





Darwin Initiative Main Project Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the "Writing a Darwin Report" guidance: (https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/reporting-forms). It is expected that this report will be a **maximum** of 20 pages in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2019

Darwin Project Information

Project reference	24-012
Project title	Incentivising community-led marine biodiversity conservation on Atauro Island
Host country/ies	East Timor
Contract holder institution	Blue Ventures Conservation
Partner institution(s)	Worldfish, Seventythree Ltd, Raja Ampat Local Homestay Business Enterprise Association, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment (Directorate of Biodiversity), Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Ministry of Arts Culture and Tourism, Government of East Timor
Darwin grant value	£295,214
Start/end dates of project	1 April 2017 - 31 March 2021
Reporting period (e.g., Apr 2017 – Mar 2018) and number (e.g., Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	April 2018 - April 2019 Annual Report 2
Project Leader name	Alasdair Harris
Project website/blog/Twitter	www.blueventures.org
Report author(s) and date	Nick Piludu 30/4/19

1. Project rationale

East Timor is located at the heart of the Coral Triangle, a region home to the world's highest levels of marine biodiversity. Fisheries underpin the livelihoods and food security of East Timor's coastal communities, and environmental sustainability is deeply enshrined in Timorese culture through traditional environmental management practices such as *Tara Bandu* (local laws that are used, among other things, to govern Locally Managed Marine Areas).

Yet recent decades have resulted in decimation of East Timor's critically important marine ecosystems by overfishing and a proliferation of destructive fishing techniques, which threaten the resilience of the fragile marine ecosystems upon which the country's coastal communities depend.

Declining catches, rapid population growth and a lack of livelihood alternatives have pushed traditional fishers into deepening poverty, forcing communities to adopt increasingly unsustainable fishing practices to support dwindling catches, and perpetuating the low socio-economic development and high rural poverty seen in coastal zones. Decades of conflict, occupation and civil unrest have eroded traditional local-level marine management practices and customs.

Women are almost invisible in community and national-level decision making on fisheries and coastal management, despite the critical role that gleaning of shellfish, seaweed and fish from reefs by women and children plays in food security and family income. This lack of recognition means that women's fisheries are ignored in national policy discussions, and women in coastal communities have very low levels of participation in community decision making about coastal resources and fisheries.

These challenges have hindered progress in marine biodiversity conservation, with biodiversity conservation in East Timor lagging behind neighbouring countries. Therefore, Blue Ventures aims to tackle these challenges through the implementation of locally-led fisheries management by establishing LMMAs and also through the creation of alternative livelihoods in the form of ecotourism, in order to address poverty alleviation.

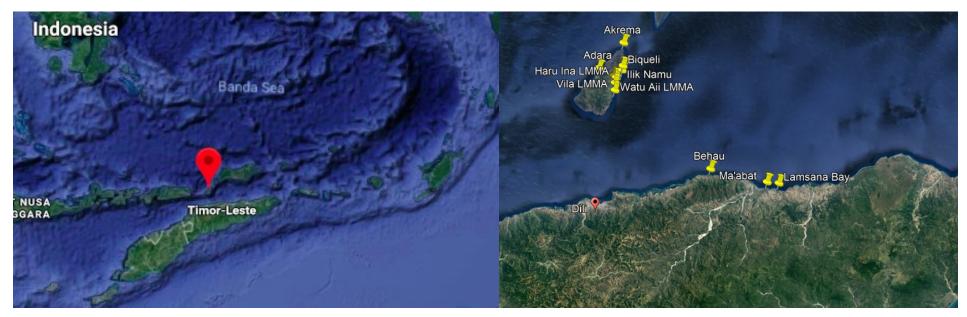


Figure 1. Map of project sites on Atauro and mainland East Timor

2. Project partnerships

We continue to maintain positive relationships with the project partners. WorldFish was consulted throughout the reporting period to coordinate our respective programmes and explore potential opportunities for collaboration. Community-based fisheries monitoring is the area of work with the biggest potential for collaboration, as both organisations have programmes running on Atauro and the mainland, and we regularly meet to discuss synergies between our programmes and ensure that collected data are compatible. In order to build local capacity for marine resource monitoring, in 2018 we trained one Timorese WorldFish staff member to PADI Open Water level free of charge.

Seventythree Ltd (www.73-ltd.com) and a Local Homestay Business Enterprise from Southeast Asia were engaged in the planning and delivery of a second homestay learning exchange, which took place in Beloi, Atauro, with representatives from the Atauro Homestay Association (AHA), the community of Kudat, Malaysia and another community from Southeast Asia. The second exchange was supported by WWF-Malaysia and funded through a separate grant. We are now working with Seventythree Ltd and WWF-Malaysia to capture some of the outcomes of this exchange and also lessons learnt from the Darwin-funded project, in a best practice manual (see also Output 3).

Political instability began after the 2017 elections and continued in 2018, and new elections were held in May 2018. This continued to pose a challenge to engaging our partner Ministries, but we were able to maintain these relationships through clear communications, regular meetings, and data sharing sessions. As a result, in 2018 we were invited to join the Environment Working Group of the Secretary of Environment; the Coral Triangle Initiative Stakeholder Meetings, organised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), for whom we held a data sharing session, which promoted support for the project; and the Tourism Development Partners Meetings, organised by the Ministry of Tourism.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Output 1. Local marine management and ecotourism development plans in place

Ecotourism consultations (Activity 1.1) were completed in Beloi and Adara before the project start. Following assessments of Uaro-ana, Behau and Baucau, it was decided not to develop further ecotourism initiatives in the three sites due to lack of potential for tourism in the three communities. Preliminary consultations for natural resource management (Activity 1.2) were completed in Ilik-namu (a hamlet of Biqueli) and Behau before the reporting period (see narrative under Output 2 and Output 4 for more details).

Following the seagrass mapping activities, which were completed in the previous reporting period, 11 community members (eight women and three men) were trained in participatory seagrass habitat monitoring (Activity 1.3) in April 2018. The team is now regularly monitoring the seagrass meadows of Beloi and Biqueli, with the majority of sites falling within the LMMAs (Activity 1.4, Annexes 1.4a - Seagrass-watch monitoring sheet and 1.4b - Seagrass-watch monitoring sheet template).

A fisheries monitoring training programme (Activity 1.5, Annexes 1.5a - Fisheries Monitoring Training Photos, 1.5b - Fisheries Monitoring Training Presentation) was completed in Ilik-namu in the previous reporting period, and fisheries monitoring (Activity 1.6, Annex 1.6 – Data Collection Online Form) has been ongoing in the community since. In July 2018, four women from Behau completed a fisheries monitoring training programme, and monitoring started in August. In November, two more women completed their training and joined the Behau team. The fisheries monitoring programme now operates in two communities; Ilik-namu (eight operators) and Behau (six operators). Additionally, an exchange visit between the Ilik-namu and Behau teams took place in Behau in August 2018. The programme included peer-training, sharing experiences and confidence-building exercises. During the exchange, operators unanimously voted to keep the team all-female, as they felt more comfortable working in a single-gender team, and set up a WhatsApp group to share updates on their fieldwork, data and pictures.

Four data sharing sessions (Activity 1.7) were held in Biqueli, Beloi, Ilik-namu and Dili in the reporting period. On 29th November 2018 we held a major data sharing session in Biqueli, where we presented data from our reef, seagrass, and fisheries programmes, as well as wider progress and our plans for 2019 (Annex 1.7a - Biqueli data sharing presentation). The event was an opportunity to promote female leadership, as all speakers were women, all of whom (except one) were from Atauro. 43 people, including 19 women, attended the session and showed great appreciation for being able to see the data. A lively discussion followed the presentations, with several participants stating the need for marine management, and asking the local authorities to resume consultations on the Ilik-namu LMMA and legislation which began in 2017 but stalled in 2018. On 13th December 2018, a second data sharing session was held in Beloi for the communities of Beloi and Vila. The session focused on seagrass and reef data for the three LMMAs in these two communities, as well as presenting the fisheries programme and data from Ilik-namu. 20 people, including eight women, attended the session; local authorities acknowledged Blue Ventures' support with marine management, and expressed an interest in working together more closely in the future. On 29th January 2019, a third data sharing session was held in Dili for representatives of MAF. 11 people, including two women, attended the sessions and expressed interest in holding regular meetings to discuss the results of our monitoring programmes. On 22nd March 2019 a fourth data sharing session was held in Ilik-namu, as requested by local authorities, to continue our engagement with the community and promote interest in resuming the *Tara Bandu* consultations.

Two videos, filmed locally, were also shown alongside these data sharing sessions to raise awareness: one of Mima (female Science and Dive Assistant) conducting an underwater dive survey with volunteers; and one of local marine life to showcase the local biodiversity for those who may not have seen it. Although 360° video turned out to be unsuitable for ongoing habitat monitoring, we have some footage from a 360° camera we

can use for community engagement. A professional travel filmmaker joined an expedition in 2018, and in return for a discounted rate she shared her video footage and photos with us, including 45 videos filmed on a 360° camera. The videos will be used to create a film to engage communities in discussions on marine resources. This will require significant effort and time, but discussions about what may be of interest have begun with the field team.

