



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

Project Ref No	21-021
Project Title	Enhancement of wellbeing and conservation in Cape Verde's biodiversity hotspots (Ref: 2324)
Country(ies)	Cape Verde
Lead Organisation	Fauna & Flora International (FFI)
Collaborator(s)	Fundacao Maio do Biodiversidade (FMB)
Project Leader	<i>Jack Rhodes (maternity cover for Sophie Benbow)</i>
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	31 st October 2015 HYR2
Project website/Twitter/Blog /Instagram etc	<i>This project will not have a dedicated website but is featured on www.fauna-flora.org</i>
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).

Output 1: A1.3: Weeklong training held with 40 MPA loggerhead turtle guards and 12 biologist team leaders covering MPA, biology, survey, data gathering and patrolling skills. SCUBA training of one MPA ranger. Ten fishermen trained in safe shark release techniques. **A1.4:** Fortnightly meetings with the Protected Areas Network representative, monthly updates with local municipality of Maio, weekly informal meetings with fishermen from key communities, at least monthly contact with UNICV partners and PRAO (West African Fisheries Program) representatives. **A1.5:** MPA guard refresher training in June (described under A1.3). 20 community members (from 12 different communities) taking part in an internship course (Sept-Nov), covering similar skills plus snorkel skills, intensive English course and tourist guide training. **A1.6:** During the reporting period the following grants were secured to assure co-funding: MAVA Foundation (Euros), Arcadia (USD over three years). Additional grants have been submitted: NOAA/USWF USD (response January 2016), Save our Seas USD (response end of 2015) and Oceana USD (response end of 2015) **A1.7:** Co-management team launched and the boundaries of the MPA Network in Maio have been approved by the national government. PA zonings and management plans are however still waiting to be approved by the national government.

Output 2: A2.6: Four community monitors conduct weekly patrols in the PNNM, fortnightly in MRCV and Morro PA, less frequent in Lagoa Cimidor PAs due to lower need plus monitoring of all beaches in PA network for turtle activity. Due to non-approval of PA zonation the community monitors are only registering and not reporting activities that will become illegal. Community monitors carrying out basic biodiversity monitoring are increasingly becoming involved in more complex work: accompanying FMB staff on shark, cone snail and petrel surveys and on BRUVS deployments. **A2.7:** Current baselines, agreed with Government, include: (1) shark snorkel surveys in Praia Real (weekly allowing for weather) (2) Daily census of turtle nesting activities and illegal poaching (3) Shark, ray and bony fish abundance and diversity monitoring using BRUVS. (4) First baseline study on the highly endemic Conus Snails in Maio (5) Planning of first baseline survey of Cape Verde Storm Petrel (will take place in November) (6) Extensive cetacean surveys in the CVMR which will serve as baselines and will be repeated next year.

Output 3: A3.3: Eight PA information panels placed around the island, and booklets about Maio were created. PA network regularly discussed in local radio programs, social media updates, articles in national press and interviews on national TV, FMB monthly newsletter and annual achievements documents. **A3.4:** At least monthly updates and discussion on project progress and implementation with local government, regular email contact and internship exchange with UniCV. Regular email contact with INDP on marine biodiversity and fisheries related topics. At least fortnightly updates and discussions with MORABI, ADEI and PRAO.

Output 4: A4.1: Of the 93 households that expressed interest in year one, 76 are still in the program and 12 women enrolled in the last 6 months. **A4.2:** Main training needs identified (in collaboration with women involved) as: food adapted to foreign taste, language and hospitality. Preliminary analysis of home also identified main constraints: hygiene, facilities and permanently free bedrooms. 10 women heading homestay houses in the program, one from each main village, participated in ADEI training for small business management. **A4.3:** Systematic evaluation of progress and suitability undertaken. Five meetings held with 82 women involved for a participatory evaluation of the first stage. Database created including house and family profiles. 79 homes now fully evaluated and meetings with all women underway to define the next stage of the programme with their participation. No promotional materials developed except promotion to FMB volunteers. The promotional materials for homestay businesses will be only developed when there are licensed homestay businesses. **A4.4:** Preliminary study of business models and relevant legislation for the homestay programme. We have continued to identify potential leaders of the program throughout the evaluation stage. ADEI training (see A4.2) and participatory business planning imminent. **A4.5:** Anecdotally, homestay evaluations and the hosting of volunteers has been instrumental in raising awareness of Pas and their benefits. The next socioeconomic surveys will provide data on awareness and attitude and behavioral change. Internships and ecotourism training for two young people from each community have been combined with MPA and conservation training. The guests for the evaluations (24 hour stay) have been people related to FMB (staff, partners, collaborators, volunteers, etc.) both national and foreign. More than 40 national and international volunteers have stayed in more than 20 houses for at least a week since April. Until the homestay businesses are formalised they cannot receive actual tourists. **A4.6:** Preliminary business plan developed by business and tourism interns in September 2015, full business plan will be developed in later stages of project.

Output 5: A5.2: Following low engagement in the saving scheme we and MORABI decided to develop leaflets to promote specifically the 'Totocaixa'. Those materials are being prepared by Morabi and will be used for the door-to-door campaign in Maio in November. **A5.3:** The 'Totocaixa Morabi' scheme has been introduced through training workshops in the remaining 4 villages by Morabi's representative in Maio and FMB staff, including the most populated village and capital of Maio, Cidade do Porto Ingles. **A5.4:** Weekly meetings with MORABI to monitor adoption. In the last 6 months the income savings scheme has been adopted by only two people in Maio.

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.

FMB has had high staff turnover this year, following personal conflict, poor internal communication and difficulties agreeing staff sharing between teams. There has been no impact on the project activities, timetable or budget to date. Marine Programme Manager has recently resigned so we may request changes to budget to reflect any new staffing arrangements but FMB will recruit a replacement immediately. I (FFI project manager) am in Cape Verde in-country at the time of reporting to resolve systemic issues and working with FMB to ensure project operational and financial deliveries are being met. I will report on this soon to LTIS.

Non-approval of PA zonation and management plan by the national government continues to delay project outcomes. With the zonation not approved the MPAs do not yet have any legal

power. We are continuing to work with the Cape Verdean government to resolve this.

In-water work in Cape Verde remains challenging due to prevailing weather conditions, restricting the amount of data we can collect. In the northern hemisphere winter we focus our work in the south facing MRCV while in the southern hemisphere winter we focus our in-water work in the north facing PNNM. However, in the trade-wind season (November - May) 20+ knots are normal which make in-water work almost impossible. Using BRUVS monitoring instead of regular diving trips will help to mitigate this problem, but the in-water work we can do in winter is limited by these factors. This is not now delaying project outputs.

Low uptake of the Output 4 savings scheme is a problem. Plans are in place to advertise it more intensively and share experience from those who have taken it up. We will keep LTIS updated on progress between now and next report.

While the homestay programme is on track, it has become apparent that the most suitable homes are those of relatively wealthier women. Their income is still low by international standards and homestays will undoubtedly be of substantial benefit to them, but we are currently considering what can be done with poorer women and families. Again, we will discuss this with LTIS between now and next report.

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:	Yes – LTS have been made aware and fuller report will be provided in next fortnight.
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Formal change request submitted:	No
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Received confirmation of change acceptance	No
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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. N/A

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

Nothing beyond the problems set out in section 2a.

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: 20-035 Darwin Half Year Report**