

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

Project reference - 24-016

Project title - Sustainable community-based stewardship of freshwater resources in the Northern Philippines

Country(ies)/territory(ies) - Philippines

Lead organisation – Zoological Society of London (ZSL)

Partner(s) – Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR); Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

Project leader – Dr Matthew Gollock

Report date and number (e.g., HYR3) – 31/10/2017 HYR1

Project website/blog/social media etc. - <https://twitter.com/ZSLMarine>

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).

This project commenced 1/7/2017 and built upon project 21-020. Three of the staff members who implemented the previous project did not continue on to the new project and as such we have been recruiting for these posts over the past three months. As of 15/10/2017 all three positions have now been filled and project implementation has begun in earnest. Despite not being at full capacity, progress has been made in delivering the five outputs. The first Technical Working Group meeting of the new project was held today to bring project partners, ZSL Philippines and UK staff together and discuss the roll-out of Y1 activities.

Output 1: The project lead has been working with a consultant with expertise in tagging to develop a programme of work and training for Q4 during the next project visit. Tag types and receiver locations will be determined and a protocol for data collection and analysis will also be developed over the coming months.

Output 2: The anguillid eel focal point in BFAR is part of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) group that focuses on this species; a national workshop will be held in the Philippines 13-15/11/17. This will be to present the Eel Management Plan (EMP), that was developed as part of 21-020, to government staff from other parts of the Philippines as a template for replication – including nationally. The project lead has been engaging with CITES secretariat regarding the recently adopted eel decisions on how ZSL can support implementation and ensure information from both projects can be included and will also be attending the Standing Committee meeting in Geneva 27/11-1/12/17. The project lead also attended the CMS Conference of the Parties in Manila during the project visit; this offered the opportunity to engage with representatives from CITES, the Philippines national government and highlight the value of the concerted actions submitted for the European eel (http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/cms_cop12_crp14_concerted-action-eel_e.pdf) for other anguillid species.

Output 3: The team have continued to engage with the 12 communities that are presently managing the Freshwater Sanctuaries. A pilot visit was carried out to Baggao 31/10/17 when

members of the UK team and experts in social marketing from other projects run by ZSL Philippines carried out a project visit. This was to gather initial anecdotal information on how to develop the social marketing element of the project and allow the experts in this field meet the project team and some of the beneficiaries.

Output 4: Since the project was approved we have made contact with an organisation – CIAT – who have many years of experience in relation to agro-forestry and are presently working in the Philippines. We are determining if there is overlap with our project sites, such that we can collaborate on implementing this element of the workplan. Regardless, we expect to continue to engage with CIAT in order to take advantage of their experience which we would see as complementing that of DENR, our project partner.

Output 5: Regular monitoring of FS, which was established during 21-020, is continuing in order to build a baseline for which to carry out mitigation actions relating to aquatic invasive species. We are discussing with BFAR which sites we will use to carry out pilot mitigation studies.

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

During the discussions with the consultant, it became clear that using acoustic tags might be a significantly lower maintenance option compared to PIT tags. Acoustic tag data is also more powerful than and would shed more light on the movements of the species of choice. We are presently reviewing the budget that was proposed in the submitted budget in light of the possible underspend, and whether a reallocation request should be submitted.

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

Discussed with LTS: Yes/No

Formal change request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/No

3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g., more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £15,000

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project, please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary.

It is possible that we will look to reallocate budget due to an underspend on in-country staff costs, we are presently assessing spend and will submit a change request as quickly as possible.

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

N/A

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document. Additionally, if you were funded under R23 and asked to provide further information by your first half year report, please attach your response as a separate document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also be raised with LTS International through a Change Request.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk. The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**