Output 2. Locally-led fisheries management measures piloted and continued by communities

In the context of East Timor, discussions about fisheries management and community-managed marine areas tend to happen at the same time, as the LMMA management approach is something they are familiar with and fisheries management measures are implemented as part of the *Tara Bandu* law that governs the LMMA. We started working with the community of Behau in October 2017, when they asked for support with fisheries management. Between April and November 2018, seven extensive consultations were carried out in Behau to discuss the key fisheries and threats (Activity 2.1). The community selected grouper, tuna, fusilier, lobster and cuttlefish as the key species to focus on (Activity 2.2), and chose to adopt fisheries management measures in the form of a temporary closure (aiming at improving invertebrate fisheries, such as octopus and cuttlefish) and a two-year no-take zone for all species (Annex 2.2 - *Tara Bandu* LMMA map), which were formalised in December 2018 through *Tara Bandu* law (Activity 2.3, Annex 2.3 - Behau *Tara Bandu*). The *Tara Bandu* law describes the uses of the LMMA including: the temporary closure system (based on a six-month closure, followed by a three-month open season); regulations for the no-take zone (e.g. no fishing, gleaning or anchoring is allowed, but sailing is permitted); penalties for infractions (e.g. buying food for the community), and access for tourists. The two-year no-take zone is based on a previous *Tara Bandu* law dating back to over 40 years ago, which restricted access to a very productive reef in order to improve fish populations, but the use of these laws was disrupted during East Timor's struggle for independence. Following the formalisation of the *Tara Bandu* and LMMA we will work with the new management team on maintaining the new LMMA, starting in the next reporting period (Activity 2.4).

Consultations in Ilik-namu, which started in 2017, slowed down in 2018 due to political conflict within the community. Since the fisheries management and conservation measures were decided by the community of Ilik-namu in November 2017, we have encountered difficulties in engaging local authorities to formalise the plan through *Tara Bandu* law. We held meetings with local authorities on 26th April and 16th May 2018, following which communications slowed down until November 2018, when the need to establish marine management was raised by the community during a data sharing session (Activity 1.7). We held a meeting with the local authorities to discuss the next steps for finalising the *Tara Bandu* draft on 20th February 2019, and expect to start the process again in the next reporting period.

Output 3. Community members are trained and employed in ecotourism activities

AHA is now an established ecotourism provider in Beloi (Activities 3.1 and 3.3), and we are working with the eight participating families to develop the independent tourism market, relying less on BV ecotourists and promoting the sustainability of the homestays beyond the project (Activity 3.6). In the reporting period we facilitated AHA's participation in many events, such as the second Dili Handicraft Market, which showcases local businesses and facilitated a five-day visit from Engineers Without Borders (EWB), AHA's first independent tourist group. We have also encouraged Dili-based organisations and government bodies to use AHA as their accommodation provider on Atauro, with several organisations currently staying in homestays during their field visits to the island. Additionally, in June 2018 we recruited an intern who worked on expanding AHA's independent market. She helped develop a welcome brochure, a marketing leaflet (Activity 3.6, Annex 3.6a - Homestays Brochure) that was distributed to tourism operators in Dili, their first logo and a Facebook page, all of which have helped to create an identity for AHA. The paperwork required for the registration of AHA was submitted repeatedly in the reporting period (Activity 3.2), but ongoing political instability has resulted in a situation where policies and procedures are unclear, and we were asked to resubmit to comply with changing requirements. We expect this to be completed in the next reporting period, however, this will largely depend on the country having a stable government.

We are supporting AHA in their partnership with Agora Food Studio, a restaurant and social enterprise based in Dili, (Activity 3.5), under their TL-FIX project, which aims to research and promote local food and gives women the opportunity to show leadership in an environment they are comfortable with (e.g. preparing food), ultimately promoting their standing in the community and contributing to improving gender equality. As part of the project, several AHA women took part in exchanges on Atauro and in Dili, and in February 2019 they cooked for, and discussed traditional recipes with the Prime Minister of East Timor.

In November 2018, in partnership with Seventythree Ltd and WWF-Malaysia, we organised another international homestay exchange with two communities from elsewhere in the Coral Triangle including community members from Kudat, Malaysia, (Activity 3.4). The visit included workshops on business management, community organisation management, leadership, and gender issues, all useful skills for setting-up and running a homestay business. Participants provided positive feedback, and each community planned actions based on the results of the exchange (e.g. establishing a welcome point at Beloi port). The exchange provided a unique opportunity for AHA members to share their experience with community homestay operators from elsewhere in the region, in particular with Malaysian representatives, who are considering new homestay initiatives drawing on the experience of the Atauro community. A homestay best practice toolkit, based on the exchange, is currently being developed to share lessons learned and support more communities and NGOs to replicate this approach.

Between May and June 2018, some community members asked to join AHA, prompting community negotiations to expand the association (Activity 3.7). Due to several factors (e.g. political feuds between village factions), negotiations have been difficult, and some conflict arose between AHA and the new candidates. We have been working closely with AHA, local authorities and the wider community to defuse the conflict and finalise negotiations, and we expect this to be solved in 2019. However, following recommendations from local authorities in September 2018, Blue Ventures eco tourists have not been staying in homestays. Blue Ventures staff have remained in homestays and homestays have continued to host independent tourists. We hope that BV eco tourists will be able to be hosted in homestays soon.

Output 4. Locally managed marine area (LMMA) established.

Consultations on the development of an LMMA (Activity 4.1), workshops on LMMA criteria (Activity 4.3) and capacity building activities (Activity 4.2) were completed in Behau in parallel with consultations for fisheries management (see Output 2), as the two are both regulated by *Tara Bandu* and often implemented at the same time in East Timor. The agreed measures were included in *Tara Bandu* law (Activity 4.4, Annex 2.3 - Behau *Tara Bandu*), the community marked the zones of the new LMMA using a GPS on 5th June 2018 (Activity 4.5, see Annex 2.2 - *Tara Bandu* LMMA map), and marker buoys were sunk on 12th December 2018 to delineate the LMMA (Annexes 4.4a - Field Notes *Tara Bandu* ceremony and 4.4b – Behau *Tara Bandu* formalisation ceremony photos). Outreach activities were carried out throughout the reporting period to ensure the community participated in the consultation process.

The coordinates of the Ilik-namu LMMA were marked on a GPS before the reporting period however the LMMA has still not been finalised (Activities 4.4 and 4.5). Outreach activities will resume in the next reporting period, depending on the outcome of our meetings with local authorities (see Activity 2.3).

On the 3rd August 2018, we facilitated a visit to Behau from the AHA coordinator, who shared his experiences as a fisher in Beloi. The training also included sessions on LMMA demarcation and maintenance, community outreach, and marine management (e.g. the differences between permanent and temporary closures). Further training will be provided after the creation of the LMMA management team, intended in the next reporting period. Training content and frequency is currently being decided but is planned to comprise monthly sessions on topics such as basic ecology, fisheries management, monitoring, and conflict resolution.

Agreements to regulate diver access to four LMMAs (Annex 1.2 *Tara Bandu* agreements), and formalise our relationship as their official monitoring partner, were renewed in December 2018 with local authorities of Beloi and Vila. One more agreement was signed with the local authorities of Biqueli in January 2019, to allow access for monitoring activities for one LMMA. Divers pay \$1.5-2 into a community fund that is used by LMMA authorities for community projects; since the establishment of the LMMAs in June 2017 we have raised \$3,357, a significant amount that contributes to the long-term sustainability of the LMMAs.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1. Local marine management and ecotourism development plans in place, using site identification, zoning and indicator information provided via stakeholder consultations and participatory community marine resource assessment and monitoring.

Output 1 was fully delivered during this (second) year of the project. Two main ecotourism sites were identified in the first year of the project, Beloi and Adara. Beloi was selected as our main site, while Adara is visited every two months for one or two-night trips to a camping eco resort and a local LMMA. Eco tourists are also directly contributing to income in two other sites through diving fees in Vila and Biqueli (Indicator 1.1, target one village, baseline zero). Two main communities were identified for community-based natural resource management: Ilik-namu and Behau (Indicator 1.1, target one village, baseline zero). Ten community members were trained in seagrass mapping in the first year of the project, and 11 community members (72% women) were trained in seagrass monitoring in the second year (Indicator 1.2, target ten operators, baseline zero). A seagrass mapping exercise was also completed in the first year of the project (Indicator 1.3, target one assessment, baseline zero). 14 women from Ilik-namu and Behau were trained in fisheries monitoring methods in the first two years of the project (Indicator 1.4, target ten, baseline zero). Participatory monitoring programmes (Indicator 1.5, baseline zero monitoring programmes) are ongoing in Beloi, Biqueli, Ilik-namu and Behau.

Output 2. Locally-led fisheries management measures piloted and continued by communities

Output 2 was largely delivered in the second year of the project. Fisheries management measures were discussed and formalised by the Behau community, targeting several key fisheries (e.g. cuttlefish and grouper). Consultations were completed in Ilik-namu, but final formalisation has stalled in 2018 (Indicator 2.1, target one community, baseline zero). Results from our participatory monitoring programmes are shared regularly with community members, local authorities and other stakeholders; four major data sharing sessions took place in the reporting period (Indicator 2.2, target two sessions, baseline zero).

