

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2013)

Project Ref No	19-005
Project Title	Underpinning the design and management of Cambodia's first Marine Protected Area (MPA)
Country(ies)	Cambodia
Lead Organisation	Fauna & Flora International (FFI)
Collaborator(s)	Fisheries Administration (FiA); Coral Cay Conservation (CCC)
Project Leader	Sophie Benbow
Report date and number (eg HYR2)	31 st October 2013, HYR2
Project website	<i>This project will not have a dedicated website but we will develop a specific project page on www.fauna-flora.org</i>

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).

Planned Project Implementation Timetable: *Financial Year Apr 2013-Mar 2014. Key Q1-Q2 Milestones and Activities (AX.X):* Monitoring and workplan adjustments (M1). Management committee meetings, design and review of zoning, management planning (A1.4-6). FiA and Community Fisheries (CFi) representative training (A 2.2, A2.6), CFi zoning consultation and management (A2.7-8), marine surveys (A3.2-3), CCC training and database establishment (A3.5-6), stakeholder workshops (A4.1), media to raise awareness on the MPA, best practice documents and dissemination nationally and internationally (A4.3-5).

Actual Project Implementation Timetable:

April: Participatory design of the YR2 workplan (A0). Completion of the MPA Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (MPA METT) for the first time in Cambodia (A3.1). Partners identified 10 preliminary MPA goals (3 biophysical, 4 socioeconomic and 3 governance), updating the draft MFMA vision and CCC/FFI developed recommendations on 8 possible biophysical indicators (A1.6, 3.1). Koh Rong Sanloem (KRS) CFi focus group meeting on draft zoning maps with 41 participants, including identification of possible fish refugia (A1.5, 2.7). Initial rapid mapping of current seagrass distribution within the proposed MFMA (A3.2).

May: Focus group meetings in 4 villages on Koh Rong (KR) to identify MFMA conservation, protection, multiple-use areas and refugia, with 260 participants (A1.5, 2.7). FFI visit to KRS to liaise with the Navy for monitoring terrestrial and coastal threats. Follow-up seagrass survey by FiA, CFis and FFI to determine species composition and distribution, confirming 4 species and developing a baseline seagrass distribution map (A3.2). Conservation Management Values report by CCC using biological indicators to identify priority areas for conservation (Act 1.5).

June: World Oceans Day celebration on KR organised in collaboration with FiA, CCC, Song Saa Foundation, to raise awareness with 111 participants (including 49 school children) about protecting the marine environment (A4.3). January 2013 RapidEye satellite imagery was ground-truthed to develop updated mangrove distribution and baseline land-use maps (A3.2). Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP) MSc student carried out focus group discussions in 5 island villages documenting artisanal fisheries practices and perceptions (A3.4). NGO working group meeting to ensure activities of the various institutions are aligned, including updates from FFI/CCC on MFMA related activities. Two meetings with Provincial Hall to discuss the MFMA zoning and develop the draft declaration for the Provincial Management Committee (A1.3, 1.5). FFI visit to KRS for monitoring coastal threats, and to conduct handover of forest management activities to a representative of island concessionaire Koh Rong Sanloem Island Resorts Co., Ltd.

July: FFI Tropical Forestry Specialist Dr Joel Jurgens reviewed community forest management and agroforestry system potential on KRS, with recommendations to the island concessionaire. A sustainable financing assessment was carried out in consultation with government, international experts, concessionaires, dive shops and NGOs (A1.6). This reviewed 14 possible financing options, making recommendations to develop an MPA sustainable finance portfolio. FFI governance and livelihoods specialist Dr Helen Schneider conducted a site visit to refine with FiA and on-site stakeholders socioeconomic and governance goals/objectives, and begin adaptation of SOCMON/ IUCN (Pomeroy *et al.*, 2004) generic indicators to local context (A2.2, 3.1). Governance models and provincial management committee structure reviewed with FiA (A1.3). CCC educational activities centred around a comprehensive teaching programme with Grade 5-7 students in Prek Svay, the culmination of the 6 weeks of courses being an event on National Fish Day an event for over 50 community members, where students showcased the artwork, poems and other outputs, including a play for parents and teachers called "Together help to protect fish and other life under the sea" (A4.3).

August: Kate Longhurst, CCC Head of Science, presentation to FFI UK staff on CCC research to inform zoning. KR working group meeting to discuss collaboration, including mangrove restoration. MSc RUPP student, who is conducting a comparative study of coral reef communities, completed her Advanced Open Water dive certification and training in coral reef ecology, species identification and ecological survey techniques (A3.4).

September: KR working group meeting with local stakeholders, including discussion on MFMA design, consultation and awareness materials. CCC completed 65 full coral reef surveys around KR/KRS (A3.2-3) during the report period. Meetings to initiate the re-election of three CFI Committees were carried out by FiA on KR/KRS, involving 182 participants (A2.6). The FFI Project Manager and FiA National Project Coordinator attended and presented on the planned MPA to the 9th International Coral Reef Initiative East Asia Regional Workshop and MPA Management Effectiveness Capacity Building Workshop, Singapore (A4.5). The workshop aim was to facilitate all East Asian countries to have their own MPA Management Effectiveness [evaluation] systems that are adapted to their national/local circumstances and a *Possible Action Plan to Enhance MPA Management Effectiveness for Cambodia* was developed, laying out a timeline to 2019 for evaluation of management effectiveness in a future network of MPAs.

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments 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.

National elections affected fieldwork for a month during the campaign period prior to the ballot on 28th July as government staff had to limit their on site activities during the campaign month. The surprisingly narrow victory claimed by the ruling party remains contested by the opposition, There was a change in the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in late September, but as yet the impact of this new appointment on the future MPA proclamation is unknown.

CCC Project Manager, Sophie Clay, left in August, and the position has been temporarily filled by Project Science/Field Base Manager Ben Thorne, pending Project Manager replacement.
NB: The above will not significantly alter the project timetable or affect the budget.

Two CFIs were due to re-elect their committees this year, and members of the third CFI voted for an early committee election. Those local committee elections have not been possible during the politically sensitive and volatile period pre and post-national election, further delaying training and other planned support to CFIs (A2.2, 2.7), including the placement of a CFI Officer.

FiA stipulated that the private sector consultation on zoning must await the signature of the provincial proclamation (A1.3), causing further delay in the consultation process (A1.5) and planned expenditure on FiA conference and travel budget lines.

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:	No
Formal change request submitted:	No
Received confirmation of change acceptance	N/A

3a. Do you expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No

3b. If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible through the formal Change Request process. However, it would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication now of how much you expect this request might be for.

Estimated carryforward request: £18,234

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 or budget should not be discussed in this report but 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 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 17-075 Darwin Half Year Report**