



Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects Half Year Report (due 31st October 2020)

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	Alison Mollon
Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)	HYR3
Project website/blog/social media	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 project implementation timetable (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).

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

In April 2020, 1 new community member from the ward (shehia) of Stahabu, KP was trained by the project team and with contributions from previously trained peers from other supported communities conducted **in-water reef surveys**. This training was quickly put into practice to conduct the baseline surveys around the closures decided by their respective communities.

Patrols have continued in Kukuu, Makoongwe, Shidi, Michenzani and Stahabu. During the reporting period there have been two incidents recorded, both in Shidi. In April, 3 people were issued a warning and in May, 9 people were arrested and fined 100,000 tsh..

To date, overall in the 5 **SFCs** the **revenue and expenditure** were lower in 2020 compared to previous years. This seems related to Covid-19 as local prices for seafood (with export market and tourism sector both down) have been impacted negatively. Revenues are primarily dependent on the amount of levy collected, which itself is related to catch price. Arrests and fines remained overall at a comparable (or sometimes higher) levels in 2020 compared to 2019 and 2018. Again this could be Covid related, as with decreased income, people are resorting to illegal behaviour in order to meet livelihood needs.

Results from the **SFC performance assessment** conducted in March by CORDIO under complementary funding, which looked at SFC members' understanding of their roles and at their perception on their SFC's performance in these roles, were reported in September. There has been considerable progress in the shehias of Makoongwe, Shidi, Michinzani and Stahabu

since inception of Mwambao's work under Darwin. All of these communities have had access to a range of capacity building (good governance, communication skills, record-keeping, fisheries legislation, closure protocol, resource mapping) and have established by-laws and closures. All SFCs have 20-30% women representation. The collaborative management group formed between them at end 2019 is starting to be operational and communities demonstrate an improved knowledge of PECCA.

We had mentioned in the AR3 that the team would prioritise **resuming active local management in Kisiwa Panza**. However, the challenges faced this year (detailed in sections 2a and 2b) have hampered any progress towards this. Kisiwa Panza SFC and villagers from Mtondooni, one of the two villages in the shehia have expressed willingness to resume the temporary closure of one of the two previously managed areas. The last temporary closures ended in September 2018 and a lack of internal consensus between the two villages of Mtondooni and Panza has prevented these to be continued. The SFC members and Mtondooni villagers have decided to collaborate with Chokocho and Kangani, two large neighbouring shehias on main Pemba that also fish in surrounding areas. Furthermore they expressed willingness to form a future CMG that would include Kuukuu, Chokocho and Kangani.

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

A **poster and a brochure** aimed at educating communities about the benefits of management collaborations through creating a **Collaborative Management Group (CMG)** across neighbouring shehias have been created. 100 posters and 500 brochures were produced by Mwambao and disseminated to communities through district fisheries officers in three districts.

The latest data analysis on Sharks and Rays landed continues to show a high proportion (53%) of threatened and CMS I, IOTC prohibited and CITES II elasmobranch species being caught in Pemba. This is cause for concern, particularly as three of the five species which are caught in the highest numbers in Pemba are threatened, including the Critically Endangered scalloped hammerhead shark *Sphyrna lewini*, the Vulnerable silky shark *Carcharhinus falciformis* and Indian eagle ray *Aetobatus ocellatus*.

The species-level data being recorded through this project demonstrates threatened and internationally prohibited species are being caught on a large scale. This is of major concern for the persistence of sharks and rays in Tanzania and the greater Western Indian Ocean region; however, the data provides validation for this project and will be instrumental in informing shark and ray policy at a national level in the United Republic of Tanzania.

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

In the last 6 months the project team has continued to provide supplementary **input for SFC Standard Operating Procedures** by working closely with Co-management technical advisor for SWIOFish. This collaboration has enabled us to make all necessary reviews on the sections related to SFC governance and operationalization and its management. It has also ensured complementarity between the design of collaborative management areas throughout PECCA.

