



**Darwin Initiative/D+ Project
Half Year Report
(due 31st October 2019)**

Project reference	25-009
Project title	Fish for Tomorrow – Community sustainable fisheries management, Nkhotakota District, Malawi
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Malawi - Nkhotakota District
Lead organisation	Ripple Africa
Partner(s)	District Fisheries Office, Nkhotakota
Project leader	Geoffrey Furber
Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)	October 2019 HYR2
Project website/blog/social media etc.	www.rippleafrica.org

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).

Two new Umbrella Committees and one new Fish Conservation Committee (FCC) have been established in the last six months – all have now been fully trained. We now have 36 FCCs in the project area covering 46 beach landing sites.

Meetings have been conducted at different levels ranging from community awareness to stakeholders' meetings.

Type of meeting	No	Reasons
Community awareness meetings - schools and fishing communities	19	To continue selling the concept of Fish for Tomorrow to all members of fishing communities
Review and planning - FCCs and umbrella committees	30	To help Fish Conservation Committees when planning their goals and objectives
Stakeholder meetings - District Executive Council (DEC) members	6	To update on project progress and discuss matters arising during project implementation at district level
Management meetings - Fisheries and Ripple Africa staff	6	Sharing experiences from different areas (strata) and troubleshooting any problems experienced
Interface (DEC members and community leaders)	3	To enable District Executive Committee members and community leaders to discuss issues arising and plan next steps

Fishing gear confiscations

The number of confiscated nets is reducing as fewer and fewer are in use now that the project has been operating for a while.

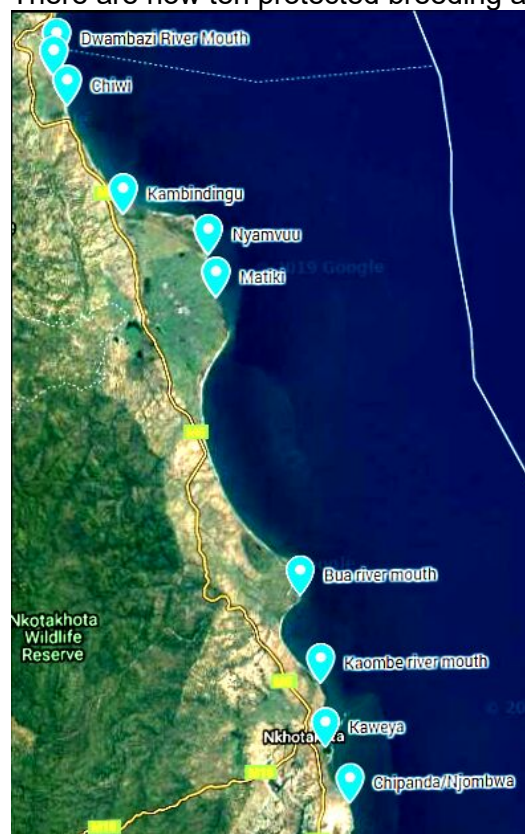
Large mosquito nets	Other beach seine	Under-meshed gill nets	Total
7	5	14	26

Fines Issued

FCC/Umbrella name	Type of gear confiscated	Reason for confiscation	No	Total fine paid in Malawi kwacha
Kambutu FCC	Large Mosquito net	Illegal gear	1	
Bondo FCC	Beach seine	Illegal gear	2	
Kaweya/Tambala	Beach seine	Fishing in a breeding area and illegal gear	2	
Vinthenga	Beach seine	Illegal gear	1	

Breeding Areas

There are now ten protected breeding areas in the project area - shown on the map below:



Breeding Area Audit

Nine of the ten breeding areas have been audited in the last six months:

NO	BREEDING AREA NAME	CONDITION	COMMENT / ACTIVITIES
1	Kambindingu	Water present	FCC members are active and illegal activities have been reduced since the project started here
2	Kaweya	Water present	Very active FCC. No illegal activity since the FCC was introduced
3	Kaombe River mouth	Water present	Very good - potentially successful area for chambo
4	Bua River mouth	Water present	Very good breeding area for a variety of fish species such as Mpsa and Sanjika. FCC elected and active. No illegal activities taking place.
5	Kapando	Water present	Very good and potentially successful area for chambo protection and other fish species.

6	Matiki	Water present	Very good and potentially successful area for chambo protection as it a sanctuary
7	Nyamvuu/ Kachere	Water present	FCC is very active and there is no any illegal activity taking place
8	Chiwi	Water present	FCC is very active and there is no any illegal activity taking place
9	Dwambazi River	Water present	Active FCC members and the illegal activities are minimal

Fish Catch and Income data is now being collected from four beach landing sites and the data collection process to measure women's wellbeing has now been finalised and we are collecting the baseline data.

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.

None experienced in the last six months.

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

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?

As a small charity with low reserves, we do struggle with the way in which the funding is issued. Between our Quarter Three payment in advance and the Quarter Four payment in arrears, there is a six month gap and we experienced difficulties last year in paying the necessary expenses on the project until the final payment was made for the year. We anticipate the same issue this year.

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 R25 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 DO NOT send these in the same email.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk. The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 25-035 Darwin Half Year Report**