



Darwin Initiative Main Project Half Year Report (due 31 October 2015)

Project Ref No	21-010
Project Title	Linking community resilience and sustainable coastal protection in the Philippines
Country(ies)	Philippines
Lead Organisation	Zoological Society of London
Collaborator(s)	Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Interface Inc.
Project Leader	Heather Koldewey
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	HYR2
Project website/Twitter/Blog/Instagram etc	www.zsl.org/mangroves ; www.net-works.com @ZSLMarine, @nets2carpet
Funder (DFID/Defra)	DFID

Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sep) 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).

Output 1. Six (6) VSLAs implemented by year 2, and this number >doubled through the Village Agent model by year 3, increasing the financial security of villagers in three provinces (Bohol, Cebu, Panay) and acting as a platform for community engagement in the management and protection of coastal ecosystems. STATUS – EXCEEDED TARGET

- To date, the project has facilitated 13 VSLA groups with a total of 257 members who have saved a total of since 1st September 2015.
- Formation of additional VSLA groups in Ivisan: Zealous Savers Legion 2 (ZSL2) in Balaring, Ivisan last June 2015, Queenfishers Savers Group – Tabagak, Hasa-hasa, Sapsap Chapter (TaHaSa) in Basiao, Ivisan in May 2015. Another VSLA group is currently being formed in October 2015 with orientation given to organised oyster farmers in Basiao, Ivisan. In Bantayan Is., Cebu, the Obo-ob Savings and Credit Association (OSACA) was formed on 3 Sep and Kodia Fisherfolks Association (KODFA) Agent Savers Group on 26 Sep.
- Continued support and monitoring of groups organized in Year 1 using the Monitoring and Evaluation tool developed by ZSL.
- Capacity building of VSLA practitioners (Community Organizers and Local Community



Fig 1: VSLA formation in Obo-ob, Bantayan, Cebu

Organizers) through participation in the National ComSCA (=VSLA) Summit (27-29 May) and VSLA Monitoring and Evaluation Orientation for ZSL-Philippines Teams (25 Aug)

Table 1: Current status of VSLAs based on the most recent field monitoring on 30 Sept 2015:

Name of VSLA group	Start date	No. members (Male M, Female F)	Share value (PhP)	Total savings on 30 Sep (PhP)	Total savings on 30 Sep (GBP)
Inanuran Saving and Loan Association (ISLA)- Inanuran, Matabao	1 Sep 2014	17	20		
Matabao Savers and Credit Association (MaSCA)- Matabao	10 Sep 2014	16	20		
Baybay Savers Group-Buntod	29 Sept 2014	20 (4 M, 15 F)	50		
Extension Savers Group-Buntod	29 Sept 2014	21 (3 M, 18 F)	50		
Proper Savers Group-Buntod	29 Sept 2014	18 (3 M, 15 F)	50		
People's Initiative Savers Group	9 Nov2014	17 (2 M, 15 F)	20		
Queen Fishers' Savings Group (QFSG-Boliniao Chapter)	10 May 2015	24 (2 M, 22 F)	20		
Queen Fishers' Savings Group (QFSG-Boneless Chapter)	10 May 2015	26 (2 M, 24 F)	20		
Queen Fishers' Savings Group (QFSG-TaHaSap Chapter)	11 May 2015	16 (3 M, 13 F)	20		
Zealous Savers Legion (ZSL) 1	21 June 2015	22 (6 M, 16 F)	50		
Zealous Savers Legion (ZSL) 2	13 June 2015	22 (2 M, 20 F)	50		
Obo-ob Savings and Credit Association	3 Sep 2015	17 (5 M, 12 F)	30		
KODFA Agent Savers Group	26 Sep 2015	21 (20 F, 1 M)	20		
Total = 13 VSLAs		257 members			£9,160.4

Additional VSLA Groups are planned for Pedada, Ajuy (2 groups) and Buntod Panay (1 group) after the end of first cycle on the third quarter of 2015.

