



The GEF Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project Project Progress Report

Reporting Period **From:** January 2016 **To:** June 2016

1. PROJECT GENERAL INFORMATION

National Project Code & Title:	MG 1 - 1205 Building a model for long-term community-based conservation of seagrass-dependent biodiversity in Madagascar
Project Partner(s):	Blue Ventures Conservation
Location (country, region/ district and commune/ city/ village/ region etc.)	Madagascar, Barren Isles
Of which areas under protection (please indicate the name and size of protected areas or locally managed marine areas, if applicable)	Barren Isles LMMA

Project start date	1 August 2015	Project intended completion date	30 September 2018
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2. PROJECT PROGRESS

2.1. Narrative of project progress during the past semester by Project Activity¹

1.2.1 Training LMMA management committee and community leaders in importance of seagrasses and seagrass dependent biodiversity. The Dugong and Seagrass Project objectives were introduced to the Veso Miray (VM) management committee last year and additional awareness raising sessions were held at 6 sites during this first semester. Two different types of sessions took place; a quiz on dugong and seagrass was organised in three communities (Ampasimandrora Secteur ½, Ampasimandrora Secteur 3, and Ambalahonko), and then we had discussions to introduce the participatory mapping sessions and set the context for a community-based monitoring program of key habitats within the MPA (mostly seagrass beds and reefs) on three islands (Nosy Lava, Nosy Andrano, and Nosy Maroantaly).

1.2.2 Training in dugong biology and participatory mapping of priority seagrass habitat areas
 As explained under activity 1.2.1, dugong biology was introduced and discussed during a quiz in three communities. The format of the presentation was well received and we are currently planning similar sessions in other camps for the coming months.
 As for participatory mapping, seven potential sites have been identified around the islands and are progressively investigated through participative mapping missions. A mapping mission took place in late April but bad weather and fishers' availability only allowed for four sites to be mapped and assessed. This mission allowed the team to further discuss seagrass ecology and introduce and set the scene for a community-based monitoring program. A second mission to cover the three remaining sites is planned for the next reporting period.

1.2.3 Participatory assessment and filming of priority seagrass areas within LMMA
 As part of the participatory mapping mission, a preliminary assessment using 1sq-m quadrat was done on mapped patches. It involved a total of 18 members from participating communities to dive and monitor state of these habitats, their use and potential conservation in the future. Thanks to some underwater cameras bought by the project, the team was able to get interesting pictures and short films that will help verify species for assessment, and were also appreciated by fishers and during debriefing with the entire community after the mission.

¹ Briefly describe progress made during the previous six months highlighting major outcomes/benchmarks achieved during the period.
 Appendix 7_Project Funding Agreement – August 2015

1.2.4 Analysis and dissemination of participatory assessment through community outreach tours, and meetings with Maintirano community and authorities

After the preliminary assessment sessions, some initial feedback and broad results were disseminated to each participating community. Further analysis of species composition and trends will be shared once analysis is completed and after all sites have been assessed.

All of the sites were not covered during the first mission due to weather but a detailed report with results from all the sites will form the basis of an outreach tour and meeting with authorities. This activity will continue upon completion of activity 1.2.3.

1.3.1 Participatory zoning discussions of seagrass conservation areas within all LMMA communities

We are still in the early stages of this activity but initial discussions about a Community Based Monitoring program for MPA habitats took place with the communities involved in the mapping mission (four sites out of seven). Two of these sites have seagrass, and discussion about targeted conservation of seagrass habitats proved to be very engaging, with people showing great interest in monitoring these habitats.

1.3.2 Community exchange to Velondriake LMMA to observe community experiences of gear restrictions, and permanent marine reserves

The peak fishing season started in April and will continue until November so many fishers won't be keen to participate in an exchange at this time as it realistically might require at least two weeks availability. Hence, we have decided to postpone this exchange visit until later this year (probably November/December) to ensure we have better interest and attendance.

Whilst we wait for a suitable date to be confirmed for the exchange, and in order to be better prepared for this activity, we have invited the former Velondriake LMMA Association president to come and share his experience and discuss LMMA management measures and solutions with fishers.