Output 3. Community members are trained and employed in ecotourism activities

Output 3 was largely delivered in the first two years of the project. A successful homestay initiative was set up in Beloi, with eight families participating (Indicator 3.1, target 12 families, baseline zero). Sites for expansion of the homestay programme (Behau, Baucau and Uaro-ana) were scoped, but were assessed to be unsuitable for ecotourism. Expansion in Beloi is being considered but it will depend on resolving community conflict that started in 2018. Over 40 people took part in training programmes organised by Blue Ventures, covering topics such as business management, food preparation and tour guiding (Indicator 3.2, target 300, baseline zero).

Output 4. Locally managed marine area (LMMA) established.

Output 4 was fully delivered in the second year of the project. Consultations engaging the whole community in Behau were completed in November 2018 (Indicator 4.1, target 100% community members, baseline zero). Training on how to manage an LMMA is ongoing and more structured training will be provided in the next reporting period (Indicator 4.2, target 50% women, baseline zero). A new LMMA was delineated and formalised through *Tara Bandu* legislation (Indicator 4.3, target one LMMA, baseline zero). Consultations were completed in Ilik-namu in the previous reporting period

but final formalisation stalled in 2018; we are continuing to work with the community to overcome challenges to formalisation and replicate our success in Ilik-namu.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Outcome: Reducing fishing pressure and protecting priority biodiversity areas in East Timor through community-based marine resource management and sustainable alternative livelihoods benefiting 9,000 people in coastal communities.

After identifying two key sites for ecotourism activities, and two for diving activities, the project focused on establishing the homestay programme, and training and employing members in ecotourism activities. As well as establishing eight new homestays and supporting them in developing independent partnerships, the programme is supporting several additional businesses, including a local restaurant, a camping eco resort, a handicrafts cooperative and kiosks, and engaging an additional two households in providing laundry services, achieving the goal of increasing income in 25% households in the target community, Beloi village (Indicator 0.1, Annex 3.6b - Homestay Night Tracker).

The project established two participatory monitoring programmes focusing on collecting data on seagrass and fisheries. The seagrass programme is now running monthly monitoring sessions in two communities (Beloi and Biqueli), and 14 female community members were trained in fisheries monitoring and are currently monitoring fishing catches several times a week in Ilik-namu and Behau. Additionally, the project staff, supported by diving eco tourists, collects data on reef fish, coral, invertebrates and cetaceans. After having established a baseline in the first year of the project (no data were available before the start of the project) we are now able to monitor ecological change (Indicator 0.4) in order to inform adaptive management to protect key biodiversity areas in East Timor and eventually measure the impact of the LMMAs. In Behau a new LMMA was formalised in December 2018, establishing a temporary closure and a no-take zone, and in Ilik-namu a draft of the *Tara Bandu* legislation that will establish an LMMA to regulate fisheries, protect important habitats and establish a core conservation area is pending final formalisation (Indicator 0.3).

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption 1: Shift from fishing to ecotourism for income generation reduces number of people dependent on fishing.

Comments: Assumption is still valid. Anecdotal evidence (i.e. comments from the AHA coordinator) suggests that homestay participants are fishing less.

Assumption 2: Knowledge from participatory monitoring is used to design community-led management plans.

Comments: Assumption is still valid. During consultations on marine management and data sharing sessions, community members clearly discussed the importance of data to inform the management of LMMAs.

Assumption 3: Income from local fisheries management and income from ecotourism acts as a catalyst for further local natural resource management.

Comments: Assumption is still valid, as demonstrated by communities' eagerness to engage in marine management. Homestay hosts are taking part in several conservation initiatives: six members are involved in seagrass monitoring; the association is organising regular beach clean-ups;

the AHA Coordinator visited the Behau community to share experiences and lessons learnt from applying *Tara Bandu* law in Beloi, where the first *Tara Bandu* governed LMMAs were created in 2017; and one AHA member was appointed the manager of a LMMA.

Assumption 4: Legislation and policies in East Timor do not change, and/or the legal provision for allowing locally-led marine resource management is maintained.

Comments: Assumption is still valid; however, it is worth noting that East Timor is going through a period of both instability and development, which might result in changes in relevant legal provision.

Assumption 5: Fisheries management initiatives do not increase number of people fishing, but allow people to fish less and catch more.

Comments: Assumption is still valid. Anecdotal evidence (e.g. comments from fishers in communities that have established LMMAs) suggest that they are dedicating less time to fishing.

Assumption 6: Communities are interested in participating in monitoring, and results can be used to guide marine management and planning to improve fishing livelihoods.

Comments: Assumption is still valid, as demonstrated by the ongoing participatory monitoring programmes taking place in Beloi, Biqueli, Ilik-namu and Behau. The programmes have been praised by local authorities, community members and government representatives as a useful tool to inform marine management.

Assumption 7: Economically important marine fisheries resources exist with species that can respond quickly to management and will incentivise broader local engagement in fisheries management and marine conservation.

Comments: Assumption did not hold true. Atauro's fisheries are very unspecialised, and species exhibiting a quick response to management (e.g. octopus), while present are not considered important by local fishers. Additionally, the country does not have a commercial market for fisheries products, either internal or for export, which limits the size of financial benefits coming from management. However, communities have been incentivised and motivated to engage in broader local engagement despite this and implementing temporary closures as a catalyst to longer-term management has not been needed.

Assumption 8: Sufficient local leadership and community cohesion for local management to be developed successfully and respected.

Comments: Assumption is being reviewed. The framework of *Tara Bandu* customary law promotes community cohesion in developing marine management. However, local leadership is often weak and communities are prone to internal conflict, which has been affecting progress.

Assumption 9: A site exists in East Timor that can provide both the requirements for ecotourists (eg. infrastructure, diving, safety) and also a nearby community that is keen to participate in provision of accommodation and services.

Comments: Assumption is still valid and has been demonstrated.

Assumption 10: Blue Ventures can maintain the number of tourists currently joining ecotourism expeditions in East Timor.

Comments: Assumption is being reviewed. Tourist numbers were lower than expected in our second year and we are working to increase them in the next reporting period by reviewing our internal marketing capacity and ecotourism package. Please see Assumption 11 too.

Assumption 11: East Timor continues to be a safe and attractive destination for ecotourists to visit.

Comments: Assumption is being reviewed. The number of flights to East Timor was reduced in 2019, and the price of aeroplane tickets also recently more than doubled, which is likely discouraging tourism and might affect the success of our ecotourism initiatives. The country has been without a functioning government for a year, which raised slight concerns about safety in 2017 and early 2018, although it appears that the May 2018 elections have improved political stability.

Assumption 12: Incentives from improved local fisheries management and new income from ecotourism promote further local marine natural resource management.

Comments: Assumption is still valid, as demonstrated by the participation of AHA in several conservation initiatives (e.g. management of the LMMA, beach cleans and seagrass monitoring).

3.5 Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty alleviation

The project continues to make progress towards its expected outcome of protecting biodiversity and to work towards poverty alleviation. The project team has already supported communities to establish one LMMA, protecting biodiversity in critical habitats in the Coral Triangle, and continues to work with communities to monitor and manage their marine resources to ensure long term sustainability.

The homestay programme has provided participating families with income for 2,156 overnight stays (Indicator 3.1). Based on feedback gathered after each expedition, estimated average BV eco tourist spend on food, drink, souvenirs, laundry and other items in the community was \$4,162 for the year, with an average spend of \$119 per person, per expedition.

Diving activities continue to support the existing LMMAs (456 dives at \$2 in Haru Ina LMMA, 545 dives at \$2 in Watu Aii LMMA, 269 dives at \$2 in Vila LMMA, 63 dives at \$1.5 in Adara LMMA, giving a total of \$3,357; Activity 1.1).

4. Contribution to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

SDG1 - No poverty. The project has made significant progress towards local economic development. The ecotourism initiatives established by the project continue to contribute to poverty alleviation: the expedition is providing income to the local community and supporting several LMMAs through access fees, and AHA continues to host tourists and provide income for eight households.

SDG3 - Zero hunger. The project has been working with fishing-dependent coastal communities to establish sustainable fisheries management through LMMAs, ultimately promoting long-term food security. In Behau, we have supported the community to establish a new LMMA, with the clear goal to rebuild fisheries and promote food security. *Tara Bandu* consultations in Ilik-namu have identified key fisheries for subsistence fishing (e.g. fusilier and tuna), potential management measures (e.g. no-take zones) and zoning for fisheries management, and are pending final formalisation.

SDG5 - Gender equality. The project is directly targeting women through several initiatives and gender equality remains a priority. Eight women are engaged in the homestay programme, and continue to grow in confidence, which in turn increases their leadership role in running the business. AHA women participating in the Timor-Leste Food Innovator Exchange (TL-FIX) project are also greatly improving their confidence, as the project gives them the opportunity to show leadership in an environment they are already comfortable in (i.e. cooking and researching traditional food). Additionally, both the fisheries and seagrass monitoring programmes are led by women, which was mentioned as a source of

pride by local authorities. Women from both programmes are presenting their work at community meetings, and in 2018 they were invited to policy consultations on Atauro and Dili (see also section 7. Project support to gender equality issues).

