a>
Blog post	From Ataúro to Raja Ampat: a homestay adventure, Martin Muir, 2017	British		Male	Blue Ventures, London	<a href="https://blog.blueventures.org/en/from-atauro-to-raja-ampat-a-homestay-adventure/">https://blog.blueventures.org/en/from-atauro-to-raja-ampat-a-homestay-adventure/</a>
Factsheet	Homestays: Bringing the economic benefits of tourism to community families, Blue Ventures, 2017	NA		NA	Blue Ventures, London	<a href="https://blueventures.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Blue-Ventures-Factsheet-Homestay-November-2017-Low-Res.pdf">https://blueventures.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Blue-Ventures-Factsheet-Homestay-November-2017-Low-Res.pdf</a>
Poster presentation	Community-based tourism and participatory science as a catalyst for marine management: the case of Atauro Island, Timor-Leste, Nick Piludu, 2018	Italian		Male	IMCC5, Kuching	Abstract available at <a href="https://d2s6bx5458gdv.cloudfront.net/imcc5-online-program.pdf">https://d2s6bx5458gdv.cloudfront.net/imcc5-online-program.pdf</a>
Presentation	Two birds with one stone: Fisheries monitoring as a tool for empowering women and informing marine management, Jenny	British, Italian		Female, Male	GAF7, Bangkok	Abstract available at <a href="https://www.genderaquafish.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/gaf7_book-of-abstracts.pdf">https://www.genderaquafish.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/gaf7_book-of-abstracts.pdf</a>

	House, Nick Piludu, 2018					
Blog post	Collaborating to save seagrass: communities in Timor-Leste embrace a new opportunity for conservation, Christina Saylor, 2018	American		Female	Blue Ventures, London	<a href="https://blog.blueventures.org/en/collaborating-save-seagrass-communities-timor-leste-embrace-new-opportunity-conservation/">https://blog.blueventures.org/en/collaborating-save-seagrass-communities-timor-leste-embrace-new-opportunity-conservation/</a>
Blog post	Welcome visitors! Families on Atauro pioneer the island's first homestay association, Christina Saylor, 2018	American		Female	Blue Ventures, London	<a href="https://blog.blueventures.org/en/welcome-visitors-families-on-atauro-pioneer-the-islands-first-homestay-association/">https://blog.blueventures.org/en/welcome-visitors-families-on-atauro-pioneer-the-islands-first-homestay-association/</a>
Blog post	Contributing to conservation in Timor-Leste: a day-in-the-life of one volunteer, Martin Cloix, 2018	French		Male	Blue Ventures, London	<a href="https://blog.blueventures.org/en/contributing-to-conservation-in-timor-leste-a-day-in-the-life-of-one-volunteer/">https://blog.blueventures.org/en/contributing-to-conservation-in-timor-leste-a-day-in-the-life-of-one-volunteer/</a>
Blog post	Using fisheries monitoring as a tool for empowering women in Timor-Leste, Jenny House, 2018	British		Female	Blue Ventures, London	<a href="https://blog.blueventures.org/en/using-fisheries-monitoring-as-a-tool-for-empowering-women-in-timor-leste/">https://blog.blueventures.org/en/using-fisheries-monitoring-as-a-tool-for-empowering-women-in-timor-leste/</a>
Blog post	Fiar-an, La'o ba oin: the women of Atauro Homestay Association are	British		Female	Blue Ventures, London	<a href="https://blog.blueventures.org/en/fiar-an-lao-ba-oin-the-women-of-atauro-homestay-">https://blog.blueventures.org/en/fiar-an-lao-ba-oin-the-women-of-atauro-homestay-</a>

	moving forward, Jenny House, 2018					association-are-moving-forward/
Blog post	Becoming a Divemaster, Aleksander Gakovic, 2019	Serbian		Male	Blue Ventures, London	<a href="https://blog.blueventures.org/en/becoming-a-divemaster/">https://blog.blueventures.org/en/becoming-a-divemaster/</a>
Blog post	Witnessing the unknown: coral spawning in Timor- Leste, Roxane Sylvie de Waegh, 2019	Belgian		Female	Blue Ventures, London	<a href="https://blog.blueventures.org/en/witnessing-the-unknown-coral-spawning-in-timor-leste/">https://blog.blueventures.org/en/witnessing-the-unknown-coral-spawning-in-timor-leste/</a>
Blog post	Taking control with Tara Bandu, Nick Piludu, 2019	Italian		Male	Blue Ventures, London	<a href="https://blog.blueventures.org/en/taking-control-with-tara-bandu/">https://blog.blueventures.org/en/taking-control-with-tara-bandu/</a>
Blog post	Taking control with Tara Bandu: part 2, Oldegar Massinga Soares, 2019	Timorese		Male	Blue Ventures, London	<a href="https://blog.blueventures.org/en/taking-control-with-tara-bandu-part-2/">https://blog.blueventures.org/en/taking-control-with-tara-bandu-part-2/</a>
Blog post	Amos and Mima: the journey to Divemaster, Laura McGuire, 2019	British		Female	Blue Ventures, London	<a href="https://blog.blueventures.org/en/amos-and-mima-the-journey-to-divemaster/">https://blog.blueventures.org/en/amos-and-mima-the-journey-to-divemaster/</a>
Blog post	An unforgettable medical elective, Nick Hurn, 2019	British		Male	Blue Ventures, London	<a href="https://blog.blueventures.org/en/an-unforgettable-medical-elective/">https://blog.blueventures.org/en/an-unforgettable-medical-elective/</a>
Blog post	Why I keep coming back to BV, Roger Vaughan, 2019	American		Male	Blue Ventures, London	<a href="https://blog.blueventures.org/en/why-i-keep-coming-back-to-bv/">https://blog.blueventures.org/en/why-i-keep-coming-back-to-bv/</a>
Presentation	Eco-tourism and community-based marine conservation; the benefits of working together, Roxane	Belgian, British		Female, Female	Timor-Leste Study Association (TLSA) conference, Dili	Roxane TLSA presentation sent as a supporting document in the previous AR (available on request)

