



Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project

Half Year Report

(due 31st October 2018)

Project reference	25-003
Project title	Conservation social networking, ecotourism and land-use planning in Maputaland
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	eSwatini and Mozambique
Lead organisation	DICE, University of Kent
Partner(s)	All Out Africa, ANAC, KUWUKA JDA, SNTC, UEM, UNISWA
Project leader	Bob Smith
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	HYR1
Project website/blog/social media etc.	https://izele.org/projects/278

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

The project began in July 2018 and so this report discusses progress from the first three months. During this period we set up the agreements and contracts with the project partners, established a monthly set of Skype meetings to discuss and monitor progress and created the project webpage on the Izele website. In terms of the project implementation timetable and key milestones, we achieved the following:

Output 1

1.1. As part of preparations for the two launch workshops, All Out Africa and Kuwuka JDA prepared a database of conservation areas and groups within the project area based on government databases, Internet searches and their own expertise. The invitation lists of people working for these organisations are attached together with this report.

1.2. During the forthcoming visit by Bob Smith from DICE and Tom Mullier from Izele, they will provide one-to-one training for All Out Africa and KUWUKA JDA so they can support conservationists in the study area to create pages in Izele. We expect this training will be highly successful, as All Out Africa have already shown they have the capacity to create pages without any direct help <https://izele.org/271/all-out-africa/>.

1.3. Due to delays in setting up the relevant contracts, we moved back the project launch workshops with the conservation practitioner to the beginning of November. These will now take place on November 2nd at the District Government of Matutuine offices in Bela Vista, Mozambique and November 7th in the Simunye Country Club, eSwatini. A wide range of groups have been invited and All Out Africa and KUWUKA JDA will run follow-up site visits for any relevant people and organisations who are unable to attend the workshops.

1.4. We have carried out broad scale publicity about Izele on Facebook and Twitter but will increase the publicity once we have launched the social network in eSwatini and Mozambique.

1.5. Due to the delays in the initial workshops, we have not yet started the Izele forum pages for the networks in eSwatini and Mozambique.

Output 2

2.1. As part of preparations for the two conservation practitioner workshops, All Out Africa and Kuwuka JDA prepared a database of ecotourism enterprises within the project area based on government databases, Internet searches and their own expertise. The invitation lists of people working for these organisations are attached together with this report.

2.2. Due to delays in setting up the agreements and contracts, we decided to amend our plans for the ecotourism workshop and have two workshops, one in eSwatini and one Mozambique, which would follow-on from the conservation practitioner workshops. Thus, we will hold these workshops on November 2nd in Bela Vista, Mozambique and November 7th in Simunye, eSwatini. Bob Smith from DICE and Tom Mullier from Izele will then accompany the in-country partners to visit a range of ecotourism ventures in the two countries, and the in-country partners will have follow-up meetings with any relevant groups that are not able to attend the workshops.

2.7. The partners have begun to develop plans to monitor the impact on ecotourism livelihoods of having Izele online profile, which began with discussions in our monthly meetings about how best to collect the baseline data. We have identified sources of government data on ecotourism and during the ecotourism workshops will identify partners willing to collect data for us on their revenue, staff numbers and customer numbers. We have also advertised a project to the new DICE MSc students that would involve collecting data on ecotourist preferences and sources of information, which would provide us with further information.

Output 3

No activities were timetabled for this initial three-month period for Output 3.

Output 4

4.1. We produced the Izele page training materials and uploaded them to the Izele website, so that anyone can visit <https://izele.org/help/> and read guidance on using Izele and creating pages. This help section will be updated in the coming months, based on user feedback from the two workshops and any online comments. The pages, together with future YouTube videos, will be translated into Portuguese in the future, once their content has been finalised after feedback from users during the workshops. In addition, we have already translated some of the Izele pages into Mozambique, providing guidance on how to create new pages.

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

The delays in producing the required contracts pushed some of our activities back by several months but we are now on-track and expect all the activities time-tabled for Year 1 to be completed on time.

Another issue arose because Bruno Nhancale, the UEM partner, accepted a full-time post working for the World Bank, which meant we had to amend our plans for the land-use zoning component of the project (relating to Output 3). We have resolved this problem because Hermenegildo Matimele, Curator of the National Herbarium of Mozambique, began his PhD at DICE in September 2018 on different methods for identifying priority conservation areas in Mozambique. This PhD is under the supervision of Bob Smith and funded by Kew and will now include a Maputaland focus, so that Hermenegildo and the National Herbarium will lead on the land-use zoning component of the project. We think this is a highly satisfactory response because UEM will continue to be a partner, and the World Bank and Kew have agreed to become new partners, together with the National Herbarium. UNISWA will continue in their role of supporting this component in eSwatini.

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

Formal change request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance N/A

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

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

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

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

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

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 R24 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**