



**Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project
Half Year Report
(due 31st October 2018)**

Project reference	25-009
Project title	Fish for Tomorrow – Community sustainable fisheries management, Nkhotakota District, Malawi
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Malawi - Nkhotakota District
Lead organisation	RIPPLE Africa
Partner(s)	District Fisheries Office, Nkhotakota
Project leader	Geoffrey Furber
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	October 2018 HYR1
Project website/blog/social media etc.	www.rippleafrica.org

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).

District Bylaws

District Fish Conservation bylaws were signed by the District Commissioner, Director of Fisheries and District Councilors on 22nd May 2018. This was an historic moment for the district as these were the first district bylaws ever to be signed in Nkhotakota and the event attracted considerable local and national publicity. Although we had started to introduce the project in the district prior to the bylaw signing, there is now a legal requirement for all parts of the district to adopt the new bylaws, which has led to increased demand for the project's introduction. The signing of these bylaws was one of the important assumptions that we made in our application.

Staffing

Three new RIPPLE Africa extension workers have been employed to support the project area and they started their work in August 2018. However, prior to this, extension workers from other project areas had begun the process of gaining the commitment of key district stakeholders and increasing community awareness in the project area. RIPPLE Africa's Fish Conservation Managers in Nkhotakota were also working in partnership with the District Fisheries team to develop and introduce the new district bylaws so that the project could successfully be introduced along the whole of Nkhotakota's lakeshore and the key Chambo breeding area of Chia Lagoon in the southern part of the district.

Capital Purchases

We have purchased three motorcycles for use by RIPPLE Africa and Fisheries extension workers. This will make it easier for them to visit and support the newly formed fish conservation committees. Transport is difficult as many fishing communities are a long way from the tarmac road and can only be accessed along dirt tracks.

Activities – Awareness Raising and Planning

We have been working with all levels of the community to ensure that there is full understanding of the need for the project, how it will work in the three strata in which this project is operating and to gain commitment for the project. Meetings have been held to sensitise and educate fishing communities and plan the project activities in the three strata.

The meetings that have been held in the first six months of the project are shown below:

Type of meeting	Number
Community awareness meetings – this is a key element of the project to ensure that all the fishing communities in the project area fully understand the need for the project, learn what the new bylaws are and are encouraged to consider becoming fish conservation committee members for their beach area	20
Review meetings to discuss progress – these meetings are held with the Traditional Authorities (senior chiefs) and Chiefs to discuss the election process of the Fish Conservation Committee members and to establish umbrella committees to oversee the activities of the FCCs in each TA's area	8
Stakeholders meetings with key district officials - these meetings ensure that the full commitment of the key district officials is secured to drive the project forward with the support of all district governance structures within the district.	6
Management meetings (between Fisheries and Ripple Africa staff) to plan the project introduction and support activities – a key part of the project is to build capacity within Fisheries to enable the project to be sustainable in the long term	4

Fish Conservation Committees (FCCs)

We have been working with fishing communities to help them elect their fish conservation committees - we plan that there will be 42 fish conservation committees in the project area and so far we have a total of 30 established and trained. We will continue to work with each group to support them and will undertake further training as required. We have targeted those closest to fish breeding areas first. The following fish conservation committees have been established and trained in each stratum:

Stratum	Conservation Committees Formed	Conservation Committees Trained
Stratum 5.3	15	15
Stratum 5.4	8	8
Stratum 5.5	7	7
TOTAL	30	30

We are pleased that approximately 28% of FCC members in the project area are female. However as we are still in the process of entering committee membership details onto our database, we will confirm this figure at the annual report stage. We have drafted a questionnaire to target female members of FCCs and also those women who aren't FCC members to measure whether participation in an FCC improves women's wellbeing and sense of worth within their community. This questionnaire will shortly be tested on the ground to enable us to fine tune it and begin to establish baseline figures.

Fish Breeding Areas

RIPPLE Africa are working with the District Fisheries Office to identify and map all Chambo breeding areas in the project area. RIPPLE Africa's Monitoring and Evaluation Officer has been trained to map points using a smartphone app and GPS device and then to create maps of these points using Google maps, meaning the maps can be shared with all team members and other interested parties. Mapping work is on-going and so far 10 key Chambo breeding areas have been identified and the ten conservation committees closest to these have been given additional training on how to best protect these.

