



# Darwin Initiative Annual Report

## Important note:

To be completed with reference to the Reporting Guidance Notes for Project Leaders: it is expected that this report will be about 10 pages in length, excluding annexes



**Submission Deadline: 30 April 2013**

## 1. Darwin Project Information

Project Reference	19-017
Project Title	Building capacity for participatory, ecosystem-based marine conservation in Central America
Host Country/ies	Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua
UK contract holder institution	Fauna & Flora International
Host country partner institutions	CoopeSoliDar R.L. Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano (FFLA) Red de Comunidades Turísticas de Honduras (RECOTURH) Fundación Nicaragüense para el Desarrollo Sostenible (FUNDENIC)
Other partner institutions	
Darwin Grant Value	£294,610
Start/end dates of project	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2012 – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015
Reporting period (eg Apr 2012 – Mar 2013) and number (eg Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	Apr 2012 – Mar 2013 Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	Robert Bensted-Smith
Project website	
Report authors, main contributors and date	FFI (Robert Bensted-Smith, José Urteaga, Louise Elliott), FUNDENIC (Ivan Ramírez), RECOTURH (Norman Flores), CoopeSoliDar R.L. (Vivienne Solís, Marvin Fonseca-Borrás), FFLA (Vincent Grávez) May 2013

## 2. Project Background

The project grew out of communications between the five partner organisations about our respective work to promote marine conservation with coastal communities. FFI and FFLA were already cooperating on a Darwin-supported project in Galera San Francisco Marine Reserve in Ecuador and organised in April 2011 a study visit to sites in Nicaragua (La Anciana), Costa Rica (Coyote and Bejuco) and Honduras (Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge). Subsequently the Costa Rica site has been changed to the waters around Cabo Blanco Strict Nature Reserve. Maps are attached as an annex at the end of this report.

At all three sites communities dependent on the marine ecosystem for their livelihoods were witnessing degradation of the ecosystem and depletion of resources by over-fishing, destructive fishing, coastal development, pollution and other threats, yet they were powerless to tackle the problems. There was a need to restore over-exploited marine ecosystems and strengthen capacities of coastal communities both to participate in conservation and to emerge from poverty, through improved organisation, better fisheries and new economic activities, such as ecotourism. Marine Protected Areas (MPA's) should be central to the strategy for achieving this, but current models are ineffective in conserving biodiversity and sustaining livelihoods. The project aims to help resolve this problem by enabling selected MPA's to develop three characteristics that are fundamental for long-term effectiveness but currently weak or absent, namely:

- Participatory governance structures, in which communities, especially artisanal fishers, play a substantive role in decision-making and cooperate as respected partners with authorities and other stakeholders, while enhancing their livelihoods.
- Implementation of zoning as an essential tool in the Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) toolbox for biodiversity conservation and sustainable fisheries.
- Moving from open access fisheries to a system of controlled access rights, which benefits local artisanal fishers, who contribute to conservation. Preferential access provides motivation for compliance with regulations but must be tailored to national context.

### 3. Project Partnerships

- **FFI** leads the project, coordinating a network of partner NGOs: FFLA, FUNDENIC, RECOTURH and CoopeSoliDar R.L.. FFI seeks to facilitate regional cooperation and also has a project-specific MoU with each partner. The idea is to steer the project sufficiently to keep it on the track set out in the log frame, while accommodating the fact that each partner has its own way of operating and each site has its own particular, context, stakeholders and challenges. FFI also channels in-house expertise to the project in areas such as participatory MPA governance, access rights and ecosystem based management.
- **CoopeSoliDar R.L.** leads the intervention in Costa Rica at site and national levels. Its responsibilities are to (i) coordinate on-site activities with authorities and stakeholders; ii) liaise with government on protected area designation; iii) provide expertise in community organisation, participatory processes, responsible resource use, and gender; iv) lead local and national communications, v) advise RECOTURH in Honduras; vi) collaborate on multi-site analyses for “lessons learned” publications; vii) liaise with the FAO-led regional discussions on guidelines for sustainable small-scale fisheries.
- **FUNDENIC** and FFI both have teams in Nicaragua, so collaborate on that field component of the project. FUNDENIC’s responsibilities include (i) lead the field intervention at La Anciana, in close collaboration with FFI’s in-country team; ii) coordinate the on-site activities with authorities and stakeholders, using the expert inputs of FFI, FFLA and CoopeSoliDar R.L. as planned; iii) lead local and national communication programmes; (iv) liaise with government on the process of designating La Anciana as an MPA .
- **RECOTURH**’s responsibilities are to i) lead the field intervention at Cuero y Salado, in collaboration with CoopeSoliDar R.L., ii) coordinate on-site activities with authorities and stakeholders, using the expert inputs of FFI, FFLA and CoopeSoliDar R.L. as planned; iii) lead local and national communication programmes; iv) liaise with government and the Cuero y Salado Foundation (FUCSA), on the proposal to expand the Wildlife Refuge.
- **FFLA**’s responsibilities are to i) deliver training courses in participatory governance and conflict management, ii) provide advice on these topics as needed; iii) collaborate on multi-site analyses for “lessons learned” publications.

These responsibilities, described in the project proposal, have broadly worked out as planned, with communication mainly by e-mail, phone and occasional face-to-face meetings. Until January 2013 FFI employed Daniela Barguil on a part time basis (about 4 days a month) to help maintain communication within the project. FFLA’s technical advice on governance, in addition to the courses, has focused mainly on Nicaragua and a very fruitful cooperation between FFLA, FUNDENIC and FFI is developing. CoopeSoliDar R.L. has maintained close collaboration with RECOTURH. However, outside physical meetings, regional communication across all sites (including Ecuador) is taking longer than expected to build up. A Google blog, set up by FFLA, has real potential, but has not yet been taken up by partners (partly but not solely because of technical obstacles). In part the slow progress on regional cooperation is because during project start-up each in-country team is focused on getting their project activities up and running.

However, it is also evident that FFI needs to put more time into this aspect of the project, so in Year 2 FFI will (i) develop and facilitate more active regional communication mechanisms, (ii) improve the planning and monitoring process so that the results become a basis for discussion rather than just a reporting requirement (see section 5), and (iii) foster amongst all parties a spirit of both learning from and disseminating to partners.

The development of additional in-country partnerships related to the project has been very successful. In the case of Nicaragua, the partnerships with local and central government and community groups have flourished, and the next target is to expand the dialogue with the tourism sector. In Costa Rica, a positive consequence of the uncertainty about sites has been the cooperation initiated with the municipalities of Guanacaste and the Tempisque Conservation Area (TCA). In Honduras RECOTURH's array of partnerships with community groups, government agencies, development projects and other organisations has burgeoned, with notable collaboration with the local fishers' association, APROCUS, the Refuge co-management NGO (FUCSA), the four municipalities and the three government agencies responsible for fisheries, protected areas and environment respectively. Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge is attracting increased interest from other sources, notably the USAID-funded ProParques project. This is positive for our project, provided that we support RECOTURH's management of the new opportunities and focus on the themes fundamental to its success.

## **4. Project Progress**

### **4.1 Progress in carrying out project activities**

The project **start-up** involved developing and signing Memoranda of Understanding, preparing workplans and allocating budgets for each site, taking into account both Darwin Initiative and counterpart funding. Field coordinators were hired by RECOTURH and FUNDENIC and meetings were organised with authorities and stakeholders of each site, to discuss project plans and get suggestions about the work of the project. These initial processes and meetings proceeded satisfactorily, although the multi-country, multi-partner nature of the project made it a relatively complex process. The one major programmatic problem occurred at the introductory meetings in the villages of Coyote and Bejuco in Costa Rica. Here CoopeSoliDar R.L. encountered a new and conflictive situation. Support offered to the communities by two external organisations with differing interests had led to conflicts between the communities, creating an unsuitable environment in which to construct a participatory governance system. Therefore, CoopeSoliDar R.L. concentrated first on building relationships with the Tempisque Conservation Area (within which Coyote and Bejuco lie), the local Municipality, and also a network of municipalities in the area. This collaboration with local government proved valuable but the problematic local situation persisted, leading us eventually to request a change to a new site in the same part of Costa Rica. This site is Cabo Blanco Strict Nature Reserve, where the project is now working with the community of Cabuya and will in due course reach out to the nearby community of Mal País and potentially other small settlements. The aim is to establish marine conservation and sustainable local use in the marine areas surrounding Cabo Blanco, serving in effect as multiple-use buffer zones to the Strict Nature Reserve.

The establishment or expansion of new MPA's, with participatory governance systems and preferential access rights for local communities (**Output 1**) involves consultation to agree on the category of protection and the governance system, support for stakeholder participation in planning processes, development of inter-institutional coordination mechanisms, building consensus on the introduction of local access rights, and technical assistance with legal instruments. The pace and nature of progress in these activities has been influenced by local context and drivers at each site.

In **Nicaragua** pre-project research by FUNDENIC, plus the consultations during project planning, led the Municipality to pass a resolution calling for the creation of La Anciana Wildlife Refuge (LAWR). The project therefore accelerated the series of discussions about the proposed protection of La Anciana with community groups and with relevant authorities. Our promotion of marine conservation came at a time when fishermen from Tola District were worried about the increasing use of dynamite in their fishing grounds by fishers from further afield. The Tola fishers protested publicly and forced the outsiders to leave, leading the authorities to prohibit outside fishers from coming to fish at Tola, on the grounds that their

methods are destructive. The Ministry of Natural Resources (MARENA), assisted by FUNDENIC, then presented a draft law to the National Assembly which, if enacted, will not only create La Anciana Wildlife Refuge but also designate a 12-mile wide “Coral Corridor” for sustainable artisanal fishing along the coasts of the districts of Tola and San Juan del Sur. The Corridor encompasses La Anciana and two existing protected areas (Chacocente and La Flor), which currently serve to protect turtle nesting beaches but exist only on paper as far as their marine component is concerned. This progress and the addition of the Corridor concept have caused us to concentrate project activities under Output 1 on building knowledge about La Anciana and commitment to wider ecosystem conservation and responsible fishing, while introducing the topic of participatory governance and especially the role of local stakeholders. A stakeholder mapping exercise was undertaken. The discussion on governance is shaped by the government’s recent promotion of “collaborative management” with communities rather than delegation of management to NGO’s through “co-management” agreements. Our project has generated interest and enthusiasm in Tola District, so the next priority in the coming semester is to facilitate more structured dialogue about the La Anciana participatory governance system and about strategic priorities for management action once the Wildlife Refuge is declared. In this process, we will seek to engage more of the five or six tourism resort companies in the vicinity, especially as the resort developer with whom we have cooperated hitherto, Grupo Pellas, has shown interest in local philanthropy but not in serious dialogue with other stakeholders. To the extent that project resources permit, we will also facilitate initial meetings of authorities and stakeholders of the wider “Corridor”, as this larger space could present a great opportunity for addressing issues of access (coastal and marine), relationship of site-specific governance to larger-scale marine governance, destructive fishing practices, and the threat of unplanned coastal zone development.

