



## Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects Half Year Report (due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021)

<b>Project reference</b>	28-021
<b>Project title</b>	Improving coastal resilience and ecosystem services through biodiversity restoration (Philippines)
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Philippines
<b>Lead organisation</b>	International Institute of Rural Reconstruction
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Zoological Society of London
<b>Project leader</b>	<i>Julian Gonsalves Ph.D</i>
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> October 2021, (HYR1)
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	

**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).**

- I. Staff recruitment and contracting; Project team put in place
- Staff were recruited and some existing staff designated as members of the project team as follows:
  - Project Leader Dr. Julian Gonsalves
  - Project Manager Darwin Raymundo
  - Project Field Team Manager Rico Locaba
  - Project Coordinator Ruel Jordan
  - Project Staff Jonalyn Laco
- II. Setup of field office
- Purchase of equipment moved to following quarter pending release of project funds
- 1.1 Project Inception meeting-workshops towards MoA signing with LGU, POs, DA, DENR, DepEd, and BFAR to agree on implementation roles and resource-sharing mechanisms
- Initial coordination meetings with government agencies regarding the project:
    - Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Quezon Provincial office
    - Department of Education (DepEd), Guinayangan, Quezon South District
    - Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Community Environment and Natural Resources Office, Calauag
    - Department of Agriculture (DA) Regional Field Unit, Region 4A
- 1.2 Baseline bio-physical assessment, and spatial mapping of mangroves; and identification of rehabilitation areas using MCS survey

- Deskwork data gathering of existing mangrove maps from the Municipal Agriculture Office. Points raised in Flexireference DIR 2752/1059 regarding biodiversity indicators are being addressed with the identification of several indicators, i.e. species diversity indices, area of degraded or converted mangrove ecosystems under restoration and conservation.

1.3 Trainers' Training on Mangrove and Beach Forest Rehabilitation and Conservation in ZSL Panay learning sites including development of in-situ mangrove rehabilitation plan

- Training moved to following quarter pending signing of MoA with ZSL, release of funds, and identification of local resource managers to train

1.4 Organizing and/or strengthening coastal people's organizations (POs)

- Data gathering for 14 coastal barangay profiles and people's organizations

2.7.3 Roll-out of fund: support to PAR, establishment of community-based production support facilities (e.g. nurseries, propagation/breeding centers, water harvesting facilities)

- Assessment of fruit trees, vegetables and root and tuber crops relevant to coastal areas in the Philippines. Establishment of cashew tree nurseries based on planting materials secured from analogue sites in Palawan.

Activity photos:



Figs. 1 and 2. Data gathering for barangay profiles

**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.**

Purchase of equipment delayed pending release of project funds. Equipment to be purchased within the next quarter following this reporting period; no impacts on budget or project activities expected.

Trainers' Training on Mangrove and Beach Forest Rehabilitation and Conservation moved to following quarter pending MoA signing with ZSL; no impacts on budget or project activities expected.

**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**

<b>may be on your project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.</b>	
Aside from the adoption of COVID-19 health protocols during meetings (social distancing, fewer participants per meeting, use of online meetings), no adverse effects are seen that will affect the budget or timetable of project activities.	
<b>2c. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?</b>	
Discussed with LTS:	Yes/No
Formal change request submitted:	Yes/No
Received confirmation of change acceptance	Yes/No

<p><b>3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?</b></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Estimated underspend: £</p>
<p><b>3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully.</b> Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.</p> <p><b>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.</b></p>
<p><b>4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?</b></p>
Empty space for response

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](mailto: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**