



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

Project reference	24-008
Project title	Effective marine resource co-management in the Pemba Channel Conservation Area
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Pemba Island, Zanzibar, Tanzania
Lead organisation	Fauna & Flora International (FFI)
Partner(s)	Mwambao Coastal Community Network (Mwambao) Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Department of Fisheries Development, Pemba – Ministry of Natural Resources, Livestock and Fisheries (DFD-Pemba)
Project leader	<i>Nicola Frost</i>
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	<i>HYR2</i>
Project website/blog/social media etc.	Project presentation page https://www.fauna-flora.org/projects/implementing-effective-marine-resource-co-management-pemba-channel-conservation-area

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).

1 Output 1. Six Shehia Fishers Committees (SFCs) have the skills, knowledge and confidence to implement sustainable marine resources management measures in local fishing grounds.

Following the scoping conducted at the end of Year 1 (February-March 2018), to determine which communities to start supporting for the expansion of the project's activities, partners (FFI and Mwambao) agreed on starting to work with Makoongwe. A small island off Mkoani, the district town with only 2 villages encompassed in this Shehia, the fishing community had already been involved in previous community-based management initiatives a number of years ago (between 2005 and 2010) and their existing and recognised Shehia Fishers Committee (SFC) expressed several times their willingness to engage on their fishing grounds' management alongside the project.

After a quick capacity needs assessment in May-June 2018, Mwambao conducted an adapted series of trainings on roles and responsibilities, SFC's working partners, standard operating procedures, local conflict management and resolution, records keeping and effective communication among and outside the community (activity 1.1). Trainings on planning and implementing patrols, steps for by-laws formulation and approval procedures, will be conducted once the areas targeted for specific management measures will have been agreed.

In September, the team led joint participatory resource mapping with Makoongwe SFC (activity 1.2), which will then allow to decide about the best areas to close according the resource to be managed and the users (including other neighbouring communities) concerned. In October the project team has been visiting the neighbouring communities of Shidi, Michenzani and Stahabu, to sense their sensitivity about the fishing grounds discussed with Makoongwe for

management and cross-check results and information from the resource mapping exercise. The participatory management planning and bylaws development with Makoongwe SFC is (activity 1.3) is then scheduled to happen in November-December 2018.

The project continued to mentor SFCs (activity 1.4) already supported by the project. Kuku management activities seem to have reached a steady pace and the SFC is now able to handle on its own all the steps of their temporary closures. The situation is not so simple with Kisiwa Panza (KP) where management of the temporary closed areas have recently been challenged by some internal dissensions. A first octopus temporary closure gathering a wide consensus in the Shehia has been successfully conducted for 3 months (between March 5th and June 12th), with the opening days matching with the end of Ramadan's fasting month and celebrations. The area has been closed again a few days later, but a group of skin divers (free diving for octopus and other fishing) expressed their discontent in July with this area being closed. Various scattered arguments have been mentioned during several meetings facilitated by the project team, but despite a broad majority of the fishing community (mostly foot fishers) largely more numerous than the skin divers, being in favour of a new closure, after the end of this second closure (in early September), it hasn't been possible for the SFC to close again the areas. Taking into consideration growing tensions between groups and individuals in KP, the project team decided to pause the mentoring and support until social consensus is found again. We also want to prioritise expanding our support to the new communities (Makoongwe, Shidi, Stahabu, Michenzani) who have expressed more willingness and readiness to engage in marine resource management.

As part of activity 1.4, the project team also trained community beach recorders in Makoongwe to start recording octopus landings ahead of the start of a closure.

2 Output 2. A Collaborative Management Group is formed between the six target SFCs to determine and address seascape management issues.

In accordance with the work plan, no activities have been implemented for activities 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 to date. Given the staff changes within WCS Tanzania which lasted more than anticipated, we have been delayed in starting activities 2.4 and 2.5. We have communicated previously with Darwin Initiative regarding these delays and a change request has been accepted in March 2018 postponing the start of these activities in Year2 (from April 2018 onwards) and focusing on Sharks and rays, not on other vulnerable. However, WCS marine programme director has only started his role in September 2018, and we are now starting this partnership. WCS is pre-assessing the situation about Shark and rays landings in the project area (the portion of PECCA and the concerned coastal Shehias in Mkoani district). Following that phase, a network of community recorders will monitor sharks and rays catches and landings, some data that WCS will regularly collect and analyse twice a year. We will be provide more details and first results by the end of Year2 (April 2019).