In **Honduras**, the project is supporting the proposed expansion of the Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge (CSWR). Much of the technical documentation and consultation for expansion of the Refuge had been done before the project started, so RECOTURH has concentrated on helping the responsible national protected areas body, ICF, to organise and use the information (over 120 technical documents) and advance the legislative process. The final step of approval by the National Congress is still pending. The project’s governance work has included stakeholder mapping and building relationships with the many actors involved, with a priority being to revitalise and put into practice mechanisms that existed only on paper, notably an inter-institutional coordination body and a sub-agreement between FUCSA (the co-managing NGO), relevant authorities and the community fisherfolk association APROCUS, through which the local community can participate in management. The sub-agreement had been neglected for five years without implementation, but RECOTURH persuaded ICF to extend it and is now working with FUCSA and communities on putting it into practice in 2013. To this end, APROCUS has formed “surveillance committees” to patrol the area and liaise with naval authorities. This is one example of how RECOTURH is pulling together the array of unused or under-used legal, administrative and technical instruments – such as laws, regulations, agreements, manuals and so on – and using them to establish participatory governance for effective management of CSWR. RECOTURH has become an active member of the Inter-institutional Committee for the Conservation of the Coastal and Marine Resources of the Honduran Caribbean. This body has expanded and could become an important forum for inter-institutional coordination within the governance of CSWR and the wider marine area. The project has supported 6 meetings of the Committee and plans to support the development of a strategic plan, to give it clear scope and focus. The project has also supported registration of local fishers, as a pre-requisite for formalising their exclusive access to certain zones within the Refuge. In the ongoing management planning process for the Refuge, and the revision of the plan once the Refuge is expanded, a priority for RECOTURH will be to ensure that the issue of exclusive or preferential access rights is thoroughly discussed and well planned, as well as the systems for participation in decision-making and management. It is notable that both exclusive access rights and No Take Zones are more widely accepted concepts at CSWR than at our Nicaraguan and Costa Rican sites.

In **Costa Rica** we recently obtained approval from Darwin Initiative to change sites from Coyote/Bejuco to the communities of Cabuya and Mal País located either side of Cabo Blanco Strict Nature Reserve. The basic reason, explained in the change request, was that the conflictive local situation, involving the communities themselves and organisations seeking to

work with them, had created an unfavourable environment for working on long-term issues of participatory governance and access rights. Conservation authorities advised that the project shift to the more propitious focal site of Cabo Blanco<sup>1</sup>. In these circumstances our project activities in Costa Rica have concentrated on CoopeSoliDar R.L. engaging the Federation of Municipalities and a number of individual municipalities on the subject of marine conservation, the rights and livelihoods of coastal communities, and their own role as local government. CoopeSoliDar R.L. has also strengthened the capacities of community groups managing designated Areas for Responsible Fishing in Costa Rica, supporting the formation of a network of such areas with an action plan. While not yet targeting a specific MPA, as envisaged in Output 1, this dialogue with municipalities and support for Areas for Responsible Fishing helps to create a favourable context for the eventual establishment of a conservation area around Cabo Blanco as well as contributing to the impact of the project in piloting new models of marine governance in Costa Rica.

The enhancement of coastal community livelihoods (in a broad sense, not just economic) (**Output 2**) was envisaged as a process of facilitating definition by communities of their priority livelihood objectives and strategies for achieving them, then providing direct support in the marine resource related activities such as tourism and fishing, and linking communities with appropriate sources of support for initiatives outside our scope. In practice, we have provided some capacity building for tourism- and fishing-related activities prior to the systematic planning process. This early action is fine, because there was evident local demand and the topics had been identified in fora prior to this project. Another feature of the activities under this output is that the livelihood planning and monitoring methodologies differ between sites. We organised a workshop in the region with all partners to discuss the SLED approach to livelihood development ([https://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/sled\\_final\\_1.pdf](https://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/sled_final_1.pdf)) and to share information about other approaches used in the region, including one developed by CoopeSoliDar R.L. for use with small-scale artisanal fishing communities. It was concluded that many underlying principles are shared between methodologies and that the project partners should apply the methodology most suited to their particular site and actors involved, taking into account prior work on livelihood planning. This results in diverse measures of progress, which cannot be summed across the project but will nevertheless allow some forms of comparison.

In livelihoods planning CSWR, Honduras, has the most comprehensive socio-economic data, with the project supporting baseline analysis for the 4 key communities, comprising 919 people in total. The project has facilitated community-led definition of priorities, mainly in relation to tourism and fishing, building on prior work by RECOTURH and CoopeSoliDar R.L. The project has enabled the fishers' association, APROCUS, to produce a strategic plan and to reorganise its board of directors. The project has provided training in responsible fishing and is helping APROCUS to obtain assistance from other sources for investments to add value to their fisheries products. The project is also providing training and support to the local tourism associations in each community of CSWR and arranged cooperation between them and external tour operators, to ensure community participation in tourism products and services. In Tola and San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua, the project has compiled socio-economic data and identified distinct social groups for livelihoods objective setting and planning. There is substantial demand for training in tourism-related business, so the project is already working with the local tourism micro-business association and has organised training activities and an exchange visit with former fishermen of San Juan del Sur, who now provide tourism services. The training included 6 short workshops on responsible marine tourism, with a focus on whale-watching. This was co-financed by the resort owner, Grupo Pellas, and had the unintended consequence that the company decided to establish its own in-house whale-watching service rather than contract local providers. Nevertheless, there is potential for this to be a viable local economic activity. For the majority of fishers who intend to continue in that sector, the project has provided information and discussion fora about responsible fishing. At Cabo Blanco, Costa Rica, CoopeSoliDar R.L. is working on livelihoods planning first with the community of Cabuya and then extending to Mal País and other smaller villages.

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<sup>1</sup> It is worth noting that the marine area identified by Coyote and Bejuco villages may well attain protected status in due course, with support from the organisation PRETOMA, but not in a way that would contribute to this project's central themes.

The use of zoning as a marine management tool and the consideration of external dependencies (**output 3**) involve working with communities and authorities to stimulate discussion about these topics, then facilitate a participatory process to apply them in the local context and decide how best to monitor the effectiveness of the management measures. In CSWR, Honduras, the terrestrial-and-marine nature of the Wildlife Refuge and history of management planning mean that both topics are familiar. Furthermore, the project was able to feed into a USAID-supported process for reviewing the management plan of the Refuge, in which terrestrial-marine connectivity and spatial management are being addressed. Consequently, our project's emphasis is on the local communities' role in defining and implementing the management zones. The project has also supported a one-day training session by a collaborating NGO, CREDIA, on payment for ecosystem services, as a concept based on ecological connectivity and of potential relevance to local livelihoods in the medium term. In the areas adjacent to Cabo Blanco, Costa Rica, participatory mapping and zoning will be an early part of the process facilitated by CoopeSoliDar R.L.. In Tola District, Nicaragua, the idea of larger scale marine ecosystem management has already been fed into the legislative proposal, but there is much more to do at the local level on introducing these concepts into a participatory planning process. As a first step, the project organised an "underwater workshop" for 7 fishers, in order to observe and discuss the coral patches and their relationship with other elements of the ecosystem.

The development of capacities necessary for effective participatory governance (**output 4**) is achieved through training courses, the integration of short educational sessions into ongoing participatory processes and facilitating networking between sites and between sustainable fishing organisations. In Year 1 the FFLA course on governance has been implemented with authorities and stakeholders at CSWR, Honduras, and planned for La Anciana, Nicaragua (implementation was in April 2013). End-of-course evaluations were very good and subsequent feedback suggests that there is strong interest in extending this training in scope and in audience, especially in Nicaragua where several participants felt that more senior government staff should also learn about these concepts and their application to the "collaborative management" approach. In Costa Rica CoopeSoliDar R.L. has provided training for a group of coastal municipalities and will in 2013-14 implement training for communities and authorities at Cabo Blanco in governance, conflict management and negotiation, as well as supporting essential community organisation. Regional networking has hitherto been quite limited, as the project has concentrated on building momentum within each local and national process. However, within Costa Rica CoopeSoliDar R.L. has worked extensively with the network of Areas for Responsible Fishing, with which the Cabuya community could in due course become affiliated, and has supported communication between this network and APROCUS in Honduras. They have also facilitated links between APROCUS and the national artisanal fishers organisation in Honduras, FENAPESCAH, and other fisherfolk associations in Central America.

Raising awareness (**output 5**) about marine conservation and about the themes of this project – participatory governance, zoning and access rights – involves local and national communications programmes, international dissemination and links to the FAO-led process to develop voluntary guidelines for sustainable artisanal fishing. In Year One the project has been active in communication in all three countries on marine conservation issues. At CSWR RECOTURH and CoopeSoliDar R.L. have shown videos in communities on themes of responsible fishing, participation, gender and access rights, and in February 2013 cooperated with local partners to organise a "Festival of the Sea", which was attended by some 450 people. The emphasis of national public awareness work in Costa Rica has been on the role of artisanal fishing communities and in Nicaragua on the need to stop destructive practices. The latter campaign was linked with the successful expulsion by Pie de Gigante (Tola) fishers of dynamite fishers from further south, which has helped to build momentum for sustainable fisheries in the Tola area. In Years 2 and 3, as local dialogue and planning advance, the communications efforts will increasingly focus in on the themes and target audiences most important for achieving the project's outputs. Local interest and understanding has also been generated in Tola District by a series of 5 workshops, reaching out to 175 teachers, students and social programme volunteers. The topics were locally relevant issues related to biodiversity and the environment. With regard to international communications, CoopeSoliDar R.L. has continued its regional role in the FAO-led process for developing guidelines for sustainable

artisanal fishing and has disseminated the draft guidelines to partners and communities involved in our project. Internationally, FFI website and magazine articles are in preparation. In Year 2 FFI and FFLA intend to present project work at the IMPAC conference in France in October, while CoopeSoliDar R.L. will incorporate project findings into their participation (financed by other sources) in at least two global conferences on artisanal fishing. Looking further ahead, the World Parks Congress in 2014 is a target event for dissemination.

## 4.2 Progress towards project outputs

In both Nicaragua and Honduras, the project has been able to make good progress towards **Output 1** and the legislative proposals have substantial support, although we cannot know how long it will take for the legislation to be finalised and enacted.

In Nicaragua the draft law will go through modifications in the National Assembly and may take some time, despite the support of the President of the National Assembly. In any case, we should move ahead with facilitating agreement on the participatory governance system, making use of the terrestrial examples of collaborative management involving a local stakeholder board. The project has already made progress in bringing together on this theme the municipal authorities and community groups, whose relationship has in the past been poor. The project will in Year 2 consider governance of both spaces, i.e. the proposed Wildlife Refuge and the Corridor. The multiple geographic levels (MPA, Municipality, Corridor) and the corresponding institutional inter-relationships may stretch project resources but create a great opportunity for innovation and impact beyond what was originally anticipated in the project.

In Honduras, assuming the legislation for expansion of CSWR is approved soon as expected, the first challenge for the project will be to complete the design of the systems for participatory governance and for exclusive local access rights, both supported by the necessary legal and policy instruments, so that these can then be implemented in the expanded Reserve. On both topics there is wide agreement and some established practice, so we anticipate good progress on implementation once the legal instruments are in place.

In Costa Rica the new site has only just been chosen so progress towards Output 1 has been minimal. Nevertheless, initial discussions with conservation authorities (Autoridad de Conservación de Tempisque, ACT), local government and the community of Cabuya indicate broad support for the establishment of a community-managed area for sustainable use as a buffer zone to the existing Cabo Blanco Strict Nature Reserve. This approach will be extended to Mal País and other smaller villages.