SDG14 - Life below water. The project continues to engage local communities in marine management through our work towards LMMAs and our fisheries and seagrass monitoring programmes. Data from both programmes, and from the expedition's reef monitoring programme, is supporting the management of existing LMMAs and the establishment of new marine management measures, such as the new *Tara Bandu* LMMA in Behau.

5. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

The project is contributing to the three main objectives of the CBD as planned, in particular Articles 6, 8, 10 and 11. Firstly, the project is working in a participatory way with fishers in Ilik-namu and Behau on marine resource management (articles 7 and 8), taking steps towards community-led protection and conservation of critical ecosystems, and ensuring coastal communities are able to benefit from biodiversity (articles 6, 10, 11, 14). The project has promoted full participation of communities in the establishment and maintenance of a marine protected area in line with decision VII/28 on protected areas, aligning with the Programme of Work on Marine Biodiversity. The project has fulfilled articles 7 and 8 of the basic principles of the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity by working in a participatory way with fishers to manage biodiversity with the goal of reducing poverty and protecting preferential access rights. Following extensive community consultations and field visits, community representatives from Behau approved regulations (Activity 2.1) creating a new LMMA and contributing towards sustainable fishing, and therefore benefiting the target coastal communities. Additionally, data from the fisheries and seagrass programmes, and from the expedition's reef monitoring programme, are supporting the management of existing LMMAs and the establishment of new marine management measures.

By reinforcing the effective management of marine resources through a community-managed MPA, and taking practical actions to rebuild fish populations and protect key habitats, the project is helping to protect critical ecosystems and ensure local, poor communities are able to benefit sustainably from biodiversity; helping East Timor achieve CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets 6, 10, 11 and 14.

6. Project support to poverty alleviation

The project works towards poverty alleviation by supporting alternative livelihoods and encouraging families to diversify their income, such as establishing a successful homestay programme that is directly benefiting community members in Beloi. The homestay programme has provided income for 2,156 tourist nights through the homestays. It continues to benefit other members of the community in Beloi when tourists visit local restaurants for lunch, buy handicrafts and souvenirs, and also when they shop from the local kiosks. This has increased the incomes of others not involved in the homestay programme.

Both the homestay and fisheries regulation initiatives have positively impacted communities, alleviating poverty and promoting sustainability in the long-term. AHA is also considering donating part of their income to a community fund. This has not been implemented yet, but once in place it would contribute to the local administration, the church, and the LMMA of Beloi.

7. Project support to gender equality issues

As part of the ecotourism expedition programme, training was provided to two local Dive and Scientist Assistants to train them to PADI Divernaster level, one of which was the first woman in the country to do so. She has also achieved Reef Check EcoDiver level, and is now regarded as a conservation leader by communities on Atauro.

Eight women are engaged in the homestay programme and have received specific training (e.g. on food preparation). We supported the women from AHA in their partnership with Agora Food Studio as part of their Timor-Leste Food Innovator Exchange (TL-FIX) project. The project began in June 2018 and gave women the opportunity to research local ingredients and develop new recipes, and then share what they learn, and cook for the wider community and local authorities. As part of TL-FIX events, the women from the AHA presented the results of their research and their new dishes to several government representatives, most recently the Prime Minister. As East Timor is a strongly patriarchal society, women are rarely able to achieve leadership positions. Through these initiatives women have been provided a rare and valuable opportunity to develop their leadership skills in an environment they are familiar with, ultimately promoting their standing within the community and contributing to improving gender equality. As the tasks involved in running a homestay business largely take place in the home, participating women are increasingly taking a leadership role in running the business. This has resulted in Blue Ventures staff seeing a notable increase in confidence, with women engaging more with their guests, talking to the media, and taking a more active role in community meetings. Most notably, one woman was appointed the Secretary of AHA. Additionally, we partnered with Marie Stopes to deliver workshops in Beloi on gender equality, using the homestay families as a gateway to engage men from the community. A short video documenting this was filmed in Beloi between October and December 2018 (see link). Marie Stopes will further promote gender equality at workshops across the country in 2019.

When organising *Tara Bandu* consultations, we stressed the importance of including women, and women outnumbered men (61% women) during a meeting with local authorities, in May 2018, to discuss finalising regulations for the two-year no-take zone and adjacent temporary closure. However, most consultations only involve a small number of women, largely due to social norms. To counterbalance this, our monitoring work focuses on involving women, empowering them to take part in monitoring consultations and share their knowledge with local authorities and other participants. Fisheries monitoring started in llik-namu in March 2018, with eight female operators regularly monitoring catches, and was replicated in Behau with six female operators. The fisheries monitoring teams presented at the Women Fishers' Forum in October 2018 in Dili and actively participated in consultations on the new fisheries law organised by the government in Biqueli, which is a promising sign that the programme is starting to have a positive impact on their confidence and status in the community. The seagrass monitoring team is composed of mostly women (72%), and continues to promote female leadership with local authorities and the wider community. Female operators report feeling empowered by the programme, with Monda Costa, one of the operators, saying that: "The seagrass monitoring programme gives me, as a woman, an opportunity to participate in an activity that is important to the community."

8. Monitoring and evaluation

Blue Ventures delivers projects using principles of adaptive management, as part of a cycle that moves from project design, implementation and monitoring, to reviewing results, and back to project design (adapting / revising strategy and plans). The outputs' and activities' contribution to the project outcome is detailed in a theory of change that we refer to at all stages in this cycle. Review happens at a range of frequencies, depending on the thoroughness of the review, with the broad strategy reviewed less frequently (usually every three years), and the day-to-day implementation of activities reviewed more frequently (at least monthly).

We use data from monitoring and evaluation activities (described below) to continually assess the rationale behind our theory of change, and the assumptions that underpin it. We review the relevance of the outputs and activities of the project as part of a monthly check-in with the project manager.

The indicators provided in the project proposal are outlined in the logframe. These are largely being used, with one potential exception (Indicator 0.2), and expected results for the reporting period have been met. Indicator 0.2 might prove to be the exception as it is based on the assumption that a commercially-valuable, fast-growing species could be identified (e.g. octopus or other invertebrates), allowing for the provision of regular financial benefits. This was not possible as the country does not have a commercial market large enough to provide regular financial benefits. We will continue to investigate alternative options, such as adding value to catches (e.g. through drying), or exploring a market for cuttlefish. However, based on our current knowledge and information provided by our partners, it is unlikely that we will be able to achieve the expected results and the indicator might have been reconsidered.

Participatory monitoring (habitat and fisheries) is proving to be a suitable approach and is progressing, collecting baseline biodiversity information to inform marine management. As already reported, 360° video monitoring was not implemented, due to the methodology and in particular time needed for analysis, proving to be less effective than expected. However, we have some 360° videos from a volunteer that we are considering using as an engagement tool. A phone-based data collection methodology was implemented for fisheries monitoring and by doing so, we can work towards achieving the project outcome of reducing fishing pressure and protecting priority biodiversity areas in East Timor by providing the data needed to inform decisions. For the homestay programme, we monitor the total number of nights provided to AHA (Annex 3.6b - Homestay Night Tracker), to calculate their income, as well as tourist feedback on their performance. This information is helping to assess any areas which may need improving; for instance, feedback gathered in 2017 suggested that the food provided by AHA was not satisfactory, prompting the partnership with Agora Food Studio.

9. Lessons learnt

In 2018, we realised that in order to engage communities effectively, while working within East Timor's rigid hierarchical society, we needed to change our approach. Local customs require village chiefs to be closely involved in all activities that take place in their community and to take a leading role in community outreach and communications. However, our programmes require extensive outreach and communications with the communities, which the chiefs have not been able to deliver due to their full schedules. This resulted in conflict within the community, and activities in llik-namu being put on hold. In order to address this, in August we proposed that the chiefs adopt an unconventional approach, where they are informed of every activity but are not required to take part, and where we are also responsible for community outreach and communications. This was accepted by the chiefs, and recent feedback suggests that they are pleased with the new approach and consider it respectful of both local leaders and community members. So far, activities are running smoothly with this new approach to community engagement.

10. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

We have responded to feedback on the previous annual report, in the October 2018 half-year report and throughout this report.

Reviewers asked for clarifications regarding activities that were included in the report, but delivered immediately before the project start. These included initial consultations on ecotourism (Activity 1.1), the selection of the first round of households to take part in the homestay programme (Activity 3.1), ecotourism training (Activity 3.5) and the first exchange visit to RAHA (Activity 3.4). We included these activities in the report, even if they were delivered using match funding to Darwin, as they constituted a necessary preparatory phase for the delivery of Outputs 1 and 3.

An international exchange took place before the project start and reviewers asked us to clarify the role of Seventythree Ltd. and other homestay associations as project partners. We continued to work with both partners on the organisation of a second exchange (Activity 3.4), which was delivered in November 2018 in Beloi, Atauro, with visiting participants from other parts of the Coral Triangle and Malaysia. Together we are developing a best practice manual based on lessons learnt during the project. Although these activities were delivered with match funding, both the exchange itself and the best practice guide draw on lessons learnt through Darwin-funded activities and will help us amplify the impact of this project by sharing lessons learnt with organisations wishing to replicate the approach, so we thought it is worth mentioning here.

