



Darwin Initiative/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31st October 2019)

Project reference	26-014
Project title	Empowering Ivorian coastal communities to conserve biodiversity and secure livelihoods
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Côte d'Ivoire
Lead organisation	University of Exeter (UoE)
Partner(s)	Conservation des Espèces Marines (CEM) Ministère de la Production Animale et des Ressources Halieutiques (MIPARH) Police Maritime (PM) Wildlife Conservation Society, Gabon (WCS-GAB) Zoological Society of London (ZSL)
Project leader(s)	Dr Kristian Metcalfe / Prof Brendan Godley (Principal Investigators)
Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)	HYR 1
Project website/blog/social media etc.	@associationcem

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 1st June 2019 and so this report covers the period up to the end of September 2019 (n = 4 months). Activities during this period primarily focused on developing a detailed annual work plan with project partners, as well as engaging with all key stakeholders and government partners involved in the project.

To this end researchers from the UoE (comprised of principal investigator Dr Kristian Metcalfe and fisheries and marine biodiversity specialists Dr Phil Doherty and Dr Dominic Tilley) spent two weeks in-country during August and September with the principal national project partner CEM (José Gomez Peñate, Alexandre Dah and Dr Catherine McClellan), and regional partner WCS-GAB (Dr Angela Formia). During this visit meetings were held with: (1) each of the 7 coastal communities (i.e. Nero-Mer, Nero-Boupé, Roc, Mani, Dawa, Pitiké, and Kablaké); (2) representatives from the Ghanaian fishing community; (3) local free-divers who are engaged in data collection for the project; (4) hotel operators – Le Katoum, La Flotte, La Baie des Sirènes and Le Kara Krou, as well as our local government partners in Grand- Béréby: (5) provincial mayor's office; (6) Ministère de la Production Animale et des Ressources Halieutiques (MIPARH); and (7) Police Maritime (PM).

The following section provides a more detailed breakdown of the activities completed under each project output to date:

Output 1. Diversified and improved coastal livelihoods: Initial tasks completed have included the design of a bespoke socioeconomic survey (Activity 1.1) led by Dr Ana Nuno (UoE) and reviewed by project partners (July – September), as well as the recruitment of a

socioeconomic survey field coordinator (Darwin Research Assistant) and local field team to support delivery of this activity (September). The former involved interviews with 5 potential candidates (3 male and 2 female) from Grand-Béréby and surrounding communities who met the job specification - with Mr Abel Gba successfully being appointed in September 2019. The latter team is comprised of 7 individuals (5 male and 2 female) - one from each of the coastal communities involved in the project (i.e. Nero-Mer, Nero-Boupé, Roc, Mani, Dawa, Pitiké, and Kablaké). These candidates were nominated by the village dignitaries during the initial field visit in August and September (comprised of the village chief, territorial chief, youth and women's representatives and other community spokespersons) - with the minimum requirement for candidates being the ability to read and write, and availability for 5 weeks in October and November. During the first field visit it was agreed by all partners that adopting such an approach would ensure communities are actively involved in all aspects of data collection (not just biodiversity data collection; output 2), as well as providing individuals from local communities with specialised training that might enhance their future employment opportunities. All socioeconomic surveys (Activity 1.2) will be delivered using open source software (ODK) and tablets and are underway following a 2-week training period (12th – 25th October 2019) led by Dr Ana Nuno and Dr Dominic Tilley (UoE). Dr Ana Nuno will lead on analyses of these data with findings being used to update logframe (as requested by the Darwin Expert Committee) and to inform the delivery of subsequent activities under output 1 (e.g. Activities 1.3 and 1.6 – skills training).

Output 2. Improved knowledge of marine biodiversity: Following the field visit to Grand-Béréby funded by a Darwin Partnership grant (DARSC190) in July 2018 CEM employed Dr Catherine McClellan to develop a data collection protocol and training programme (Activity 2.1) to support the participatory mapping of marine species and habitats in the proposed Darwin project area. Certain aspects of the field data collection (Activity 2.2) have therefore commenced ahead of schedule with free divers from Roc (n = 4 individuals) receiving training, and conducting underwater survey transects to characterise near shore habitats, and physical oceanography (e.g. temperature and salinity) in December 2018. During the recent field visit (August and September), further training was provided on species identification and habitat characterisation – led by Dr Phil Doherty (UoE) and Dr Catherine McClellan (CEM). This survey will be repeated between December 2019 and February 2020 – this being the period when water clarity is best. Over time this survey will be supplemented by deployment of low cost BRUV (Baited Remote Underwater Video) surveys in waters > 10 m – the limit at which the free divers are able to operate safely. Much of the data from the first survey has already been analysed and mapped (Activity 2.3) by Dr Catherine McClellan (CEM).

Output 3. Enhanced fisheries governance: As highlighted during the stage 2 application process local government partners MIPARH and PM implemented two pilot studies proposed as part of the project following the field visit to Grand-Béréby funded by a Darwin Partnership grant (DARSC190) - fisheries landing surveys and vessel tracking studies. These activities continued for 6 months prior to the project being funded providing a good baseline from which to refine survey protocols (Activity 3.1), with further training provided to MIPARH and PM, and data collection commencing during the August – September field visit (Activity 3.2). Given the number of communities, agencies, and staff involved in this aspect of the project these activities will be supported by a local field coordinator (Darwin Research Assistant) Mr Jean-Kevin Moegnan Tiehi who will liaise closely with the teams from local fisheries agency and the maritime police led by Mr Adama Dosso and Lt. Maxime Guevet, respectively. Please note Mr Jean-Kevin Moegnan Tiehi was appointed in the same round of interviews as Mr Abel Gba in September 2019 (as outlined under output 1).

Output 4. Environmental education campaigns underpinning local awareness and a community-based marine protected area planning process: Understanding social norms

around marine biodiversity use and management (**Activity 4.1**) forms a significant component of the socioeconomic data collection outlined in output 1 above. Dr Ana Nuno will lead on analyses of these data with findings being used to inform the delivery of subsequent activities under output 4 (e.g. Activities 4.2 – environmental education campaigns). Please note – surveys under output 1 and 4 have been combined to minimise survey fatigue in local communities.

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.

Nothing to report for the period 1st June – 30th September 2019.

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: £0.00

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?

Nothing to report for the period 1st June – 30th September 2019.

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 R25 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 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: 25-035 Darwin Half Year Report**