Output 2. The pilot Net-Works project is operating in the 6 villages in Bantayan and Bohol, with villages feeding into the two sustainable business units (one in Bohol, one in Bantayan) that engage 20 communities in collecting an average of 200kg of discarded fishing nets per month and per village by year 3; cleaning beaches, preventing ghost fishing, and providing sustainable income. STATUS – ON TARGET

- Scoping was conducted in 7 Panay Island sites using the 3-stage Scoping Form developed by Net-Works. The scoping was completed in Ajuy, Iloilo (Barangay Pili and Malayuan), Ivisan, Capiz (Basiao, Balaring and Cabugao), Panay, Capiz (Agojo and Pawa) during the first and second quarter of 2015. The ZSL Net-Works Team verified the baseline data gathered in Pawa, Panay on 17 June during their ocular inspection for potentiality of discarded nets.
- A Net Managers (community members who organise the collation and sales of nets within communities) orientation and learning visit was conducted at the Net-Works

Northern Iloilo site in Concepcion participated by 3 representatives from Darwin sites (Basiao, Balaring and Pedada) on 14-15 Oct 2015. Once net buying is initiated (targeted for Nov 2015), the Darwin sites will augment the supply chain for discarded nets for the Net-Works hub in Northern Iloilo where they have the capacity of bailing gathered nets. Buying schemes, transport and collection of nets will further be discussed and developed with the Net-Works team.

Table 2: Data from Net-Works scoping at sites in Panay Island, conducted between Jan-April 2015:

Site (village, municipality)	No. of boats/fishers	Species harvested	Length of nets (m)	Ave. vol. produced/month	Weight conversion (m)	Expected discarded net (kg)/month
Malayuan, Ajuy	50	blue crab	1,500	75,000	0.0073	548
Malayuan, Ajuy (Palubog)	25	blue crab	500	12,500	0.0073	30
Pili, Ajuy	30	blue crab	700	21,000	0.0073	153
Pili, Ajuy (Kayagkag)	20	blue crab	500	10,000	0.0073	24
Balaring, Ivisan	75	grey mullet, anchovies, blue crab, assorted fishes	6,000	450,000	0.0073	274
Basiao, Ivisan	75	grey mullet, anchovies, blue crab, assorted fishes	10,000	750,000	0.0073	456
Cabugao, Ivisan	50	grey mullet, anchovies, blue crab, assorted fishes	600	300,000	0.0073	183
Agojo, Panay	323	grey mullet, anchovies, blue crab, assorted fishes	200	64,000	0.0073	79
Pawa, Panay	655	grey mullet, anchovies, blue crab, assorted fishes	83,150	972,558	0.0073	7,099

- A Coastal Clean-up Drive was conducted by 38 KODFA members on 19 Sep in celebration of the 2015 International Coastal Clean-up Day. A similar activity was conducted simultaneously in Panay Island sites on 23 Sept., including: 1) 181 participants from communities and organizations in Barangays Balaring, Basiao, Agustin Navarra and Cabugao in Ivisan Capiz; 2) 206 participants from peoples' organizations in Buntod, Bantigue and Lat-asan and students from Pawa National High School in Panay, Capiz; and 3) 80 participants from Barangay Pedada Fisherfolks Association (BPFA), Silagon Fisherfolks Association, Bgy. Luca Fisherfolks Association and Luca National High School.



Fig 2: Coastal Clean-up Drive in Pawa, Panay, Capiz in celebration of the 2015 International Coastal Clean-up

Output 3. Business models developed and implemented at buffer zone sites adjacent to

mangrove MPAs that diversify community livelihoods and include income from seaweed farming, ranching sea cucumbers/abalone, mangrove nurseries and mangrove eco-parks. STATUS – ON TARGET

