

# DARWIN INITIATIVE FOR THE SURVIVAL OF SPECIES

## SIX MONTHLY MONITORING FORM

### Project Details

Project Reference No   **162/7/055.**

Project Title   Marine Environmental Training in  
                          Seychelles and Mauritius

Institution   Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)

Round 4              (please tick)

5   

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- a) Outline progress over the last six months against the agreed baseline timetable for the project. If some milestones have not been achieved or have slipped, explain reasons for this.

## **RODRIGUES**

<b>Staff recruitment</b>	Three permanent field staff (UK Nationals) and four full-time Rodriguan staff Part-time trainers identified and recruited
<b>Shoals staff training</b>	1 completed Dive Master training. 3 received fishery studies training.
<b>Trainee recruitment</b>	Continue to recruit trainees from Government departments and local NGOs
<b>Field base</b>	Waterfront, comprehensive MARTEC – Marine Research, Training and Education Centre – established, with wet & dry lab space, and teaching facilities. Currently being expanded to include extra teaching and laboratory space and computing laboratory. Accommodation facilities also well established
<b>Training</b>	Diver Training; First Aid Training; RLSS training; Reef Check surveying techniques; Intertidal survey methods; Fishery studies training; Lagoon biodiversity survey methods; Use of GIS.
<b>Seminars</b>	The Shoals education co-ordinator, Sarah Welton gave a series of seminars on the use of the Mobile Marine Education Unit for teachers and youth leaders Charlotte Howard, Shoals field staff member gave a seminar on Educational Beach Trails for teachers and members of the tourist industry?
<b>Workshops</b>	A 20 week course covering the general aspects of marine science
<b>Poster production</b>	A local artist has been identified to produce the third in the series of Shoals/Darwin posters the theme of this poster will be ‘Defence, attack and camouflage’
<b>Training manual</b>	Training notes are being compiled for the training manual – ongoing, and commencing work for ID guide to local coastal species

## **SEYCHELLES**

<b>Staff recruitment</b>	Three permanent field staff (UK Nationals) one local Seychellois volunteer (Elke Talma)
<b>Shoals staff training</b>	1 completed PADI Dive Master training
<b>Trainee recruitment</b>	Continue to recruit trainees from Government departments and local NGOs
<b>Field base</b>	Field base on Ste Anne continues to be improved to encourage visiting scientists; further additions to scientific and educational materials
<b>Training</b>	Ongoing marine monitoring training; coral reef monitoring skills; completion of ‘Monitoring the Marine Environment’ training course; snorkelling; PADI Dive Master training; PADI Medic First Aid training
<b>Seminars</b>	Shoals Education co-ordinator gave a seminar on how to use the Mobile Marine Treasure Chest
<b>Workshops</b>	3 1-day workshops for teachers ‘Oceans of fun’; 1-day workshop to launch Mobile Marine Treasure Chest; 1-day marine education workshop
<b>Poster production</b>	Identification of theme and local artists for design of 2 <sup>nd</sup> poster ‘Life Cycles’
<b>Training manual</b>	Completed, currently being edited and trial-tested in Rodrigues

- b) Is the project still expected to achieve all the original objectives which were specified? Explain any problems/difficulties which have been encountered to date in achieving the objectives of the project (or any which you envisage may be encountered in the future).

It appears increasingly unlikely that we will not be able to fulfil our commitment to extend dive training to PADI Instructor level. After discussion with local counterparts the decision was made to train a greater number of trainees up to Dive Master level, rather than a few to instructor level. We will however still persevere in our original aim. Mr John Nortcliffe is scheduled to spend 3 months early next year to carry out further PADI dive training and Medic First Aid courses. Mr Nortcliffe will be able to train 2 or 3 host nation personnel up to Assistant Instructor level.

- c) What lessons can be learnt from your experiences (both good and bad) over the last six months?

#### RODRIGUES

During the last six months it has become apparent that the discussion session forum for communicating with members of the fishing community is extremely effective. Visiting the fishers at their local centre and encouraging exchange of views has built trust and confidence and generated important dialogue applicable to future marine resource management. The benefit of training received by local counterparts is also becoming clear as they actively seek a greater degree of participation and are formulating their own initiatives and projects.