Reviewers also asked to clarify statements on the establishment of LMMAs in Atauro. Since 2016, several LMMAs were established by local communities, with support from Conservation International and WorldFish, independent of BV's activities. Although we were not involved in their establishment, BV has since been approached by the communities for support with monitoring the LMMAs in Beloi, Vila and Biqueli (Activity 4.1). To date, this project has directly supported the implementation of one LMMA in Behau (Activities 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5 and 4.6).

Lastly, the validity of Indicator 0.1 (increasing household income in 25% of the target community) was questioned, as some of the incomegenerating activities were started before the project start. The development of the homestays mostly took place between October 2016 and March 2017 (before the project start), however, the homestays only started piloting their operations with a very small number of tourists in January 2017, and therefore the income generated before the project start in April is negligible.

11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

No additional comments.

12. Sustainability and legacy

Project aims were widely discussed before the project and continue throughout the project with local authorities and communities on Atauro, and on mainland Timor, promoting local support that will ultimately ensure sustainability. This raised interest in several communities, most importantly resulting in Blue Ventures being invited by the communities of Ilik-namu and Behau to support marine management. Additionally, the strength of the monitoring programmes established during the first year of the project resulted in Blue Ventures being formally invited to be the monitoring partner for three LMMAs.

The project team built new partnerships throughout its first year, reaching out to both international (e.g. Marie Stopes International, Conservation International) and local (e.g. Konservasaun Flora no Fauna) organisations, raising the profile of the project in East Timor and building a solid foundation to pursue potential future opportunities.

The project put great effort into local capacity building, promoting long-term sustainability of project activities including training two Timorese staff members to PADI Divemaster level, allowing them to dive independently. The homestay association continues to receive training aimed at promoting full independence, and is making significant progress towards its goal of independence. Eleven community members were fully trained in habitat monitoring and 14 in fisheries monitoring, enabling independent data collection. A WhatsApp group was created for the fisheries monitoring programme to allow the teams in Behau and Ilik-namu to share their experiences and support each other, as well as receiving ad-hoc support from BV staff. Following the development and consolidation phase in the first year of the project, the priority for the homestay in the second year is to promote tourism independently of Blue Ventures, diversifying the customer base and building resilience. This will be achieved by providing information materials to tourism operators in Dili, listing the homestays on relevant websites, and promoting the homestays as the accommodation provider for fieldwork on Atauro with NGOs and government agencies in Dili.

In this reporting period, several new communities expressed interest in working with Blue Ventures to replicate the project activities and this has seen the expansion of activities to Behau. Two additional communities, Madohi and Metinaro, both in the Dili district, have also requested support to implement *Tara Bandu* LMMAs and homestays. We will consider further expansion and replication of the project activities in the next reporting period.

13. Darwin identity

The logo was included in all presentations and the Darwin Initiative was mentioned in all related posts in our 'Beyond Conservation' blog. Preliminary results from the project were presented and well-received at the Fifth International Marine Conservation Congress, held in Kuching, Malaysia, in June 2018, and at the Seventh Conference on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries, held in Bangkok, Thailand, in October 2018.

14. Project expenditure

Please expand and complete Table 1.

Table 1: Project expenditure <u>during the reporting period</u> (1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019)

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2018/19 Grant (£)	2018/19 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL				

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2018-2019

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2018 - March 2019	Actions required/planned for next period
Impact Incentivising community-led marine biodiversity conservation on Atauro Island		The project has successfully engaged in community-based natural resource management in two main communities, establishing a <i>Tara Bandu</i> -governed LMMA in Behau (Annex 2.3 - Behau <i>Tara Bandu</i>), and making progress towards the establishment of fisheries regulations and an LMMA in Ilik-namu (Outputs 2 and 4). Through this process communities are taking ownership of, and steps towards, sustainably managing their own marine resources.	
		The project has additionally been working with four more communities, Beloi, Biqueli, Vila and Adara, on marine monitoring and ecotourism (i.e. through the homestay programme in Beloi, camping in Adara and paying LMMA access fees; Output 3). The four communities implemented marine management measures independently between 2016 and 2017, with Blue Ventures becoming the formal monitoring partner of Beloi, Biqueli and Vila in 2018 and 2019.	
		The project has engaged 25 community members (22 of which were women) in participatory monitoring (Output 1) as a way of empowering communities to be in charge of their own resources.	
Outcome Reducing fishing pressure and protecting priority biodiversity areas in East Timor through community-based marine resource management and sustainable alternative livelihoods benefiting	 0.1 25% households in target community have increased total household income as a result of ecotourism by end Y3 and continuing in Y4, against baseline to be established end Y1. 0.2 Fisheries 	The project is working in two main ecotourism sites, Beloi and Adara. In Beloi, the project has increased income in the homestay households, providing a total amount of \$32,340 to the homestay association since its establishment in January 2017. Additionally, the project has directly and indirectly been supporting a local camping eco resort in Adara, a restaurant, handicraft shops and kiosks, as well as involving two additional female-led households in providing laundry services,	The project will focus on promoting the homestays to a broader market through direct engagement of tourism operators in Dili and online advertising, increasing sustainable tourism in Atauro, while addressing the community conflict (see Output 3 for further details)

9,000 people in coastal communities.	management benefits increase mean fisher incomes by 50% by Y4 (against Y2 baseline). 0.3 Marine area managed/protected by communities on Atauro increases from 1 area in Atauro in Y1 to 3 areas by end Y4. 0.4 Key biodiversity indicators (reef fish,	reaching an estimated 25% of households in the target community of Beloi (0.1). One new LMMA (1 new LMMA since project start, 0.3), including regulations for fisheries management (0.2), was established in Behau in the second year of the project. Participatory monitoring including reef fish, coral, invertebrates, seagrass and cetaceans is ongoing in several communities on Atauro and in Behau (0.4).	that is currently preventing further expansion of AHA. In Behau, the project will focus on supporting the LMMA management team and the fisheries monitoring team through training and community outreach, and explore opportunities for further replication of our approach to marine management in surrounding communities. On Atauro, we
	coral, invertebrate) within locally managed/protected areas remain stable or increase by end Y4.		will continue our community seagrass, reef and fisheries monitoring programmes, and continue to share and discuss data with communities and other stakeholders, such as the government. After progress in Ilik-namu stalled in 2018, the project team will be focusing on rebuilding momentum in the community, in order to formalise and implement the discussed marine management measures.
			Further replication of the project in new target communities (e.g. Madohi and Metinaro) will be explored in the next reporting period.
Output 1. Local marine management and	1.1 At least 1 site for CBNRM and ecotourism	Output 1 has been fully delivered by the end of this (secon- consulted communities and other stakeholders and develo	

ecotourism development plans in place, using site identification, zoning and indicator information provided via stakeholder consultations and participatory community marine resource assessment and monitoring. activities identified by end of Y1.

- **1.2** At least 10 community members (≥50% women) trained in participatory ecological assessment methods by end Y1 Q1.
- **1.3** Participatory habitat status assessment completed by communities by end Y1 Q2.
- **1.4** At least 10 community members (≥50% women) trained in fisheries monitoring procedures by end of Y1.
- **1.5** Communities are conducting ongoing participatory ecological and fisheries monitoring, including quarterly feedback to community leaders and managers by end of Y2.

resource management programmes, starting with community consultations to identify sites (Activities 1.1 and 1.2, complete) and training community members in seagrass and fisheries monitoring (Activities 1.3 and 1.5, complete). A habitat assessment for the east coast of Atauro was delivered (Activity 1.4, complete), and seagrass and fisheries monitoring programmes were established (Activity 1.6, complete and ongoing) in several villages. Data collected by our participatory monitoring programmes is regularly shared with local communities, the government, and other stakeholders (Activity 1.7, ongoing).

All indicators have been met:

1.1 Complete. Beloi was selected as our main ecotourism and homestay site, and Adara as a satellite site for short overnight visits, in 2016. Several sites were identified for diving activities, and formal partnerships were established with local authorities in Vila, Beloi and Biqueli to regulate diving in their LMMAs (including paying an access fee).

We have also established CBNRM programmes in five communities: Behau, where the first LMMA supported by BV was established in December 2018, and Beloi, Biqueli, Iliknamu and Vila, where we provide monitoring data and technical support to several LMMAs.