A. Mangrove and related enterprise

- A workshop on Business Planning to improve existing livelihood initiatives within the Darwin project sites was conducted 18-19 May 2015. The activity was done in partnership with the International Institute for Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) supporting livelihood initiatives for coastal communities in Ivisan, Capiz. Among the participants were 5 Peoples Organization (PO) representatives each from a) Buntod Katibyugan sang Mangingisdakag Kababaenhan engaged in driftwood carving (Buntod Katibyugan), b) Ivisan deboned anchovies dryers, c) Basiao oyster farmers adopting raft culture, d) BPF members engaged in mangrove and beach forest seedling production, and e) OMAGIECA members engaged in mangrove eco-tourism.
- Cross-site and study tour of 25 participants from KODFA, OMAGIECA and Local Government Unit (LGU) partners from Bantayan and Madridejos to observe livelihood initiatives and PO dynamics in ZSL assisted sites in Panay Island on 28 Apr – 2 May 2015.
- Installation of water system for KODFA mangrove and beach forest nursery, 28 May 2015.
- A common work facility is installed in Sitio Panublihan, Balaring, Ivisan in partnership with IIRR. Scoping of an available lot for the facility was completed in Aug 2015 and a Memorandum of Agreement with the lot owner is being drafted prior to construction which is targeted between Oct to Nov 2015. The Ivisan anchovies dryers displayed their products during the Capiz Farmer's Day Celebration, Ivisan Fiesta and 2nd National Mangrove Conference (NATMANCON). Linkage to a free trade shop in Manila was facilitated by the ZSL Darwin team. A total of 67 kg of dried and deboned anchovies were sold after the training.
- Members of Buntod Katibyugan continue with their drift wood carving activities. On 1 Sept 2015, the group was commissioned by ZSL to supply 300 souvenir pieces amounting to PhP16,500 for the 2nd NATMANCON in Iloilo City.
- The BPF has established itself as major supplier of mangrove and beach forest seedlings in Northern Iloilo. Since the project's inception, they have earned PhP220,000 (£3,143) worth of sales from LGUs of San Dionisio, Batad and Carles and NGOs like Caritas, Philippine Red Cross (PRC) and Adventist Development Relief Agency (ADRA). Their clients are engaged in mangrove rehabilitation in the 5th district of Iloilo province as a response to Typhoon Haiyan.
- Installation of OMAGIECA Mangrove Ecopark billboard was completed on 10 July 2015.
- Meeting on 12 Aug 2015 was held with Iloilo Provincial Administrator Raul Bañas, Iloilo Provincial Agriculturist Idefonso Toleda, Ajuy Mayor Juan Alavarez, Pedada Barangay Captain Melquiades Ordena and Dr. J.H. Primavera to organise the completion of the remaining 350 m Pedada Ecopark footwalk.



Fig 3: Business Planning Workshop, Roxas City, Capiz, 18-19 May

- OMAGIECA was linked to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) as recipient of Sustainable Livelihood Program grant for the construction of the OMAGIECA Restaurant which is part of the POs managed eco-park

B. Aquaculture

- The Basiao, Ivisan, Capiz oyster farmers were trained by Ms. Jocelyn Ladia of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) on oyster culture using the raft method in Jan 2015. Scoping of suitable areas designated for raft culture was conducted in 8 Apr after the finalization of the zones of Ivisan municipal waters. Ms. Ladia was accompanied by Ivisan Municipal Agriculture Officer Eduardo Navarra and feedback was provided to Ivisan MPDC Lorna Bernales on the same date. On 5 July, the oyster farmers organized the 1 Basiao Oyster Farmers Association (1BOFA) and finalized their Constitution and By Laws. The group is currently seeking accreditation at the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). A pre-production consultation was held in Sitio Palanas, Ivisan on 21 Jul 2015 participated by 34 member of 1BOFA. In this meeting, Ms. Ladia discussed preparations for spat collection prior to raft construction. The group was able to make 23 rafts as of Sep 2015 and has now started spat collection along Basiao Bay.



Fig 4: Basiao oyster farmers Pre-production consultation with Ms. Ladia of SEAFDEC, 21 July

Output 4. >1,000 ha of mangrove, seagrass and coral reef habitats are effectively protected through MPA ordinances and community-based forest management agreements in three provinces (Bohol, Cebu, Panay) by year 2. STATUS – ON TARGET

- Community Based Forest Management Agreement (CBFMA) applications for Buntod, Balaring and Pedada are still ongoing. CBFMAs were sent back to DENR head office and follow ups are made by POs through respective local DENR offices. Once awarded, these will grant communities with 25 years of tenurial forest management rights.
- Assisted OMAGIECA and KODFA in an orientation for their Protected Area Community-Based Resource Management (PACBRMA) application through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on 2 Sept 2015.
- A Mangroves in Marine Protected Areas (MMPA) ordinance for Obo-ob, Bantayan, Cebu was initiated in April 2015, including community consultations as well as campaigning for the Barangay (village) LGUs endorsement. The formation of an MPA Management Committee started in July 2015 with follow up public consultations on zoning and delineation of the MMPA on 8 Sep and a separate consultation for the ordinance on 19 Sep. The MMPA Ordinance was endorsed to the Sangguniang Bayan for review and approval on the 1st week of October.



Fig 5: MMPA Ordinance Consultation in Obo-ob, Bantayan, Cebu

- The Kodia MPA ordinance was formulated through community consultations. The draft ordinance was presented on the 8 and 22 Aug with LGU Madridejos, Cebu.



