



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

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 2020 HYR3
Project website/blog/social media	www.rippleafrica.org

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

Two new Fish Conservation Committees have been formed and trained. FCCs in both areas had previously been dissolved due to poor performance and the Traditional Authorities (Senior Chiefs) had requested that new members should be recruited to ensure that the project operated well in these two areas. The two new FCCs are; Khonde FCC in stratum 5.3. and Liwaladzi FCC in stratum 5.4. 30% of the members of both FCCs are women. In total we now have 36 FCCs operating in the project area; 17 in Stratum 5.3, 10 in Stratum 5.4 and 9 in Stratum 5.5

38 meetings have been conducted ranging from community level to district level

Type of meeting	No	Reasons
Stakeholder meetings - District Executive Council (DEC) members	2	To update on project progress and discuss matters arising during project implementation at district level
Review and planning meetings - FCCs	12	To help Fish Conservation Committees when planning their goals and objectives to improve project management of protected areas
Review and planning meetings - Umbrella committees	12	To get updates from all Traditional Authorities (senior chiefs) and ensure consistency of approach for all FCCs
Management meetings - Fisheries and Ripple Africa	6	To check project progress on a monthly basis and agree strategies for the following month
Area Development Committee (ADC) meetings	6	To give project progress reports on a monthly basis as a way of fully involving communities – during the Covid-19 pandemic, large gatherings are prohibited and the ADCs will take the information back to share with other community members

Chambo breeding area audits have been conducted. These check the following within protected areas (breeding sites)

- Condition of the environment (ecology) around breeding area
- FCC activities around the breeding area
- How knowledgeable communities are about the bylaws
- Presence of baby fish within protected areas

The following shows the most recent audit report for the breeding areas in Nkhotakota District (including those in Strata 5.1 and 5.2 which do not fall into the Darwin Initiative project area)

17/04/2020	Fish breeding area performance January 2020 GF.xlsx	1
FISH BREEDING AREA PERFORMANCE SUMMARY SHEET		
District: Nkhotakota	Date: Mar-20	Ave performance %: 85%
TA: Kafuzira		Qty performance responses: 11

Ref	Date established	Date of assessment	Area Name	Performance	Size	Type	Water problem?
1	01-Jan-17	12-Mar-20	Dwambazi river mouth	87%	Large	Other	No
2	01-Jan-19	12-Mar-20	Kapando	87%	Medium	Other	No
3	01-Jan-19	17-Mar-20	Chiwi	80%	Medium	River	No
4	01-Jan-17	06-Apr-20	Kambindingu	84%	Large	Lagoon	No
5	01-Jan-17	09-Apr-20	Nyamvuu	80%	Large	Other	No
6	01-Jan-17	09-Apr-20	Matiki	86%	Large	Lagoon	No
7	01-Jan-17	09-Apr-20	Kambutu	80%	Large	Lagoon	No
8	01-Jan-17	13-Apr-20	Bua river mouth	74%	Large	Other	Yes
9	01-Jan-17	15-Apr-20	Kaombe river mouth	89%	Large	Other	No
10	01-Jan-17	15-Apr-20	Kaweya	97%	Large	Lagoon	No
11	01-Jan-17	15-Apr-20	Chia Lagoon	93%	Large	Lagoon	No
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							
20							

Qty small	
Qty Medium	2
Qty Large	9
Total qty size responses	11
% small	
% medium	18%
% large	82%

Qty Lagoon	5
Qty River	1
Qty Other	5
Total responses	11
% Lagoon	45%
% River	9%
% Other	45%

YES	1
NO	10
Total responses	11
% areas Yes	9%
% areas No	91%

36 FCC performance assessments have been conducted to check the following:

- Knowledge of FCC members on district fisheries bylaws
- Leadership (activeness of committee members in their day to day operations)
- Records showing how the committee members are executing their duties
- Improvement in fish catches
- FCC plans
- Relationship with relevant stakeholders such as chiefs and development structures ie Village Development Committee

The following is the latest performance data for one FCC in the project area to illustrate how we monitor the performance of the fish conservation committees. We can then target our next steps with each FCC in terms of additional support or training.

