



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

Project reference:	25-016
Project title:	Promoting community based management for secure fisheries, biodiversity and livelihoods
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Madagascar
Lead organisation	SEED Madagascar
Partner(s)	Peter Jones - UCL (Department of Geography); Alasdair Harris – Blue Ventures; Vatasoa Rakotondrazafy – MIHARI; Gio Ramaro – DRRHP (Regional Directorate of Fisheries); Valencia Assanly – URL (Lobster Research Unit); Alain Ducas – Madapeche; Jean Patrick Rakotoarison – Le Martin Pecheur; Bastien Warnier – L’Arrivage; Daniel Raberinary – University of Tulear.
Project leader	<i>Lisa Bass</i>
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	<i>HYR1</i>
Project website/blog/social media etc.	<i>www.madagascar.co.uk; https://www.facebook.com/SEEDMadagascar/ https://www.instagram.com/seedmadagascar/ https://twitter.com/SEEDMadagascar.</i>

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).

Project activities began on 1st July 2018; the following report outlines progress in the first three months of project activities. The majority of this time was allocated for project setup, recruitment and procurement with minimal direct project activities scheduled. However, progress has been made not only towards the agreed timetable, but also to additional activities as outlined below.

Progress against agreed baseline timetable for this period:

1.7 Recruitment and training of 3 new participatory fisheries monitoring programme data collectors (1 in each target community) and continuation of participatory monitoring programme data collection in target communities (due to be completed by month 27)

Data continues to be collected in Sainte Luce, Ebakika and Itapera as part of the participatory monitoring programme. Three new participatory fisheries monitoring programme data collectors have yet to be hired. Stephen Long, the research consultant on the project visited at the end of August 2018 to review the data collection protocols and look at areas of improvement. The project fisheries specialist is continuing to address these recommendations before the team proceeds with hiring the new data collectors.

1.8 Marine Protected Area Governance analysis conducted

The Marine Protected Area Governance (MPAG) analysis, conducted in partnership with University College London was scheduled to commence in Q2 of project year one, with the analysis completed by the end of Q3.

In mid-August, MPAG Researcher (Grace Thurlow) and MPAG Principal Investigator (Peter Jones) arrived in Fort Dauphin to begin their investigation. During a six-week period the team

visited the three target communities to interview a range of stakeholders including local officials, fishers and their families, lobster buyers/middlemen and other community members. Meetings were also held with private sector seafood buyers Madapeche, Martin Pecheur and Santi; a Chinese company who were previously unwilling to cooperate in the project. The MPAG team are currently in the process of writing up their findings and on track to complete this by the end of December.

Progress of additional agreed baseline timetable activities for this period:

1.2 Monthly fisheries management committee training workshops

Riaky (fisheries management) committee training sessions in Sainte Luce were held in August and September, despite originally being planned to start in November 2018, predominantly due to the high level of engagement of the committee. Training focussed on the roles and responsibilities of committee members and management of the temporary No Take Zone (NTZ).

2.14 URL skills sharing and capacity building workshops and site visits to target communities.

3.4 DRRHP capacity building and skill-sharing workshops and site visits to target communities

In July, SEED Madagascar (Director of Programmes and Operations – Lisa Bass, Head of External Relations, Communications and Compliance – Tsina Endor, and Head of Environment and Conservation – Octave Rabetany) met with chief representatives of the Lobster Research Unit (URL) and regional fisheries Ministry (DRRHP). Through these meetings a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was developed, outlining the support and involvement of each stakeholder in project activities from July 2018 to March 2021. The final MoUs were finalised in September, and due to be signed by all parties in October.

Progress of other general activities not related to specific baseline timetable activities:

Recruitment

Recruitment for a number of project team members has been underway since the grant confirmation was received. As per the recent change request submitted, six members of the project team have been confirmed into post since July: Head of the Environment and Sustainable Livelihoods Department (Octave Rabetany), Project Development Officer (Andrew Turner), Project Coordinator (Jeremie Ndriamanja), MEL Specialist (Jessica Savage), Education Specialist (Rova Ralaindimby) and MPAG Researcher (Grace Thurlow).

Community Meetings

The project team also visited the three target communities in an effort to re-engage with and prepare them for upcoming activities. Discussions took place by phone and in person with the Chef Fokontany (locally elected official) of each community to ask for support and assistance in organising community meetings. The meetings were subsequently held in Sainte Luce (August) and Ebakika (September) to discuss community co-operation in upcoming project activities in advance of the official launch events in October.

In Sainte Luce, the meeting was positive with the community expressing an openness to continued collaboration and deciding on community NTZ closures for the remainder of 2018 (November – December) and 2019 lobster fishing season (May–July & November–December).

In Ebakika, project activities were discussed with the community and, although there was a broad consensus to engage with project activities, there were some disagreements over NTZ closures. Community members agreed to meet again to further discuss the issue in October. Following this, SEED will return to discuss project progress with them.

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.

Delays in receiving funds corresponding to Q2 of project year one have made it more difficult for the team to plan effectively for upcoming activities. However, during October 2018, instalments of funds for both Q2 and Q3 were received, which will allow for proper planning and implementation of project activities to resume. The project team do not currently anticipate any major budget or timetable changes as a result of this delay.

Other issues discussed with LTS include the recently submitted change request detailing project staff changes as previously described in section 1.

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 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: £

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 other than those already outlined above.

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**