

## Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017)

<b>Project reference</b>	24-027https://rd.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00227-017-3274-y
<b>Project title:</b>	Applying business models to sustain socio-ecological resilience in coastal Philippines
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Philippines
<b>Lead organisation</b>	Zoological Society of London
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Local Government Units of the Municipality of Ajuy & Concepcion in Iloilo Province;  Local Government Units of the Municipality of Ivisan, Province of Capiz;  Local Government Units of the Municipality of Ibajay and Tangalan, Province of Aklan.  Nigel Stansfield, President, EMEA, Inteface Inc., UK
<b>Project leader</b>	Heather Koldewey
<b>Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)</b>	HYR1 – April to September 2017
<b>Project website/blog/social media etc.</b>	<a href="http://www.zsl.org">www.zsl.org</a> ; <a href="http://www.net-works.com">www.net-works.com</a>

### 1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).

Activity	Apr-Sep 2017 Progress	Accomplishments
1.1 Project presentation and consultation meetings towards generation of Free Prior Informed Consent from municipal and barangay (village) governments and people's organizations	On schedule (appendix 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial introduction of the project and consultations occurred during courtesy meetings undertaken in July 2017 in 6 municipalities (Ibajay and Tangalan in Aklan; Sapien and Ivisan in Capiz; Concepcion and Ajuy in Iloilo) (Appendix 1)</li> <li>The 6 LGUs generally favored the implementation of the project because it will: a) help fill technical gaps in Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) and gaining stocks on technical information; b) achieve objectives towards poverty alleviation; c) access learning.</li> <li>This initial discussion with the LGU facilitated verbal agreement with the project teams (Biologist and COs) to conduct rapid assessments (collecting socio-economic data, information and conduct biological bucket view surveys) as bases for project sites selection.</li> <li>Approximately 20 peoples' organizations (POs), mainly fisherfolks, were initially consulted in the implementation of the project and positively expressed cooperation.</li> <li>On September 20, 2017, the results of the rapid appraisal were fed back to LGU Sapien. The Municipal Administrator representing the Mayor was joined by other LGU department heads. The LGU Sapien personnel outlined issues of the smaller space of Sapien Bay to accommodate the 200ha required no take zone (NTZ) and the difficulty in controlling congestion of mariculture structures in the bay</li> </ul>

