



## Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2014)

<b>Project Ref No</b>	20-017
<b>Project Title</b>	Strengthening the capability of Kenyan communities to conserve coral reefs
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Kenya
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Wildlife Conservation Society
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Fisheries Dept, Stockholm Resilience Centre, County fisheries offices
<b>Project Leader</b>	Dr. Nyawira Muthiga
<b>Report date and number (eg HYR3)</b>	October 2014 (HYR2)
<b>Project website</b>	N/A

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

This report details the activities that we have undertaken in the reporting period as well as some actions to address several issues raised in the review of the previous annual report.

**Project monitoring:** In the period under review, we organised a Program Implementation Committee (PIC) meeting where we discussed the comments from the review as well as the planned activities for the coming half-year period. As indicated in our annual report, we also discussed ways to improve communication across the project and have implemented a weekly call for updates, regular calls with the fisheries offices and reporting at the beach management units (BMU) network bimonthly meetings. We have updated the project M&E matrix to take into account outcomes, outputs and assumptions to get a more comprehensive evaluation of the project.

**Sustainability:** A major concern about the sustainability of the project was the rate of and impact of government devolution on the project. Government management functions have now been fully devolved to the counties in Kenya. Hence the County Fisheries offices that are under the Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries County ministry are now responsible for managing the inshore fisheries. We visited the county fisheries offices in Kwale, Mombasa and Kilifi counties to introduce the project and to discuss areas of collaboration. In addition to Ms Mueni who is the liaison for the State department of fisheries (SDF), the project now has additional contact officers in each of the counties. It was clear from our discussion that the County officers are very supportive of tengefu but they emphasised the need to ensure incorporation of tengefu into the BMU bylaws. This is one of the project activities that we envisage the county fisheries officers playing an important role.

**Partnership activities:** We have also strengthened our partnership with African Nature Organisation (ANO), the Kuruwitu Conservation and Welfare Association, the Vipingo Beach Properties and other NGOs that are active in the project area.

**Darwin identity:** We have continued to talk about the project at relevant venues, the Darwin logo will be used in all the training materials and we produced an article for the Darwin Newsletter.

The following summarises the activities that we have undertaken during the reporting period. The numbers in brackets indicate the output number as outlined in the project proposal:

**Output 1 Strengthening management:** The assessments and consultations on the draft management guidelines for the tengefu (1.2) have been completed for all tengefu except for Msumarini and Mkwiro that have only recently decided on the exact location of their tengefu, and for Nyari where a conflict arose within the BMU. The Nyari tengefu has reported the conflict to the Kwale County Fisheries office for arbitration. This may result in the formation of another tengefu within this BMU area. At Bureni, the consultative process was completed and the tengefu was recently mapped and buoy markers deployed at a launch that was attended by the fisher community, BMU representatives, County Fisheries Officials and Vipingo Beach properties and Vipingo Estate. The next step in the process towards securing the legality of the tengefu is to ensure the management guidelines are incorporated into the BMU bylaws (1.3). In order to do this, the tengefu have to be within a recognized larger co-management area that is managed by the BMU and the Fisheries department and other stakeholders. This process is supposed to be standardised across BMUs and a manual has recently been developed for this process by the SDF. After discussion with the County fisheries officials, it was agreed that we will trial this manual for the Kuruwitu and Mkwiro tengefu with the SDF and county fisheries officials in the coming months and use the lessons learned to undertake the process with the other tengefus.

**Output 2 Training, awareness and learning:** The members of the PIC were taken on a learning exchange to the Kuruwitu tengefu (2.2). Additional training exercises are planned and a number of brochures and awareness materials (tengefu, fish and their minimum sizes) are in the design stage and will be disseminated during the Annual Fishers' forum and other forum to raise awareness about tengefu, co-management and fisheries management. We continue to monitor the uptake of training (2.3) and are in the final planning stages for the Annual Fishers' forum (2.4). This year we expect the county fisheries offices to be involved and have developed the agenda with their contribution. In the coming months we also plan to conduct a refresher course on BMU management and monitoring of management actions as well as a practical on ecological monitoring on request from the PIC.

**Output 3 Management procedures and implementation and empirical studies:** The training exercises on monitoring management actions detailed above will be based on the operational procedures for management (3.1) of tengefu and a checklist to monitor management actions (3.2, 3.3). The first of three studies (3.4) planned to evaluate management effectiveness has been completed and the student Shauna Mahayan submitted her thesis and is working on a publication. The main results of her work will be disseminated at the Annual Fishers' Forum. Caro Abunge who is registered at Pwani University, Kenya will undertake the second study. She has commenced her course work and is drafting the proposal for her thesis. Another student, Ashley Perl who was supposed to start work on her thesis on the project could not get insurance cover due to the travel advisories (see 2a. below).

**Output 4 Monitoring:** Coral reef and fish monitoring (4.1) has been completed at all sites except for Mkwiro and Nyari that will be done in the coming month. Monitoring of fisheries catches and fish prices (4.2) at the landing sites adjacent to the tengefu continues on a monthly basis. The publication (4.3) on tengefu is in review and we plan to report the findings at the Annual Fishers' forum.

**Output 5 Basic necessities surveys:** The planning for the focus group discussions to develop the questionnaire for the basic necessities surveys (5.1) has been completed and the surveys will be conducted in the coming months.

**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.**

In June there was a terrorist attack in Lamu in northern Kenya that led to travel advisories and tightened security on the Kenyan coast. As a consequence, Ashley Perl, a student at Stockholm University who was recruited to undertake one of the empirical studies for the project had to bail out as her study sites were within the area of the travel advisory. In addition, although there was no direct impact on the project sites, we were cautious for a period of time and carefully monitored the situation at the sites prior to undertaking any field activities, which caused some delays in field activities. The travel advisories also caused a dramatic reduction in the number of tourists coming to Kenya, which has affected the coastal economy and livelihoods of people who depend directly or indirectly on the tourism industry. It is not clear at this point in time how this may impact the outcomes of the project. The security situation is currently calm and we continue our activities as planned.

**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	NA

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

Yes  No  Estimated underspend: £

**3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully as it is unlikely that any requests to carry forward funds will be approved this year.** Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project and would like to talk to someone about the options available this year, please indicate below when you think you might be in a position to do this and what the reasons might be:

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

No

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

Please note: Any **planned** modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also** be raised with LTS International through a Change Request.

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at [Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk](mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk). The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 20-035 Darwin Half Year Report**