

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

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| Project reference | EIDPO048 |
| Project title | Securing definitive protection and co-management throughout the Barren Isles archipelago |
| Country(ies)/territory(ies) | Madagascar |
| Lead organisation | Blue Ventures Conservation |
| Partner(s) | |
| Project leader | Alasdair Harris |
| Report date and number (e.g., HYR3) | HYR1 |
| Project website/blog/social media etc. | www.blueventures.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).

Please note our grant had a revised start date of 1st July. Progress therefore covers July-September 2017.

1.1 Wide dissemination of MPA management plan (validated in main project via a participatory process), combined with thorough community consultations to design new/updated *Dina* (local laws) for each zone following management plan.

- Public consultations and validations commenced in September 2017 to support the community to decide on the penalty fee for each infraction. The process is still ongoing. The finalised fees are the last decision needed before finalizing the updated *dina*.

1.3 Training and support missions for VMNB in Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) system (designed during main project)

- In July 2017, the MCS consultant provided training to BV staff and the relevant government entities' staff (e.g. Fisheries Surveillance Office (CSP), Regional Office of the Environment, Port Authority) who will be the trainers of the community patrol agents "Akio Kary" (translates to tiger shark!). Theoretical and practical sessions were organized involving 47 participants (including BV, authorities, 35 Akio Kary and 6 who were already VMNB representatives). Additionally, the procedures to follow to intervene or follow-up on priority infractions were finalized with all stakeholders (13 communities and the representatives of the authorities who attended the training of trainers).
- The MCS training of the 46 surveillance agents Akio Kary (6 VMNB representatives and 40 newly elected) followed the first week of 'training the trainers', and a formal recognition ceremony was organized on July 14 2017. This means that they are formally recognized by the Ministry of Fisheries as the community entity for monitoring, control and surveillance in the Barren Isles MPA.

2.1 Consultations and development of village level fisher associations

- See 1.1 too. The association Vezo Miray Nosy Barren (VMNB) covers the whole Barren Isles MPA, which includes 13 villages (7 coastal villages and 6 island villages). The association is composed of a Management Committee, a Dina Committee (in charge of applying the community laws), and now the Akio Kary. Representatives of both committees and the Akio Kary

have been elected in all the villages. During the reporting period, our team has been working with representatives of the associations on registering their members and fishing gear, and on their *dina*.

2.2 System for fisher registration designed and process for VMNB authorized to administer cards (via village level associations)

- Since June, the Regional authority now recognizes the Association Vezo Miray Nosy Barren as co-managers of the Barren Isles MPA. The Regional Office of Fisheries refers now to the VMNB registry to distribute fisher cards to members.
- Our team has been supporting the Management Committee representatives to register all the fishers in their villages.
- A first version of this registry has been given to the Regional Fisheries Office so that they can provide registered fishers with the current fishers' cards distributed by the Ministry of Fisheries.
- A system of different fisher cards that gives either exclusive access to the BI MPA, or forbids access to the MPA but allows access to the rest of the Melaky region, was presented in the regional Fisheries Management Plan (FMP or PAP). The FMP will be implemented through a World Bank fund, directed by the Ministry of Fisheries. BV will be part of the implementation team, and we will strongly advocate for implementing this dual system of fisher cards in order to manage MPA use by fishers. BV is supporting the collaboration between the Regional Office of Fisheries and the VMNB association in the distribution of current fisher cards. Under national Malagasy law, a fisherman can't get a fisher's card if he/she is not a member of an association.
- Note that for now, the Ministry of Fisheries is distributing standardized fishers cards, but not the ones that are proposed in the FMP. This will depend on the Ministry of Fisheries and SWIOFish2 (the World Bank project) during the implementation of the plan.

2.4 Registration process ongoing

- The registration of the Vezo Miray Nosy Barren association members, that also includes the census of their fishing gears, has been ongoing over the reported period, and a second version of the registration documents have been delivered to the Regional Office of Fisheries.

2.5 Organise CSP visit to BI MPA (twice a year)

- (See 1.3 too). During the training highlighted in 1.3, agents from the CSP were included and also supported. They acknowledged on July 14, 2017 that the Akio Kary are recognised by the CSP.
- Still waiting for the data we requested from the CSP on trawlers illegally fishing within MPA as noticed on several occasions. The trawlers are fishing for shrimp, and it is disappointing given the ongoing discussions with the shrimp industry, and agreement that they would not fish in the "corridor" of the MPA West of Maintirano, and given the Malagasy law that forbid trawling in the MPAs. Once we have these data we will be able to create a stronger strategy and have discussions with CSP on when, and how frequently, they will visit. This will also involve working to create an easier way to report the infractions to the CSP regularly in order to work together to address them.

3.1 Training course outline finalised for VMNB and two year schedule of training outlined engaging specialist partners

- See 3.2
- We hope that at the end of 2017, the community management system will be in place: management committees, *dina* and surveillance agents. Inspired by other models that have worked within BV, we would like to provide the association representatives with simple tasks and objectives they need to reach each month with a simple reporting template, so that they feel closely supervised and supported. For example, we would ask them to regularly update the population census of their village (and the members registry). We would also ask them to do door-to-door visits for informing, raising awareness or collecting opinions in their village. We will first provide them with a formal training, and then reinforce what they have learnt through training by practising what they were taught and through continuous training in the field.
- We have also identified some training needs within our own team to be able to effectively support these trainings and the VMNB in the long-term and more cost effectively. Our team will therefore participate in training on participatory techniques and facilitation in October in Belo sur Mer, west Madagascar. An external trainer will be leading this training which will also allow for further peer-to-peer learning opportunities.

3.2 Mentors for VNMB committee found through WIO-COMPAS and MIHARI network of contacts; and contact plan arranged for each quarter

- We feel it is best to provide training to the Committees representatives once they are more operational. First, we would like them to do their part in informing their communities and participating in leading community meetings. In the future, when the whole local management system is in place, we will need to organize formal training on simple accounting and budgeting, and household money management.
- See also 3.4.

3.4 Regional and national exchanges (4 over 2 years) via MIHARI network organised

- Three VMNB association representatives attended the national MIHARI forum in South-East Madagascar in July 2017. MIHARI forums also provide an opportunity for the VNMB committee to share experiences in an informal setting (see 3.2). They were also able to participate in the debates concerning motions that were developed with the help of supporting NGOs, to submit to the Ministry of Fisheries (MRHP). These motions were focussed on three important topics: putting in place industrial fisheries zoning to mitigate conflicts with traditional fisheries, to simplify and facilitate the process of dina legalization and implementation, and putting in place regulations on gear restrictions and controls. It was an important moment in terms of civil society development and learning that other communities are facing the same problems.

3.5 Quarterly training and dissemination of learning via Blue Ventures and trained VNMB members at Association meetings.

- The MCS training workshop involved six existing members of the VMNB and three attended the MIHARI forum (see 3.4). Meetings this period focused mostly on collecting the final data we need to complete and submit the updated dina. Once it is approved by the local court, the Akio Kary will be able to start working and more formal training sessions will take place.

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.

No notable issues or unexpected problems this period.

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?

In response to the suggested changes in the award letter in relation to the logframe, then an updated logframe was submitted to LTS International in September 2017. The changes were okayed and a clean updated logframe is attached to the email with this 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. 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 . 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**