



Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31 October 2016)

Project Ref No	20-023
Project Title	An integrated approach to enhancing socio-ecological resilience in coastal Mozambique – Our Sea Our Life
Country(ies)/Territory(ies)	Mozambique
Lead Organisation	Zoological Society of London
Partner(s)	Associação do Meio Ambiente (AMA), Bioclimate, Research & Development Ltd. (Bioclimate), Coastal Oceans Research and Development in the Indian Ocean (CORDIO), Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas - Universidade Nova da Lisboa (FCSH-UNL), Universidade Lúrio (UniLúrio)
Project Leader	<i>Dr Nicholas Hill</i>
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	<i>HYR4</i>
Project website/ Twitter/ Blog/ Instagram etc	https://www.zsl.org/conservation/regions/africa/our-sea-our-life / @OurSeaOurLife
Funder (DFID/Defra)	<i>Defra</i>

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

The below outlines activities undertaken and progress achieved in the past 6 months (April – September 2016) against the project Outputs in Lalane and Nsangué Ponta:

Summary

The Our Sea Our Life project made significant progress on both co-management plans and sustainable financing mechanisms fronts from April to September 2016. The Quiwia temporary area opened for a second time in July after a 4-month closure. Even though octopus were less abundant than last March, the communities are continuing to trial the methods until they find the best periods for openings (we already know March is a good period). The Nsangué Ponta co-management plan is now complete (replenishment area for brooders and temporary areas for octopus) and will be validated by local authorities during a General Assembly in early November 2016. The development of the co-management plan and the associated decision-making process is well managed by AMA, who have developed considerable capacity in this area. Lalane is ready to go through the same process and we will validate its co-management plan by March 2017. In parallel, the Programme Manual (guidelines) of the sustainable financing mechanisms is well advanced and the recently formed Steering Committee has already proceeded with commensurate performance-based support to empower CCPs (functioning, governance) in order to implement efficient co-management measures on the LMMAs. A horticulture officer has been hired and will work on promoting conservation agriculture in the project sites. An action plan for community-led aquaculture is being assessed in collaboration with the University of Aveiro (Portugal) for a potential start in January 2017. Six Village Agents (all CCP members) have been selected and trained to foster VSLAs and link up co-management activities, small-scale businesses (horticulture, community-led aquaculture) and community banking.

Output 1: CCPs with three user groups and integrating women formally established in

two pilot villages and supported to develop and implement co-management plans through (a) the delivery of training courses targeting CCP members and supporting institutions (AMA, IDPPE, District Service of Economic Activities – DSEA) and (b) the collection and feedback of relevant biological and socioeconomic data.

On target: 200 ha are about to be co-managed. 1 Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) has a co-management plan (Nsangue Ponta). The legalisation of both CCPs is underway.

Our Sea Our Life is benefiting from the work that has been done on the ground with the target communities during the past 2 and a half years. Participative processes with resource user groups have enabled robust liaison with and efficient training of CCP members of Nsangue Ponta. As a result, the co-management plan of Nsangue Ponta is ready for final agreement by the community members and Provincial Authorities (validation planned early November). We are building strong and long-term relationships with district (DSEA), provincial and national Fisheries Authorities, which frames our approach with local communities for the management of LMMAs. A MoU has been agreed between AMA and the Direction of Fisheries at Provincial level (DPP).

Output 2: Equitable and robust Community-PES schemes reinforcing the implementation of co-management plans and supported by local authorities and private sector actors

Back on track: Sustainable-financing-eligible activities agreed in 1 pilot village (Nsangue Ponta) with an expected total sharing worth 7,000 EUR in 2016.

Significant progress has been made in the last 6 months to build the foundations of the sustainable financing mechanism for the Our Sea Our Life programme. A lot of the initial time has been spent 1) better understanding how the ideas of PES and sustainable financing can be applied to LMMAs, the first of its kind in Mozambique and rarely practised (if at all) elsewhere; 2) engaging Provincial government actors and private sector, to establish the necessary institutional arrangement for a sustainable financing mechanism that is transparent, participatory and accountable. Improvements in the design of the sustainable financing mechanism are still ongoing, but we now have guidelines to assess the eligibility of community management activities for commensurate support (in-kind support to CCPs), to monitor their efficiency on the ground, and to report to the Steering Committee of the sustainable financing mechanism. As a result, the CCP of Nsangue Ponta has signed a performance-based support (PBS) agreement and associated benefit-sharing arrangements, acting as a pilot to this approach.

