



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

Project reference:	25-007
Project title:	Protecting Yap's Biodiversity and Livelihoods through Invasive Alien Species Removal
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Yap State, Federated States of Micronesia
Lead organisation	Island Conservation
Partner(s)	Ulithi Falalop Community Action Program One People One Reef
Project leader	Tommy Hall
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	HYR1 - 31 October 2018
Project website/blog/social media etc.	www.islandconservation.com

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

The Ulithi Atoll restoration project was initiated on 1 July, 2018 with an end goal to remove invasive monitor lizards and rats from the island of Loosiep, Ulithi Atoll. The project is in the planning phase and is progressing as planned. The first component of the project was to formalize the partnership with Ulithi Falalop Community Action Program (UFCAP) and One People One Reef (OPOR). Both partners have entered into contracts with IC for completion of deliverables associated with the project which are funded by the Darwin Initiative grant. Additionally, the partnership has agreed to enter a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which will define partner roles and set a shared vision for the project. The MOU is currently under review. A project steering committee has been established with appropriate representation from the partners.

Community education and outreach planning was initiated in July 2018 by UFCAP and OPOR. They have started working with several important community members on Ulithi to engage key people in the project from the start. The strategy is to collaborate with leaders to develop an approach that is effective and will be well received by the community. For the grant activity, "Develop monitoring plan to measure change in natural resource and agricultural productivity as a result of removing invasive vertebrates from Loosiep", several of the tools for evaluating the community's food resources have been developed by OPOR, including a general survey to evaluate the community's understanding and interest in the eradication and a food consumption calendar that community members fill out to evaluate the source of their food.

Research has begun for the development of an operational plan for the eradication and an international expert has been consulted for the monitor lizard eradication. We plan to hire this expert as a consultant during the field trial to evaluate and further develop methods. It is important to have a monitor lizard expert advise on the project since there has not yet been a

successful monitor lizard eradication and operations will require extensive planning and understanding of the biology of this species. The biological monitoring plan is also being developed and a monitoring team has been identified, including a regional expert on the terrestrial fauna of Yap and Ulithi.

The community leadership has expressed a strong interest in developing an effective biosecurity plan and a workshop is planned to identify the biosecurity risks and potential mitigations.

A site visit to Ulithi with the partnership steering committee is scheduled for December 2018. Objectives of the trip are to: complete planning workshops, establish the local project teams, initiate community outreach program, conduct community surveys, and begin collecting baseline data on the terrestrial fauna.

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.

Communication is an inherent challenge of working with remote island communities. Ulithi does not currently have reliable phone or internet access. The result of this is slower transfer of information during the planning stage. Thankfully this has not caused any complications thus far. Developing a communications strategy to ensure that all key players are informed and that logistical requirements are met will be important to consider when implementing project activities on the ground. Please note: this challenge is not expected to have an overall impact on the project deliverables, timetable, or budget, which is why it has not been discussed with LTS International.

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	N/A
Received confirmation of change acceptance	Yes/No	N/A

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 R24 and asked to provide further information by your first half year report, please attach your response as a separate document.

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

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