- d) If the project timetable has slipped or changed, provide an updated project implementation timetable for the remainder of the project. *(Please note that projects are expected to adhere to their original timetable and that the timely completion of projects is an important factor taken into account by the Department when assessing project performance. However, from time to time projects may be delayed unavoidably. Where a project is falling behind schedule, details on the revised programme of work should be provided below. We shall then follow up on this with you)*

- e) What is the estimated completion date for the project?  
May 2001

- f) Is this different to the completion date set out in the original application form?

Yes

(please tick)

No

g) Miscellaneous information

Please use this space to provide any further information on the progress of the project over the last six months.

### **TRAINING TO DATE – RODRIGUES**

*Please note that all activities in Rodrigues dovetail with the existing National Lottery Charities Board International Grants Programme Shoals Rodrigues project, and therefore outputs such as those listed below should be considered as supported by both the Darwin Initiative and the NLCB.*

Our principal counterpart organisations continue to be the Fisheries Research and Training Unit (FRTU), Fisheries Protection Service (FPS), National Coastguard, Environment Unit, Rodrigues Underwater Group (RUG), Mauritius Wildlife Foundation (MWF), Education Unit, Roman Catholic Education Authority, primary schools and colleges, the Young People's Committee, fisher organisations and the Association of Rodrigues Tourist Operators.

Training continues to be initiated by international experts and followed-up with more long-term work by *Shoals* field staff. Our policy of fully inclusion of our counterparts in our activities also continues.

#### **Diver training**

3 trainees obtained their PADI Advanced Open Water certificate and 8 counterparts from the FPS, National Coastguard, RUG, and MWF have now been awarded their Rescue Diver certificate and have therefore reached an intermediate stage on the route to becoming instructors.

#### **Intertidal and lagoon monitoring**

A Fisheries Assistant from the FPS received training in techniques to map biological and bathymetric features of the lagoon, and was joined by 3 members of the Cadastral surveying Unit to learn how such information could be manipulated using Geographical Information Systems software. 1 member of the Environment Unit received training in methods for intertidal survey methods.

#### **Reef Monitoring training**

The diver training given by *Shoals* has allowed the diving community in Rodrigues, and the membership of RUG, to expand dramatically. Reef monitoring training was given for the first time to 3 members of RUG, and 4 previous trainees continue to receive practical training by assisting with surveys.

#### **Marine Discussion Sessions for Fishers**

Fisher discussion sessions and swimming lessons continue, again in collaboration with the FRTU, and a group from a further fishing community has been recently included. Topics discussed include coastal dangers, coral reef ecology, and marine reserves. These sessions will also be used to provide First Aid training for the fishers.

#### **Fishery Studies Training –**

*Shoals* staff and volunteers were trained in methods of the collection of socio-economic and catch data for artisanal fisheries.

#### **Medic First Aid Training -**

An additional 11 Medic First Aid Certificates have been awarded to members of the Fisheries departments, Environment Unit, RUG, National Coastguard and MWF since March 2000, and a further 3 National Coastguard representatives have been received practical First Aid training. A

full rescue scenario to include divers, Coastguard, Police and hospital staff is scheduled for November.

### **Royal Life Saving Society Training -**

Royal Life Saving Society training has continued and a further 17 Bronze Medallions have been awarded. The next stage of this training will be to send local counterparts to Mauritius to receive training as Life Saving instructors.

### **Training Manuals -**

Progress on the training manuals has progressed notably well in the area of developing modules and teaching notes for adult education, in particular for teacher training.

### **Marine Ecology Theory Training**

A group of 48 adults, primarily teachers but also including government employees, youth leaders and interested members of the public, attend weekly sessions to improve their understanding of ecological processes occurring in the marine environment. This course includes the opportunity for trainees to undertake surveys of a variety of shore habitats.

### **Education -**

*Shoals* continues to run a successful education programme, primarily for secondary school pupils, and to provide resources in the form of a Mobile Marine Education Unit for primary schools. The programme for secondary school pupils includes surveys and other practical activities, so is laying the ground work for training future stakeholders.