Fig 6: Seagrass survey in Kodia, Madridejos, Cebu

Table 3: Annual biophysical monitoring of MMPAs

Habitat/Method	Site	Date
Coral reef/ Photoquadrat, Rugosity, Fish Visual Census	Ivisan Fishery Reserve and Sanctuary (IFRS), Ivisan, Capiz	20-22 Apr
	Kodia MPA, Madridejos, Cebu	2 June
	Oboob MPA, Bantayan, Cebu	3 June
Seagrass Community Survey	Ivisan Fishery Reserve and Sanctuary, Ivisan, Capiz	21 Apr
Mangrove Community Structure	Oboob, Bantayan Cebu	3-4 June
	Kodia, Madridejos, Cebu	10-14 June

- Survey reports were accomplished for Pedada, Buntod and Balaring Mangrove Community Structure surveys on Apr 2015 and IFRS coral reef and seagrass surveys on July 2015.
- Baseline biological surveys (coral reef, seagrass and mangroves) were conducted in Net-Works – Concepcion, northern Iloilo sites on 28-31 July 2015.

Output 5. 8 mangrove MPA management plans are being implemented by year 2 from a baseline of 0, with MPAs enforced by 20 legally deputised fish and forest wardens, rated between Levels 3-5 under the national MPA Rating System. STATUS – ON TARGET

Related activities include:

- Construction of Ivisan Bantay Dagat (fish warden) Guard House and provision of uniforms and patrolling gears (search light, rain coat).
- Facilitation and involvement of Buntod community members in the Community-managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) Workshop in partnership with the BRIDGE Project, 4-6 April.
- Facilitated discussion on MMPA ordinance with the MPA Management Council of Batasan, Tubigon, 24 Sept. MMPA map was finalized and presented during the community assembly.
- Barangay Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management Council (BFARMC) formation in Kodia, 20 July.



Fig 7: Outplanting demonstration during Mangrove and Beach Forest Refresher Course, 4-5 May

- Conducted training courses to partner communities on the following:
 - Mangrove and Beach Forest Refresher Course last 14-15 May in Pedada, Ajuy to 30 PO members from Barangays (villages) Buntod, Agustin Navarra, Balaring and Pedada.
 - Pagatpat (= mangrove *Sonneratia alba*) Propagation Training to 43 PO leaders and ZSL staff in Pedada, Ajuy, Iloilo, 14-15 July
 - Conducted localized Pagatpat (*S. alba*) Propagation Training
 1. 23 participants from NewBAMA, BANECA and IBOFA held in Bgy. Agustin Navarra, Ivisan, Capiz, 25 Aug.
 2. 20 participants from Buntod Katibyugan and Asosasyon sang Magagmaynga Mangingisda sang Latasan (AMMLAT), Buntod, Panay, Capiz, 24 Sep.
 3. 19 participants from Bantigue Fishers Cooperative (BFC) and Barangay Gabuc Fisherfolks Association (BGFA), Gabuc, Pontevedra, 24 Sep.



Fig 8: Field demonstration during the Pagatpat Propagation Training, 14-15 July

Output 6. Presentation at the 2014 IUCN World Parks Congress provide the forum for dissemination, that result in stakeholder cross-visits and training sessions to replicate the approach in 2 DFID priority countries with mangroves. STATUS – COMPLETE/ON TARGET

- ZSL was invited to participate in a multi-disciplinary working group of local, national, and global experts to examine best practices and policies for mangrove restoration. This team represented projects in countries across the region including Indonesia, India, Bangladesh, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Malaysia and China. On the basis of this, a proposal was submitted to the Rockefeller Global Resilience Challenge, entitled 'Building Resilience with Mangroves in South & Southeast Asia' which was successful in the first round but sadly was not the final project selected. ZSL's role in this project was to provide replication sites, cross visits and training. A strong collaboration was built that will now seek alternative sources of funding.
- ZSL has been invited by Cordaid to explore replication of the Darwin project approaches in other sites in the Philippines (Guiuan, Samar) and also potentially in Indonesia.
- ZSL, with the IUCN Mangrove Specialist Group and Xiamen University is organising a symposium and workshop 12-16th November in Xiamen, China that will consider a regional strategic approach to reducing mangrove loss and building resilience using mangroves in Asia.