	Sylvie de Waegh, Jenny House, 2019					
Presentation	Fisheries monitoring as a tool for empowering women and informing marine management, Jenny House, 2019	British		Female	Timor-Leste Study Association (TLSA) conference, Dili	Jenny TLSA Presentation 2019 sent as a supporting document in the previous AR (available on request)
Presentation	Use of customary practices in co-management of small-scale fisheries in Timor-Leste, Jenny House, 2019	British		Female	Charles Darwin University, Darwin	CIFAS Abstract sent as a supporting document in the previous AR (available on request)
Presentation	Opportunities for increasing gender equality and sustainability in Timor-Leste's small-scale fisheries, Jenny House, 2019	British		Female	Charles Darwin University, Darwin	Futures conference abstract sent as a supporting document in the previous AR (available on request)
Presentation	Fisheries monitoring as a tool for empowering women, Jenny House, 2019	British		Female	ICT4Fisheries, Cape Town	ICT4Fisheries Presentation sent as a supporting document in the previous AR (available on request)
Blog post	Jam Baleia: A two-week cetacean expedition to remember, Asiem Sanyal, 2020	Indian		Male	Blue Ventures, London	<a href="https://blog.blueventures.org/en/jam-baleia-a-two-week-cetacean-expedition-to-remember/">https://blog.blueventures.org/en/jam-baleia-a-two-week-cetacean-expedition-to-remember/</a>

Blog post	Small but mighty: team Timor-Leste unites to take on COVID-19, Oldegar Massinga Soares, 2020	Timorese		Male	Blue Ventures, London	<a href="https://blog.blueventures.org/en/small-but-mighty-team-timor-leste-unite-to-take-on-covid-19/">https://blog.blueventures.org/en/small-but-mighty-team-timor-leste-unite-to-take-on-covid-19/</a>
Blog post	Inspiring the next generation: my journey from Admin Assistant to Conservation Officer at Blue Ventures, Dedy Martins, 2020	Timorese		Male	Blue Ventures, London	<a href="https://blog.blueventures.org/en/inspiring-the-youth-my-journey-from-admin-assistant-to-conservation-officer-at-blue-ventures/">https://blog.blueventures.org/en/inspiring-the-youth-my-journey-from-admin-assistant-to-conservation-officer-at-blue-ventures/</a>
Blog post	From small-scale fishers to ecotourism entrepreneurs, Stephanie Rowbottom, 2021	British		Female	Blue Ventures, London	<a href="https://blog.blueventures.org/en/from-small-scale-fishers-to-ecotourism-entrepreneurs/">https://blog.blueventures.org/en/from-small-scale-fishers-to-ecotourism-entrepreneurs/</a>
Blog post	From global to local, and back again, Birgit Hermann, 2021	German		Female	Blue Ventures, London	<a href="https://blog.blueventures.org/en/from-global-to-local-and-back-again/">https://blog.blueventures.org/en/from-global-to-local-and-back-again/</a>
Blog post	Challenging gender barriers: an interview with Timor-Leste's first female Divemaster, Charlie Young, 2021	British		Female	Blue Ventures, London	<a href="https://blog.blueventures.org/en/challenging-gender-barriers-an-interview-with-timor-lestes-first-female-divemaster/">https://blog.blueventures.org/en/challenging-gender-barriers-an-interview-with-timor-lestes-first-female-divemaster/</a>

## Annex 6 Darwin Contacts

<b>Ref No</b>	24-012 ref 3713
<b>Project Title</b>	Incentivising community-led marine biodiversity conservation on Atauro Island, Timor-Leste
<b>Project Leader Details</b>	
Name	Alasdair Harris
Role within Darwin Project	Executive Director
Address	
Phone	
Fax/Skype	
Email	
<b>Partner 1</b>	
Name	Alexander Tilley
Organisation	WorldFish
Role within Darwin Project	Post-doctoral Research Fellow
Address	
Phone	
Email	
<b>Partner 2 etc.</b>	
Name	Dominic Elson
Organisation	Seventythree (pte ltd) and the Asosiasi Usaha Homestay Lokal Kabupaten Raja Ampat (The Rajah Ampat Homestay Association)
Role within Darwin Project	CEO
Address	
Phone	
Email	



## Checklist for submission

	Check
<b>Is the report less than 10MB?</b> If so, please email to <a href="mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk">Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk</a> putting the project number in the Subject line.	✓
<b>Is your report more than 10MB?</b> If so, please discuss with <a href="mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk">Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk</a> about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, <b>do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 10)?</b>	
<b>Have you included means of verification?</b> You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	✓
<b>Do you have hard copies of material you need to submit with the report?</b> 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.	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	✓
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	✓
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	