Output 3: VSLAs established and Village Agents trained increasing the capacity of villagers to manage income from PES and improve living conditions, and supporting investment in new sustainable enterprises

Underway: Village Savings and Loan Associations are a success in Nsangue Ponta and Lalane. 150 households are engaged across 7 VSLAs. Village Agents (who are all CCP members) have been selected and trained to foster and create new VSLAs. Currently, mid-term socioeconomic surveys are underway to assess the impact of VSLAs on households, income-generating activities and well-being.

Community banking is having a great impact within the communities as it empowers the VSLA members, especially women, by improving their well-being and providing opportunities to invest in small-scale businesses. We have learnt this through anecdotal information and are currently in the process of quantifying this through the mid-term socioeconomic survey. We will report on this in the final report. CCP members belong to VSLAs, which facilitates the understanding by VSLA members of what LMMA's are and improves the engagement of VSLA members and wider community with the implementation of the co-management plans. Also Village Agents (all CCP members) have been selected and trained, which will improve the connection between co-management activities and small-scale businesses enabled by VSLAs.

Output 4: New sustainable enterprises developed through the provision of training and linking to relevant markets, increasing levels of livelihood diversification.

Slightly behind: Village Savings and Loan Associations have been linked to the support of sustainable enterprises for horticulture. A horticulture officer has been hired to coordinate the production, the storage and the link to market. The feasibility of community-led bivalve aquaculture is being assessed in collaboration with the University of Aveiro, Portugal.

The 2014 livelihood survey shows that almost all of the fish caught by project beneficiaries is sold for income, rather than being eaten as food, and that people buy the majority of their food. For instance, fishing is an income-earning activity for 74.5% of households in Lalane and 86% in Nsangué-Ponta. For households in these communities, the average percent score of fishing as a livelihood compared to other livelihood options was 57.4 and 63.4 respectively. This was a surprising result and demonstrates the potential local market for agricultural goods if agricultural practices could be improved. We have established horticulture groups in Lalane that are now producing a variety of crops (including melons, onions, etc.) for both consumption and local sale. These crops are not traditionally grown in the area, so this activity has the added benefit of diversifying diets and has been accompanied by cooking classes for women. These horticulture groups have been formed through the VSLAs, which have acted as a mechanism for the groups to continue to invest in their activities after the initial support for their establishment. A horticulture officer has been hired to coordinate the training on conservation agriculture, production, storage and access to market. The feasibility of community-led bivalve aquaculture is being assessed in collaboration with the University of Aveiro, Portugal.

In response to reviewer comments for previous Annual Report:

A no-cost extension to March 2017 has been discussed with Eilidh Young and her positive reply was sent to Nick Hill on 10th November 2015. This does not require budget re-adjustment and will give sufficient time to achieve the project outcomes and more specifically ensure that Lalane and Nsangué Ponta will have operational co-management plans in place by the revised end-date of the project.

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

Money transfers

We have experienced problems when transferring money to Mozambique on several occasions. The issue was related to Ama's BCI account. This bank was holding the transferred funds without informing Ama about their receipt, and without applying the credit to AMA's account, for unknown reasons. This resulted in a lack of operational funds during periods of time when the transfers were in process. To address this, AMA opened a new account with a different bank, Mozabanco. However, recently, this bank was declared bankrupt, although the Bank of Mozambique guaranteed the customer's savings. We are now in the process of opening a new account with Barclays (which ZSL banks with in the U.K. and which has a branch office in Mocimboa da Praia), which we hope will eliminate these problems.

Misconduct

The extension worker that was working in Lalane and Quifuque was recently made redundant due to misconduct. He had lost the trust of the communities and of AMA. Two new extension workers have already been identified and will soon be appointed so that we ensure continued support to project activities in Lalane and Quifuque.

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

Yes No Estimated underspend: £0

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully. 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 please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary.

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

Feedback on progress made on the Our Sea Our Life component financed by Fondation Ensemble "Participatory catch monitoring and dissemination":

On track: 4 community-based monitoring (CBM) assistants are starting to use the Open Data Kit (ODK) system to monitor and report on the biological impacts of the LMMAs. We are working to incentivise the process to offset opportunity costs. Village exchange visits will be organised for the most dynamic CCP members, to pass on the methodology to others.

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 . The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g., Subject: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**