



Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31 October 2016)

Project Ref No	23-012
Project Title	Improving marine biodiversity and livelihood of coastal communities in Principe
Country(ies)/Territory(ies)	Sao Tome and Principe
Lead Organisation	University of Exeter, UK (UoE)
Partner(s)	Principe Trust Foundation (PTF), Regional Fisheries Department and Principe's Biosphere Reserve Management Unit
Project Leader	Dr Annette Broderick
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	31 October 2016, HYR1
Project website/ Twitter/ Blog/ Instagram etc	Not available yet
Funder (DFID/Defra)	DFID

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).

As approved by LTS international (approval confirmation email dated 01-06-2016), this project had its start delayed and thus here we report only on the project activities during the period 1st July - 30th September 2016. All activities scheduled for the first three months of the project have occurred as planned, with details provided below:

Output 1: Fisheries and livelihoods

A1.1. July/August: Meetings with project partners were held to discuss upcoming activities and start project implementation. A document compiling available information related to artisanal fisheries (e.g. previous initiatives, socio-demographic characteristics of fishing communities) was prepared to facilitate design and implementation of project activities. A project inception workshop was prepared for the 21-22 September; this was then postponed to 7 and 10 October 2016 so that the Regional Secretary of Economy was on the island and could attend (this has now been successfully organized with 44 participants from 9 fishing communities, project partners, government, environmental and development NGOs, coast guard and captaincy. This event and its outcomes will be described in annual report). September: Project leader, Dr Annette Broderick, and project coordinator, Dr Ana Nuno, travelled to Principe Island. Meetings with fishermen and fish sellers representatives were held in all 9 fishing communities to: a) introduce project team and overall project goals; b) start assessing target areas and threats to livelihoods of fishing communities to be considered throughout all phases of project implementation; c) start engaging communities from an early stage regarding activities planned for years 1, 2 and 3. Project name was also discussed with fishermen and fish sellers in order to identify more appealing and locally relevant name; thanks to contribution from these key actors, project has been locally named as "*Umuen vida noi Omali vida nón*" (i.e. "Sea our life" in both creole languages). Meetings were also held with all other key stakeholders, including government, coast guard, captaincy, marine guards and regional fisheries cooperative. When logistically possible, meetings in fishing communities were held separately for men and women as they generally have different roles in the fisheries sector and in order to allow gender issues to be identified more robustly (e.g. during project scoping visit, women often remained quiet in

presence of fishermen or were much less likely to raise their own issues). Upcoming focus group discussions have been arranged so that there are different sessions scheduled for men and women.

Output 2: Establishing co-management

No activities planned under this section until Y2Q2 so that we have sufficient time to identify most locally suitable mechanisms, allow engagement with local fishing communities and promote buy-in. Nevertheless, we have used preliminary project work and initial workshops to start assessing current status and feasibility (e.g. in terms of existing fisheries associations and their functionality) and will be contributing to this project output throughout remaining Y1 as well. For example, during informal conversations with fishermen and fish sellers from 9 fishing communities (as mentioned in A1.1), we found that, while there are fisheries associations in 4 communities, several struggle with the management of funds and in terms of decision-making processes due to limited capacity and poor governance structures, while other communities stated a willingness to organize themselves in associations but feel they need assistance with the process and lack technical skills. These aspects will be further explored in upcoming project activities.

Output 3: Ecosystem services trade-offs and social spill-over effects

A3.1. Data collection protocols and survey tools are under development and this task will be ongoing until social surveys start in Y1Q4. This is so that upcoming workshops (scheduled for Oct-Nov) with fishing communities can be used to better inform not only content and design but also implementation of social surveys. In addition, final survey tools will consider pilot phase as well as skills of field enumerators (to be identified and hired during Y1Q3) given generalized low literacy and capacity within the island.

Output 4: Capacity

A4.1. One local project assistant (from Principe) has been hired and started his job on 1 August 2016. Since then, he has received training in PADI Open Water Diving, started an English course and is taking driving lessons. In addition he is becoming familiar with budget management and reporting. He has been working closely with Dr Ana Nuno in order to become familiar with all project activities and be active in project implementation. Instead of hiring three Darwin field assistants (in addition to two other field rangers whose time is being provided in-kind to project), we have decided to identify and hire (starting Y1Q3) one person per fishing community to be involved in data collection and general project assistance as well as hiring occasional field assistants to help during more data-intensive activities. This will allow providing training to more people than initially planned, enhancing capacity of local residents. In order to provide training to all staff, their technical capacity, specific needs and critical gaps will be assessed and addressed during Y1Q3-Q4. This does not affect the project budget.

Output 5: Project monitoring and evaluation

A5.1. Key social, economic and ecological parameters are being identified based on ongoing conversations with key stakeholders and a list is currently under development so that upcoming workshops (scheduled for late Oct-early Nov) can be used to identify locally relevant indicators.

A5.2. At least weekly meetings have been held between UoE and PTF. Project meetings have been held either remotely (via skype) or in person with project partners. Key stakeholders (including fishermen and fish sellers representatives, government, NGOs, coast guard, captaincy and marine guards) have been consulted about project goals and activities. It has been agreed that all project partners will meet at least once every 3 months to evaluate progress and update upcoming tasks accordingly.

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.

As approved by LTS international (approval confirmation email dated 01-06-2016), this project had its start delayed. This resulted in postponing all project activities and milestones by 3

months, which did not affect the overall project budget.

Before the actual start of project, one of our key project personnel, A.M., resigned from her job as conservation programme manager at PTF due to personal reasons. A.M.'s involvement in the project (20% of her time) has been replaced by two other staff members from the same organization: turtle conservation coordinator Vanessa Schmitt (10% of her time) and turtle guard supervisor Jaconias Pereira (10% of his time). This does not affect the overall project budget (as these salaries are being covered in full by PTF and provided in-kind to project) nor the timetable of project activities.

Before the actual start of project, one of the main fishing communities was translocated to another location (geographically merging with another fishing community) due to the development of a tourism resort within a recent assigned private tourism concession. This has reduced the total number of communities in the study area, whilst the number of fishermen and fish sellers is expected to remain similar. This does not affect the overall project budget nor the timetable of project activities. In addition, it remains to be explored if the translocated people integrate in the previously existing community or should be treated as a different unit.

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: £

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?

No

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 send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at 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: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**