3 Output 3. Training and capacity building provided to DFD-Pemba to effectively support marine resources co-management in the long term.

In April 2018 the project organised 2 successive workshops (activities 3.1 and 3.2) centred on co-management governance and conflict management, with:

1. DFD-Pemba and MCU (PECCA) staff for the first one, with the view to enhance SFC effectiveness within PECCA
2. only key DFD-Pemba staff and representatives of all the Shehias encompassed in PECCA (totalling 34 heads of SFCs or their representatives)

Beyond laying the foundations about what co-management could look like at the entire PECCA scale, and for roles and responsibilities to be shared by the various stakeholders (MCU and DFD staff at every level, and SFCs and communities), holding these 2 workshops allowed to list a series of recommendations, regarding next steps to engage into for the project but also suggestions and recommended areas of improvements for the SWIOFish programme (supported by the World Bank) to support DFD and MCU, and finally for DFD to ensure about necessary guidelines and regulatory documents to be finalised and fully operational.

We are continuing to liaise with DFD regarding some the aspects raised during those workshop, and increased communication with the SWIOFish programme's team. We are also

now looking at how we can facilitate and support holding one of the next Fishers Executive Committee meetings, as a way to implement some the recommendations.

4 Output 4. Sufficient knowledge and incentives provided for both male and female fishers from the six target communities to participate in new marine resources co-management measures.

As part of the activity 4.1 to create awareness raising material, the project team is creating simple maps for the communities to visualise the management areas on a public display board installed in a key visible location in the Shehia supported. A first map had been created for Kukuu, a new one has been designed for KP and we are preparing one for Makoongwe that will be completed when a closure will be started.

The project team also created shorts messages broadcasted on a local radio (Radio Jamii, literally meaning “community radio”) about new ongoing closures, to detail about the closures on KP between March and September. Before the end of Ramadan, some members of Kukuu SFC also explained during an long interview on that same radio how they designed their closures, how it was benefiting the entire community and what steps it required.

The project team strengthened the record keeping system for Kukuu and KP to keep a track of all the meetings held by the SFC, including the number of men and women attending, in distinct figures (activity 4.2).

After a number of discussions to agree on the set-up and planning, a credit scheme, called MKUBA (“Mfuko wa Kutunza Bahari” or Funds for Marine Resource Protection, activity 4.3), has been started in July 2018. This is led through a partnership of the project with the young organisation GreenFi (founded in the end of 2017), which was set-up as a sister-company of F3-Life, specialised in providing financial services in rural areas in Africa. GreenFi was very keen to start a community microcredit scheme in Kukuu, where the person (Julianne d'Esterre Roberts) leading the organisation spent a couple of months interning in mid-2017, having studied various conditions concluding to a good feasibility for such implementation.

The model used is based on [IUCN's CECF \(Community Environment Conservation Fund\)](#) to be adapted into a coastal/marine context (it was only tried in purely terrestrial contexts previously). This derives partly from a Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) model, where loans are given and rapid within groups of people having a similar livelihood, where additional eligibility conditions for access to funds linked to the management of natural resources within the community are added. In terrestrial/agricultural contexts they concern for instance management/maintenance of freshwater streams, planting bushes or trees along contour lines to prevent soil erosion and retain fertility. In Kukuu it aims at linking the loans' eligibility to compliance to the bylaws and/or taking a role in the implementation of the local management plan.

As a pilot, it is currently only being implemented in Kukuu for now, and if successful we will consider replicating to other communities. 5 “livelihood groups” have been formed (eg. foot fishers, seaweed farmers), each comprised 30 members (with a minimum 50% women). 3 of these groups have given loans to their members which are currently being repaid weekly. As still relatively new, we are still currently collecting information and waiting for the end of the first loan cycle (early November 2018) in these 3 groups to evaluate the success and failures of this first try.