		that poses complexities in introducing an MPA. This needs further discussion.
	On schedule (Appendix 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was drafted and circulated to 5 LGU offices for reviews of the Municipal Mayor and concerned officers. (Appendix 2)</li> </ul>
1.2 Community (barangay) and People's Organization (PO) profiling using existing Rapid Rural Appraisal tools	On schedule (Appendix 3, 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rapid ecological and socio-economic site assessments were undertaken to initiate site identification and selection process. The rapid site profiling involved collection of both primary and secondary data. The rapid assessments covered the following: ZSL work history, local government unit support and buy in, existence of social infrastructures, enterprise development potentials, potentials for 200-ha no-take zone, presence of critical habitats, and presence of endangered species or species of commercial interests. These assessments covered 47 barangays in 6 municipalities.</li> <li>A point-system for site selection was adopted by the project team (Appendix 3). Points and value on each area were assigned to facilitate selection. Presence of critical habitat has the highest value of 25% in comparison with other areas. 15 MPA sites were selected out of 20 sites located in 35 barangays in 6 target municipalities. (See Appendix 4).</li> <li>An ICM scoping scoresheet was adopted, a tool developed by the Coral Triangle Initiative and was trialed in an earlier ZSL project. The scoresheets were implemented in 5 municipalities and summary municipal LGU (MLGU) ICM profile are in preparation (Appendix 5).</li> <li>Community and organizational scoping tools for scoping include: 1) Barangay profiling template (Appendix 6); 2) People's organization profile; 3) MPA listing template adapted from the DENR.</li> <li>Datasets for rapid socio-economic assessment were drafted from 28 barangays that were initially surveyed. These initial data were used in the site selection process and will form part of the barangay profile for the socio-economic assessment baseline.</li> <li>In 28 barangays, 26 peoples' organizations were identified. Three barangays have no existing POs while other fisherfolk organizations, 2 POs are inactive, some are newly formed and a number of them are active in environmental conservation.</li> <li>13 organizations have updated records of their organizational status that include also limitation on capacities. Profiling the organizations, particularly potential partners in project implementation, will be completed as part of the baselines.</li> </ul>
	On schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site assessment/selection were conducted through key informant interview among previous and current farmers in 14 barangays in Concepcion and Ajuy. A checklist on site suitability indicators were prepared as tool for KII or farmer's interviews. 13 potential farm sites with sizes of farm were mapped. Recommended methods per site and risks were identified. (Appendix 6)</li> </ul>
1.3 Socio-economic household baseline survey and report generation	On schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In September 5-7, M&amp;E training was conducted and attended by 5 COs and 2 Biologists. Target deliverables were reviewed and socio-economic indicators were identified.</li> <li>Indicators for monitoring and corresponding tools were identified such as: 1) Community and Household Data, 2) Community Managed Savings and Credit Association's (CoMSCA) impact on individuals, household and community, 3) MPA management efficiency and tools i.e. MPA Effectiveness Assessment Tool, biophysical standard assessment tools, 4) Sustainable enterprise.</li> <li>Verifiable and measurable indicators for certain components e.g. PO status, household socio-economic well-being, still have to be agreed and firmed up by the team.</li> </ul>
1.4 Participatory site selection for 12 new MMPAs through:	On schedule (Appendix 3 and 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Sept. 4-5, 5 COs and 3 Biologists, Project Manager together with the Country Manager and Net-work's Regional Manager for Southeast Asia convened to discuss results of the rapid assessment (the bucket view and socio-economic assessments) undertaken through secondary and direct inquiries from the leaders and BLGU officials. They discussed the results and selected sites through the use of scoring system adopted.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The score sheet presented the 19 sites assessed, the scores and ranking of the 15 selected MPA sites by the team. (Appendix 4)</li> </ul>
1.4.1 Coastal resource and habitat assessments and reporting	On schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rapid site assessments were undertaken through bucket view surveys and reviews on secondary data initially gathered. Out of the 20 potential MPA sites surveyed, initial findings could be found in Appendix 3 &amp; 4.</li> <li>3 MPAs are actively co-managed by PO and the Municipal/Barangay LGU and Bantay Dagat (fish warden), 1 mangrove eco-park in Ibajay, and 2 fish/marine sanctuaries located in Ivisan and Tangalan; The MPA sites in Ivisan and Ibajay were established through previous Darwin project but needing expansion of the No Take Zones (NTZ) and strengthening on the management systems.</li> <li>4 MPA zones involving 4 island barangays in Concepcion are part of the Pan de Azucar Seascape (e.g. Macatunao, Polopina, Salvacion) and 1 MPA in barangay Nasidman in Ajuy have approved municipal ordinances. However, these MPAs have either no active enforcement, nor delineation of location and no management plans. The MLGU have expressed interest to be assisted in establishing effective management through this project.</li> <li>3 MPAs located in barangay Tambaliza, Taloto-an and Igbon in Concepcion are undergoing community consultation and legislation procedures with assistance from the project team. The potential MPA sites are mostly located in the island groups and mostly considered the coral reef and mangrove habitats.</li> <li>In Ajuy, the potential MPA sites are located in coves and with adjacent islands where patches of mangroves and reefs targeted for biodiversity corridors/NTZ. 1 mangrove eco-park in Barangay Pedada, Ajuy was adopted through a barangay ordinance which is recognized by the DENR. The area is accessible for gleaning but with strict surveillance on timber cutting through community-based organization initiatives. ZSL Philippines has assisted the group in the rehabilitation techniques and organizational strengthening in previous years. This eco-park has the potential to be part of the cluster of habitat for MPA in Luca-Pedada-Bay-ang cove adjoining protection into the reef and patches of seagrass beds while seaweed farming has started within the cove.</li> <li>In Tangalan, the existing sanctuary is within the reef zones with area of 333 ha, about 5 km from shore with patches of seagrass beds and artificial reefs. Mangrove belt fringes the coastline facing the sanctuary in barangay Agfa to be included in the protection and management system. This suggests that the MPA can be expanded to include the mangrove areas.</li> <li>In Ivisan, the existing MPA site has mangrove area, reefs and smaller patches of seagrass beds, soft bottom and white sand beaches with a total area as regulated fishing zone (1,310 ha); NTZ of 149 ha potentially could be expanded into 200 ha to cover the reef area as NTZ which is currently within the multiple use zone. The management is primarily shared by four barangays through POs.</li> </ul>
1.4.2 GIS mapping	On schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provisional location of the MPAs for the sites based on the bucket view surveys are under construction and will be used in the consultations and feeding back of results to the communities/barangays and MLGUs.</li> <li>Final habitat mapping will be undertaken once the memoranda of agreement (MoA) with municipal governments are signed. Results of thorough habitat surveys will be used to inform final MPA site identification and selection.</li> </ul>
1.6 Establishment or strengthening of governance structures of MMPAs with equitable membership	On schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Among the 15 selected MPA sites, there are only 2 established sites (Ivisan and Ibajay). However, these need expansion of the NTZ to 200ha, strengthening of the MPA management and integration of the business models. Amendment of the existing ordinance will be necessary.</li> <li>3 MPA sites in Concepcion that are under the process of legislation and community consultation.</li> <li>8 MPA sites have clustered one or more adjacent barangays. This would mean the need to form collaborative structure among</li> </ul>

