



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

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)	HYR2 (30 th October 2020)
Project website/blog/social media etc.	@associationcem

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).

The following section provides a detailed breakdown of the activities completed under each project output for the reporting period 1st April – 30th September 2020:

Output 1. Diversified and improved coastal livelihoods: activities under this output have primarily focused on delivering skills and livelihood training. Whilst delivery was slightly delayed due to national restrictions associated with Covid-19, a skills training program has been designed and implemented that aims to build literacy and numeracy skills within local communities (**activity 1.3**); as socioeconomic surveys implemented during FY1 (**activities 1.1 and 1.2**) revealed that self-perceived reading and writing abilities were notably low among survey respondents (see annual report 1). A total of 71 sessions (totalling 142 hours) have been delivered since 10th August 2020 and attended by a total of 149 persons (mean attendance per community: 25 persons), comprised of 36 (24%) males and 113 (76%) females. The proportion of females at workshops ranged from 61% to 93% (mean proportion: 75%). A final draft of the 'community-business charter' (**activity 1.4**) has been produced and a stakeholder evaluation meeting with representatives from local communities, businesses, and government is scheduled to take place in FY2 Q3, building on the community-business partnership workshop delivered on the 7th February 2020, after which there will be a formal ceremony during which this 'charter' will be signed. In terms of livelihood diversification activities, **CEM** has worked closely with the Ministry of Tourism (in San Pedro) and University of Abidjan to create an EcoGuide training program (**activity 1.6**) comprised of 4 modules (which will cover the identification, biology and ecology of animals, role and responsibilities of EcoGuides and behaviour around wildlife, and legal aspects and safety measures), and is scheduled to be delivered to 27 persons in FY2 Q3. In addition, the project is providing additional financial support to create an 'Ecoguide association' as well as funding the official

accreditation of attendees to operate as an EcoGuide, as required by law.

Output 2. Improved knowledge of marine biodiversity: activities under this output have primarily focused on analysis of marine biodiversity survey data (**activity 2.3**), in support of the creation of a marine atlas that will be disseminated to stakeholders in FY3 (**activity 2.3**). A draft atlas has been created, comprised of five main sections (Geopolitical context: 8 data layers; physical environment: 5 data layers; oceanography: 26 data layers; biodiversity: 22 data layers; and focus on the Grand-Béréby study region: 6 data layers) and shared with core project stakeholders for comment. The production of the marine atlas has been designed to provide the baseline scientific evidence, and visualisation of available data for the creation of the new MPA that has commenced ahead of schedule (originally planned for FY3 Q1) as project partners are trying to ensure all project data is being made accessible to government agencies. Please note additional field data collection (**activity 2.2**) to supplement baseline data gathered during FY1 is being planned for FY2 Q3 and Q4, to coincide with the period when water clarity is best for underwater surveys (i.e. between end of December 2020 and February 2021).

Output 3. Enhanced fisheries governance: activities under this output have primarily focused on field data collection, including the continuation of fisheries vessel tracking to map spatial patterns of resource use, and landings surveys (**activity 3.2**). These data have been incorporated and analysed with data collected from FY1 (**activity 3.3**) to support project reports (similar to those appended with our annual report) as well as the creation of a marine atlas that will be disseminated to stakeholders in FY3 (**activity 2.3 / activity 3.4**). As detailed for output 2 above, the production of the draft atlas has commenced ahead of schedule and includes an ocean resource user component, which includes fisheries space-use data gathered during the project. Please note fisheries data collection (**activity 3.3**) is planned to continue throughout FY2.

Output 4. Environmental education campaigns underpinning local awareness and a community-based marine protected area planning process: activities under this output have primarily focused on the implementation of environmental education seminars (dissemination of results) and environmental campaign materials. To address current social norms around marine biodiversity use identified from socioeconomic surveys implemented in FY1 (**activity 4.1**), the project has developed 2 environmental education campaigns (**activity 4.2**) focusing on perceived differences between protected and unprotected areas and ecosystem service benefits of nature (both in a marine and terrestrial context: **Fig 1**). In addition, we have developed a further campaign for fishers and fishing communities that focus on fisheries regulations. Whilst the environmental education seminars for local villagers (**activity 4.3**) were initially delayed in FY1 due to national restrictions associated with Covid-19, these were delivered to individuals from 9 coastal communities (at 7 locations) between 10th June and 18th June 2020 – reaching a total audience of 612 individuals (average attendance per community: 102, range 34 – 155 persons), with 39% of attendees being female (Adults: 228 male, 155 female; Children: 144 male, 85 female). Please note additional seminars are scheduled for the end of FY2.



Fig 1 Large (2 x 2m) plasticised environmental education campaign infographics.

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.

Nothing notable to report for the period 1st April – 30th September 2020.	
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.	
Extensive training provided at the beginning of project (totalling 16 person-weeks) and frequent communication between partners throughout Covid-19 has meant that project partners have been able to continue to deliver agreed activities in-country with remote support; however, some of these have been subject to minor adjustments in delivery date to meet national guidelines (as detailed in section 1 above). Activities that were significantly impacted by Covid-19 as detailed in the projects annual report for FY1 included: (1) the implementation of environmental education seminars (activity 4.3); and (2) the purchase of equipment linked to the fisheries purchasing cooperative (activity 1.7). As a result, project partners submitted a financial change request, to request unspent funds associated with these activities can be used in FY2. Defra agreed to this re-budget (email confirmation June 2020), thereby allowing project partners to run environmental education seminars as detailed in section 1 (see output 4), and to order fisheries equipment.	
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 <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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. 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?	
Nothing to raise or report for the reporting period 1st April – 30th September 2020.	

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**