



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

<b>Project reference</b>	23-028
<b>Project title</b>	Coastal Communities for integrated seascape management in Atlántida Honduras.
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Honduras.
<b>Lead organisation</b>	Fauna & Flora International
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Honduras Tourism Communities Association (LARECOTURH), Centre for Marine Studies (CEM), Cayos Cochinos Foundation (FCC), Bay Islands Foundation (FIB) and Cuero-y-Salado Foundation (FUCSA)
<b>Project leader</b>	Quentin Marchais
<b>Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)</b>	HYR3 31 October 2018
<b>Project website/blog/social media etc.</b>	

### 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 project continues to be implemented as planned with several highlights during the past 6 months. One of the main achievements has also been the increase in visibility of the project, on social media, and in local events.

A forum was organised in August 2018, where the president of DIGIPESCA (National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority) was present, and where the partners presented an update of the work they had been doing. The audience was composed of government representatives from the ICF (National Institute for Forest and Protected Areas Conservation), staff from municipalities of the seascape, mayors, other NGOs and fishermen from the three MPAs. During this event, fishers from Cayos Cochinos reflected on what they had learned during a previous project supported exchange done with fishermen in Kanan Kay, Mexico.

In addition to this, the main CEM staff working on the Darwin Initiative has secured a slot to present during both the 71<sup>st</sup> Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute Conference held in San Andres, Columbia, and the 22<sup>nd</sup> Congress of the Mesoamerican Society for Biology and Conservation to be held in Panama in November. FFI is supporting this staff with co-funding to travel and present the findings of the yellowtail snapper study completed under the Darwin Initiative. Both of these are high profile conferences that will improve visibility of the project and of the support of Darwin.

Patrolling and monitoring continues to happen on a regular basis. Evidence gathered continues to demonstrate that the project's efforts have reduced the occurrences of threats to key species in the seascape. Decommissioning of fishing gear continues. The collaboration between partners continues to improve.

**Output 1 - Coordinated planning and management action across the seascape:**

Mangrove restoration continues and the new generation of plants are going to be planted in the near future. On top of the 11ha restored in year 2, an additional 2ha were restored in the seascape with an objective to reach 22ha in total by EOP.

Monitoring and control of flagship species in the seascape continues, with a visible continuation of the drop of the threats to manatees and hawksbill turtles in the first semester of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the Darwin project. In CSWR (Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge), for the same period last year (ie. from April 2017 to October 2017), occurrences of damaging fishing have dropped from 30 to 5. No manatee killings were reported in the refuge in the last 6 months. In CCMNM (Cayos Cochinos Marine National Monument), the season of turtles monitoring (August to October 2018) was very successful, with a high turnout of volunteers. Patrols were carried out day and night and a slight reduction of turtle egg nest dig-ups can be noted and only one trawling occurrence was reported until today. In addition, a reduction of the number of use damaging fishing events can be noted. FIB continues its Iguana nursing program, and has identified the need to renew the females in the breeding program. 34 juveniles were reintroduced in nature in July and August 2018. Out of the 161 eggs, 53 hatchlings came out and are now growing in the station. Monitoring continues to be done 4 times a month.

Marine biological data gathered in Utila to support the establishment of a no-take zone using the AGRRA and CARICOMP methodologies have led to the official creation of the two no-take zones on the 18th of July 2018, a major achievement. The project also supported the creation of the ensuing commission that will manage these two no-take zones in Utila, with leadership from fishermen of Utila and the municipality. An additional proposal for the creation of a new no-take zone in CSWR was submitted by CEM to FUCSA and presented to the co-managers.

#### **Output 2 - Compliance with regulations**

A landmark achievement was the signature of the APROCUS-ICF-FUCSA convention, an agreement between fishers in CSWR, the co-manager and the government that is aimed at establishing a culture of compliance between these three stakeholders in terms of marine management within the refuge. Thanks to continuing support of the project, FUCSA is also now playing a leading role in the development of the updated management plan for CSWR. This plan will include the planned extension of the area which has not been officially recognised yet but will be very soon.