Nonetheless, these first weeks of experience allowed to make a few observations and some point of attentions are emerging:

- The technology proposed to be used (tablet/android app alongside paper&pen records) to help track the loans and their repayments, needs more training to be better used across the loan groups
- Weekly meetings used for repayments don't always have the full attendance expected (some members skip for various personal reasons); the project and village team should emphasise the importance of attending these meetings and find solutions to increase it. In a second phase, the SFC and/or the project team should take advantage to introduce marine resource management information and discussions at these.

- Borrowers are sometimes repaying their loans with amounts varying from one week to another. This is of course a welcomed flexibility that allows them to adjust with their personal finances, but isn't easy to handle from a project point of view and might delay the full repayment of loans which risk delaying starting a new cycle for new borrowers waiting for their turn. We will review what amount can be repaid every week and will ensure steady weekly repayments are implemented, reflecting that into the rules associated with the loans.

5 Output 5. Conservation and social outcomes of the project are evaluated and findings shared with target audiences (communities, local government, and conservation community).

The fisher behaviour, household wellbeing, and marine governance effectiveness surveys (activity 5.1) have been designed, introduced into a smartphone application, and are scheduled for October-November 2018 to be led in the new communities supported or soon to be supported (Makoongwe, Michenzani, Shidi, Stahabu). We expect the use of smartphones to ease data collection, entry and analysis, but configuring the software and its settings took a bit more time than anticipated.

After starting to develop jointly (Mwambao and FFI), in September 2017 a M&E plan encompassing diverse information to monitor the progress of community actions (activity 5.2), this plan has been gradually turned into several tools to record the indicators periodically. Finally, Mwambao project team completed developing a comprehensive M&E spreadsheet summarising and gathering all these indicators community by community (eg. patrol data records, SFC meetings minutes, monthly financial information, trainings, opening days results, outreach and communications, etc.). This spreadsheet is progressively informed and filled in by the project team, and several areas need to be further detailed (including reporting past information from other docs there), but this encompass indicators about the SFC governance such as monthly check of the financial records (revenues and expenditures) and SFC and community meetings (as part of activity 5.4).

A new participatory data analysis (activity 5.3) is being conducted in October KP and Kuuu about the results of the previous closures this year in both of these communities. The feedback will also be presented in DFD-Pemba office before the end of 2018.

Relating to the activity 5.5, the project has been presented through several forms since the beginning the grant's 2nd year (April 2019):

- Mwambao's director, [Lorna Slade presented the project](#) at FFI's marine event held in May 2018 in London "Joining the dots: local action to save the ocean".
- A [Conservation News article](#) was published in October 2018 in Oryx-The International Journal of Conservation detailing some of the progresses to date resulting from Participatory Market Systems Activities in Pemba. These activities are made possible through co-funding to this project (from Arcadia foundation).
- Mwambao's project team will present the activities led with Pemba fishing communities at the World Food day agricultural event, organised by the Ministry of Agriculture in Pemba 10-16 October 2018. The objective was to make the coastal and marine co-management activities led by Mwambao and the project more visible to a wider audience and mainly government officials (including the president of Zanzibar), in order to maintain good institutional relationships and further support.

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.

Lack of internal consensus within Kisiwa Panza community leading to pause octopus closures and the project's support

Despite a majority of the fishing community (mainly foot fishers) in favour of and supporting the temporary octopus closures, these were recently stopped as a result from growing dissensions within the fishing community in KP. The project team explored the details of the issues and complaints, coming from a groups of skin divers (the ones free diving for octopus, reef fish and other marine resources). Various claims

The project team decided it was not worth to continue collecting octopus landing data for now (until support to the SFC would be resumed), as we already have more than 3 years of data, including both during closures and in the absence of closure (during all of 2017). Similarly, we feel the SFC is now trained and experienced enough to start a new closure when they will be ready to resume manage/close their octopus fishing grounds. Moreover, as this was the first community supported (since 2015, ie. before the start of the Darwin Initiative grant), we also thought KP SFC and community might benefit from being a bit less closely accompanied into their management actions: allowing them to feel more ownership on management ideas and ultimately more internal willingness and consensus.

We therefore communicated that decision to the SFC and community in September, mentioning that we would still facilitate the two 2018 closures participatory data analysis to feedback results to the community and then to DFD-Pemba (scheduled in October-December 2018). They have been explained that the project team remains available to receive their questions and potential queries for us to resume providing support, but insisting that they should first address their internal dissensions.