1.3.3 Development of seagrass and dugong management plan incorporating permanent protected areas for priority seagrass areas within LMMA

In the process of developing the MPA management plan that will be submitted to the governmental entities responsible for approving definitive protection status for the MPA, the team is currently spending extensive periods of time in each community to help them understand and define the management rules they would like to implement in their fishing zones. As part of these discussions, communities are encouraged to develop permanent protected zones in areas with important habitat such as seagrasses. These sessions have a strong emphasis on guiding communities towards resource ownership and sustainable management without being prescriptive or pushy. We cannot be sure of the outcome of this plan but we hope that awareness raising sessions will prove useful in their decision making process.

2.1.1 Enforcement of LMMA management plan through collaboration with fisheries surveillance authorities to develop a community-led Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) system for combatting illegal fishing activities, including industrial fishing within the LMMA.

Contact has been made with a national MCS program expert (Mr. Charles Andrianaivojaona). The context, needs and preliminary plan have been defined, and the MCS program will be designed at the end of this year when the consultant will be available.

In parallel, phone calls with the CSP (fisheries surveillance authorities) are still regular and field missions happen at least once a year. Further

agreements will be defined once the MCS program design will be launched later this year.

2.2.1 Develop educational/awareness raising campaign targeting destructive fisheries, and raising awareness of importance of seagrass ecosystems and permanent reserves.

The team is currently spending a lot of time in each community running awareness raising sessions to help them understand and define management rules (gear restriction, zoning restriction) that will be included in the MPA management plan. Mr. Samba Roger, former Velondriake LMMA president, will also help with this step which is critical to ensure fishers have ownership over the process and the fisheries are sustainable. These current activities will also allow the team to better understand and design educational campaigns targeting destructive fishing practices and the importance of seagrasses and permanent reserves.

2.2.3 Baseline data collected on current awareness and attitudes to seagrass conservation, and dugong sightings, within integrated socioeconomic survey.

Through participatory mapping, discussions on habitat use took place which allowed us to gather more information about seagrass patches used locally but also on dugong sightings. While two important seagrass beds were located, the dugong sightings were scarce with the last individuals observed more than ten years ago.

2.2.4 Analysis and dissemination of results of integrated social survey.

See previous activity (2.2.3). Once all of the potential seagrass sites have been investigated, maps will be prepared and the CBM program of habitats (including priority seagrass areas) will be designed with those communities involved.

2.2.5 Implementation of seagrass and dugong awareness raising campaign, including community outreach tours (COT).

As mentioned under activity 2.2.1, COTs will be tied to educational activities. Activities aiming at providing information and increasing interest and knowledge of ecosystems (including seagrass and dependant fauna), and their management, are ongoing, but the time spent in communities defining management rules also allows us to informally discuss this habitat and the species relying on it. This will benefit the design of the awareness raising and educational campaigns so that they can be targeted and focused on the most important issues.

2.2. Project implementation progress²

² Information provided in “Quarterly Expenditure Report” should be in line with output/activity progress reported in this table.
Appendix 7_Project Funding Agreement – August 2015

We have only included activities scheduled in our workplan for this period. We will also include any other additional activities that have occurred outside of their originally scheduled period.

Outputs & Activities ³	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of end of reporting period expressed in %	Describe any problems in delivery and any changes/mitigation action required.
Output 1.2 Capacity developed for community-based stewardship (conservation and monitoring of dugongs & seagrass)	N/A	NA	NA
1.2.1 Training LMMA management committee and community leaders in importance of seagrasses and seagrass dependent biodiversity	Dec 2016	20%	NA
1.2.2 Training in dugong biology and participatory mapping of priority seagrass habitat areas	Aug 2017	50%	NA
1.2.3 Participatory assessment and filming of priority seagrass areas within LMMA	Feb-Oct 2016 + Aug-Dec 2017	25%	NA
1.2.4 Analysis and dissemination of participatory assessment through community outreach tours, and meetings with Maintirano community and authorities	Oct 2016	15%	NA
Output 1.3 Integrated community management plans (conservation and monitoring of dugong and seagrass ecosystems) developed and piloted	NA	NA	NA
1.3.1 Participatory zoning discussions of seagrass conservation areas within all	July 2016	20%	Bad weather and fisher availability have delayed the completion of this activity but we hope to continue

