



Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31st October 2018)

Project reference	23-012
Project title	Improving marine biodiversity and livelihoods of coastal communities in Principe
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Sao Tome and Principe
Lead organisation	University of Exeter, UK (UoE)
Partner(s)	Principe Trust Foundation (PTF), Regional Fisheries Department and Principe's Biosphere Reserve Management Unit
Project leader	Prof Annette Broderick
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	29 th October 2018, HYR3
Project website/blog/social media etc.	http://omaliprincipe.weebly.com/ (Click English/Portuguese for specific website language)

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).

All activities scheduled for the period April-Sept 2018 have occurred as planned (but see our reply to 2a).

Output 1: Fisheries and livelihoods

1.1-1.4. Fisheries landing surveys are ongoing. Updated summaries of fisheries surveys and mapping areas are being produced. In April, we started a maturity study of the Golden African Snapper (*Lutjanus fulgens*) in partnership with Forever Principe - a conservation tourism program by Africa's Eden. Every month, samples (fish gonads, fins, otoliths and stomach content) are collected and will be used to better understand the biology of this species and inform fisheries management. From 16th July 16 to 10th August, we completed the first round of surveys using BRUVs (Baited Remote Underwater Video surveys) to record fish presence and relative abundance; sixty sampling points, randomly selected, were surveyed and over 90 hours of videos have been recorded. Data on marine habitat types was collected using remote sensing and field samples from 1st August to end of September.

1.5-1.6. Following selection and implementation of project interventions during Y2, infrastructure for all community initiatives was ready by May. Documents delineating management model for each specific initiative (produced together with local communities) were all approved and signed in July. During the month of August, two of our community initiatives (handicraft centre at Praia Burra and handmade soap production by fisher and fish traders from Praia Abade) participated at the Príncipe Island Entrepreneurship Fair; this was a regional initiative to showcase local products and projects. Another project initiative, Lapa's community headquarters, was inaugurated on the 16th June with the presence of the President of the Regional Government of Principe Island. The six community interventions have been closely monitored and support provided when needed. For example, among the four income-generating interventions, two of them have already started splitting revenues among beneficiaries. Project support was particularly relevant in terms of assisting financial decisions (e.g. estimate profits and decide about revenue sharing).

Output 2: Establishing co-management

2.1. As part of the “community ideas” initiative, we are identifying key opportunities and challenges for implementing fisheries co-management. While our project has been focusing on developing community capacity and laying foundations for co-management, this will not be achieved with timeframe of project (see our reply to 2a); we have spent considerable time assessing capacity and potential mechanisms but the process is too incipient. Ensuring our project activities are, however, fully sustainable, we are working towards smooth transition into a recently funded project approved by Blue Action Fund; this will carry on and expand our activities, and will have establishment of co-management for marine conservation as one of key goals.

Output 3: Ecosystem services trade-offs and social spill-over effects

3.2-3.4. Summaries have been produced based on data collected in Feb-March 17 for posterior comparison with information to be collected in Jan-Feb 2019.

Output 4: Capacity

4.1- 4.4. From 1st August until 9th October, Dr Benjamin Cowburn joined our team as volunteer and undertook research to identify and map marine habitats in Principe. Thanks to a new collaboration with University of São Tomé, a local BSc Biology student is undertaking her dissertation work with us. She started processing information in September and is expected to deliver her BSc dissertation by end of December, allowing her to successfully graduate. In addition, a recent BSc graduate from University of Aveiro (Portugal) is undertaking an internship with us, thanks to Erasmus+ funding.

Following on selection and implementation of project interventions during Y2, some complementary training was delivered during April-Sept 2018. In collaboration with the Sao Tomean NGO Marapa, we held training on small business management on the 26th of April; the fish traders association of Praia Abade (all women; N=15 participants) participated in this training to learn how to better manage their financial resources. On the 30th and 31st of May, fish traders and fishers from Praia Abade (N=7 participants, among which 4 were women) learnt how to produce handmade soap using locally produced coconut oil. In June 2018, our research assistant Guillermo Porriños was trained on histological techniques (mounting and staining fish gonads samples and observation in the microscope); training was delivered for eight days (80 hours) by Dr Anke Lange in Prof Charles Tyler’s laboratory at UoE.

4.5 - 4.6. Following our Y2 work on assessing options to mitigate the impacts of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing on São Tomé and Príncipe, we have now donated an AIS server to the National Fisheries Department (thanks to MarineTraffic.com). This is now been fully installed and has been working since 15th August. This substantially increases national capacity to detect and potentially control industrial fleets passing through Sao Tomean waters.

Output 5: Project monitoring and evaluation

In addition to weekly or biweekly meetings with local communities, key meetings with project partners and local stakeholders to discuss project progress have been held on: monthly meetings between PTF and government representatives; 15th August (UoE with National Fisheries Department); 16th August and 10th September (UoE with University of São Tomé); 18th September (UoE with Marapa and Programa Tatô, Sao Tomean NGOs); 21st September (UoE with Regional Fisheries Department). Preliminary project findings have also been presented and discussed at IV Biology Conference in São Tomé (21-25 May) and the first meeting of the Abidjan Aquatic Wildlife Partnership in Abidjan, Ivory Coast (23-25 July). Regular (approx. once a week) presentations to international tourists have been delivered at one of Principe’s high-end resorts. A focal point from the National Fisheries Department also traveled to Principe island to visit the project, provide feedback and act as facilitator among departments from 27th to 30th September. In addition, UoE/PTF meetings have been held in person or by skype at least once a week.

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.

Considering the type of community-chosen livelihood interventions implemented throughout our project (e.g. creating community headquarters, handicraft centre), we have revised our project outputs and indicators so that we: focus on a wider range of wellbeing benefits; account for more accurate magnitude of implemented interventions and amount of people directly (and indirectly) affected; are more realistic about steps taken (and still required) for effectively establishing fisheries co-management. In addition, national and regional elections occurred on the 7th October, with busy campaigning period during most of September (meaning community activities and government meetings were reduced during that time).

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

Formal change request submitted: Yes

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. 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?

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. Additionally, if you were funded under R24 and asked to provide further information by your first half year report, please attach your response as a separate 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**