

**United Nations Environment Programme
Half Yearly Progress Report**

Reporting Period: From: 1 January 2015 To: 30 June 2015

1. PROJECT GENERAL INFORMATION

Project Title:	Enhancing The Conservation Effectiveness of Seagrass Ecosystems Supporting Globally Significant Populations of Dugongs Across the Indian and Pacific Ocean Basins (Short Title: The Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project)
Executing Agency:	The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund (MbZSCF)
Project Partners: <i>(note by the PC: the list contains the names of implementing Partners only)</i>	<p>Indonesia: Directorate General of Marine, Coast and Small Islands Affairs, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Ministry of Environment</p> <p>Madagascar: Blue Ventures, Conservation Centrée sur la Communauté (C3), Madagascar National Parks (COSAP), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Ministry of Environment and Forests</p> <p>Malaysia: Department of Marine Park Malaysia Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Department of Fisheries Malaysia, Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-base Industry, Center for Marine and Coastal Studies, Universiti Sains Malaysia, the MareCet Research Organization and Sarawak Forestry Corporation</p> <p>Mozambique: Blue Ventures, Dugongos.org, Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) and the National Environmental Directorate, Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development</p> <p>Solomon Islands: World Fish, SICCP and TNC</p> <p>Sri Lanka: BEAR (Biodiversity Education And Research), Centre for Research on Indian Ocean Marine Mammals (CRIOMM), Department of Wildlife Conservation, Ministry of the Environment, National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA), Ocean Resources Conservation Association (ORCA) and Sri Lanka Turtle Conservation Project (TCP)</p> <p>Timor Leste: Fisheries Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Blue Ventures and Biodiversity Directorate, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment</p> <p>Vanuatu: Department of Environment and Conservation, VESS</p>
Geographical Scope:	Global multi-country: Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mozambique, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, Vanuatu
Participating Countries:	Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mozambique, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, Vanuatu

Project actual start date	01 January 2015	Project intended completion date	31 December 2018	Project expected completion date	31 December 2018
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2. PROJECT PROGRESS AND RISK MANAGEMENT

2.1 Narrative of project progress during the past semester¹

This is the first report on progress of the GEF Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project. The Project began in Jan 2015 but came really operational in Apr 15, after the selection of the Project Coordinator.

This report covers the first six months of the Project, which also constitute the Project inception period (Jan-Aug 2015). This narrative report presents the progress of the Project in 3 levels, namely: (1) **global**, presenting the overall achievements and challenges for the Project; (2) **country**, giving a brief overview of country issues experienced in the reporting period; and (3) **activity**, currently giving information only on activities, in which some progress was made during the reporting period. It should be noticed that the Project is still in its inception phase and the matching/ alignment of activities, planned by Partners in their Project concepts to the activities of the global Project is to come after July, when Partners are expected to submit their revised proposals. Thus, the report on activities presented herewith is based on information shared by Partners or on the results from workshops and missions in the reporting period.

2.1.1. Global Project Progress

The period was marked by achievements and challenges that initiated the dialogue between the Project Coordination Team (PCT) and Project Partners (PP), which gradually transformed into working Project relationships.

The Project **achievements** in the first six months related to:

- **Project Coordination Team established**

The formation of the PCT was completed in Apr 2015, when the Project Coordinator came on board. The PCT comprises the Coordinator, an Associate, a Communications Manager and a Finance Manager.

During this period, the PCT was well supported by the Dugong Memorandum of Understanding (DMoU) of the UNEP Convention on Migratory Species, the initiator of the GEF Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project. The DMoU team did great job to organise the whole project and to establish the implementation structure of the project. They had very well documented and developed a database of all Project developments. After the formation of the PCT, the DMoU handed over all the information to the Project Coordinator. In addition, the DMoU continued to back up the PCT by providing background information and critical advice, supporting missions to Project Countries and establishing the link to the Dugong Technical Group of experts (DTG).

- **Active communication with Project Partners**

In Apr-Jun 2015, the Project Coordinator, supported by the Project Associate managed to reach all PP in the eight Countries. Further to the first letter of the Project Coordinator (6 May 2015), PP re-confirmed their interest in the Project, which contributed to the fast start of the Project.