### **Collaborative Projects -**

The Environment Week organised by the Ministry for Rodrigues, *Shoals*, the Mauritius Wildlife Foundation (MWF), and the Rodrigues Underwater Group, and funded by the European Union Anti-Erosion Project, was held during the first week of August 2000. Prior to the Week, entitled *Discover the Natural Environment of Rodrigues*, a series of informative programs discussing the inhabitants and use of different ecosystems were broadcast on local radio, and art, poetry and essay competitions were launched in schools. The focal point during Environment Week itself was a marquee containing exhibitions depicting the marine and terrestrial flora and fauna. In addition to posters, the marquee contained models, mobiles, an activity corner for children with games and books, aquaria, video presentations and examples of endemic plants. Swimming, snorkelling, beach trails, visits to the MWF nursery, a treasure hunt, endemic bat censuses and slide and video evenings were also organised during the week. A similar week, with the theme *Protect the Natural Environment of Rodrigues* will be held next year.

## **SEYCHELLES:**

### **Training personnel field visits: Shoals Chief Diving Officer.**

Two Field Team members with approximately 30% of their time devoted to Local Training Activities.

Ongoing marine monitoring training – staff from the Marine Parks Authority continue to monitor the reefs within and around the Marine Parks through a quarterly Marine Monitoring Programme – training through research.

Training links with the Seychelles Coral Reef Network – provision of Coral Reef monitoring skills (the network comprises staff from the Marine Parks Authority, Seychelles Coast Guard, Seychelles Fishing Authority and Ministry of Environment and Transport).

Completion of 'Monitoring the Marine Environment' Training Course for Marine Parks Authority (MPA) staff – work is currently underway to edit the training notes in order to produce training manuals for use by other island based marine resource management teams.

'Monitoring the Marine Environment' Training Course has been adopted by the Seychelles Maritime Training Centre (MTC) for use in their curriculum as a core module – it will be taught initially by Shoals Field staff, but after year 1 a member of the MPA staff (who has graduated through the course) will take over the responsibility.

Hydrographic Training : Major Rosette, of the Seychelles Coast Guard, has been allocated a space at the Royal Navy Hydrographic School, Plymouth, UK.

Professor Tom Hecht provided a fisheries workshop for the MPA Rangers.

Jon Houghton, NMGW conducted a workshop on turtle biology

A one day workshop 'Designing Communication Strategies for Conservation Projects'- various local organisations attended.

Training on coral identification techniques were provided to Natural History Museum staff. It is hoped this training will enable the staff to continue upgrading of their coral display.

A ½ day Marine Protected Area workshop, co-ordinated by UNEP (Regional Co-ordinating Unit [RCU] for the East Africa) was attended. Various stakeholders attended to present their views on the management of the National Marine Parks.

Snorkel lessons for Polytechnic Wild-Life Club students (20 students, plus 2 teachers).

PADI Dive Master training for 1 Shoals field team member.

PADI Medic First Aid Training for Aride Island resource management staff (3 Rangers).

PADI Medic First Aid Training for 10 Wild-Life Club leaders.

## **EDUCATION :**

Education personnel field visits : Shoals Education Co-ordinator.

One Field Team member with approximately 70% of time devoted to Local Education Activities.

3 one day workshops for teachers (upper primary/lower secondary) called 'Oceans of Fun' using Seychelles Marine Education kit – getting started : 42 teachers from Mahé, Praslin and La Digue, plus staff from the Seychelles Natural History Museum (5). Workshops also used as a forum to identify resources for inclusion in a 'Mobile Marine Treasure Chest'.

Design and development of the 'Mobile Marine Treasure Chest', administered through the Seychelles Natural History Museum.

One day workshop during Environment Week (June 2000) to launch the Mobile Marine Treasure Chest with 25 students and 5 teachers from the School for the Exceptional Child.

Design and development of a 'Marine Discovery Centre', designed in conjunction with Seychelles Natural History Museum technicians and local artisans, based and managed within the Seychelles Natural History Museum. Officially opened August 2000.

One day Marine Education workshop on Curieuse island for 25 Wild-Life Club leaders.

8 workshops addressing issues such as :

coral identification, classification and taxonomy (museum staff),

Seashore activities (scout leaders),

Coral reefs (School for the Exceptional Child students and teachers),

Marine Discovery Centre maintenance, upgrading and management (museum staff),

Biotope mapping (Polytechnic students), and

Beach activities (Wild-Life Clubs of Seychelles Leaders).

First Darwin posters officially delivered to the Ministry of Education 'The Hungry Ocean', including various other local outlets (September 2000).

Identification of theme and local artists for design of 2<sup>nd</sup> Darwin poster (Life Cycles) – expected completion date : early 2001.