		barangays while the team need to ensure equitable representations of stakeholders from each barangays.
1.6.1 MMPA Management Council (MMC) formation and profiling	On schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two existing MPA sites have existing management bodies but Management bodies may need to innovate to accommodate expansion of sites and other new responsibilities in the MPA management (i.e. TURFs, other business model innovations).</li> </ul>
1.6.5 MMPA ordinance drafting, lobbying and approval by municipal governments	On schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed Tambaliza MPA will include a bigger NTZ and multiple use zones which include TURFs and seaweeds farming which was well received by the community.</li> <li>A barangay (village) resolution based on the results of the community assembly was prepared in September 2017 was submitted by the barangay council to the Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Reform Management Council (MFARMC), whose endorsement is needed before the draft ordinance can be deliberated in the municipal council.</li> </ul>
1.10 Formation/strengthening of VSLAs	On schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 CoMSCAs were formed within the period of April-September (2 in Balaring, Ivisan; 2 (kid &amp; youth) CoMSCA in Tambaliza and 1 adult group in Igbon in Concepcion.</li> <li>Two ZSL project staff attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> CoMSCA Summit in May 2017 together with 2 CoMSCA female village agents from Balaring (Almie Argoncillo) and Basiao (Marilou Argoncillo).</li> </ul>
	Supplemental achievement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>425 seedlings of <i>Sonneratia alba</i> were planted in 1 ha mangrove belt in Taloto-an that is being maintained by 3 CoMSCAs and they provided PhP 5700.00 from their Environment Fund during the planting activities.</li> <li>400 seedlings of <i>S. alba</i> was delivered to Tambaliza's 1 ha of mangrove belt in Sitio Bat-os being maintained by 6 CoMSCA'S from Tambaliza which Php 5700 counterpart is from their EF.</li> <li>439 seedlings of <i>S. alba</i> mangroves were planted in Balaring, Ivisan by Zealous Savers Legion 1, 5 and 7 CoMSCAs where 39 members (12 male, 27 female) contributing PhP from their Environmental Fund.</li> </ul>
2.1 Identification and demarcation of buffer zones for TURF areas		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Sept. 10, 2017 – meeting with Regina Bacalso former USAID project fisheries scientist on TURFS in relation to the formulation of fisheries monitoring design. This guided us to gather additional information of the target sites particularly on: 1) location of fishing areas around or adjacent to the identified NTZs; 2) fish species commonly caught or targeted in the area; 3) seasonality, fish composition, fishing gears as the content of the monitoring activities.</li> <li>Initial meeting with BFAR Region 6 was also organized, where potential collaborations in the area of TURFS were explored.</li> </ul>
3.1 Setting up of environmental funds of formed/strengthened VSLAs, including profiling and databasing	On schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A total of 41 active CoMSCAs were recorded and 34 of them reported to have Environmental Funds pouches. These CoMSCAs were mostly in their second cycles.</li> <li>The Environment Fund was contributed on the regular coastal clean-up, mangrove outplanting or post outplanting care and maintenance, and tree planting in nearby upland areas.</li> </ul>
3.2 VSLA village agents training and replication	On schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A total of 13 active village agents have undergone basic CoMSCA training and they are being supervised by the COs. These village agents are dispersed in 8 barangays in Concepcion, Ajuy and Ivisan. In Concepcion, there 5 apprentices, volunteer members to assist the CoMSCA agent. Nine CoMSCA agents and 5 apprentices have met in July to update their action plans as a way of mentoring them.</li> </ul>
3.5 Training on seaweeds farming and implementation among 50 target families in 7 communities	On schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seaweed farmers from Talotu-an (4), Tambaliza (2) and Igbon (4) sent letter of interest (LOI) to engage in seaweed farming to the Seaweed Technician. These farmers are members of COMSCAs.</li> <li>8 farmers with ¼ hectare farm area each are the first batch of farmers who submitted LOI. (4 from Tambaliza, 2 talotoan, 2 Igbon), all from Concepcion.</li> <li>Application for permits for seaweeds farming for the 6 farmers who submitted letters of Intent was submitted to the Mayor's Office who then will endorse the LOI to the MFARMC, the body to conduct ocular inspection which will then the bases for endorsement of the</li> </ul>