The PCT tried to engage PP in the first global Project activities, such as the development of the Project Newsletter, the organisation of the Project Inception

¹ Briefly describe progress made during the previous six months highlighting major outcomes/benchmarks achieved during the period.

Workshop and the exploration of synergies among concepts at country level. The communication with most PP was active and open, and showed their readiness to work on the Project.

In this reporting period, the Project Coordinator, supported by the DMoU and selected DTG members, had three missions to Project countries and a direct contact to PP and other stakeholders in the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Timor-Leste.

In June end, the PCT planned national-level skype calls with all PP – information on results will be provided in HYR#2. It is important to notice that the PCT got in contact with Dugong Focal Points and encouraged them to get actively involved in the process of organising all PP at national level. This was a very good opportunity to re/establish the connection between PP in countries.

- **Legal and implementation foundations of the Project developed**

In May, the PCT developed and distributed key templates (with instructions) to be used by the team and PP for initiating national projects, including an Interim Funding Agreement (IFA), Project Proposal Package, Project Reporting Templates (progress and financial) and the Final Funding Agreements (FFA) – all templates can be found in Annex 1 Project Templates. The PCT requested from all PP to develop their concepts submitted back in 2013 into comprehensive project proposals. The purpose of this was to use a common template, which would unify the style and quality of baseline information, to have a more explicit link of each national project to the global Project, as well as to make a reality check of the situation with PP and in countries. The project proposal template was designed in a way to enable the development of an integrated workplan at country level and the revision the biodiversity tracking tools per country.

The process of initiating PP proposals comprised two phases: (a) Phase I: signing of an IFA and releasing of first cash advance to Partners for getting support to elaborate their Project proposals. This first cash advance was a small share of PP's available GEF funding. The IFA is valid until the end of Project inception period. All project proposals by PP are due in 31 July 2015; (b) Phase II: signing of a FFA – this is done upon the delivery and approval by the PCT of the comprehensive project proposal package. The FFA allows for releasing further cash advances to PP to start implementing their activities.

Most PP chose to sign directly a FFA. Until 30 June, three PP signed IFA and received first cash advances

The PCT sent the templates individually to each PP, providing specific information about the available GEF funding, with proposed annual budget allocation and about the partners' own contribution (co-funding/co-finance) as committed during the PPG.

The whole process of reviewing the original concepts and the writing of proposals constituted an important part of the capacity building of PP for conservation project design and planning.

- **First Project Newsletter**

During the reporting period, the PCT revised the Project database for communications purposes. The team produced and distributed the first Newsletter, which will be later on integrated in the Clearing House Mechanism. The first Newsletter can be found here: <http://www.dugongconservation.org/>

Several PP contributed to the first Newsletter and subsequent content was provided for the next edition to be sent in January 2016.

The Project **challenges** originated mainly from the time gap between the Project Grant Preparation phase (PPG), Sep 2012 – Mar 2014, and the Project inception.

Since 2013, when PP worked on mainstreaming the goal of the GEF Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project into their concepts, **many changes took place**. These changes were mainly at political and organisational level. However, for some PP the developments in the period until the Project inception led to a shift in priorities. All these required and still requires to re-introduce the Project, providing justifications for its importance and the intervention logic proposed (national project concepts and logframes). The changes in PP between the PPG and the inception of the Project impacted also their own contribution (more information to be provided in the Inception Report).

The review of project concepts by the Project Coordinator showed variation and **discrepancies in the quality of baseline information and in project planning**. (Despite that PP were provided a template, where they could populate their project concept at the PPG, some of them did not comply with it.) The technical review of concepts by renowned experts, well organised by the DMOU through the Dugong Technical Group (DTG), provided very useful details on dugong and seagrass specific activities per Project. However, some of these key recommendations were developed long time ago and may not be relevant any more, given the changes with PP. None of these recommendations was integrated in the existing concepts. These discrepancies made the PCT work on improving the existing template and ask all PP re-submit their proposals in the new format, integrating the recommendations from the technical review. This process was initiated in coordination with the DMOU,

In June, all PP were in a process of review and re-writing their Project Proposals. Despite the simplified version of the templates, this process left the PP with **less time for implementing their projects**. The PCT set 30 Sep 2018, as the end of the implementation period of national project. Thus, national projects, which were planned to be executed in four years should be closed on that date, which gives an implementation period of approximately 3,5 years.

