



Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects Half Year Report (due 31st October 2020)

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| 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) | University College London (Department of Geography); Blue Ventures; MIHARI; Les Directions Régionales des Ressources Halieutiques et de la Pêche (DRRHP); Unité de Recherche Langoustière (URL); Madapeche; Le Martin Pecheur; L'Arrivage; University of Tulear IST. |
| Project leader | Lisa Bass |
| Report date and number (e.g. HYR3) | HYR3 |
| Project website/blog/social media | www.madagascar.co.uk https://www.facebook.com/SEEDMadagascar/ https://www.instagram.com/seedmadagascar/ https://twitter.com/SEEDMadagascar |

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

Of the activities scheduled during this period, 2.1, 2.4, 2.5, and 4.1 have been completed and many are on track (1.7, 2.6, 2.7, 2.14, 2.16, 2.17, and 3.6).

COVID-19 has caused delays in many project activities. While not on track, most are expected to be completed by project end (1.2, 1.3, 1.6, 2.3, 2.13, 3.2, 3.4, 3.5, 4.2, and 4.3). Activities 2.10, 2.11, and 2.12 are larger events and require national travel; these will take place if COVID-19 restrictions allow and events are rescheduled within the project timeframe. While activity 2.2 has not met the initial target, this is on track in terms of the project's needs. Community meetings will continue to take place if there is a need for them. Activity 1.4 and 3.3 will take place or start in Elodrato after their *dina* (local law) is locally ratified. In Sainte Luce, activity 3.3 has started informally, but will be formalised in an enforcement strategy before project end.

During this period, a lot of work focused on the design of the Elodrato *dina*. The Fisheries Management Committee has been supported in the process through training sessions (activity 1.2) on the role of the committee in design and application of the *dina*, supporting documents for *dina* ratification, and how to conduct public consultations. X community meetings (public consultations; activity 2.2) were held to inform the design of the *dina*, as well as a general assembly where the community approved the *dina* in the presence of stakeholders such as DRAEP (activity 3.4) and mayors. It is hoped the *dina* will be ratified locally and be in the process of national ratification (activity 3.6) before project end.

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months (for Covid-19 specific delays/problems, please use 2b). Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

All notable problems or unexpected developments have been linked to Covid-19.

2b. Please outline any specific issues which your project has encountered as a result of Covid-19. Where you have adapted your project activities in response to the pandemic, please briefly outline how you have done so here. Explain what residual impact there may be on your project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

Confirmed Covid-19 cases remain low in Madagascar, but the economic impacts of restrictions are enormous. Borders closed March 20th, shortly after which most international staff were repatriated to their home countries and continued working from different time zones. The Covid-19 pandemic has also led to the resignation of two staff members; one moved to be closer to family and the other resigned because it was not possible to return to Madagascar.

Covid-19 restrictions impacted the delivery of activities. Activities in the target communities took more time to complete, as they had to be repeated to multiple groups due to restrictions on group size. At times, no activities could be conducted at all due to travel restrictions. National and regional activities, such as conferences and cross visits, were postponed. This has caused delays in the project timetable. Local activities were often more expensive to conduct, as they had to be repeated, and additional transport was needed due to government restrictions on the number of people in cars. However, there is underspend from national or regional activities not taking place. All delayed activities will be conducted before project end if restrictions allow.

Covid-19 has also impacted lobster fishing livelihoods. Most catch is exported to Europe and Asia, which has been affected by suspension of flights and decreased demand. The lobster price/kg dropped temporarily by 50%. Although the price has since increased, the price of household staples such as rice, oil, and cassava has too, leading to food insecurity for many of the target communities' households. This may be reflected in indicators linked to poverty alleviation.

Socioeconomic impacts are likely to linger after the health emergency has subsided. They are exacerbated by, and in turn exacerbate, low economic resilience, high poverty levels, and a lack of alternative livelihoods. These impacts also have the potential to halt or even regress progress that communities have made towards safeguarding their fisheries through LMMA establishment. Economic necessity, to provide for families in the short-term, may prevent fishers from continuing to adopt more sustainable fishing practices. SEED has developed a next phase of Project Oratsimba, to continue supporting these as well as two new communities, for which a Stage 1 Darwin Initiative application has been submitted.

2c. 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. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.

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

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.

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 DO NOT send these in the same email.****

Please send your **completed report by email** to 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: 25-001 Darwin Half Year Report**