With regard to **Output 2** the project is active in both Nicaragua and Honduras, with the Costa Rica component delayed because of the need to change sites. However, the CSWR, Honduras, communities are much further advanced than their counterparts in Tola District, Nicaragua, towards the achievement of “enhanced livelihoods”, in specific activities and in underlying empowerment. Their rights to a role in the management of CSWR and to preferential access to its marine resources are more firmly established, so they have a basis for improving their meagre fisheries activities. They already have agreements which ensure that they will benefit from tourism development and not be marginalised by it, whereas in Tola District the project still has much to do in this regard and the risk of marginalisation remains significant. Nevertheless, at both sites communities have great potential to improve their livelihoods as a result of changes in marine resource governance and associated opportunities in fishing and tourism.

On **Output 3** in CSWR, Honduras, the project is well advanced in terms of the concepts of zoning and ecological inter-dependence being widely understood and the project has helped to incorporate these into the management planning process. As explained above, the challenge remains to move these ideas from the workshop to practical implementation and that will be our project’s focus in Year 2. There will also be a strong emphasis in Year 2 on climate change adaptation, following the participation by RECOTURH in the organisation of a regional conference on this subject (it took place in April 2013). In Tola District, Nicaragua, the need for larger scale marine ecosystem management, including some form of zoning, has been introduced to the proposed legal instrument creating La Anciana MPA, but there is a long way

to go before these concepts are widely understood and effectively applied. At Cabo Blanco the discussion of these concepts with communities has just started.

For **Output 4** the capacity building so far has introduced new ways of thinking about how to build an effective governance system and about the ways in which the marine ecosystem could be managed. The project partners have also strengthened capacities by connecting the site authorities and stakeholders with relevant sources of expertise; for example with climate change experts and researchers on food security and biological monitoring in the case of CSWR, Honduras. The capacity building process is at an early stage and full achievement of Output 4 will take continuing training activities and application of the skills and knowledge to the real context in each case. Similarly, as experience is gained at each site the mutual benefits of communication and exchange between sites will increase.

With regard to **Output 5**, we can say that local and national awareness about marine conservation and the benefits of some form of participatory governance has increased greatly over the past 12 months. The project has certainly contributed to that, especially in Nicaragua where the government has apparently decided that the growing problem of dynamite fishing must be addressed. On the other hand, there is little awareness about the benefits of No Take Zones or of giving local communities exclusive or preferential access to certain fishing grounds, especially those that are close to their home and/or adjacent to NTZ's. Those topics should come through more strongly as the project advances and has more progress to report.

### 4.3 Standard Measures

Some figures in the standard measures table need to be verified. Although detailed records of all events and activities have been kept, partners have experienced some difficulty in interpreting the indicators, particularly with regard to training, workshops and other events and with activities or products that were co-financed. During FFI's next visits to each country, if not before, we will check the records in detail and adjust the figures where necessary.

**Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures**

Code No.	Description	Y1 Total	Y2 Total	Y3 Total	Y4 Total	Total to date	Number planned for Year 1	Total planned during project
6A	Number of people to receive other forms of education/training (which does not fall into categories 1-5 above) <i>See Output 4 + 14A below</i>	50					60	90
6B	Number of training weeks to be provided <i>(should this be in course-weeks or in person-weeks? Four workshops of 3 days each = 2.4 course-weeks? Or multiply by # of students)</i>	2.4					5	15
7	Number of (i.e. different types - not volume - of material produced) training materials to be produced for use by host country	2					1	3
8	Number of weeks to be spent by UK project staff on project work in the host country <i>(34 person-weeks spent on project in the three host countries by FFI's regional marine expert, José Urteaga, who is based in Nicaragua, and 21 person-weeks spent in host countries by FFI staff based outside those i.e. in UK or, in one case, Ecuador)</i>	18					18	55
9	Number of species/habitat management plans (or action plans) to be produced for Governments, public authorities, or other implementing agencies in the host country <i>Referring here to plans or components of plans, addressing fisheries, tourism, zoning, enforcement and monitoring, as in logframe</i>	0					0	12



Code No.	Description	Y1 Total	Y2 Total	Y3 Total	Y4 Total	Total to date	Number planned for Year 1	Total planned during project
	<i>indicator O1.3. Thus, 5 topics x 3 sites x 80% target = 12</i>							
11A	Number of papers to be published in peer reviewed journals	0					0	1
11B	Number of papers to be submitted to peer reviewed journals	0					0	1
14A	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops to be <b>organised</b> to present/disseminate findings ( <i>omitted from proposal; need to add workshops of &lt;3 days here</i> )	3					0	0
14B	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops <b>attended</b> at which findings from Darwin project work will be presented/ disseminated.	1					1	4
15A	Number of national press releases in host country(ies)	8					2	12
15B	Number of local press releases in host country(ies)	1					2	12
15C	Number of national press releases in UK	0					0	2
17A	Number of dissemination networks to be <b>established</b>	0					0	1
17B	Number of dissemination networks to be <b>enhanced/ extended</b>	0					0	1
18A	Number of national TV programmes/features in host country(ies)	3					0	3
19A	Number of national radio interviews/features in host country(ies)	2					0	6
19C	Number of local radio interviews/features in host country(ies)	2					0	9 8
20	Estimated value (£'s) of physical assets to be handed over to host country(ies) ( <i>of this, £6300 are Darwin Initiative-funded assets, the rest co-financed</i> )	0					0	£19,800
23	Value of resources raised from other sources ( <i>in addition to Darwin funding</i> ) for project work ( <i>excluding funds raised for activities that are related, but additional to this project</i> )	£ 118K					£ 85K	£274,240

**Table 2 Publications**

Type (eg journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (title, author, year)	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (eg contact address, website)	Cost £
Video DVD	Building capacity for participatory, ecosystem based marine conservation in Central America. Project partner interviews. FFI, RECOTURH, FUNDENIC, CoopeSolidar R.L.	FFI, Cambridge	FFI, 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Jupiter House, Station Road, Cambridge CB1 2JD	
National newspaper	Nuestros Cetaceos, Jessly Obando, 2013 <i>Our cetaceans</i>	Hoy	<a href="http://issuu.com/FUNDENIC/docs/diario_hoy_nuestros_cet_ceos_feb_2013">http://issuu.com/FUNDENIC/docs/diario_hoy_nuestros_cet_ceos_feb_2013</a>	
National newspaper	Capacitan para tratar ballenas. Jessie Ampié. 2013. <i>Training for dealing with whales</i>	El Nuevo Diario	<a href="http://www.elnuevodiario.com.ni/nacionales/278070">http://www.elnuevodiario.com.ni/nacionales/278070</a>	
National	Apoyarán en Nicaragua el	La voz del	<a href="http://www.lavozdelsandinismo.co">http://www.lavozdelsandinismo.co</a>	

Type (eg journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (title, author, year)	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (eg contact address, website)	Cost £
newspaper	avistamiento de cetáceos, La voz del sandinismo, 17 Feb '13 <i>Whale watching to be supported in Nicaragua</i>	Sandinismo (government paper)	<a href="http://m/nicaragua/2013-02-17/apoyaran-en-nicaragua-el-avistamiento-de-cetaceos/">m/nicaragua/2013-02-17/apoyaran-en-nicaragua-el-avistamiento-de-cetaceos/</a>	
National newspaper	El ABC de las Ballenas, Jessly Obando, 19 Nov 12 <i>The ABC of whales</i>	Hoy	<a href="http://www.hoy.com.ni/2012/11/29/familia/9536-el-abc-de-las-ballenas-el-avistamiento-de-cetaceos-una-nueva-oferta-turistica-en-san-juan-del-sur-y-el-gigante.html">http://www.hoy.com.ni/2012/11/29/familia/9536-el-abc-de-las-ballenas-el-avistamiento-de-cetaceos-una-nueva-oferta-turistica-en-san-juan-del-sur-y-el-gigante.html</a>	
National newspaper	Expulsan a Pescadores, Vladimir Vazquez, 27 Oct '12. <i>Fishermen expelled</i>	La Prensa	<a href="http://www.laprensa.com.ni/2012/10/27/ambito/121551/imprimir">http://www.laprensa.com.ni/2012/10/27/ambito/121551/imprimir</a>	
National newspaper	No explosivos para pescar: En hermosa playa Gigante rechazan a pescadores de Masachapa, Ramon Villareal, Sept 2012 <i>No to use of explosives for fishing. In beautiful Playa Gigante they reject the fishermen from Masachapa</i>	La Prensa	<a href="http://m.laprensa.com.ni/departamentales/120625">http://m.laprensa.com.ni/departamentales/120625</a>	
National newspaper	Pesca con Bomba una desgracia <i>Fishing with dynamite is a terrible thing</i>	Hoy	<a href="http://www.hoy.com.ni/2012/10/25/voz-ciudadana/8035-pesca-con-bombas-una-desgracia.html">http://www.hoy.com.ni/2012/10/25/voz-ciudadana/8035-pesca-con-bombas-una-desgracia.html</a>	
Articles in various national and international media	Denuncias de usos de explosivos <i>Reports denouncing the use of explosives</i>	Various	<a href="http://www.google.com/search?client=safari&amp;rls=en&amp;q=cetaceos+nicaragua&amp;ie=UTF-8&amp;oe=UTF-8#q=Explosivos+proyecto+coral&amp;client=safari&amp;hl=es&amp;rls=en&amp;ei=PJZkUczwN4X69gTuwYCoCw&amp;start=0&amp;sa=N&amp;bav=on.2,or.r_qf.&amp;bvm=bv.44990110,d.eWU&amp;fp=bb1ae9e2b6d79032&amp;biw=1234&amp;bih=655">http://www.google.com/search?client=safari&amp;rls=en&amp;q=cetaceos+nicaragua&amp;ie=UTF-8&amp;oe=UTF-8#q=Explosivos+proyecto+coral&amp;client=safari&amp;hl=es&amp;rls=en&amp;ei=PJZkUczwN4X69gTuwYCoCw&amp;start=0&amp;sa=N&amp;bav=on.2,or.r_qf.&amp;bvm=bv.44990110,d.eWU&amp;fp=bb1ae9e2b6d79032&amp;biw=1234&amp;bih=655</a>	
Manual	Training manual for whale-watching tours	FUNDENIC, Managua	Available from <a href="mailto:info@FUNDENIC.org.ni">info@FUNDENIC.org.ni</a>	
Video	A voice for the young fishermen and women of Mesoamerica	CoopeSoli Dar R.L. 2012	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYK9j9_5Fu4&amp;feature=context-cha">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYK9j9_5Fu4&amp;feature=context-cha</a>	

#### 4.4 Progress towards the project purpose and outcomes

The essential purpose of the project is to pilot in three countries innovative approaches to MPA management, especially in the areas of participatory governance, zoning and the access rights and livelihoods of coastal communities. The project is on track to achieve this and the indicators remain valid. There is no effective MPA along the whole Pacific coast of Nicaragua so the initiative at La Anciana is truly pioneering and even more so with the proposed creation of a much larger “Corridor” for sustainable artisanal use. Our assumption about the government’s openness to participatory approaches, despite its centralist tendencies, remains valid, as they are encouraging communities to get involved in “collaborative management” of

certain terrestrial areas. Key steps to come are the legal creation of La Anciana (and the Corridor) and approval of a locally developed collaborative management system. At CSWR in Honduras the concepts of zoning, participatory governance and access rights are generally accepted in principle but not fully developed or applied. The project has made significant progress on strengthening and formalising the role of communities and on registering fishers for access rights purposes. The active involvement of a wide range of governmental and non-governmental actors, plus the increase in complementary project activity, gives CSWR an opportunity to move ahead rapidly and effectively with implementation and hence consolidate the specific policies and practical mechanisms on which we are working. FFI will work closely with RECOTURH to this end in Year 2. In Costa Rica the change of sites means that we have not progressed towards the site-specific purpose. On the other hand, the work of CoopeSoliDar R.L. with the municipalities brings an important group of actors into the participatory governance picture. This should benefit the development of the community-managed protected areas at Cabo Blanco in Year 2, as well as enriching the national debate on nearshore marine governance.