- 1.2 Complete. Eleven operators (72% women, no = 8) from Beloi and Biqueli completed a seagrass monitoring training programme, based on the Seagrass Watch methodology, in April 2019. The programme built on the seagrass mapping methodology that ten operators were trained in 2017.
- 1.3 Complete and reported on. Seagrass meadows covering 6 km of coast were mapped using the Seagrass Watch methodology between 2017 and 2018.
- 1.4 Complete. Fourteen female community members trained in fisheries monitoring: eight women from Ilik-namu in March 2018, and six women from Behau completed the programme between June and November 2018.
- 1.5 Complete and ongoing. Seagrass monitoring takes place once a month on permanent transects in LMMAs in Beloi and Biqueli (Annexes 1.4a Seagrass-watch Monitoring Sheet and 1.4b Seagrass-watch monitoring sheet template), while fisheries monitoring takes place several times a week in Ilik-namu and Behau. Four major data sharing sessions, sharing data on reef, seagrass, fisheries and cetaceans, were held for community representatives of Biqueli (Annex 1.7a Biqueli data sharing presentation), Ilik-namu, Beloi and Vila in the reporting period, and one additional session was held for

	representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) in Dili in January 2019.
Activity 1.1 Community consultations on ecotourism homestay workplan and activities at 2-3 villages, consulting communities and women's groups.	Complete. Community consultations were completed in Beloi and Adara before the reporting period, and have already been reported on. Scoping visits were carried out to Uaro-ana, Behau and Baucau, but we decided not to continue the development of ecotourism activities in these three communities due to lack of potential to attract tourists. However, we are looking for further opportunities and several communities have approached us, so we will be assessing expansion in the next year.
	Additionally, agreements with communities around accessing LMMAs have been drawn up to provide benefits from ecotourism to more communities (see Activity 4.1).
Activity 1.2 Community, NGO and wider stakeholder consultations for natural resource management at 2-3 villages, with local consultations consulting both communities and women's groups.	Complete. Community consultations were completed in Behau and Ilik-namu before the reporting period and have already been reported on. Both communities requested support with establishing fisheries management.
Activity 1.3 Train (minimum) 10 community members in habitat monitoring (minimum 50% women), including use of underwater 360° video.	Complete (but as previously reported 360° video not suitable for ongoing monitoring). Eleven community members (eight women and three men) completed a training programme for participatory seagrass monitoring in April 2018. The programme builds on the foundation of the seagrass mapping training delivered in Beloi in 2017, and included class sessions and field practicals.
	In order to include reefs in our community-based monitoring, Science and Dive Assistants Amos da Costa and Mima Gomes, who are both from Biqueli, were trained in the Reef Check methodology, achieving EcoDiver certification.
Activity 1.4 Conduct participatory habitat assessments across southeast and northeast coastal zones of Atauro .	Complete. Nine habitat mapping sessions were held with ten community members in 2017 and 2018, covering 6 km of coast between Beloi and Biqueli. Monthly monitoring sessions are held in Beloi and Biqueli (Annexes 1.4a - Seagrass-watch monitoring sheet and 1.4b - Seagrass-watch monitoring sheet template).
Activity 1.5 Train (minimum) 10 community members in fisheries monitoring, simple analysis and presenting information back to communities (minimum 50% women).	Complete. Six women from Behau completed the training programme, between June and November 2018, bringing the total to 14 women trained (eight women from Ilik-namu were trained before the reporting period). See Annexes 1.5a Fisheries Monitoring Training Photos and 1.5b - Fisheries monitoring Training Presentation).
Activity 1.6 Establish participatory fisheries monitoring programme in 2-3 villages for duration of project.	Ongoing. The programme in Ilik-namu was set up before the reporting period and has already been reported on; a second monitoring programme was established in Behau in August 2018 (see 3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities, for details on an exchange visit between the two teams). Both programmes have multiple weekly monitoring sessions,

		and are collecting useful data on fisheries that were identified as important by the communities (grouper, lobster, fusilier and tuna), as well as indicator species selected by Blue Ventures (octopus and parrotfish) (Annex 1.6 – Data Collection Online Form).
Activity 1.7 Disseminate results of participatory monitoring to communities, community leaders and women's groups on Atauro, including through use of 360° VR engagement tools showcasing underwater monitoring footage.		Ongoing. Four data sharing sessions were held this period (one each in Biqueli, Beloi and Ilik-namu and a session for MAF). In total 90 people attended these sessions and they comprised of community members, local authorities (e.g. village chiefs and Ministry representatives) and partner organisations (e.g. WorldFish). Two videos are also shown alongside sharing the data to raise awareness. See Annex 1.7a - Biqueli data sharing presentation.
		Several positive outcomes were seen as a result of these sessions including: a lively discussion at the Biqueli session where several participants stated the need for marine management; local authorities acknowledging BV's support for marine management and expressing an interest to work more closely and MAF requesting regular data sharing meetings.
		A professional travel filmmaker joined an expedition in Nov/Dec 2018 and in return for a discounted rate she shared her video footage and photos with us, including 45 videos filmed on a 360° camera, which will be used for outreach purposes.
Output 2. Locally-led fisheries management measures piloted and continued by communities	2.1 Fisheries management measures (e.g. periodic fishing site closures), decided by the target local community in Y2, piloted by end Y3 for at least one key fishery species.	Progress towards Output 2 has been significant in the second year of the project, with the majority of activities delivered. Extensive community consultations were held in Behau and Ilik-namu (Activities 2.1 and 2.2, complete and ongoing). In Behau, the community formalised fisheries and conservation measures under <i>Tara Bandu</i> law in December 2018 (Activity 2.3, complete and ongoing), and we are providing ongoing support to the community to manage the new LMMA (Activity 2.4, ongoing). Results from our reef, seagrass and fisheries participatory monitoring programmes were shared in four major events with communities and the government (Activity 2.6 and 1.7, ongoing).
	2.2 Community outreach events held at least twice a year, to give feedback	2.1 Complete and ongoing. Fisheries management measures targeting grouper, lobster, fusilier, tuna and cuttlefish, were formalised in Behau in December 2018. Formalisation of management measures discussed in Ilik-namu in 2017 has been delayed.
	of participatory monitoring and results of local resource management.	2.2 Ongoing. Four outreach events were held in Biqueli, Beloi, Ilik-namu and Dili to provide feedback from participatory monitoring data to community members and local authorities.
Activity 2.1 Village level workshops, with communities and women's groups, to discuss fisheries management options based on		Complete and ongoing. Discussions were completed in Ilik-namu before the reporting period and have already been reported on.

participatory monitoring data, and discussions on key fisheries and threats.		Seven community discussions were held in Behau during this period (10th April, 29th May, 5th June, 3rd and 29th August, 17th September and 8th October, Annex 2.1 Community Discussion Photos). During these meetings the community decided to trial two fisheries management options (see 2.2).	
Activity 2.2. One key fisher management measure through	ough further consultations	Complete. Consultations were completed in Ilik-namu before the reporting period, and resulted in the community agreeing on focusing on grouper, tuna, lobster and fusilier.	
with communities and women's groups, with minimum 1 village.		Consultations held in Behau (see Activity 2.1) resulted in the community deciding on the same target species as Ilik-namu, with the addition of cuttlefish. During these meetings the community decided to trial a six- month closure to see the effect on octopus and cuttlefish, which have fast reproduction rates, and also establish a two-year complete no-take zone on a section of their reef (Annex 2.2 - <i>Tara Bandu</i> LMMA map). The managed area covers 225 m² (72 m² no-take zone, 153 m² temporary closure).	
Activity 2.3 Work plan agreed upon with community — including women's groups — for timeline for local fisheries management (e.g.		Complete with one community. Following consultations held throughout 2018 (see Activity 2.1 and 2.2), the local authorities of Behau formalised the management measures selected by the community (i.e. a temporary closure and a two-year no-take zone), creating a new LMMA on 12th December 2018 (Annex 2.3 - Behau <i>Tara Bandu</i>).	
location, duration, rules).		In 2018 communications with local authorities in Ilik-namu slowed down due to internal community conflict and difficult logistics, but in November 2018 the communities expressed their interest in reprising consultations. We will continue our engagement in Ilik-namu in the next reporting period.	
Activity 2.4 Support provided to community and women's groups for implementation of workplan.		As the LMMA in Behau has recently being formalised, we are still in a planning phase and will start providing support to the LMMA management team in the next reporting period.	
Activity 2.5 Results of management measure evaluated with the community and improvements suggested and implemented.		As management measures were only implemented in December 2018, it is not yet possible to evaluate their impact. We will adopt an adaptive approach, with monitoring data being reviewed regularly to adapt management measures.	
Activity 2.6 Twice yearly of	outreach events with	See Activity 1.7 for more details on dissemination of monitoring results. As management measures were only implemented in December 2018, we have not yet collected enough	
wider community - men and women - to		data on the outcomes of management to justify dissemination.	
disseminate results from local management and			
monitoring.			
Output 3. Community members are trained and members are trained and homestay services are established in 1 target		Output 3 was largely delivered in the first year of the project. We facilitated a second homestay exchange trip with representatives from other parts of the Coral triangle including Kudat, Malaysia, who visited Atauro to discuss homestays and community development (Activity 3.4, complete). Training on business management was provided during the	
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employed in ecotourism activities	community (12 families) (Beloi) in East Timor by end Y1, and in 2 further communities on the island by end Y3. 3.2 50% (approx. 300	exchange, and food preparation training was provided throughout the reporting period as part of the TL-FIX project (Activity 3.5). We provide ongoing support to AHA through regular meetings (Activity 3.6), and are actively working to develop the independent tourism market. Consultations to expand the programme began in May 2018 (Activity 3.7), but due to community conflict these stalled and will continue in 2019. The paperwork for AHA's legal registration was prepared and submitted (Activity 3.2), but due to ongoing political instability affecting governmental procedures, it has not yet been approved.
	people) of adults in target community (at least 50% women) receive training by Blue Ventures, and by trained homestay members, in ecotourism service provision as hosts, ecoguides and other income generating activities by end Y2.	3.1 Ongoing. Eight homestays have been established in Beloi, and scoping activities were carried out in Uaro-ana, Behau and Baucau. Further expansion of the homestay programme will depend on markets, logistics, community interest and resolving community conflict in Beloi.
		3.2 Ongoing. Over 40 people took part in training programmes organised by the project. 16 people from AHA (50% women) received business training as part of the second homestay exchange. 15 additional community members (90% women) have received food preparation training since the start of the project, either provided by AHA or as part of TL-FIX. 15 community members (100% men) received training in health and gender issues in October 2018.
Activity 3.1 First round of homestay participants selected.		Complete and already reported on. Eight households in Beloi were selected in 2016.
Activity 3.2 Homestay Association set up with legal paperwork completed, with equal representation of women within Association board.		Ongoing. The legal paperwork for AHA was submitted several times during the last reporting period, and the registration process is ongoing.
Activity 3.3 Business plans developed and standards for homestays agreed upon.		Complete and already reported on. Business plans and standards were agreed on by the eight participating families in 2017.
Activity 3.4 Exchange trip to Raja Ampat, Indonesia, to meet and learn from a successful homestay group.		Complete and already reported on. To further develop the capabilities of AHA, we organised a second homestay learning exchange in November 2018 with ten representatives from other communities in the Coral Triangle.
Activity 3.5 Training given on key areas such as health and safety, cuisine and catering, language and hospitality, budget management, tourist expectations and ecoguiding.		Complete and ongoing. A workshop held in February 2017 led to a formal partnership between AHA and Agora Food Studio, under their TL-FIX project, which started in June 2018 and is engaging the homestay in food preparation workshops in Dili and Atauro (see blog).
Activity 3.6 Ongoing support to Homestay Association through monthly meetings focusing on		Complete and ongoing. We continue to hold formal meetings on a monthly basis to discuss progress, issues and future developments. These are supported by weekly phone calls and informal meetings as and when needed.