³ Outputs and activities as described in the project proposal or in any updated project revision. Expand table as necessary.
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LMMA communities			discussions with the remaining communities in the next month.
1.3.2 Community exchange to Velondriake LMMA to observe community experiences of gear restrictions, and permanent marine reserves	Dec 2016 + Dec 2017	NA	NA
1.3.3 Development of seagrass and dugong management plan incorporating permanent protected areas for priority seagrass areas within LMMA	Nov 2016	15%	NA
Output 2:Output 2.1 Management and incentive mechanisms and tools for sustainable fisheries – pilots and capacity building (local community and government)	NA	NA	NA
2.1.1 Enforcement of LMMA management plan through collaboration with fisheries surveillance authorities to develop a system of community-led Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) system for combating illegal fishing activities, including industrial fishing within the LMMA	June 2018	15%	NA
2.2.1 Develop educational/awareness raising campaign targeting destructive fisheries, and raising awareness of importance of seagrass ecosystems and permanent reserves	Dec 2016	20%	NA
2.2.3 Baseline data collected on current awareness and attitudes to seagrass conservation, and dugong sightings, within integrated socioeconomic survey	July/August 2016	50%	Bad weather and fisher availability have delayed the completion of this activity but we hope to continue data collection in the remaining communities in the next month.
2.2.4 Analysis and dissemination of results of integrated social survey	Nov 15 - Feb 16 + Jul-Nov 16 +	10%	NA

	Jan-Apr 18		
2.2.5 Implementation of seagrass and dugong awareness raising campaign, including community outreach tours	March 2016 onwards	10%	NA

2.3. Risk and risk management

Please describe internal and external risks (examples included in brackets) that could affect successful implementation of project activities and the proposed risk mitigation measures.

Risk group	Description	Risk level (Low/Medium/High)	Mitigation measures
Project Management (team capacity, internal communication, co-financing, budget, financial management, reporting, etc.)	NA		
Socio-cultural issues (external communications, capacity of and work with stakeholders, cultural aspects)	Limited availability of fishers as they won't participate in long meetings or events during the peak season (April-Nov).	Low	Planning in advance and undertaking all activities with Vezo Miray, Chief of camp, Psdt Fokontany. Involving them in community mobilization.
Political risks (Political stability in country, political impacts on the project)	Low capacity and lack of political will of fisheries authorities to implement the project/LMMA and provide effective support (surveillance particularly) as this might encompass activities that some representatives might want to keep a low profile on (due to authorities involvement in illegal fishing activities). Impact of illegal resource extraction within the	Medium	Identifying key partners and provide them with effective support to help deliver expected outcomes. Need to define a MCS program allowing communities to fill-in capacity gaps. Communicating our concerns to the

	MPA. The main risk is the MPA will be seen to lack legitimacy in the eye of stakeholders (particularly fishers) if this mining company is issued with an environmental permit undermining the regulations of the MPA. Additionally these mining activities will pose environmental risks to the MPA.	Medium	ministries who will decide whether to issue permits. Encouraging fishing communities to voice their concerns.
Environmental risks (severe weather events/ disasters, natural causes negatively affecting project areas, habitats and species)	Flooding during the rainy season can restrict movement or reduce some local people's ability to attend meetings. Bad weather including heavy rains during the season and strong wind, could restrict travel by boat to the island communities.	Low	Ensure transport options and planning done well in advance of meetings and that field missions are planned in accordance with the season and the weather forecast.
Other (please specify)			

3. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

3.1. Please describe activities for monitoring and evaluation carried out during the reporting period.

Examples include: baseline data collection, stakeholder surveys, field surveys, steering committee meetings to assess project progress, peer review of documentation to ensure quality, mid-term review, etc.

Do not include routine project reporting.

We collected dugong sightings from LMMA management committees during the October 28th training session.

Gathering informal feedback at end meetings to try to improve the techniques and approaches we use to specific subjects.