#### **4.5 Progress towards impact on biodiversity, sustainable use or equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits**

With only one year of the project completed, it is too early to expect impacts on biodiversity, sustainable use or benefit sharing. Nevertheless, it is fair to say that at La Anciana, CSWR and Costa Rica's Areas for Responsible Fishing, the communities are already in a stronger position to have a say in the management of their marine ecosystems. In Tola District the expulsion of the dynamite fishers may have already had a positive impact on biodiversity and sustainable use, although there is no data to support this (or indeed to assess the presumed negative impacts of dynamite fishing on the Pacific Coast in general).

### **5. Monitoring, evaluation and lessons**

The financial management and monitoring of the project has proceeded well, despite the complexity of working with four partners in five countries (UK, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, Ecuador) and two major donors (Darwin Initiative and Arcadia) using different currencies. With regard to programmatic management, the project partners have used their experience and initiative to implement activities effectively, within the framework of the project, and, in consultation with FFI, to respond to opportunities and challenges, notably those encountered by CoopeSoliDar R.L. in Costa Rica. As already mentioned above, we intend to increase regional communication amongst partners about the progress and challenges of the project.

With regard to monitoring, we have gathered from the start a great deal of information about the project activities. RECOTURH, in particular, has compiled remarkably detailed baseline information relevant to the project indicators. However, the use of the information from three countries for systematic project monitoring has proved more difficult than expected and FFI will have to put a substantial amount of time into this in the coming semester. Essentially, the task ahead is to review the many different forms of monitoring that are required, to ensure that all partners understand fully how the different sets of indicators are related, to simplify the system as much as possible, to set the criteria for scoring the indicators and document this in a manual, and to assist each site team to compile and report the information. Once that is happening, we will be able to use collectively the monitoring information as a basis for discussing progress and adapting plans, as originally intended. In Year 1 a start was made on this, including a dedicated session in the all-partner workshop in Honduras in November 2012, but FFI now needs to follow up on this.

One reason why this task has proved demanding is that there are several similar but not identical monitoring systems to be reconciled and combined, and this has to be done in both English and Spanish to ensure full understanding and application. In the Darwin Initiative project there are the standard indicators and the log frame indicators. In addition, we want to enrich this with more qualitative and anecdotal information, for example through interviews. Furthermore, we designed Output 2 around the principle that the communities should define

their own livelihoods objectives and associated measures of success. The methodology for doing this varies according to local context, as well as partner preference, so there will in effect be subsets of site-specific indicators underlying the overall indicators for Output 2.

The main co-financer, Arcadia, has adopted the Darwin Initiative log frame and indicators, which is very helpful. Nevertheless, it does have its own, simple set of global programme indicators, on which this project also needs to report. It also requires the annual definition of milestones to be achieved by the end of that year, which is a task related to planning and monitoring.

In the intensive work of project start-up FFI was not able to dedicate sufficient time to working through this suite of monitoring requirements with each partner individually and then collectively. We need to give more guidance to partners in the coming semester, simplify processes where possible, and make sure that monitoring becomes the tool that it is supposed to be rather than an undue burden.

## **6. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)**

Not applicable.

## **7. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere**

No additional comments.

## **8. Sustainability**

The La Anciana initiative is acquiring a high political profile in Nicaragua, as evidenced by the Ministry (MARENA) proposing legislation for its protection to the National Assembly and by the national publicity about the expulsion of dynamite fishers. In Honduras, CSWR has attracted increased government attention and donor support and its profile has been further raised by the association with the international workshop on climate change (April 2013). Most striking for sustainability, however, is the committed participation in the planning and decision-making for CSWR by government institutions, municipalities and communities, especially APROCUS, which has become an active, confident representative of the local fishing sector. This and the progress on tourism livelihoods give CSWR strong prospects for sustainability, provided that the work to make local fisheries sustainable is successful. In Costa Rica, the new site at Cabo Blanco was proposed by the Tempisque Conservation Area authority, so it definitely has their backing, and the Cabuya community has expressed its agreement with the project's aims. Furthermore, CoopeSoliDar R.L.'s work with municipalities and with the Areas for Responsible Fishing is helping to create conditions for sustainability of the intended new community conservation area. The project's in-country communications activities in Years 2 and 3 aim to build further public and political support for the conservation aims and approaches of the project, as well as for the individual sites. In terms of capacity building for authorities and communities, the project is on track but still has much to do in the coming two years.

Looking long-term, the project strategy is designed to ensure sustainability, by (i) institutionalising more effective and socially robust governance systems, involving authorities, communities and other stakeholders, (ii) establishing access rights and spatial management regimes that restore productivity and provide a long-term incentive for coastal communities to maintain this improved regime, and (iii) building capacities of authorities and stakeholders to enable them to maintain this approach. The Darwin Initiative project will make great advances in the pilot sites but the associated policy changes will take time to embed nationally, so we envisage the project's national partners continuing to champion them beyond the lifetime of this project and to promote replication. The fact that the project was designed by, and is being implemented with, a broad coalition of national and regional partners gives it an inherent sustainability, especially given the demonstrated commitment and durability of the partners involved. FFI will continue to provide post-project technical and fund-raising support, to consolidate project results, and intends to expand its involvement in promoting such approaches to marine biodiversity conservation across the region.

## 9. Dissemination

In Nicaragua the project purpose and activities have been presented in 6 short television pieces and 2 radio programmes for the general public, in many community meetings, and in powerpoint presentations to relevant government institutions and local NGO's. A copy of the presentation is available on the FUNDENIC website (<http://www.FUNDENIC.org.ni/que-hacemos/gestion-de-los-recursos-hidricos/proyecto-coral/>). As a result of this dissemination and the publicising of the dynamite fishing problem, FUNDENIC has been consulted by many national and international press agencies. At least 25 media outlets have carried information promoting responsible fishing practices.

In Honduras RECOTURH has disseminated information about project events, activities and results mainly through the local television station, which reaches 4 municipalities and over 25 communities that lie in and around the area of CSWR. It has obtained 5 one-hour television programme slots for future dissemination of information about the project as well as short spots for announcements. It also has news items about project activities on its website: [www.recoturh.com](http://www.recoturh.com). Through contacts with journalists three newspapers with wide local readership – Diario La Prensa, Diario Tiempo, and the weekly El Ceibeño – publish news items about project activities.

In Costa Rica CoopeSoliDar R.L. has concentrated on disseminating information about Areas for Responsible Fishing and the important role that coastal communities can play in sustainable management of marine resources. The target audience is the general public, with the intention that increased public support will lead to changes in the policies of national institutions, especially the fisheries authority, INCOPECA. A national communications strategy has been designed for CoopeSoliDar R.L. by a communications company, Luma.

## 10. Project Expenditure

**Table 3 project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013)**

All figures in GB Pounds.

Item	Budget	Expenditure	Variance / Comments
<b>Staff costs specified by individual</b>			<b>0.0%</b>
Project leader: Robert Bensted-Smith			0.2%
Governance / livelihoods expert: Helen Schneider			-0.4%
Regional marine / Nicaragua manager: Jose Urteaga			12.5%
Global marine specialist: Nicola Barnard			-25.2%
Nicaragua administrator: Aracelly Umaña			0.0%
UK administrator: Louise Elliott			0.8%
<b>Overhead costs</b>			<b>0.0%</b>
Overheads (UK)			0.0%
<b>Travel and subsistence</b>			<b>-0.4%</b>
International travel			4.2%
Fieldwork travel and subsistence			-8.4%
<b>Other</b>			<b>17.3%</b>
Bank charges			17.3%
<b>Total</b>			<b>0.0%</b>

In addition to the above expenditure by Fauna & Flora International, the following table details the transfers made to host country partners for Apr12–Mar13:

Date	Host country partner	Amount
May-12	FFLA	
May-12	CoopeSoliDar R.L.	
May-12	Recoturh	
Jun-12	CoopeSoliDar R.L.	
Jun-12	Recoturh	
Jun-12	FUNDENIC	

Jul-12	FUNDENIC	
Sep-12	CoopeSoliDar R.L.	
Sep-12	Recoturh	
Nov-12	FUNDENIC	
Dec-12	CoopeSoliDar R.L.	
Jan-13	FFLA	
Jan-13	Recoturh	
Jan-13	FUNDENIC	
<b>Total</b>		<b>67,590</b>

Budget breakdown between host country partners for Apr12–Mar13 was as follows and the final expenditure reports submitted by the host country partners can be provided upon request:

	CoopeSoliDar R.L.	FUNDENIC	Recoturh	FFLA
CoopeSoliDar R.L. coordinator: Vivienne Solis				
CoopeSoliDar R.L. technical assistant: Marvin Fonseca				
CoopeSoliDar R.L. community organisation expert: Ivannia Ayales				
CoopeSoliDar R.L. administrator: Alexis Astua				
Recoturh project supervisor: Marcio Rivera				
Recoturh project leader: Francisco Cabanas / Norman Flores				
Recoturh project administrator: Cristhian Perez				
FUNDENIC project supervisor: Rosario Saenz				
FUNDENIC field coordinator: Ivan Ramirez				
FFLA conflict management trainer: Volker Frank				
FFLA governance course trainer: Vincent Gravez				
FFLA training assistant: Cristina Rivadeneira				
<b>Staff costs</b>				
Institutional overheads				
<b>Overhead costs</b>				
International travel				
Fieldwork travel and subsistence				
<b>Travel and subsistence</b>				
Conferences, workshops and seminars				
Fieldwork operating costs (not travel)				
<b>Operating costs</b>				
Laptops, accessories, camcorders				
<b>Capital items/equipment</b>				
Consumables				
Communications materials				
Livelihoods support				
Agreements with local organisations				
<b>Others</b>				
<b>Sub-total</b>				
<b>Total</b>				

Co-finance for this project for Apr12–Mar13 has been valued as follows (further detail available upon request):

Organisation	Proposed	Actual
FFI Conservation Science marine grants		
FFI Inc. (USA) private donors to Nicaragua		
FFI Anglo American grant		
CoopeSoliDar R.L. (Inter-American Foundation)		
FUNDENIC/German International Cooperation		
Arcadia marine grant to FFI		
Recoturh (USAID, FUCSA, Proparque, Chamber of Tourism)		
Halcyon Land & Sea grant to FFI		
CoopeSoliDar R.L. (Lotex Foundation)		
CoopeSoliDar R.L. (ICSF)		
CoopeSoliDar R.L. (various)		
<b>Total</b>	<b>84,840.00</b>	<b>117,816.22</b>

**11. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes**

I agree for LTS and the Darwin Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here)

These are early days for the project, but the most striking advance so far is the groundswell of determination in coastal communities to take action against the continuing degradation of their marine resources. At Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge in Honduras, the project has strengthened and energised the local association of fisherfolk, APROCUS, which has become an active, forceful participant in management planning for the Refuge and for putting into practice agreements empowering local communities to manage specific zones of the Refuge. In Costa Rica the fisherfolk of Cabuya visited the Tárcoles Area for Responsible Fishing, and returned inspired to protect and manage their own area of ocean, which lies adjacent to the Cabo Blanco Strict Nature Reserve. In Tola District, Nicaragua, the community of Pie de Gigante took a stand against the seemingly relentless spread of dynamite fishing and not only forced the destructive outsiders to leave but also persuaded the local and national authorities to rally round and support them. Furthermore, almost all of them signed a commitment to abide by the guidelines for sustainable artisanal fishing.