The project team has been in contact with the consultants and DFD currently revising the **General Management Plan (GMP) for PECCA**, providing suggestions and information from the project's activities and findings. A stakeholder workshop was initially scheduled to take place in the end of March 2020, but was postponed first to May, then indefinitely due to COVID-19 restrictions. The consultants expect the work to be resumed and finalised after the elections.

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.

The **MKUBA eco-credit scheme** in Kuuu is progressing well despite having faced major challenges related to Covid-19 and a subsequent drop in revenue for many borrowers. Groups sessions and loan repayments are continuing during this period by observing all necessary

safety and hygiene precautions and complying with smaller groups gatherings. Most group members decided to liaise with their group individually for regular loan repayments.

Some particular Covid-19 awareness raising took place through provision of posters and leaflets (funded through a complementary programme) and hand-washing station materials were provided to MKUBA group members and the community. Follow-up through a dedicated mobile phone application (Greenfi app) to track progress of MKUBA repayments has been introduced in parallel with ongoing pen-and-paper tracking. A training of trainers on the use of the MKUBA mobile application was provided to 2 community members of Kukuu and 4 Mwambao staff, with the objective to then train MKUBA group members to track the group's active loans. A reflection meeting on MKUBA has been organised by GreenFi, involving 8 Mwambao staff and 2 community members.

A MKUBA Management Committee (MMC) meeting was conducted in July 2020 to discuss the progress of MKUBA and the establishment of 2 new MKUBA groups. It was reported that a growing number of borrowers are repaying with delays as a result of challenges in businesses/different livelihoods in relation to Covid-19, but also owing to the lack of proactive oversight by some of the active MKUBA group leaders. The MMC agreed that closer follow-up of repayments is needed and for the cases of clear repayment difficulties, extension periods can be granted only if a satisfactory justification has been provided and recorded.

The **opening day protocol** implemented in Kukuu was first introduced in Makoongwe in 2020. All the SFC members were involved as well as DFD-Pemba's District Fisheries Officer and the head of the ward ("Sheha"). This protocol aims to ensure well organised, transparent and fair principles are followed when a temporarily closed area is opened for fishing. It has facilitated generation of community income from a levy fee paid to the SFC per kg of octopus, transparent intra-community communication from the SFC to the wider community (regarding set prices, collected revenue and practical information such as landing site details, etc.) before and after the opening periods.

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

Within Kukuu there have been **in-water biodiversity monitoring surveys** conducted in 2017, 2019 and 2020. The results of these surveys indicate there has been an increase in the average number per transect of small and medium sized parrotfish since the baseline survey in 2017, with numbers increasing within the permanent closure area, temporary closure area and the general fishing zone in 2019 and further in 2020. An increase in the average number per transect of small sized goatfish has been seen in the permanent closure since 2017 and an increase in the overall number of fish species recorded within the area since 2017.

Baseline in-water monitoring surveys were conducted in Shidi, Stahabu and Michenzani in April 2020. The limited coral and seagrass covers recorded during the transects in/near their respective closure areas question the potential that these short-term closures have, for instance in terms of octopus or reef fish populations recovery, and will help us provide more informed guidance to their SFCs moving forward. **Octopus catch data:** In Kukuu the average octopus size and CPUE (catch per unit effort) has consistently been higher than that recorded in the closure period, although in 2020 the average octopus size and CPUE has decreased compared to previous opening periods. Verification and exploration of the issues will take place in December 2020 during in-water surveys and further consultation with the SFC. Overall, the fish catch data shows an increase in the average number of all 4 key indicator fish species caught within the opening periods. The average income per fisher is higher within the 'fish open periods' compared to the closure periods. In fish openings in June and August 2020 the income per fisher does not show an increase as significant as compared to the other open periods. Makoongwe have held two octopus closure openings in 2020. The opening in March 2020 was their most successful in terms of seeing an increase in the average size of the octopus caught and the CPUE. The opening in August 2020 shows a small increase in the average octopus size, but a reduction in the CPUE.

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months (for Covid-19 specific delays/problems, please use 2b). Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

In January 2020, a change in the law (which applied to all Tanzanian NGOs) meant Mwambao was required to re-register as a separate NFP in Zanzibar (previously they were working under a certificate of compliance from the mainland). The process is now complete (new registration 25th June) but it has required several members of the team to spend a significant and unforeseen amount of time on the matter during this reporting period.