The review of Project concepts also showed a **low level of integration** among project concepts in one country. Few DTG experts pointed out this fact and identified some overlaps between projects in one country. However, no work on their integration was previously done. The PCT worked and will work on building this integration to remove projects overlaps and explore synergies.

Project budget was also a challenge. The available GEF budget of most PP was lower than the budget planned in 2013 concepts. The budget cut was made during the PPG to cover the management cost of the Project. The DMOU team informed Partners about the budget cuts in 2014. However, now in the period of real implementations, PP show concern for the situation and feasibility of their activities. The decrease of budgets for some countries was above 15%, which required careful review and adjustments of workplans. Annex 2 shows a comparison of the requested and available GEF funding by Project and country.

The recruitment of the Project Coordinator four months after the start of the Project and the challenges described above brought an initial delay of the Project of 4-6 months. In this reporting period, the PCT tried to do its best to advance and reduce the delay.

2.1.2. Country Project Progress

- **Indonesia**

There are four project concepts for Indonesia. Their total available GEF funding for the implementation of the projects amounts to USD 829,353.20, which is 13% less than the requested GEF funding back in 2013.

In this reporting period, the communication with the government was mostly facilitated by the Marine Research Foundation (MRF), member of the DTG. The MRF

had one visits to Indonesia in May, after which the Government re-confirming their interest in the Project.

The PCT tried to have a direct communication with the Directorate through phone and e-mail

It should be noticed that the Indonesian Partner chose to sign directly a FFA with the MbZSCF.

- **Madagascar**

There are six project concepts to be implemented by five PP. The total available GEF funding for all projects amounts to USD 834,259.94, which is 28% higher than the requested GEF funding at PPG phase. Because of the increase in budgets there were no complaints on the side of PP.

Among all Partners, Blue Ventures (MG1, MG2), C3 (MG3) and COSAP (MG4) contributed to the first Project Newsletter by providing their stories and articles.

One Partner experienced changes in the management – WCS (MG6), which will slow down the delivery of their Project proposal. The discussions on the implementation arrangements of MG6 and the involvement of the former Manager under certain form will continue and be reported on in the HYR#2.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MG5), where the Dugong Focal Point is, actively supported the PCT to organise the national skype call with all PP in Madagascar.

All PP decided to sign directly a FFA with the MbZSCF.

- **Malaysia**

There are five concepts and five PP. The total available GEF funding for all projects amounts to USD 414,677, which is approximately 7% lower than the requested GEF funding at PPG phase. All PP confirmed their interest in the Project but expressed concerns of the decrease in their budgets. There are no issues related to the implementation arrangements of PP. The next steps are to have the national skype call and to explore synergies among Partners to optimize the use of available GEF funds.

All PP decided to directly sign a FFA with the MbZSCF, so their proposals are expected by July end.

- **Mozambique**

There are six concepts to be implemented by four Partners. The total available GEF funding for all projects amounts to USD 414,677, which is approximately 15% lower than the requested GEF funding at PPG phase. A major issue in Mozambique was the institutional restructuring that took place and affected one of the Project proponents, the Ministry for Coordination of Environmental Affairs - National Directorate for Environmental Management (MICOA – DNGA) (MZ5 and MZ 6). The new institution is the Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development. The PCT managed to re-connect with the nominated Dugong Focal but the Directorate could not confirm their interest in the Project. A main concern expressed by the Directorate was the amount of the own co-funding. The PCT is going to work further with the Directorate to clarify whether they will stay involved in the Project or not. More to follow on in HYR #2.

The remaining PP (MZ1-MZ4) expressed their interest in the Project and had no concerns regarding the budget cuts.