Within the project team, pointing out the much larger extent of the closed octopus fishing grounds in KP compared to Kuuu, the more remote access to monitor those, and the bigger population seemingly more reliant on octopus resources than Kuuu, we also recognise that it is quite understandable that local management is more complex, and it might be that only a couple of closures a year (basing on what was conducted in 2018) is achievable for KP for now. Repeated closures with only a few days of opening as in Kuuu, effectively meaning that the area managed is almost permanently closed throughout the year, is arguably a much stronger commitment which is probably too challenging for now in KP.

Contrary to the previous incident in the end of 2016 which led to the collapse of the SFC, according to most individual opinions gathered (from foot fishers, elders, members of the community committee handling a school development project, or various other individuals) the current SFC remains active and trusted by most, and only the skin divers (a younger and quite vocal group) are defiant to the closures and the related by-laws. We will continue monitor the situation on a monthly basis with the project's field officer.

Oil & Gas exploration in Pemba, including seismic tests crossing sites under management

In September 2018, Mwambao and the project team has been informed some oil & gas exploration activities will be conducted on Unguja (main Zanzibar island) and Pemba, both on land and at sea. The transect lines initially selected include sites under active co-management and significant octopus fishing grounds for communities we are liaising with: in KP and Makoongwe, but also around the core protected area of PECCA: Misali Island.

Mwambao team, together with other local stakeholders (tourism/diving operators, other marine conservationists, working on cetaceans) raised their concerns through a joint letter in October towards Zanzibar Petroleum Regulatory Authority and the company in charge of organising some public consultations on the matter.

Scheduled to take part to a public meeting in the end of October, the project team on the ground will insist on the efforts from local communities (supported by the project) to manage some of the areas targeted by seismic testing and seek for avoidance and mitigation mechanisms. They will also raise the attention on the importance to properly communicate about the exact dates for these tests to be conducted and ensure proper outreach to warn about the importance that fishers are not in the water during those and avoid dangers for their health (loud blasts).

SWIOFish: Recrutement of a coordinator, start of activities and informal coordination

SWIOFish programme has started from 2015 but activities have been stalling for many months without a recruited coordinator and no effective operations. A coordinator has been recruited in July 2018 (Chris Horrill), who has an extensive experience in marine conservation and fisheries management in the WIO region, including in Tanzania (around the Tanga area on mainland facing Pemba Island) and in Mozambique. From the beginning of his activities he made contact with our project through Mwambao team and demonstrated interest about the work achieved so far in co-management (in Pemba but also in Unguja where Mwambao also lead marine co-management outside of this project and of the partnership with FFI) and seems highly interested in coordinating our efforts to make the most of our comparable themes of interventions. This coordination is mostly occurring through informal communication at this point, without any specific MoU or other official partnership. We provided some guidance materials developed through the project, including training manuals for SFCs, Standard Operating Procedures developed and already commented by DFD previously, and also training materials and recommendations developed for the institutional governance workshop held in April.

This is a positive outlook for now, and we will seek to continue keeping each other informed about our progress, to try avoid potential confusion that could result from similar themes of interventions (bearing in mind that a World Bank programme directly nested in the DFD does not have the same constraints and resource than our project, nor the same approach to communities).

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: Staff changes at WCS mentioned in Output 2 in paragraph 1. have been discussed with LTS International and were a subject of the last change request approved in March. The start of the partnership has continued to be further delayed until the position of marine programme director has effectively been filled and the partnership it is now starting (a subgrant agreement is scheduled to be signed early November).

The recent issues of KP have not been discussed yet with LTS, we want to let the SFC work on their internal dissensions and assess their will to engage before deciding about resuming support. The 2 3-months closures conducted in 2018 have been well received and approved by a large majority, and we will decide early in 2019 at the latest what we do with the community as next steps, after monthly updates from the field officer.

O&G exploration concerns are very recent, and have not been discussed previously. We will monitor the impact on the areas targeted, on habitats and species (including in our in-water surveys) and will advise of any further action points according to those.

Formal change request submitted: N/A to date.

Received confirmation of change acceptance N/A to date.

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?

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**