Many factors have contributed to these positive initiatives, but the Darwin Initiative project has certainly played a part by helping to strengthen community organisations, raise awareness of the need for new approaches to marine governance, and facilitate dialogue between stakeholders and authorities. This dialogue will lead eventually to the construction of systems of participatory governance of the marine protected area at each site.

## Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2012-2013

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2012 - March 2013	Actions required/planned for next period
<p><b>Goal:</b> To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources to achieve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ The conservation of biological diversity,</li> <li>⇒ The sustainable use of its components, and</li> <li>⇒ The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources</li> </ul>		<p>Too early to report impacts, but the project has clearly started to empower coastal communities in ways that will contribute to all three aims: conservation, sustainable use and equitable benefit sharing.</p>	
<p><b>Purpose</b></p> <p>An innovative approach to Marine Protected Area management, which emphasises participatory governance, Ecosystem-Based Management, and support for local culture, livelihoods and access rights, is developed in pilot sites in three Central American countries (Nicaragua, Honduras and Costa Rica)</p>	<p><i>(data will be gender disaggregated) (MPA's referred to in indicators may be already legally gazetted or in process of legal creation).</i></p> <p>P1. # of MPAs with increased capacity of authorities and stakeholders for effective management. Baseline zero, target 3.</p> <p>P2. # of MPAs in which agreed governance system gives local stakeholders a substantive role. Baseline zero, target 3.</p> <p>P3. Use same indicator as O3.1.</p> <p>P4. # of MPAs in which access rights provide local stakeholders with an incentive for long-term conservation. Baseline zero, target 2.</p> <p>P5. Use same indicator as O2.2.</p>	<p>P1. Some increased capacity at Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge (CSWR). Progress at La Anciana, but not yet impacting management capacity.</p> <p>P2. CSWR has made significant progress through the activation of inter-institutional coordination mechanisms and agreements for community co-management of certain zones, which had never been put into practice. Other two sites not yet at this stage.</p> <p>P3. See O3.1</p> <p>P4. Zero. CSWR is registering local fishers, which is a pre-requisite for preferential access rights. Other two sites not yet at this stage.</p> <p>P5. See O2.2</p>	<p>Develop collaborative management group for La Anciana, bring tourism sector more fully into the process, and promote enactment of legislation for the MPA and Corridor.</p> <p>Promote legal expansion of Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge, initiate community-led management of marine zones, and set up scheme for exclusive access rights for local fishers.</p> <p>Agree with Cabuya community and Tempisque Conservation Authority the borders, governance structure and regulations of their community-managed MPA.</p> <p>Streamline and implement project monitoring.</p>
<p><b>Output 1</b></p> <p>Three MPA's (in Nicaragua, Honduras and Costa Rica) are in process of being (or are already) created or expanded, with governance systems in which local communities play a substantive role and have access rights that motivate long-term conservation.</p>	<p>O1.1 For each site, process to officially propose MPA creation/expansion is completed.</p> <p>O1.2 Each MPA has an officially recognised document defining (i) role of stakeholders, (ii) mechanisms of participation, (iii) access rights.</p> <p>O1.3 At each MPA the % of 5 management programmes (zoning, enforcement, fisheries, tourism,</p>	<p>O1.1. Completed at two sites (La Anciana, Cuero y Salado). In Nicaragua, a proposal for the La Anciana Wildlife Refuge – plus a larger “Corridor” for sustainable use - has been completed, including background studies, stakeholder consultations and presentations. The Ministry (MARENA) has presented a draft law for consideration by the National Assembly. In Honduras, the proposal for a 24,000 hectare expansion of Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge (CSWR) has been completed, approved by the Ministry and is under consideration by Congress. In Costa Rica the change of site means that we must first build consensus about the preferred protected status of the areas adjacent to Cabo Blanco National Park.</p> <p>O1.2 First progress on this indicator is at CSWR, where dormant agreements</p>	



Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2012 - March 2013	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>monitoring) to which communities have contributed in design and decision-making. Baseline zero, target 80%.</p>	<p>between FUCSA (the co-managing NGO), relevant authorities and communities have been revived, updated and are being put into practice.</p> <p>O1.3 First progress on this indicator is at CSWR, where the legal instrument for expansion includes zoning based largely on community inputs. Tourism plans and municipal regulations also reflect community input. At Cabuya and La Anciana local discussions on fisheries, zoning etc are under way but there is not yet a management programme.</p>	
<p>Activity 1.1</p> <p>Design and facilitate a process through which stakeholders and authorities reach agreement on the designation/expansion of a MPA, the preferred category of MPA, and the design of a participatory governance system for it.</p>		<p>In Nicaragua meetings with Tola Municipality and communities have readily secured support for proposed La Anciana MPA and broader “Corridor” for sustainable use, helped by local determination to exclude dynamite fishing. 58 fishers signed a commitment to responsible fishing practices. Next steps are to engage tourism sector and facilitate discussion of governance structure.</p> <p>In Honduras local support for expansion of the CSWR marine area has been maintained and a sub-agreement between FUCSA, relevant authorities and the community association APROCUS, has been reactivated to empower communities to manage zones within the current boundaries. APROCUS has formed a number of “surveillance committees”. Discussions on governance in the expanded Refuge, which extends further offshore, are under way.</p> <p>In Costa Rica, the focus has been on engaging a federation of municipalities, comprising 7 municipalities, to stimulate their engagement in locally led marine conservation. These institutions have hitherto been omitted from most marine conservation processes, but their community and coastal management responsibilities make them potentially important actors. The promotion of the network of Areas for Responsible Fishing (Activity 4.4) also contributes to the decision on the MPA category for the Costa Rica sites.</p> <p>In Costa Rica at Cabo Blanco meetings have been held with the Tempisque Conservation Area, the Municipality and the community of Cabuya. It is intended that this activity will move swiftly ahead in Year 2 with a focus on agreeing the appropriate category of protection and participatory governance system to deliver sustainable livelihood benefits.</p>	
<p>Activity 1.2</p> <p>Within the programmed planning and management processes at each site (i.e. official, not project-specific), organise and accompany stakeholder participation (using the structures emerging from Activity 1.1) on topics that affect them, notably zoning, enforcement, fishing, tourism and monitoring.</p>		<p>In Nicaragua formal planning for La Anciana has not yet started. Next step is to facilitate discussions amongst stakeholders and local authorities about main lines of action for proposed Wildlife Refuge and governance system, in anticipation of legal declaration of the MPA.</p> <p>In Honduras there is a management planning process for the existing Refuge but when the expansion is gazetted there will be a need for this to be revised and extended. In meetings with community groups priority issues of governance and</p>	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2012 - March 2013	Actions required/planned for next period
		<p>management are being discussed.</p> <p>At Cabuya, Mal País and associated villages in Costa Rica this is not applicable yet. In Year 2 the project will work with the Tempisque Conservation Area authority and Cabuya community on participatory zoning and planning for fisheries and tourism, for inclusion in the proposal for a protected area.</p>	
<p>Activity 1.3 Assist sectoral agencies to set up and institutionalise mechanisms for inter-institutional coordination, in order to make their roles in MPA management as efficient and effective as possible.</p>		<p>In Nicaragua inter-institutional coordination needs for La Anciana and the Corridor will be determined through facilitated meetings of authorities and stakeholders in each case.</p> <p>In Honduras the Inter-institutional Committee for the Conservation of Marine and Coastal Resources was reactivated, with 6 meetings held in Year 1.</p> <p>In Costa Rica, CoopeSoliDar R.L. has met with Tempisque Conservation Area authority and will next consult the new Vice-Minister for the Sea about institutional responsibilities in this case. The project will also engage the Municipality of Cóbano, INCOPECA and the Coastguard.</p>	
<p>Activity 1.4 Organise presentations and discussion fora around the issue of access rights, including discussion of the needs to (i) ensure that coastal communities can access and benefit from marine resources that are nearby and (ii) transition from “tragedy of the commons” open access to some form of preferential local access. Facilitate consensus on approaches appropriate to local and national context at each site.</p>		<p>In Nicaragua legalisation of the many informal fishers is being undertaken. Conflict over invasion by fishers from outside Tola using dynamite and other destructive techniques provoked local protest. Authorities met all parties and decided to exclude fishers from outside Tola, on the grounds of destructive practices rather than access rights, but it affirms the right of local people to protect their resources. The project supported this process and enabled wide press coverage of the issue of destructive fishing.</p> <p>In Honduras, the project is supporting registration of local fishermen, so that they can have exclusive or preferential access to fisheries in the CSWR or in certain zones within it. A bye-law has been passed giving them preference in developing and benefitting from tourism operations in the area.</p> <p>In Costa Rica, the discussions with municipalities have stressed the issue of the rights of traditional fishing communities and this will similarly be the starting point in Cabuya, with special attention on strengthening the capacity of women and young people to understand and exert their rights.</p>	
<p>Activity 1.5 Assist authorities and stakeholders to prepare the relevant legal instruments for MPA creation/expansion, participatory governance and access rights.</p>		<p>In Nicaragua the project compiled technical studies for proposed La Anciana MPA and a larger “Corridor” comprising nearshore waters of two districts (Tola, San Juan del Sur) containing La Anciana and two existing MPA’s (Chacocente, La Flor) where protection beyond the beach is currently non-existent. FUNDENIC prepared legal documents on creation of the La Anciana MPA and Corridor for the Ministry at short notice. Debate and modification in the National Assembly is expected.</p>	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2012 - March 2013	Actions required/planned for next period
		<p>In Honduras the project assisted the protected areas authority (Instituto de Conservación Forestal, ICF) to digest the large amount of technical information compiled prior to the project, leading to the production of the formal Ministerial Agreement to expand and zone the CSWR.</p> <p>In Costa Rica CoopeSoliDar R.L. has agreed with the Tempisque Conservation Area about the idea of flanking the Cabo Blanco Nature Reserve with protected areas for local community use but the legal form that this protection will take needs to be analysed with local stakeholders and authorities before any instruments can be drafted. The project will also support the legal registration of two associations at Cabuya, one of fishers and the other of craftswomen.</p>	
<p><b>Output 2</b> Coastal community livelihoods are enhanced through participation in marine governance, improved resource use, and equitable relationships with other actors (tourism industry, authorities).</p>	<p><i>(data will be gender disaggregated)</i> O2.1 At each site # of stakeholders represented in the governance system. Baseline zero, target tbd. O2.2. % achievement of community-defined, MPA-related livelihood objectives. We use "livelihoods" in broad sense to include culture, self-esteem, resilience to climate change etc, as well as food security and income.</p>	<p>O2.1 This indicator is not yet applicable, but will be once the MPA governance systems are determined.</p> <p>O2.2 As explained in Section 4.1, different sites are pursuing different approaches to livelihood development planning and monitoring, so in the next semester we will collate these. Data will be site-by-site, so not readily summable, but will serve to indicate success of the livelihoods component of this project.</p>	
<p>Activity 2.1 At each site work with communities to assess the current status of assets (human, financial, social, physical and natural assets) and livelihoods, and to prioritise community-defined livelihood objectives (economic, food security, cultural traditions, self esteem etc), and associated needs for capacity building. Particular attention will be paid to segments of society vulnerable to marginalisation e.g. on basis of gender or age.</p>		<p>The project organised a workshop to discuss the principles of the SLED methodology and the similarities and differences of other methodologies, such as that developed by CoopeSoliDar R.L. for use in Costa Rica's Areas for Responsible Fishing. Quantitative socio-economic information has been or is being compiled for all sites.</p> <p>In Tola District, Nicaragua, the project is working with particular social groups, including tourism micro-entrepreneurs (mostly women), fishers (mostly men), fish buyers, young people and teachers, to identify their livelihood assets, objectives and strategies in each case.</p> <p>In CSWR, Honduras, the project has obtained detailed socio-economic data and has held meetings with each community to identify livelihood priorities, especially in relation to fisheries. A project workshop enabled the fishers association, APROCUS, to prepare a strategic plan for the Association. At the same time RECOTURH, whose origins was as a network promoting local tourism, has continued that role of enabling community groups to plan and obtain support for their tourism enterprises.</p> <p>In Cabuya and associated villages CoopeSoliDar R.L. will apply the livelihoods</p>	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2012 - March 2013	Actions required/planned for next period
		diagnosis and planning methodology for communities in Areas for Responsible Fishing, to develop a two-year plan of priority actions. Initial dialogue indicates priorities will include fish storage and marketing and rural/marine tourism development.	
<p>Activity 2.2 At each site work with communities to develop a strategy for achieving their priority livelihood objectives and a mechanism for monitoring progress towards them.</p>		This activity is in effect merged with 2.1.	
<p>Activity 2.3 For fisheries-related livelihood objectives, provide advice and facilitate dialogue between the communities and other key players: authorities, traders, consumers, fisheries technicians. For tourism-related livelihood objectives, provide advice and facilitate dialogue between communities and tourism enterprises, coastal property developers and authorities, leading to equitable, mutually beneficial agreements.</p>		<p>In Tola and San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua, in response to strong demand for support to development of tourism-related economic activities, the project has collaborated with the Municipality and private companies to offer a total of 6 training workshops on responsible marine tourism for small local businesses and for fishers seeking alternatives. The project has also worked closely with the key fishing villages of Astilleros and Pie de Gigante, on the adoption of the FAO responsible fishing code as a means towards sustainable livelihoods. 58 fishers signed a document declaring their intention to adopt this approach and at the same time protesting against dynamite fishing and other threats to their marine ecosystem.</p> <p>In CSWR, Honduras, RECOTURH has continued its work of enabling communities to participate in tourism as an economic activity. This has included brokering an agreement between communities and tour operators who bring visitors to the area, as well as seeking ways to link fishers to the tourism economy, through provision of fisheries products or development of a form of locally based sport fishing.</p> <p>In Cabuya, Costa Rica, an important role of the project will be to build the community's links with authorities: INCOPECA, Coastguard and Municipality. By strengthening the two local associations (fishers and craftswomen) the project also aims to increase the community's self esteem and their ability to achieve livelihood objectives.</p> <p>In Years 2 and 3 the emphasis of the project will shift from planning to supporting implementation of livelihood activities, with timely monitoring of progress together with the groups concerned.</p>	
<p>Activity 2.4 Help community-led livelihoods initiatives to obtain technical, financial and material support from government, tourism sector, NGOs or donors, where needed.</p>		<p>In Tola District, the project's training workshop on responsible marine tourism (see above) were supported financially by the resort owner, Grupo Pellas.</p> <p>In Costa Rica the project will help the Cabuya community to obtain support from the Costa Rica Tourism Institute and the National Institute for Learning.</p>	
<p><b>Output 3</b> At each MPA managers use participatory zoning as a tool to enhance ecosystem resilience,</p>	<p>O3.1 # of MPAs which use zoning, including No Take Zones, as a tool for Ecosystem-Based Management. Baseline zero, target 3.</p>	<p>O3.1 Zoning, including NTZ's, already existed on paper in CSWR (Honduras) but was not effective in practice. Zoning is a major part of proposed expansion of CSWR (Honduras) so project focus is on the participatory governance system to</p>	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2012 - March 2013	Actions required/planned for next period
productivity and biodiversity, as well as to harmonize uses, and take into consideration dependence on adjacent areas.	O3.2 # of (draft) management plans with explicit reference to external ecological dependencies (including impacts from watersheds, climate change effects). Baseline zero, target 3.	enable implementation. Zoning is not yet applicable for other sites. O3.2 Marine-estuarine interdependence was already in new CSWR (Honduras) management planning process. Climate change expected to feature more strongly following a regional forum on climate change adaptation, which RECOTURH helped to organise and participated in (April 2013).	
Activity 3.1 Organise presentations and discussion fora to learn about experiences of using zoning as a tool for marine Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) in the Americas and elsewhere and to build commitment to its use in the project MPAs. This will be coordinated with activity 1.4 because of the link between zoning and preferential access rights.		In Tola District (Nicaragua) the idea of zoning has been introduced at two levels: (i) zones within the proposed LAWR and (ii) protected areas within the larger Corridor. Presentations and in-depth discussion will happen in next semester.	
Activity 3.2 At each site, design and facilitate a participatory process, using available scientific information and local knowledge, for MPA zoning, that seeks a high degree of consensus amongst stakeholders and authorities on both the scheme itself and the plan for implementing it. At each site print and disseminate information about the zoning scheme and support local actions to physically demarcate and publicise the zoning.		Not yet applicable for Tola District (Nicaragua) or Cabo Blanco (Costa Rica). In both cases the project will facilitate a participatory mapping and zoning exercise. At CSWR (Honduras) in a USAID-supported management planning workshop in Sept 2012 RECOTURH introduced the zoning plan for the proposed marine expansion of CSWR, including the key fishing areas identified by communities. In Nov 2012 RECOTURH and CoopeSoliDar R.L. discussed zoning and participatory management during a series of meetings in each community.	
Activity 3.3 Within the programmed planning and management processes at each site, introduce the issue of ecological dependence on external factors, such as river water quality and nearshore construction. Facilitate the inter-institutional collaboration necessary to address the external threats to the MPA.		Not yet applicable for La Anciana (Nicaragua) or Cabo Blanco (Costa Rica), but a proposal to develop a marina near La Anciana may trigger an EIA process. At CSWR (Honduras) the USAID-supported management planning event in Sept 12 already contemplated estuarine-marine inter-dependencies, so RECOTURH simply reinforced this.	
Activity 3.4 Assist the MPA authority and stakeholders to determine simple indicators (of diverse kinds) that they will use to monitor progress of their MPA, then advise on the measurement and analysis of monitoring data and discussion and use of the findings.		Not yet applicable for Tola (Nicaragua) or Cabo Blanco (Costa Rica). CoopeSoliDar R.L. has worked on a system of indicators based on FAO guidelines for artisanal fishing, which may be applicable with the Cabuya community. At CSWR (Honduras) the project will facilitate community input to the definition of indicators during the management planning process.	
<b>Output 4</b> At each MPA stakeholders, authorities and collaborating NGO's have acquired knowledge and skills relevant to participatory governance, EBM, monitoring, and accessing and using information, and are networking with peers in other sites (including but not limited to these three).	<i>(data will be gender disaggregated)</i> O4.1 Stakeholders, authorities and NGO's are applying new skills in organisation, representation, communication, negotiation and conflict management, as needed. Baseline zero, target 90 individuals trained, of whom >50% applying skills. O4.2 At each MPA stakeholders, authorities and NGO's use knowledge	O4.1 This indicator has to be measured some months after the training, so not applicable yet. First post-training follow-up survey will be in the next semester. We have end-of-workshop evaluation data for the formal FFLA training workshops.  O4.2 Not yet applicable, but will become relevant in Year 2.  O4.3 This indicator is still at zero as far as communication between communities at our project sites is concerned. In Year 2 FFI will put more time into activating	



Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2012 - March 2013	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>of EBM in planning and adaptive management processes. Baseline zero, target 3.</p> <p>O4.3 Coastal communities at each site have periodic communication with peers at other sites (including Ecuador) and share experiences. Baseline zero, target tbd with communities.</p>	<p>regional cooperation (see 4.3). Within Costa Rica CoopeSoliDar R.L. organised a successful visit by fishers from the new sites (Cabuya and Mal País) to the functioning "Area for Responsible Fishing" at Tárcoles.</p>	
<p>Activity 4.1</p> <p>Using results of Activity 2.1 plus consultations with key institutions, design and deliver training workshops for stakeholders, authorities and local NGOs in organisation, representation, communication, negotiation and conflict management.</p>		<p>FFLA delivered a training workshop on participatory governance in Honduras and prepared one for Nicaragua (delivered April 2013). In Tola District the project organised a workshop for 21 fishers on sustainable fishing. A follow-up workshop in the village of Pie de Gigante led to 58 fishers signing up to the FAO good practice guidelines for responsible fishing.</p> <p>In Honduras CoopeSoliDar R.L. and RECOTURH provided training to CSWR communities on sustainable fishing methods, marine resource use, governance and organisational strengthening of APROCUS (the local fishing organisation).</p> <p>In Costa Rica CoopeSoliDar R.L.'s the workshops with municipalities (activity 1.4) included training in MPA governance and participation.</p>	
<p>Activity 4.2</p> <p>Introduce into the functioning of the participatory governance system (and its precursors) short education and training sessions, designed to refresh skills acquired in 1.4, 3.1 and 4.1, in the context where they can be used.</p>		<p>Not yet applicable. This will start in Year 2 with a "pre-committee" for collaborative management at La Anciana and the sub-agreements between FUCSA and community groups at CSWR.</p>	
<p>Activity 4.3</p> <p>Enable regular telecommunications between project sites and also with sites in Ecuador where FFI and FFLA have been working with Darwin Initiative support.</p>		<p>A shared blog site (<a href="https://sites.google.com/a/ffla.net/mpa-america-central/home">https://sites.google.com/a/ffla.net/mpa-america-central/home</a>) was set up by FFLA but has not been used as much as intended and e-mail is the main form of communication. FFI has not yet been able to facilitate the inter-site communications sufficiently, so more time will be allocated for this in Year 2.</p>	
<p>Activity 4.4</p> <p>Assist coastal communities to link into a relevant regional network, i.e. Federation of Artisanal Fishers of Central America (FEDEPESCA), and initiate a network of community-managed areas for responsible artisanal fishing.</p>		<p>Within Costa Rica CoopeSoliDar R.L. has facilitated the development of a network of "Areas for Responsible Fishing", organising meetings of fishing community representatives and connecting them with the FAO small-scale fisheries initiative (see Activity 5.3). In Year 2 CoopeSoliDar R.L. will help the network implement certain priority actions within its action plan.</p>	
<p>Activity 4.5</p> <p>Organise a regional meeting of partners and key stakeholders to discuss project results so far and detailed plans for the transition to a lower level, locally led follow-up. FFI and partners will seek additional funds to enable more people to participate in the regional meeting/workshop.</p>		<p>The third-year regional meeting is not yet applicable.</p> <p>In November the regional meeting on livelihoods methodologies was also used as a forum for all partners to present and discuss project progress and challenges.</p>	
<p><b>Output 5</b></p> <p>Awareness raised nationally and internationally about the need for, and</p>	<p>O5.1 # of requests to project actors to participate in related activities of MPA governance, coastal community</p>	<p>O5.1 Two for FFI. Blue Marine Foundation sought support of FFI to plan support to a multiple use (predominantly fishing) MPA in Belize and the government of Belize has requested FFI advice on issues of governance in relation to an</p>	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2012 - March 2013	Actions required/planned for next period
benefits of, an approach to management of marine biodiversity that is participatory, ecosystem-based, supports local culture and livelihoods, and involves preferential access rights.	development, marine policy, networks etc. Target 9. O5.2 # of conferences at which project themes and results presented. Target 3 national, 1 international. O5.3 # of conference presentations and technical publications on the work of this project. Target 8. O5.4 # of public awareness materials produced. Target 20.	individual MPA and the national protected area system as a whole. CoopeSoliDar R.L. has received several invitations to participate in international fora and processes. O5.2 Zero. Project experiences have informed conference presentations bur IMPAC Conference in Oct 2013 will be first presentation based primarily on this project's themes and interim results. O5.3 Zero. Year 2 plans include at least 2 presentations and technical publications drawing on work of this project. O5.4 Approximately 5 ( <i>this figure may be amended after we have clarified internally what constitutes public awareness materials for the purposes of this indicator</i> ).	
Activity 5.1 Document project activities, including recordings of significant events and of the views and experiences of protagonists. The materials will be used for communications (below), inter-site exchange and M&E.		Project activities have been documented through reports and photographs at all sites and major events. Video material recorded in the communities of Cuero y Salado has been used in subsequent presentations during community meetings. At the livelihoods methodologies regional workshop in November 2012, FFI interviewed partner staff about the project and produced a DVD with subtitles.	
Activity 5.2 Plan and implement local and national communications programmes, designed to raise awareness, stimulate discussion and build support for marine conservation in general and for innovations in MPA governance, the role of communities, EBM, access rights and exclusion of destructive practices (especially bottom trawling) from nearshore areas.		In Tola District FUNDENIC has implemented 5 workshops under its EcoEscuelas programme with a total of 175 participants on environmental themes, with particular focus on marine conservation, and has collaborated with the Municipality on a campaign against discarding waste at sea. Resistance by Pie de Gigante fishers to outsiders fishing illegally with dynamite was accompanied by several news stories and generated public concern about unsustainable. The project participated in 6 television programmes promoting good marine management practices and 2 newspaper articles. In Honduras RECOTURH organised in Feb 2013 an event at Cuero y Salado for the Festival of the Sea, on the theme of coastal communities and their contribution to marine conservation, attended by 450 people. RECOTURH and CoopeSoliDar R.L. have used video presentations regularly in their community meetings. RECOTURH has obtained 5 programme slots on television to disseminate information about the project. In Costa Rica CoopeSoliDar R.L. has developed plans for a national communications strategy on the themes of marine conservation, participatory governance and responsible artisanal fishing, for implementation starting in Year 2 in Guanacaste Province (where Cabo Blanco lies). Darwin project experiences and images will be used in the campaign materials with due acknowledgement.	
Activity 5.3 Participate in the ongoing consultations for development and formal adoption of "Voluntary		CoopeSoliDar R.L. has continued to participate in the FAO-led process and has disseminated the products both to the Costa Rican network of Areas for	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2012 - March 2013	Actions required/planned for next period
Guidelines for Sustainable Small-Scale Fishing”, led by FAO and scheduled for completion in 2014.		Responsible Fishing and to project partners in Nicaragua (FUNDENIC) and Honduras (RECOTURH and Cuero y Salado comunites). CoopeSoliDar R.L. will participate in a meeting about the FAO guidelines in May 2013.	
Activity 5.4 Prepare and publish materials incorporating project results and experiences of the project (adding, where appropriate, the FFI-FFLA Ecuador MPA results), in order to disseminate lessons learned and stimulate replication (see section 15).		The IMPAC conference presentation in Oct 2013, led by FFLA, will incorporate experiences from both projects.	
Activity 5.5 Disseminate project results through presentations in national seminars (co-hosted by project) and at least one international conference (attended), in order to disseminate lessons learned and stimulate replication.		FFI and FFLA plan to attend IMPAC Conference in Oct 2013 and are submitting an abstract for a presentation using project themes and interim results CoopeSoliDar R.L. participated in the CBD COP 11 in India and will in 2013-14 participate in at least two more international conferences, with funding from other sources, on the subject of artisanal fishing. Wherever relevant, Darwin project activities will inform their presentations and be acknowledged accordingly. All partners will in 2013-14 connect with national preparatory processes for the November 2014 World Parks Congress.	



## Annex 2 Project's full current logframe

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<b>Goal:</b> Effective contribution in support of the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), as well as related targets set by countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources.			
<b>Sub-Goal:</b> Coastal and marine biodiversity of three Central American countries is conserved through increased effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas, in line with the programmes of work on marine and coastal biodiversity and protected areas.	SG1. Effectiveness of MPA network, according to the measures used by governments of Nicaragua, Honduras and Costa Rica.  SG2. Proportion of MPA's of Nicaragua, Honduras and Costa Rica in which communities have a substantive role in marine governance	SG1. National reports to CBD of Nicaragua, Honduras and Costa Rica, plus independent studies of north coast of Honduras and Pacific coasts of Nicaragua and Costa Rica. SG2. Project-compiled data on MPAs and their governance systems.	
<b>Purpose</b>  An innovative approach to Marine Protected Area management, which emphasises participatory governance, Ecosystem-Based Management, and support for local culture, livelihoods and access rights, is developed in pilot sites in three Central American countries (Nicaragua, Honduras and Costa Rica)	<i>(data will be gender disaggregated)</i> <i>(MPA's referred to in indicators may be already legally gazetted or in process of legal creation).</i> P1. # of MPAs with increased capacity of authorities and stakeholders for effective management. Baseline zero, target 3.  P2. # of MPAs in which agreed governance system gives local stakeholders a substantive role. Baseline zero, target 3.  P3. Use same indicator as O3.1.  P4. # of MPAs in which access rights provide local stakeholders with an incentive for long-term conservation. Baseline zero, target 2. P5. Use same indicator as O2.2.	P1. Documentation of skills and operational capacity relative to needs identified in MPA planning docs.  P2. MPA plans, fisheries plans, other legal instruments, records of participatory management meetings.  P3. See O3.1  P4. licensing records, plus data on fishing activities in the MPA, where available. P5. See O2.2.	We assume that by end-of-project the process of legal creation/expansion of the 3 MPAs will be well advanced, but timing of final approval depends on government. Project success does not depend on legal approval within 3 years, as capacity building, planning, negotiation and many practical actions will proceed anyway. We expect, nevertheless, that at least 2 of the 3 will be approved by end-of-project. We assume governments are open to participatory governance, appropriate to national context, in line with CBD commitments. Regulation of access will take time to establish, so end-of-project target for that indicator is set below 100% (see Sustainability section).
<b>Outputs</b> 1. Three MPA's (in Nicaragua, Honduras and Costa Rica) are in process of being (or are already) created or expanded, with governance systems in which local communities play a substantive role and have access rights that motivate long-	O1.1 For each site, process to officially propose MPA creation/expansion is completed. O1.2 Each MPA has an officially recognised document defining (i) role of stakeholders, (ii) mechanisms of participation, (iii) access rights. O1.3 At each MPA the % of 5 management programmes (zoning, enforcement, fisheries,	O1.1 Technical documents and reports of process, supporting the official MPA proposal. O1.2 MPA plan or other publicly available government document. O1.3 MPA (draft) management plans and related instruments, plus documentation of participatory planning process.	We assume, based on experience to date, that coastal communities will opt for MPAs under participatory governance as a means to reverse the decline of their marine resources and deliver benefits in medium term. We assume that at each site the authorities and communities are open to exploring some form of preferential

term conservation.	tourism, monitoring) to which communities have contributed in design and decision-making. Baseline zero, target 80%.		access rights to provide a local incentive for long-term conservation.
2. Coastal community livelihoods are enhanced through participation in marine governance, improved resource use, and equitable relationships with other actors (tourism industry, authorities).	<i>(data will be gender disaggregated)</i> O2.1 At each site # of stakeholders represented in the governance system. Baseline zero, target tbd. O2.2. % achievement of community-defined, MPA-related livelihood objectives. We use "livelihoods" in broad sense to include culture, self-esteem, resilience to climate change etc, as well as food security and income.	O2.1 Records of meetings of participatory governance bodies.  O2.2 Records of community workshops to (i) define measures of success for livelihoods, (b) assess their baseline and (c) assess end-of-project status.	We assume temporary opportunity costs of improved ecosystem management (zoning, gear and catch regulations etc) can be partially offset by empowerment (ownership of management decisions) and by timely benefits, including preferential access and some supplementary income from other sources (including MPA-related services and other livelihoods opportunities).
3. At each MPA managers use participatory zoning as a tool to enhance ecosystem resilience, productivity and biodiversity, as well as to harmonize uses, and take into consideration dependence on adjacent areas.	O3.1 # of MPAs which use zoning, including No Take Zones, as a tool for Ecosystem-Based Management. Baseline zero, target 3. O3.2 # of (draft) management plans with explicit reference to external ecological dependencies (including impacts from watersheds, climate change effects). Baseline zero, target 3.	O3.1 MPA plans, project documentation of processes, and publicly disseminated zoning maps. O3.2 (Draft) management plans, fisheries plans, land use plans and regulations related to sources of sedimentation, pollution etc	Based on discussions to date, we assume that local agreements can be reached to include No Take Zones needed for ecosystem recovery, on the understanding that communities will be helped to maintain sufficient income in the period before benefits of ecosystem recovery are felt (see above).
4. At each MPA stakeholders, authorities and collaborating NGO's have acquired knowledge and skills relevant to participatory governance, EBM, monitoring, and accessing and using information, and are networking with peers in other sites (including but not limited to these three).	<i>(data will be gender disaggregated)</i> O4.1 Stakeholders, authorities and NGO's are applying new skills in organisation, representation, communication, negotiation and conflict management, as needed. Baseline zero, target 90 individuals trained, of whom >50% applying skills. O4.2 At each MPA stakeholders, authorities and NGO's use knowledge of EBM in planning and adaptive management processes. Baseline zero, target 3. O4.3 Coastal communities at each site have periodic communication with peers at other sites (including Ecuador) and share experiences. Baseline zero, target tbd with communities.	O4.1 Training activity records (on- and off-site). Post-course interviews (immediate and after 6-12 months).  O4.2 Documentation of MPA planning meetings, negotiations and other governance processes. Management plans and their supporting documentation (participatory maps etc).  O4.3 Communications records. Responses to specific questions on this topic, put to community meetings.	
5. Awareness raised nationally and internationally about the need for, and benefits of, an approach to management of marine biodiversity that is	O5.1 # of requests to project actors to participate in related activities of MPA governance, coastal community development, marine policy, networks etc. Target 9. O5.2 # of conferences at which project	O5.1 Written requests received.  O5.2 Conference announcements	