Other project activities

Dr Jurgenne Primavera has delivered a wide range of lectures and training activities, providing knowledge dissemination and transfer. Examples include:

- 5th June – Mangrove Conservation and Sustainable Development lecture, Development Academy of the Philippines-Graduate School of Public and Development Management to 60 LGU officials in the Eastern Visayas provinces impacted by Typhoon Haiyan.
- June 8-11 - *Understanding Physical Vulnerabilities of the Ecosystems: Studying the Climate Change Variables in the Mangrove Coastal Greenbelt* – lecture to the Philippine Ecosystem Alliance (PEA), a group of non-government organizations engaged in

ecosystem & natural resources management and policy advocacy in different regions of the Philippines in partnership with IUCN-Netherlands, as part of a workshop on vulnerability assessments and social marketing

- 30th May - a mangrove planting activity called “Ride of the Planting Bikers” organised by Iloilo Cycling Youth Club was successfully conducted, with Dr Primavera acting as a technical advisor. And an estimated 2,174 Bungalon mangrove saplings were planted.
- 9th July – Dr Jurgenne Primavera was invested as a Member of the National Academy of Science and Technology, Philippines.
- 29th Sept - Manila Ocean Park lecture
- 1st Oct - ECOFISH (USAID project) Mangrove Workshop, Pangasinan
- 27-29th Oct - lecture on mangrove ecology, 17th Biennial Assembly, Diakonia Philippines, Dumaguete City.

ZSL organized the 2nd National Mangrove Conference ‘*Science-based approaches to mangrove and beach forest rehabilitation: sharing experiences and lessons on post-Yolanda (Haiyan) mangrove recovery work*’ on 1-2 Sep at MO2 Westtown Hotel, Iloilo City. One of the Darwin POs, BPPFA was also a co-organizer. A total of 143 individuals participated from government, business, academia, humanitarian aid agencies, NGOs, people’s organisations (including Darwin communities in Bohol, Bantayan and Panay), and the conference involved a wide range of presentations and two field visits to project sites. This enabled a cross-sectoral group to share experiences of how to build ecosystem resilience and respond after a disaster like typhoon Haiyan, based on good science. A call to action was prepared and signed by the participants.



Fig 9: Participants to the 2nd National Mangrove Conference
1-2 Sep 2015, Mo2 Westtown Hotel, Iloilo City

Drafted Manual for Trainers: Mangrove and Beach Forest Conservation – due for printing in November 2015. Citation: Primavera JH, Savaris JD, Loma RJA, Coching JD, and Montilijao CL (2015). Manual for Trainors: Mangrove and Beach Forest Rehabilitation and Conservation – Mangrove Manual Series No. 3. London, UK: ZSL.

Mangroves in Marine Protected Areas Manual Writeshop, 10 ZSL staff, 28-30 Sept as a first step towards drafting and completion of this manual.

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.

- Delay in the implementation of the raft method oyster culture in Ivisan because of

disparities in the implementation of the LGUs Municipal Fisheries Ordinance. Zoning was done on the municipal waters of Ivisan but there was a delay in the project implementation because the zoning and clearing of the illegal structures did not happen. The implementation which was supposed to be initiated April 2015 was only initiated August 2015. Based on consultation with Ms. Ladja from SEAFDEC the group can still carry out spat collection for the oysters, but will need to do it along Basiao Cove. Grow out is still feasible but changes in monsoon winds now needs to be considered in selecting the spat collection site. A red tide occurred in Capiz at the beginning of Sept resulting in a government advisory that banned communities from eating, harvesting or marketing shellfish until the danger from the toxins had passed. The ZSL Darwin team worked to support communication flow between government officials and affected communities, notably 61 oyster famers who are developing this livelihood in Basiao, Capiz. We are also investigating whether the source of the red tide is anthropogenic or natural and how to build in this risk into business planning for oyster farmers.

- Issue on availability of supply of bolinao (anchovy) that is processed by the dilis dryers of Basiao and Balaring has been affected by a shift in trade practice from lift net operators. Lift net operators supply the anchovies for the dryers to process and sell. A recent rise in the price of the dried anchovies caused the lift net operators to retrieve all dried anchovies and sell it at a higher price leaving the dryers as mere laborers for the processing of the raw materials. This has impacts on the current steady markets being established with the group.
- Frequent postponement of MPA Management Council meetings due to the lack of availability of LGU focal persons within the council has caused the delay in the drafting of the Kodia MMPA ordinance.
- In September, the Darwin Project Manager, Jo Savaris was taken ill and was hospitalized for a period. We made interim plans to cover this period of sickness using the existing team. However, we have just learned in the last week that due to her health condition she will require a longer recovery period and has now been signed off on medical leave until the new year. We are now discussing how best to cover this period to avoid negatively impacting the project and associated activities for the next two months.

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: £

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:

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4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?
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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 projectschedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also be raised with LTS International through a Change Request.**

Please send your **completedreport 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: 20-035 Darwin Half Year Report**