continuous improvement through feedback, and facilitated induction of first guests.		Additionally, we are working with AHA to develop their market and become an independent and viable business, providing ongoing support and actively looking for business (e.g. marketing AHA to tourism operators in Dili, encouraging NGOs and government fieldworkers to use AHA as a base for operations on Atauro). See Annexes 3.6a - Homestays Brochure and 3.6b - Homestay Night Tracker.
Activity 3.7 Workshops with further villages for subsequent expansion of homestay association.		Ongoing. Between May and June 2018 some community members asked to join AHA, prompting community negotiations to expand the association. Regrettably, owing to longstanding political feuds between village factions, negotiations were difficult and some conflict arose between AHA and the new candidate homestays. We are working closely with AHA, local authorities, and the wider community to defuse the conflict and finalise negotiations, and we expect this to be solved in 2019. However, following recommendations from local authorities, Blue Ventures' own eco tourists have not been staying in homestays since September 2018.
Output 4. Locally managed marine area (LMMA) established.	 4.1 By end Y2, 100% of target community has been engaged in discussions on LMMAs. 4.2 Community stakeholder group (at least 50% women) receives training on how to establish and manage an LMMA in East Timor by end Y3. 4.3 Target community delineates LMMA and develops zoning and management plan by end Y3, coming into effect by end Y4. 	Output 4 was fully delivered in the second year of the project. As mentioned under Output 2, <i>Tara Bandu</i> consultations in both Behau and Ilik-namu simultaneously covered fisheries management and LMMAs (Activities 4.1 and 4.3, complete). Capacity building activities (Activity 4.2, complete and ongoing) were delivered as part of the consultations in both communities, and the new <i>Tara Bandu</i> LMMA was formalised in Behau in December 2018 (Activities 4.4 and 4.5, complete and ongoing, Annexes 4.4a – Field notes Tara Bandu ceremony and 4.4b – Behau Tara Bandu formalisation ceremony photos). Relevant government stakeholders in both Behau and Dili were involved throughout the process, and regularly updated on progress (Activity 4.6) as part of our regular outreach activities. The formalisation of the <i>Tara Bandu</i> LMMA in Ilik-namu was delayed, but the community has recently expressed interest in resuming consultations and we hope to finalise it in the next reporting period. 4.1 Complete. 100% of the Behau and Ilik-namu communities have been engaged, directly or indirectly, in discussions on LMMAs. This was achieved through a mix of community consultations, informal visits, phone calls and WhatsApp messages, and outreach completed by community members involved in other programmes (participatory monitoring and homestays). 4.2 Ongoing. Ongoing training is provided to community members participating in LMMA consultations in both llik-namu and Behau, and more structured training will be provided to the Behau LMMA management group in the next reporting period. 4.3 Complete and ongoing. A new LMMA was formalised in Behau in December 2018. The formalisation of a <i>Tara Bandu governed</i> LMMA in Ilik-namu was delayed and we will work with the community towards this in the next reporting period.

4.1 Workshops with community (from activities 2.2 to 2.5) and women's groups to discuss potential benefits of developing an LMMA and locally relevant mechanisms for management (eg. <i>Tara Bandu</i>).	Seven workshops were completed in Ilik-namu before the reporting period and have already been reported on. Seven workshops to discuss conservation measures were carried out in Behau throughout 2018, and resulted in the community deciding to implement a temporary closure and a two-year no-take zone (see Activity 2.1, Annexes 2.1 - Community Discussion Photos and 2.3 - Behau <i>Tara Bandu</i>).
4.2 Training in LMMA management and what it means for the village, including exchange trips to meet other villages engaged in LMMAs, with minimum 50% participation by women.	Informal training was provided to over 200 community members participating in 14 workshops on fisheries management and conservation (see Activity 2.1 and 4.1) in both Ilik-namu and Behau. On 3rd August 2018 we facilitated a visit to Behau from the AHA coordinator, who shared his experiences with <i>Tara Bandu</i> in Beloi. Further training will be provided after the creation of the Behau LMMA management team, intended in the next reporting period.
4.3 Workshops to decide on LMMA criteria (eg. size, zoning, rules), with minimum 50% participation by	Seven workshops were completed in Ilik-namu before the reporting period and have already been reported on.
women.	Seven workshops were carried out in Behau to discuss conservation measures in 2018 (see Activity 2.1, Annex 2.1 - Community Discussion Photos).
	Great attention was put in ensuring female participation in these activities; however, due to social norms, female representation was not always satisfactory and varied from meeting to meeting, ranging between 0% and 61%.
4.4 Workshops to draft a local management plan for the LMMA, with minimum 50% participation by	The draft management plan for the Ilik-namu <i>Tara Bandu</i> LMMA is pending approval (see Activity 2.3).
women.	A management plan was drafted based on the results of consultations in Behau (see Activity 2.1) and was approved on 12th December 2018, establishing a new <i>Tara Bandu</i> LMMA (Annexes 4.4a – Field notes <i>Tara Bandu</i> ceremony and 4.4b – Behau <i>Tara Bandu</i> formalisation ceremony photos).
	See Activity 4.3 for details on women's participation.
4.5 Delineation of LMMA and outreach by communities.	One LMMA covering 225 m² (72 m² no-take zone, 153 m² temporary closure) was delineated in Behau on 12 December 2018 (Annex 2.2 - <i>Tara Bandu</i> map).
4.6 Support on any required administration with Ministries.	We continue to maintain positive relationships with relevant ministries. Most notably, in September, we were invited to participate in the Environment Working Group of the new Secretary of Environment; the Stakeholder Meetings for the Coral Triangle Initiative National Coordinating Committee, which is heavily supported by MAF; and the Tourism Partners Development Meetings, which are organised by the Ministry of Tourism.

Additionally, existing agreements regulating diving access to the <i>Tara Bandu</i> LMMAs were renewed between BV and local authorities in Beloi and Vila in November 2018, and a new agreement was signed with local authorities in Biqueli in January 2019 (Annex 1.2
Tara Bandu agreements). An informal agreement is also in place in Adara.

Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
•	mmunities in East Timor are improved a		Assumptions
		managed areas.0.4c Commercially exploited invertebrate abundance surveys within managed areas.	