Tanzania's upcoming presidential elections (scheduled for end October 2020) have led to a high level of scrutiny over NGOs and their activities in both mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar. We believe the point above is related to that but in addition, during the last two months of the pre-election period Mwambao has been advised by government authorities that it should not carry out any planned field activities with coastal communities until after elections. Mwambao staff agreed to adhere to the advice to avoid any potential threat to the organisation's position and possibly that of staff. Mwambao was expecting (and had planned) for a lighter on-the-ground presence with the communities we support in the run up to the elections, but were not anticipating such an increased scrutiny and so long ahead of the vote. The elections are scheduled to be held on 28th October 2020 (both in mainland Tanzania and the semi-autonomous islands of Zanzibar), and **reports of heightened tensions and violence** have been made, especially in Zanzibar. Related concerns have been raised by the British High-commissioner in Tanzania on 27th October, and several diplomatic missions have also raised concerns over the likelihood of inclusive, transparent, peaceful and credible elections.

The project team is closely and regularly monitoring the situation. Should post-election unrest emerge, the team will liaise with LTS International in case it proves impossible to resume fieldwork before December 2020.

WCS Tanzania's Project Manager, Michael Markovina, left his position with WCS in August 2020. A new recruit, Abdulaziz Mussa, has been employed as the new WCS Tanzania Marine Program Coordinator and is providing in-country support to this project, together with other key WCS staff members.

2b. Please outline any specific issues which your project has encountered as a result of Covid-19. Where you have adapted your project activities in response to the pandemic, please briefly outline how you have done so here. Explain what residual impact there may be on your project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

The covid-19 outbreak has limited the project through preventing planned interactions with various stakeholders

- Between March-May, activities with coastal communities and concerned authorities were curtailed and many offices were closed. Some activities continued with small groups of people and focus was given instead to internal training and planning.
- Two Mwambao staff expatriates (the Technical Advisor, Lorna Slade and the Technical Data and Monitoring & Evaluation Advisor, Danielle Stern) returned to the UK at the end of March following FCO recommendations. The need to work remotely did slow some of the team operations slightly. Lorna Slade returned to Zanzibar in July and Danielle Stern in August.
- WCS Tanzania project manager relocated to South Africa for March-July 2020 before resigning. The recruitment of his replacement is still ongoing but a new marine programme coordinator position has been created and enabled to resume work from September 2020 onwards.
- COVID has impacted communities and individuals' revenues (e.g. prices of marine produce and lack of both local hotel clients but also export opportunities) but it has also meant that it is harder to maintain reef closures because of the increased impact on the coastal

environment by expanding numbers of fishers over this time period (having lost employment in the tourism industry).

Our partners WCS Tanzania, suspended **Sharks and Rays catches monitoring** in March 2020 (due to Covid-19 restrictions), however these activities resumed again in June 2020 (creating a gap of data for 2 months).

Additionally, the delays in implementation will mean that there will be undue pressure to deliver outstanding activities during the remaining project period. This has affected all of Mwambao's work (including other projects) and will make it difficult to deliver all expectations within the allocated time. Pemba is the more sensitive (politically) of the two Zanzibar islands and it may prove impossible to resume activities immediately after the elections. This might affect planned management activities in Kisiwa Panza and the activation of the CMG involving Makoongwe, Shidi, Stahabu and Michinzani. A thorough review of outstanding activities will take place during November and a change request (or a no-cost extension) will likely need to be sought.

2c. 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: 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. 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. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.

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

The Mwambao Project Officer has had to be especially careful to restrict his field activities over the last three months, however the Mwambao team has taken the opportunity to carry out more internal training workshops in their HQ in Unguja, Zanzibar, including a co-management workshop with the SWIOFish co-management advisor. The team has taken time to carry out internal discussions and trainings over the interpretation of monitoring results - this has proved very valuable in terms of building team capacity for understanding and analysis of data collected and has indicated where more follow-up action is needed.

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 DO NOT send these in the same email.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to 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: 25-001 Darwin Half Year Report**