		<p>application to DA-MAO, who then will endorse the application (if approved) to the Municipal Treasurer Office to pay permit fees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 6 farmers application for permit in Concepcion were assessed and endorsed to pay permit to the LGU.</li> <li>• Barangay Pedada, Concepcion and Tambaiza, Talotuoan, Igbon were trial sites for seaweed farming in 2016 with ZSL and continue with this project.</li> <li>• BFAR donated 1500 tons of cultivars from Iloilo, of which 1 ton was already distributed to 12 farmers while remaining 500kgs was confirmed for pick up in early October.</li> <li>• 8 out of these 15 seaweed farmers from Brgy Pedada have submitted documents required in applying for crop insurance.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In June 10, 2016 meetings with BFAR Region VI and SEAFDEC, the ZSL teams were informed about the programs on seaweeds and technical assistance that could be provided by these 2 institutions.</li> <li>• A trial seedling farm was set up from the seedlings bought from SEAFDEC at 50% discounted price. SEAFDEC assisted the farmer in setting up the trial farms in Ajuy and this became the starting operation of the current 15 farmers in Barangay Pedada who started their individual 200 sq.m. seaweed farm.</li> <li>• From that June 2016 meeting, the BFAR, under Accelerated Sustainability Anti-Poverty Project (ASAP) provided an initial 100kg of cultivars for free together with supplies of 3 types of ropes, floats upon submission of letter of request. This helped build the working relationship with BFAR.</li> <li>• BFAR provided 1500kg of cultivars and other farm supplies (ropes) to the 15 farmers in Brgy. Pedada in Ajuy as a start-up assistance to the group through the facilitation of the Darwin project CO.</li> <li>• Trial span for vertical floating method and bottom set (shallow depth) had been set in Banban with emerging interest from farmers.</li> </ul>	
3.8	Biophysical survey data collection of marine plastics using photoquadrat method	On schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 COs for the PDN, 1 Technical Officer for Seaweeds and 1 CO for Turing Project had seminar and simulation exercises about photomapping using Lenovo Tab3 with h built-in GPS. Stored 2016 ICC data file were shown, use of GPS and simulation using plot method.</li> </ul>
	5.3.2 Training of Trainers on mangroves in MPAs	On schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducted Training of Trainers on Mangrove and Beach Forest Rehabilitation and Conservation (ToT) and one Mangrove and Beach Forest Rehabilitation and Conservation in 19-24 June 2017, 17 participated by various institutions and agencies all over the country, i.e. Provincial Environmental and Natural Resources Offices, municipal local government, non-government organization.</li> <li>• Conducted Mangrove and Beach Forest Training Course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 17-21 July 2017, 21 graduates (19 representatives from the City of Tacloban and national government agencies in Region 8 comprising the One Resilient Team: Tacloban; 2 reps from LGU Cordova, Cebu)</li> <li>○ 25-27 September 2017, 30 graduates from LGU Sapián, POs, barangay officials</li> <li>○ 5-9October 2017, VSU Baybay, Leyte, 11 participants trained on mangrove rehabilitation at the UP MSI BRING Project</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Organized promotional activity as part of celebration for the month of the ocean - Ocean's Ride (a bike event, 3June, 157bikers in Dumangas and Leganes, Iloilo participated) and 'You and Me under the Sea' (story telling for 50 kids, 4 June at SM City Iloilo).</li> </ul>

**2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.**

It is good to note some limitation encountered within the first 6 months as follows:

- A quarter delay in the released of budget have consequentially adjusted some areas of implementation of the project meaning that biophysical surveys now coincide with the usual stormy months from August to December which may create logistical challenges.
- The small area of Sapián Bay with compounding issues on uncontrolled increase of mariculture structures made it difficult to see how we could attain coastal and marine conservation goals given the shorter period of two years set for the MPA establishment. This disqualifies the bay in meeting the required components for a bayscape. Efforts in Ivisan, and adjacent municipality are continuing and we have reviewed an alternative extending efforts to the neighboring town in Roxas City as a replacement to Sapián though there are concerns about budget limitations. If these options are not feasible, then a formal change request will be submitted to reduce the number of municipalities from six to five.
- While budget was found to be limited, the availability of matched funding is of great help to meet operational budget limitation. ADRA Philippines has invited ZSL Philippines as partner in implementing ADRA's CRM component in selected 18 coastal barangays in Concepcion and Ajuy. As per approved proposal, ADRA will fund the cost for the preparation of CRM plans for 18 barangays including the biophysical and socio-economic assessments and Municipal CRM plans for LGU Ajuy and Concepcion, paralegal training and writing a manual of operation for the 2 LGUs and some more buoys and bill boards for Tambaliza MPA.

**2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?**

Discussed with LTS:  Yes/No

Formal change request submitted:  Yes/No but see note above

Received confirmation of change acceptance  Yes/No

**3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g., more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?**

Yes  No  Estimated underspend: £

**3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully.** Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project, please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary.

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

No

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document. Additionally, if you were funded under R23 and asked to provide further information by your first half year report, please attach your response as a separate document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also** be raised with LTS International through a Change Request.

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at [Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk](mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk) . The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**