



Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects Half Year Report (due 31st October 2021)

Project reference	26-014
Project title	Empowering Ivorian coastal communities to conserve biodiversity and secure livelihoods
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Côte d'Ivoire
Lead organisation	University of Exeter (UoE)
Partner(s)	Conservation des Espèces Marines (CEM) Ministère de la Production Animale et des Ressources Halieutiques (MIPARH) Police Maritime (PM) Wildlife Conservation Society, Gabon (WCS-GAB) Zoological Society of London (ZSL)
Project leader(s)	Dr Kristian Metcalfe / Prof Brendan Godley (Principal Investigators)
Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)	29 th October 2021, (HYR3)
Project website/blog/social media etc.	@associationcem @BrendanGodley @_KMETCALFE

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).

The following section provides a detailed breakdown of the activities completed under each project output for the reporting period 1st April – 30th September 2021:

Output 1. Diversified and improved coastal livelihoods: activities under this output have been led by Mr. Alexandre Dah (**CEM**) and primarily focused on the continuation of skills and livelihood training; with the skills training program designed and implemented to build literacy and numeracy skills within local communities (**activity 1.3**); as socioeconomic surveys implemented during FY1 (**activities 1.1 and 1.2**) revealed that self-perceived reading and writing abilities were notably low among survey respondents (see annual report 1 and 2). A total of 84 sessions (totalling 168 hours) have been delivered since April 2021 – representing an 18% increase in effort compared to year 2. These sessions were attended by a total of 84 people (mean attendance per community: 14), comprised of 14 (17%) males and 70 (83%) females. Whilst the ecotourism charter has been finalised (**activity 1.4**) the validation ceremony planned for FY3 Q1 has been delayed until November (FY3 Q3) as only 4 (18%) of 22 stakeholders/communities have lodged their final documents. As detailed in Annual Report for FY2, **CEM** had identified 8 associations that were nominated by local communities for further support. As of August 2021, two of these organisations have now been legally established and certified by the sub-prefecture, and draft statutes and regulations have been prepared for the remaining 6 (**activity 1.5**). These associations represent communities from 7 coastal villages in the project area and comprise a range of activities from: food and cash crop cultivation, poultry breeding and guided ecotours.

Output 2. Improved knowledge of marine biodiversity: activities under this output have been led by Dr Catherine McClellan (**CEM**) and primarily focused on analysis of marine biodiversity survey data gathered during FY1 and FY2 (**activities 2.1 and 2.2**), in support of the

creation of a marine atlas that will be disseminated to stakeholders in FY3 (**activity 2.3**). As detailed in Annual Report for FY2 a draft marine atlas comprised of five main sections (geopolitical context, physical environment, oceanography, biodiversity, and ocean resource use) was shared with core project stakeholders for comment. These comments have been compiled and partners are working to revise and finalise the marine atlas for public dissemination in December 2021. The data presented in the marine atlas will then be used to support the development of an MPA zoning and management plan (**activities 4.5 and 4.6**) that is now scheduled for early 2022.

Output 3. Enhanced fisheries governance: activities under this output have been led by Dr Catherine McClellan (**CEM**) and primarily focused on field data collection including the continuation of fisheries vessel tracking to map spatial patterns of resource use and landings surveys (**activity 3.2**). Data collection for this activity concluded at the end of September 2021 and project partners are now working closely with **MIPARH** to ensure that all data has been input into the relevant databases and error checked prior to final analyses (**activity 3.3**) and summarised within a final report that will be disseminated to stakeholders in FY3 (**activity 2.3 / activity 3.4**). As detailed for output 2 above, the marine atlas includes an ocean resource user component, which will include fisheries space-use data gathered during the project.

Output 4. Environmental education campaigns underpinning local awareness and a community-based marine protected area planning process: activities under this output have primarily focused on the implementation of environmental education seminars led by Mr. Alexandre Dah (**CEM**) (dissemination of results) and the development of survey protocol by Dr Ana Nuno (**UoE**) to monitor and evaluate the impact of the project and associated activities. A draft survey protocol was shared with project partners for comment in July/August 2021 and finalised September 2021. Field work is due to commence with 5 days of online training for the local survey team (comprised of 8 surveyors) scheduled for the week commencing 26th October 2021, with survey roll-out planned for all communities the week commencing the 1st November 2021 (**activity 4.1**). This survey is comprised of 5 sections: individual sociodemographic information, household sociodemographic information, perceptions about marine management and conservation of natural resources, skills assessment and access to basic community services, and project participation and evaluation. The first 4 sections are designed to allow comparisons with baseline data collected in FY1, whilst the final section on project participation and evaluation has been included to assess project engagement and perceptions of the type and quality of training provided, incorporating suggestions by the reviewer for the Annual Report in FY2. In terms of environmental education seminars and providing updates on project activities to local communities (**activity 4.3**), these were delivered to individuals from 7 coastal communities (at 6 locations) between 18th July and 27th July 2021 – reaching a total audience of 268 individuals (average attendance per community: 45, range 17 – 78 persons), with 28% of attendees being female (Adults: 181 male, 67 female; Children: 13 male, 7 female). The lead in-country partner **CEM** has also supported two further global initiatives in Grand-Béréby – with a beach clean-up carried out on World Environment Day and an awareness raising session on the role of MPAs held on World Oceans Day. Finally, part of the funding redirected due to COVID-19 was reallocated in FY2 (via approved change request) to support the development of additional environmental education and tourism material. This included the design of a logo for the newly created MPA; which following consultations on conceptual visualisations with local stakeholders and communities has resulted in the following final graphic design.



MPA logo ideas shared with local communities -----> final design

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.

See response below.

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.

Since March 2020, the **UoE** and our key in-country partner organisation **CEM** have worked hard to address the challenges and uncertainties brought by COVID-19. This has involved regularly reviewing planned activities to identify potential issues and discussing the best course of action whilst ensuring that the project's stated outcome can be achieved. In light of the increase in transmissibility of new variants in the UK and overseas, we requested a 3 month no-cost extension that would allow three key activities (i.e. socioeconomic survey, dissemination events, marine protected area workshops) to be delivered over an extended timeframe to safeguard staff and local communities.

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: **Yes**

Formal change request submitted: **Yes** (change request submitted 30th July 2021)

Received confirmation of change acceptance **Yes** (approval received 8th August 2021)

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: £0

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?

Nothing to report.

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.

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**