

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2013)

Project Ref No	19-020
Project Title	Responding to fish extirpations in the global marine biodiversity epicentre
Country(ies)	Philippines
Lead Organisation	Newcastle University
Collaborator(s)	Dr Margarita Lavidés
Project Leader	Prof. Nicholas Polunin
Report date and number (eg HYR3)	October 2013: HYR2
Project website	

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up).

Work continued on 1.2 'Fishers' knowledge, socio-economic and underwater surveys conducted' and 2.1 'Fishers' knowledge of fish abundance trends'. Specifically, the project team completed four of the five sites' fishers' knowledge surveys (Lanuza Bay [Surigao del Sur], Danajon Bank [Bohol], Verde Island Passage [Batangas] and Polilio Islands [Quezon]. The fishers' knowledge survey in Palawan is scheduled for February-March 2014; the ground has been prepared in the form of logistical planning and a MOA has been signed with local partners. At Lanuza Bay, the municipalities of Lanuza and Cortes were covered (total of 414 fishers interviewed), at Danajon Bank, those of Bien Unido, Getafe and Talibon (967 fishers), in Verde Island Passage, San Juan Batangas, Verde Island (Batangas City) and Lubang (Occidental Mindoro)(total of 457 fisher interviews) and at Polilio, the municipalities Burdeos and Patnanungan (406 fishers). These data are now in an Access database and the vulnerable species identified in the first 3 sites by statistical modelling using a linear mixed methods approach. Numbers of zero catch reports on a decadal basis since the 1950s helped identification of 10 vulnerable species across all three sites. Five of these species are common to all sites: bumphead parrotfish (*Bolbometopon muricatum*) with a CPUE decline of 66.54-87.06%, humphead/napoleon wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*) with 66.21-87.60% CPUE decline, African pompano (*Alectis ciliaris*) with 66.21-79.5%, giant grouper (*Epinephelus lanceolatus*) with 64.49-67.06%, and mangrove red snapper (*Lutjanus argentimaculatus*) with 47.68-65.11% CPUE decline. The dogtooth emperor (*Lethrinus microdon*) and giant trevally (*Gnathanodon speciosus*) are vulnerable species common at both Danajon Bank and Verde Island Passage, showing CPUE declines of 46.74-85.1% and 53.95-80.17%, respectively. Other species showing declining trends include fourfinger threadfin (*Eleutheronema tetradactylum*), leopard grouper (*Plectropomus leopardus*) and spotted sardinella (*Amplygaster sirm*). The declines in CPUE since the 1950s suggest possible local near-extinction of these species based on fishers' knowledge. The project is well under way on 1.3 'Analysis of vulnerable species'. Analysis of fishers' knowledge of abundance trends at family level (2.1) and has been delayed by species-level analysis briefly outlined above. The Lanuza fishers' knowledge data has been prepared for a presentation by Ms Yna Molina at the BFAFR NFRDI Scientific Conference in October and Dr Lavidés was interviewed about these by the British Embassy and a *Business Mirror* journalist. Activities 2.2 'Underwater survey and landings data' and 2.3 'Fish abundance trends analysed and written up' have been started, but the underwater work is planned for early 2015 and initial considerations for the underwater work are timing and insufficient budget; additional funding is being sought. The landings data require formal permission from the Government and Dr Lavidés is following this up. Activities 3.1 and 3.2 in Lanuza Bay have been delayed by the move of Dr Lavidés to the Haribon Foundation, the training needs analysis (focus group discussions (FGDs) and individual surveys for target beneficiaries (e.g. fishers and officers in KAAMPAKA) being scheduled for October. Activity 3.3 'Communication planning, production and distribution of materials' awaits completion of fishers' knowledge surveys at the five sites to give a broader picture of local fish extinctions based on fishers' knowledge. Other conservation-livelihood initiatives (4.2) at Burgos Cortes (Lanuza Bay) are being assessed to derive best practices and understand organizational capacity for better planning, implementation and monitoring of relevant agreements between target fisher organizations and relevant local government units. Budget for new activities including 4.1 and 4.3-4.4 is proving insufficient for the tasks planned, and thus proposals are being prepared to raise additional funding. Re activities

5.1-5.3, there have been interactions with relevant national (NBSAP) and international bodies (IUCN SSC) to provide the foundations for policy-related activities due for completion in YR4. Dr Lavides and Ms Molina have been involved in workshops to update the NBSAP by its completion date of April 2014, it is assumed that later inputs from this project to the NBSAP process will be to the next generation of the process.

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

The 'Output Indicators' have been reviewed assuming that what was meant by the feedback was the project Means of Verification, however it was felt that these are sufficiently diverse and challenging enough for what is already a demanding project. Costs of underwater work and some aspects of the livelihoods work are higher than expected. The underwater work is expected to be completed in YR3 Q4, towards the end of the planned period (section 18) due to weather and other constraints. No substantial impacts are anticipated at this time for the project and/or budget, albeit providing the extra funding can be raised to complete the tasks involved satisfactorily.

2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with LTS: No

Formal change request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance No

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

Yes No

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

Estimated carry forward request: £

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with LTS International through a Change Request.

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk. The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 17-075 Darwin Half Year Report**