4. OTHER INFORMATION

4.1. Meetings⁴

Meeting type ⁵	Title	Venue	Dates	Convened by	Organised by	No. of participants	Report issued Y/N	Language	Dated
1. Community meeting	Finfish monitoring dissemination	Ambalahonko	26/02	Vezo Miray, Blue Ventures	Vezo Miray, Blue Ventures	97	Y	French	18/03
2. Community meeting	Finfish monitoring dissemination	Ampasimandro ro (secteur 3)	04/03	Vezo Miray, Blue Ventures	Vezo Miray, Blue Ventures	71	Y	French	18/03
3. Community meeting	Finfish monitoring dissemination	Ampasimandro ro (secteur ½)	07/03	Vezo Miray, Blue Ventures	Vezo Miray, Blue Ventures	45	Y	French	18/03
4. Community meeting	Participatory mapping of marine habitats	Nosy Lava	11/04	Blue Ventures	Blue Ventures	20	N		
5. Community meeting	Participatory mapping of marine habitats	Nosy Andrano	13/04	Blue Ventures	Blue Ventures	15	N		
6. Community meeting	Participatory mapping of marine habitats	Nosy Maroantaly	15/04	Blue Ventures	Blue Ventures	25	N		
7. Community meeting	Participatory mapping of marine habitats	Nosy Mboro	17/04	Blue Ventures	Blue Ventures	6	N		

4.2. List(s) of meeting participants⁶

No.	Name of participant	Nationality
1/2/3/4/5/6/7	Jean Berthieu Nomenjanahary (Staff BV)	Malagasy
1/2/4/5/6/7	Kévin Chambon (Staff BV)	French

⁴ Expand table as necessary

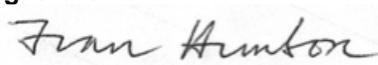
⁵ Meeting types: e.g. expert group meeting, project inception workshop, training workshop/seminar, partners consultation workshop, project Steering Committee meeting etc.

⁶ Expand table as necessary

1	Saba (Rep. Vezo Miray)	Malagasy
1	Malama (Rep. Vezo Miray)	Malagasy
1	Zakany (Rep. Vezo Miray)	Malagasy
1	Hubert (Finfish monitor)	Malagasy
1	Kassimo ((Finfish monitor)	Malagasy
1	And 90 other community members from Ambalahonko	Malagasy
2/3	Benoit Bonald (Rep. Vezo Miray)	Malagasy
2/3/6	Robustin (Rep. Vezo Miray)	Malagasy
2/3	Tibo (Finfish monitor)	Malagasy
2/3	Kristine (Finfish monitor)	Malagasy
2/3	Vitason (Finfish monitor)	Malagasy
2/3	Tahiry (Finfish monitor)	Malagasy
2/4	Kaposy (Rep. Vezo Miray)	Malagasy
2	Masitata (Rep. Vezo Miray)	Malagasy
2	Romule (Rep. Vezo Miray)	Malagasy
2	And 63 other community members from Ampasimandroro (3)	Malagasy
3	Robert (Rep. Vezo Miray)	Malagasy
3	Keita (Rep. Vezo Miray)	Malagasy
3	And 37 other community members from Ampasimandroro (½)	Malagasy
4	Marie-Helene (Finfish monitor)	Malagasy
4	Anja (Finfish monitor)	Malagasy
4	And 17 other community members from Nosy Lava	Malagasy
5	Fidele (Turtle Nest monitor)	Malagasy
5	Fadoro (Turtle Nest monitor)	Malagasy
5	And 11 other community members from Nosy Andrano/Mangily	Malagasy
6	Gervais (Rep. Vezo Miray)	Malagasy
6	Sonia (Finfish monitor)	Malagasy
6	Cisia (Finfish monitor)	Malagasy
6	And 21 other community members from Nosy Maroantaly	Malagasy
7	Daquiler (Turtle Nest Monitor)	Malagasy
7	Marinandro (Turtle Nest Monitor)	Malagasy
7	Fily (BV Boat captain)	Malagasy
7	Tito (BV Second captain)	Malagasy

4.3. Documents, other printed materials, videos, and soft products (such as CDs or websites)

No	Type ⁷	Title	Author(s) Editor(s)	Publisher	ISBN	Publication date
1	Blog	Freediving fishers on a mission to map Barren Isles seagrass beds: http://blog.blueventures.org/freediving-fishers-on-a-mission-to-map-barren-isles-seagrass-beds/	Kevin Chambon		http://blog.blueventures.org/freediving-fishers-on-a-mission-to-map-barren-isles-seagrass-beds/	20 June 2016

Name of Project Manager: Kevin Chambon		Name of Project Manager Supervisor: Frances Humbers	
Signature: 	Date: 7/7/16	Signature: 	Date: 7/7/16

⁷ Documents and printed material types: e.g. technical publication, meeting report, technical/substantive report, brochures, media releases, etc.
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