BVC PERFORMANCE

Date:	08-Jun-20	FCC	1	Computer input:		
Date established:	15-Dec-16	MAX SCORE	80	1	very poor	
FCC Assessed:	Kalongo	TOTAL SCORE	60	2	poor	
Stratum:	5.3	AVERAGE PER ITEM	4	3	average	
RIIPLE Manager:	Sam Manda	Qty Men:	7	70%	4	good
Extension worker:	Naomi/Madalitso	Qty Women:	3	30%	5	excellent
District:	Nkhotakota	Qty Fishers:	3	30%	Yes/No	
TA:	Mphonde	Qty Non Fishers:	7	70%	Savings group:	No
Chief:	Chisi				Local permits:	No
Village:	Chisi					Partly
		60	75%			
TOPIC	ITEM	SCORE	Notes:			
Bylaws - Gear	How well does the FCC know the by-laws?	4				
Bylaws - Gear	Are any large or small mosquito nets being used for fishing? (No = 5)	4				
Bylaws - Gear	Are any beach seine / dragnets being used? (No = 5)	5				
Bylaws - Gear	Are usipa fishermen using bunt 10? (Yes all or if no usipa fishers = 5)	5				
Bylaws - Gear	Are chambo fishermen using 4.5 inch mesh? (Yes all or if no chambo fishers = 5)	4				
Bylaws - Other	Is the closed season being followed? (Yes all = 5)	3				
Bylaws - Other	Are there migratory fishers in the area? (No = 5)	5				
Leadership	Is the FCC chairperson organised and a strong leader?	3				
Leadership	Are the other FCC members active?	4	Better off as compared to previous year, they are able to meet when the chair			
Records	Does the FCC have clear and up to date records?	4				
Activities	Does the committee do regular patrols?	2				
Activities	Do the community and their children know about fish conservation?	3				
Relationships	How is their relationship with the Fisheries / RIIPLE Africa extension worker?	4				
Relationships	How is their relationship with the chief?	3				
Relationships	How is their relationship with fishers?	3				
Fish catches	Have the fish catches improved? (5 = a lot, 3 = some, 1 = no)	4				

Fish Catch Data has also been collected over the last six months. We were asked in our annual report feedback to explain in this report how we are monitoring the accuracy of catch and income data. This is being checked by managers and co-ordinators who are carrying out spot checks to ensure that the data we are gathering are accurate. This is ongoing even during the Covid-19 pandemic and we are confident that the data reflects what is happening in each area.

- For Chambo, we are gathering three day samples of fish catches to monitor the numbers of small, medium and large fish in each daily catch
- For Usipa, we are carrying out 1 litre samples to determine the numbers of small, medium and large fish in each sample.

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

None in this period

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

- Low numbers have been turning up for meetings due to Covid-19 restrictions. However, we are using phones to convey relevant messages to keep the project on track.
- Reduced meeting times due to Covid-19 restrictions on length of meetings. This has reduced the amount of information that we are able to cover in each meeting but project progress has not been adversely affected by this.
- We have had to adapt the way in which Ripple Africa and Fisheries staff monitor the project in order to reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission. We are now spending a

shorter period of time in each location and talking with fewer fishing community members as we are limiting face to face contact with people. However, most FCCs are now experienced at gathering the necessary information about their area and we are confident that we have an accurate measure of the progress on the project through meetings with them and through the monitoring information that we gather.

- We have incurred additional costs for supplementary materials such as face masks, sanitizers, hand washing buckets and information leaflets on Covid-19 to ensure that the fishing communities are aware of how to protect themselves from Covid-19. FCC members have been trained to cascade Covid-19 prevention messages to other community members to ensure that they understand the importance of handwashing, social distancing and more recently the wearing of masks which the Government of Malawi now requires in public areas.

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

Discussed with LTS:	No
Formal change request submitted:	No
Received confirmation of change acceptance	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. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.

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

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. Covered above

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also** be raised with LTS International through a Change Request. **Please DO NOT send these in the same email.**

Please send your **completed report** by email to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk. The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 25-001 Darwin Half Year Report**