

**Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report**  
**(due 31 October 2007)**

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	17-002
<b>Project Title</b>	Managing coral reef fisheries for biodiversity, ecosystem and economic benefits
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Maldives
<b>UK Organisation</b>	Marine Conservation Society
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Marine Research Centre, Maldives
<b>Project Leader</b>	Dr Elizabeth Wood
<b>Report date</b>	Oct 2009
<b>Report No.</b>	HYR1
<b>Project website</b>	Under construction

**1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) 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).**

**The following activities were scheduled for the last 6 months. Progress is shown in bold.**

- Stakeholder meetings to discuss aims, methods, progress. Scheduled as a regular activity, but particularly critical in the first 6 months of the project.  
**Good progress has been made. There have been very regular communications within the project team and 2 new staff appointed at Marine Research Centre with project funding: (Mohamed Ushan: Reef Survey Officer and Ahmed Najeeb: Fishery Project Officer). We have held briefings and discussions with the Fisheries Ministry, Tourism Ministry (re involvement of Dive Centres in survey work), Customs Department (re monitoring of reef fish exports) and marine biologists at several Dive Centres. This has enabled us to refine our plans and ensure that all stakeholders are involved.**
  
- Establish network of survey teams. Scheduled for the first 6 months of the project.  
**We have linked up to several Dive Centres – in particular those that have marine biologists (Banyan Tree, Four Seasons), and they have committed to joining the survey which we are launching as ‘Fishwatch Maldives’. We have tested protocols with them and the next step will be to refine these and then bring more Dive Centres on board.**
  
- Develop protocols for monitoring of fish populations and reef health & produce recording sheets & field data sheets etc. Scheduled for the first 6 months of the project.  
**This is on schedule, with considerable work put into planning and development of methodology. Draft protocols were produced which have now been tested in the field. This included production of illustrated check lists to ensure accuracy and enable a wider range of people to participate. Some adjustments are currently being made following feedback and observations from the trials and then the final survey package will be produced.**