Training of Navy personnel on protocols of marine protection continues each time there are new members of the Navy arriving to sites. A workshop on the implementation of SMART has been carried out on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May 2018 and organised by FUCSA in collaboration with BICA-Utila, PROLANSTATE, PANTHERA, ICF, the environmental unit of the municipality of Utila and Marfund. The aim was to improve learning exchange between different organisations that use this technology for control and monitoring activities in the marine protected areas.

#### **Output 3 – Evidence base for coordinated seascape management**

CEM finalised the report on yellowtail connectivity through the seascape project area and it has been presented for the first time during the forum organised in August 2018. The results will also be presented at the event in San Andres and Panama mentioned above. The main management recommendation for this report was the change of hook size to #8. During this event, the maps of the no-take zones of Utila and the benthic habitats of the whole seascape produced by CEM were presented to the communities of the three area.

FUCSA continues to monitor the quality of the water in CSWR by continuous measurement of turbidity, pH, temperature and salinity. To that end and in order to improve this monitoring, FUCSA has strengthened its partnership with the local university, CURLA (University center in the Northern Coast of Honduras), and is exploring avenues to further this collaboration.

The monitoring of the three species continues.

#### **Output 4 – Seascape stakeholder forum and network**

The first seascape wide national forum was organised in August 2018 (see invitation below). 42 people were present, of which 41% were women. FFI presented the Darwin project and the

partners presented their work. This was followed by a workshop on governance and fishing access rights.

La Asociación Pro Comunidades Turísticas de Honduras – LARECOTURH, Fundación Islas de la Bahía – FIB, Fundación Cuero y Salado – FUCSA, Fundación Cayos Cochinos – FCC, El Centro de Estudios Marinos – CEM y Fauna & Flora Internacional – FFI, con el apoyo de Darwin Initiative. **Te invitamos a:**

**Primer Foro**  
**“Conectando Comunidades Costeras para el Manejo Integrado del Paisaje Marino”**  
 (Refugio de Vida Silvestre Cuero y Salado – Monumento Natural Marino Archipiélago de Cayos Cochinos – Parque Nacional Marino Islas de la Bahía)  
**Lugar: Salón Holanda de CREDIA**  
**La Ceiba, Atlántida**  
**Fecha: 9 y 10 de Agosto del 2018**



Información: [fortalecimiento@larecoturh.org](mailto:fortalecimiento@larecoturh.org) +50495030110



The organisation of the World Oceans day in CCMNM in August 2018 was an extremely positive event, with musicians from other parts of the country coming to celebrate the day with fishermen and talk about conservation.

Partners continue to improve their contact and engagement with communities via these shared spaces, as well as the overall management of the area.

### Output 5 – Community capacities and empowerment

Across the seascape, a range of trainings were given to communities to support alternative livelihoods. APROCUS fishermen all have licenses, and this was facilitated by FUCSA. In addition, in CSWR, 129 people were capacitated from April 2018 to October 2018. This includes continuous training of Navy personnel every month, where a full training is given every time there is are new recruits or changing personnel. 22 Navy personnel were trained. LARECOTURH delivered training to 53 fishermen (including 8 women) in 17 communities on fishing access rights. 34 households were given training on ecotourism as an alternative livelihoods, and 27 on alternative livelihoods.

In CSWR, additional training was provided on management and protocols to reduce the risks of fires in the refuge, which is a significant threat. All four communities within the refuge were trained and an agreement of collaboration was signed with the communities of Salado Barra, Boca del Toro, La Rosita and Boca Cerrada. Additional training was given by FUCSA on processes to legitimise land tenure and have usufruct contracts in the CSWR and in the surrounding national parks, including Pico Bonito NP and Madre de Dios NP.

In the seascape, environmental education continues to be the norm, with FIB talking about Iguana monitoring in Utila schools and FCC inviting students on patrols.

### 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.

There have been no major problem in the past 6 months.

However it is to be noted that the project manager of FFI has changed from Vance Russell to Quentin Marchais. This has been reported through the appropriate channels and accepted.

### 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:

FFI change of project manager	Yes
Received confirmation of change acceptance	Yes

**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?**

None

The Year 2 full report review does not mention any response needed for this report, and it was specified in the table on page 2 that the further information required needed to be reported on in the next yearly report.

**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](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 e.g. Subject: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**