Net Confiscations

The fish conservation committees that have been trained are now becoming active, particularly those in Stratum 5.3 and there have already been the following confiscations of illegal fishing

nets:

Net confiscations - Nkhotakota strata 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5 up to Sept 2018

Stratum	5.3	5.4	5.5	Totals
Unlicensed Chilimira	3	3	0	6
Chilimira lined with mosquito net	4	0	0	4
Large Mosquito net (made up of small ones sewn together)	37	22	0	59
Small mosquito net	1	0	0	1
Fish Trap	0	0	0	0
Undermeshed Chilimira	2	0	0	2
Undermeshed gill net	34	0	0	34
Kambuzi Seine mixed with mosquito net	0	0	0	0
Monofilament gill net	3	0	0	3
Monofilament dragnet	0	0	0	0
Dragnet	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	84	25	0	109

When nets are confiscated, fishers using or owning them are also fined. The FCCs can use the fine money to fund patrol costs and educational activities. If the fines are not paid, offenders are referred to the police and risk having to pay a larger fine and possible imprisonment. Confiscated nets are passed to the District Fisheries Office for storage until they can be destroyed to ensure that they cannot be stolen and reused.

Income and catch data

We have started to gather baseline data on fish catches and income from fishing as part of our monitoring and evaluation activities. The system that we are using is the same as that which we use in Nkhata Bay District.

We have identified fishers who will assist us in measuring the project's impact through the daily recording of fish catches. Some of these fishers are FCC members and others are not. We are currently training and closely monitoring them to ensure that the data we collect from them are accurate. So far, across the 3 strata, we have been collecting data from the following fishers:

- 8 Chambo fishermen at 2 beaches
- 8 Usipa fishermen at 2 beaches
- 4 Utaka fishermen at 1 beach.

	Chambo	Usipa	Utaka
Stratum 5.3	4 fishers	4 fishers	0 fishers
Stratum 5.4	4 fishers	0 fishers	4 fishers (though these are in the process of being replaced due to their migration)
Stratum 5.5	0 fishers	4 fishers	0 fishers

We are currently seeking advice on how many additional samples we will need to take to ensure that our data will be statistically representative of the whole stratum and fisher distribution.

Chambo fishers are asked to measure the size of the fish that they catch as we are hoping that as the project progresses, fishers will start to catch more and bigger fish. With Usipa and Utaka, which are much smaller fish, the fish catches are measured by the litre. Our averages so far for the three strata in the project area are:

Average monthly catch

	Large	Medium	Small
Chambo	13 – 64 fish	108 – 246 fish	0 – 1 fish
Usipa	569 – 1528 litres		
Utaka	702 litres		

Average catch per day fished

	Large	Medium	Small
Chambo	1 – 3 fish	5 – 12 fish	0.04 fish
Usipa	65 - 77 litres		
Utaka	56 litres		

Usipa 1 litre samples

In order to try and better understand the seasonality (if any) of large and small usipa, and to inform potential needs for increased net sizes, we have been doing random sampling of usipa catches in two of the project strata. We have noticed that baby usipa seem to appear in July / Aug. We will continue to follow this data and compare it to our results in Nkhata Bay District, to pick up any trends. We also hope to be able to use this data as evidence to motivate for any future changes to by-laws and legal net sizes for usipa to take account of this seasonality, and to give the baby usipa a chance to grow.

Income for fishers

We monitor the sale price of each fish species on the beach and multiply this by the number of fish caught to arrive at the predicted monthly income. Fishers also record their actual income (money they actually received from the sale) – since sometime the amount differs as they take home some fish for their families. We consider this an important part of the picture, as this is the 'livelihood value' of the catch to these fishers.

We will continue to measure catch and income data on an on-going basis as part of our monitoring and evaluation programme.

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.

There has been a change of District Fisheries Officer in Nkhotakota District.

We stated on our application that our project partner was the District Fisheries Officer in Nkhotakota District, Rodgers Makwinja. Mr Makwinja has now left the District to study for a PhD and we have a new District Fisheries Officer, Symon Ngwira. Symon was previously District Fisheries Officer in Karonga District and is already familiar with the Fish for Tomorrow project and is excited to be working with us on it – he was extremely keen to see the project introduced into Karonga so our team in Malawi had already met and discussed the possible introduction of the project with him there.

Mr Ngwira is now established as District Fisheries Officer in Nkhotakota and is working closely with our team to ensure that the project is successful here. We anticipate no impact on the project budget or timetable from this change.

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: Yes

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes

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?

None

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**