Output 1 Local marine management and ecotourism development plans in place, using site identification, zoning and indicator information provided via stakeholder consultations and participatory	 1.1 At least 1 site for CBNRM and ecotourism activities identified by end of Y1. 1.2 At least 10 community members (≥50% women) trained in participatory ecological 	 1.1 Site selection matrix based on information gathered; selection of sites verified through ongoing activities. 1.2 Record of completion of training in methods (test results/certifications). 	Knowledge from participatory monitoring is used to design community-led management plans. Communities are interested in
community marine resource assessment and monitoring.	assessment methods by end Y1 Q1. 1.3 Participatory habitat status assessment completed by communities by end Y1 Q2.	1.3 Participatory habitat status assessment survey database and summary results.1.4 Record of completion of training in methods (test results/certifications).	participating in monitoring, and results can be used to guide marine management and planning to improve fishing livelihoods.
	 1.4 At least 10 community members (≥50% women) trained in fisheries monitoring procedures by end of Y1. 1.5 Communities are conducting ongoing participatory ecological and fisheries monitoring, including quarterly feedback to community leaders and managers by end of Y2. 	1.5a Resource monitoring database.1.5b Feedback session documentation (meeting minutes, photos).	
Output 2 Locally-led fisheries management measures piloted and continued by communities.	 2.1 Fisheries management measures (e.g. periodic fishing site closures), decided by the target local community in Y2, piloted by end Y3 for at least one key fishery species. 2.2 Community outreach events held at least twice a year, to give feedback of participatory monitoring 	 2.1a Minutes and documents from meetings on community consultations and decisions. 2.1b Management plan documenting management measures, map of closure area(s)/ calendar of seasonal restrictions. 2.1c Catch monitoring data and 	Economically important marine fisheries resources exist with species that can respond quickly to management and will incentivise broader local engagement in fisheries management and marine conservation.

Output 3 Community members are trained and employed in ecotourism activities.	and results of local resource management. 3.1 New locally owned ecotourism and homestay services are established in 1 target community (12 families) (Beloi) in East Timor by end Y1, and in 2 further communities on the island by end Y3. 3.2 50% (approx. 300 people) of adults in target community (at least 50% women) receive training by Blue Ventures, and by trained homestay members, in ecotourism service provision as hosts, ecoguides and other income generating activities by end Y2.	analysis from before and after implementation of fisheries management measure(s). 2.2 Photos of community events and sessions. 3.1 Contracts and MoUs with target community to provide ecotourism facilities and provisions. 3.2a Census data to establish number of people in population. 3.2b Photographs from training workshops and exchange trip to Raja Ampat. 3.2c Certificates from training as hosts/ ecoguides.	Sufficient local leadership and community cohesion for local management to be developed successfully and respected. A site exists in East Timor that can provide both the requirements for eco tourists (e.g. infrastructure, diving, safety) and also a nearby community that is keen to participate in provision of accommodation and services. Blue Ventures can maintain the number of tourists currently joining ecotourism expeditions in East Timor. East Timor continues to be a safe and attractive destination for eco tourists to visit. Incentives from
Locally managed marine area (LMMA) established.	community has been engaged in discussions on LMMAs.	attendance record sheets from village meetings.	improved local fisheries management and new income from ecotourism
	4.2 Community stakeholder group (at least 50% women) receives training on how to establish and manage an LMMA in East Timor by	4.1b Census data to establish number of people in population.4.2a Training attendance sheets	promote further local marine natural resource management.
	end Y3.	(include gender).	Legislation and policies

4.3 Target community delineates LMMA and develops zoning and management plan by end Y3, coming into effect by end Y4.	 4.2b Copies of training documents, materials and participant assessments. 4.3 Management plans/documentation formalising establishment of LMMA through Tara Bandu. 	in East Timor do not change, and the legal provision for allowing locally-led marine resource management is maintained.
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Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)

Output 1: Local management and ecotourism plans in place, using site identification, zoning and indicator information provided via participatory community marine resource assessment and monitoring.

- 1.1 Community consultations on ecotourism homestay workplan and activities at 2-3 villages, consulting communities and women's groups.
- 1.2 Community, NGO and wider stakeholder consultations for natural resource management at 2-3 villages, with local consultations consulting both communities and women's groups.
- 1.3 Train (minimum) 10 community members in habitat monitoring (minimum 50% women), including use of underwater 360° video.
- 1.4 Conduct participatory habitat assessments across southeast and northeast coastal zones of Atauro.
- 1.5 Train (minimum) 10 community members in fisheries monitoring, simple analysis and presenting information back to communities (minimum 50% women).
- 1.6 Establish participatory fisheries monitoring programme in 2-3 villages for duration of project.
- 1.7 Disseminate results of participatory monitoring to communities, community leaders and women's groups on Atauro, including through use of 360° VR engagement tools showcasing underwater monitoring footage.

Output 2: Locally-led fisheries management measures piloted and continued by communities

- 2.1 Village level workshops, with communities and women's groups, to discuss fisheries management options based on participatory monitoring data, and discussions on key fisheries and threats.
- 2.2 One key fishery selected for trial management measure through further consultations with communities and women's groups, with minimum 1 village.
- 2.3 Work plan agreed upon with community including women's groups for timeline for local fisheries management (e.g. location, duration, rules).
- 2.4 Support provided to community and women's groups for implementation of workplan.
- 2.5 Results of management measure evaluated with the community and improvements suggested and implemented.
- 2.6 Twice yearly outreach events with wider community men and women to disseminate results from local management and

monitoring.

Output 3: Community members are trained and employed in ecotourism activities

- 3.1 First round of homestay participants selected.
- 3.2 Homestay Association set up with legal paperwork completed, with equal representation of women within Association board.
- 3.3 Business plans developed and standards for homestays agreed upon.
- 3.4 Exchange trip to Raja Ampat, Indonesia, to meet and learn from a successful homestay group.
- 3.5 Training given on key areas such as health and safety, cuisine and catering, language and hospitality, budget management, tourist expectations and ecoguiding.
- 3.6 Ongoing support to Homestay Association through monthly meetings focusing on continuous improvement through feedback, and facilitated induction of first guests.
- 3.7 Workshops with further villages for subsequent expansion of homestay association.

Output 4: Locally managed marine area (LMMA) established.

- 4.1 Workshops with community (from activities 2.2 to 2.5) and women's groups to discuss potential benefits of developing an LMMA and locally relevant mechanisms for management (e.g. *Tara Bandu*).
- 4.2 Training in LMMA management and what it means for the village, including exchange trips to the village of Adara to meet other villages engaged in LMMAs, with minimum 50% participation by women.
- 4.3 Workshops to decide on LMMA criteria (e.g. size, zoning, rules), with minimum 50% participation by women.
- 4.4 Workshops to draft a local management plan for the LMMA, with minimum 50% participation by women.
- 4.5 Delineation of LMMA and outreach by communities.
- 4.6 Support on any required administration with Ministries.

Annex 3: Standard Measures

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures

Code No.	Description	Gender of people (if relevant)	Nationality of people (if relevant)	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
Established codes								
3	Number of people to attain other qualifications:	1 - male 1- female	Timorese		2			2
	Dive Master certification							
7	Training materials for use by host country	NA	NA	1				2
14A	Workshops to disseminate data	NA	Timorese, British, German, Italian	1	4			8
23	Value of resources raised from other sources: other funders							

In Table 2, provide full details of all publications and material produced over the last year that can be publicly accessed, e.g. title, name of publisher, contact details, cost. Mark (*) all publications and other material that you have included with this report.

Table 2 Publications

Title	Туре	Detail	Gender of	Nationality	Publishers	Available from
	(e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	(author s, year)	Lead Author	of Lead Author	(name, city)	(e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
Community-based tourism and participatory science as a catalyst for marine management: the case of Atauro Island, Timor-Leste	Poster presentation	Nick Piludu	Male	Italian	IMCC5, Kuching	Abstract available at https://d2s6bxe5458gdv.cloudf ront.net/imcc5-online-program.pdf
Two birds with one stone: Fisheries monitoring as a tool for empowering women and informing marine management	Presentation	Jenny House, Nick Piludu	Female	British	GAF7, Bangkok	Abstract available at https://www.genderaquafish.org/wp-g/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/gaf7 https://www.genderaquafish.org/ywp-g/wp-g/wp-g/wp-g/wp-g/wp-g/wp-g/wp-g/
Contributing to conservation in Timor- Leste: a day-in-the-life of one volunteer	Blog post	Martin Cloix	Male	French	Blue Ventures, London	https://blog.blueventures.org/en/contributing-to-conservation-in-East Timor-a-day-in-the-life-of-one-volunteer/
Fiar-an, La'o ba oin: the women of Ataúro Homestay Association are moving forward	Blog post	Jenny House	Female	British	Blue Ventures, London	https://blog.blueventures.org/en/fiar-an-lao-ba-oin-the-women-of-atauro-homestay-association-are-moving-forward/
Using fisheries monitoring as a tool for empowering women in Timor-Leste	Blog post	Jenny House	Female	British	Blue Ventures, London	https://blog.blueventures.org/en/using-fisheries-monitoring-as-a-tool-for-empowering-women-in-East Timor/
Amos and Mima: the journey to Divernaster	Blog post	Laura McGuir e	Female	British	Blue Ventures, London	https://blog.blueventures.org/en/amos-and-mima-the-journey-to-divemaster/

Becoming a Divernaster	Blog post	Aleksa ndar Gakovi ch	Male	Serbian	Blue Ventures, London	https://blog.blueventures.org/e n/becoming-a-divemaster/
Taking control with Tara Bandu	Blog post	Nick Piludu	Male	Italian	Blue Ventures, London	https://blog.blueventures.org/en/taking-control-with-tara-bandu/

Annex 4 Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

Checklist for submission

	Check					
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@Itsi.co.uk putting the project number in the Subject line.	Yes					
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with Darwin- Projects@ltsi.co.uk about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	No					
Have you included means of verification? You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	Yes see link:					
Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number.	No					
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	Yes					
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Yes					
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.						