<p>participatory, ecosystem-based, supports local culture and livelihoods, and involves preferential access rights.</p>	<p>themes and results presented. Target 3 national, 1 international. O5.3 # of conference presentations and technical publications on the work of this project. Target 8. O5.4 # of public awareness materials produced. Target 20.</p>	<p>and proceedings.  O5.3 Copies of presentations/ publications.  O5.4 Copies of materials (printed, video, audio etc).</p>	
<p><b>Activities</b> (details in workplan)</p> <p>0.1 Prepare annual workplans, measure baseline, monitor and review progress</p> <p>0.2 Conduct participatory evaluation</p> <p>1.1 Facilitate negotiation of MPA designation and governance system.</p> <p>1.2 Organise participation in planning of key issues: zoning, enforcement, fishing, tourism, monitoring.</p> <p>1.3 Assist mechanisms of inter-institutional coordination.</p> <p>1.4 Organise presentations and discussion, to build consensus on approach to access rights.</p> <p>1.5 Assist preparation of legal instruments for MPA creation, governance system, access rights.</p> <p>2.1 Assess livelihood assets and assist communities to define livelihood objectives and capacity building needs.</p> <p>2.2 Assist communities to develop a strategy for achieving livelihood objectives and monitoring progress.</p> <p>2.3 Provide advice and facilitate dialogue between communities and other actors regarding fisheries and tourism livelihoods.</p> <p>2.4 Help community livelihood initiatives to obtain technical, financial and material support.</p> <p>3.1 Organise presentations and discussions about zoning as a tool for EBM.</p> <p>3.2 Facilitate design of MPA zoning scheme, with high degree of consensus, publicise it widely and demarcate it.</p> <p>3.3 Introduce issues of external ecological dependencies into MPA planning processes.</p> <p>3.4 Advise on the selection and measurement of simple indicators for MPA monitoring.</p> <p>4.1 Design and deliver training workshops for stakeholders, authorities and local NGOs.</p> <p>4.2 Incorporate short education/training sessions in governance system operations.</p> <p>4.3 Enable periodic communications between sites and with Ecuador.</p> <p>4.4 Assist coastal communities to link to regional network and to form a network of responsible artisanal fishing areas.</p> <p>4.5 Organise a regional meeting of partners and stakeholders to discuss project results and follow-up.</p> <p>5.1 Document project activities, including recording significant events and interviews with stakeholders.</p> <p>5.2 Plan and implement local and national communications programmes about key issues for MPA governance and management.</p> <p>5.3 Participate in FAO consultations about voluntary guidelines for sustainable small-scale fishing.</p> <p>5.4 Prepare and publish materials about project results and experiences, to disseminate lessons learned and stimulate replication.</p> <p>5.5 Disseminate results and lessons learned through national seminars (co-hosted by project) and international conferences (attended).</p>			

### **Annex 3 Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)**

A small selection of materials accompany this file:

- English summary of SLED workshop
- RECOTURH pdf summary document of community meetings and events (in Spanish but with photos).

A DVD entitled “Building capacity for participatory, ecosystem based marine conservation in Central America” comprising interviews with project partner staff. This will be sent to LTS International by post.

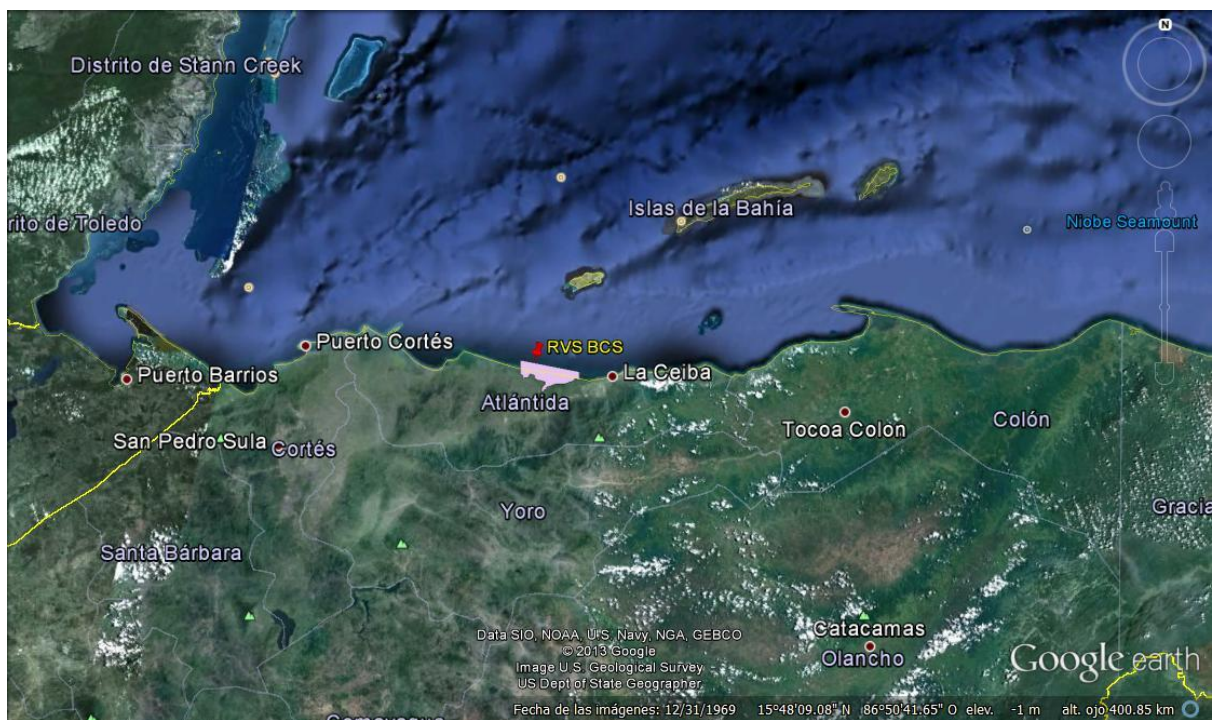
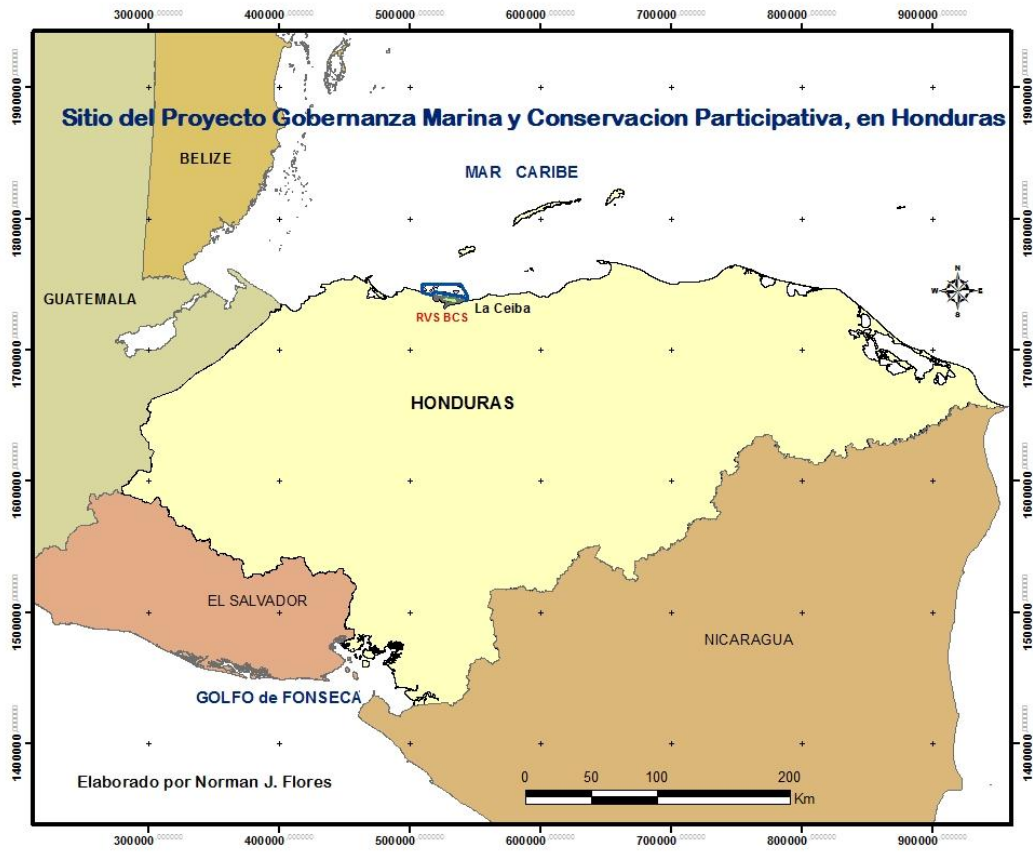
News items and a presentation are available on the website of FUNDENIC [www.fundenic.org.ni](http://www.fundenic.org.ni)

News items are available on website of RECOTURH [www.recoturh.com](http://www.recoturh.com)

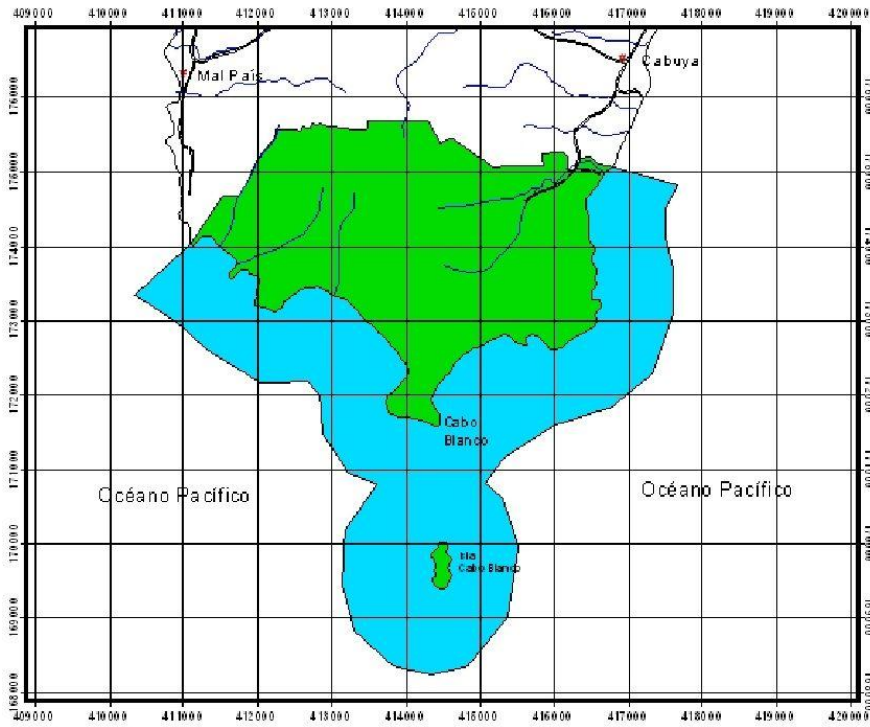
Additional material can be provided as needed.

MAPS OF LA ANCIANA, CUERO Y SALADO AND CABO BLANCO









## Checklist for submission

	Check
<b>Is the report less than 5MB?</b> If so, please email to <a href="mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk">Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk</a> putting the project number in the Subject line.	Yes
<b>Is your report more than 5MB?</b> If so, please discuss with <a href="mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk">Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk</a> about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
<b>Have you included means of verification?</b> You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	Selected
<b>Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report?</b> If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number.	One DVD to send separately
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	Yes
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Yes
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	