- **Solomon Islands**

There were no predefined Project Partners for the Solomon Islands, as for other Project Countries. The available GEF budget of USD 683,105.02 was divided among five main project ideas. In order to identify Project Partners the Project Coordinator together with the DMOU Programme Manager, a seagrass expert from the DTG and a representative of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) visited Honiara, Solomon Islands and carried out a four-day workshop with local NGOs, CBOs and the government. The workshop was very productive thanks to the contribution of all participants and the excellent facilitation by the Dugong Focal Point, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology. As a result of the workshop, participants decided on the roles of each organization and institution present at the workshop. Three NGOs were identified as lead Partners of the five project, as follows: WorldFish (SB1, SB3 and SB 5), TNC (SB2) and SICCP (SB4). Details about the workshop could be found in the mission report, prepared by the Project Coordinator, Annex 3 Mission Reports Jan-Jun 2015.

In June, SICCP signed an IFA with the MbZSCF and the first cash advance was provided to the Organisation to work on the elaboration of their proposal.

Further to a proposal by WorldFish, SB5 will be merged with SB1 for the purposes of developing a dugong and seagrass conservation strategy in the Solomon Islands. Even that there will be one project proposal, SB1 and SB5 will be reported separately.

- **Sri Lanka**

There are eight project concepts for Sri Lanka, to be implemented by seven Partners. The total available GEF funding for all projects amounts to USD 622,015.37, which is nearly 30% lower than the total requested GEF funding at PPG phase. PP were very concerned of the budget cut but were open to look for ways to overcome this situation together with the PCT. The PCT prepared a table summarizing thematic and geographic similarities to help PP explore synergies. The need to carry out a national Project workshop was identified, and the workshop was under preparation.

The communication with all PP, except one, CRIOMM (LK3), was very active since the first e-mail of the PCT.

The Department of Wildlife Conservation, DWC, (LK2 and LK8), Ministry of Tourism and Sports was very supportive of the PCT and quickly entered in the role of the National Facilitator.

One of the Partners, TCP (LK7) contributed to the first Newsletter.

In June, IUCN Sri Lanka (LK 4) signed an IFA with the MbZSCF and initial cash was released to the Partner for the development of a comprehensive project proposal.

The next step in Sri Lanka will be to carry out of a workshop with all PP.

- **Timor-Leste**

There are five project ideas for Timor-Leste. Out of these, only one was well developed during the PPG - TL2 by Blue Ventures. The remaining ideas submitted at

PPG phase were very general and no Partner confirmed an interest in implementing them. The total available GEF budget for their implementation amounted to USD 829,353.20, of which 50% was allocated to TL2, and no budget to TL5. 7% of the budget was allocated to the project on collecting information about dugongs and seagrass (TL1), given that no data exist for Timor-Leste.

The only Project Partner who confirmed interest in the Project was BV (TL2). Blue Ventures agreed to allocate part of their budget to TL1. In Jun 2015 they signed an IFA and got nearly 3% of the budget allocated to TL2 for the elaboration of their concept in a comprehensive project proposal.

Further to the attempts to contact the Timorese Government, the PCT managed to get in contact with the Biodiversity Directorate of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment; their contacts had been included in the Project database, as developed by the DMOU. The Directorate confirmed interest in the Project (TL4 and TL5) but questioned the distribution of the budget for Timor-Leste.

In May, the PCT established the contact with Conservation International (CI) in Timor-Leste through the Australian government. CI were provided with information on the projects and were proposed to take the lead on TL1 or TL3. However, CI also expressed strong interest in the project on Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs), TL2, which BV had already taken the lead on and for which a concept was well elaborated.

The role of Blue Ventures and the budget assigned to TL2 – nearly 56% of the total budget for all projects in Timor-Leste – became a hot topic in Timor-Leste and further discussed during the mission of the Project Coordinator to Timor-Leste.

The PCT maintained active communication with the Biodiversity Directorate and CI, who helped the team organise and carry out successfully a workshop on 29/06-1/07 in Dili. A representative of Blue Ventures also joined the mission and attended the workshop. The workshop gathered around 50 participants from national institutions – Fisheries, Forestry and Biodiversity Directorates. The workshop was followed by side meetings with the Biodiversity Directorate and CI. During the side meetings, the Government, supported by CI asked for substantial changes in the size of the projects budget and implementing PP. If these changes take place, they will put Blue Ventures out of TL2, which they originally proposed in 2013.

More information on the mission can be read in the mission report by the Project Coordinator, attached to this report.

Blue Ventures is still interested in the Project and the Project Coordinator will work on restoring the balance of TL2. The Project Coordinator will work with all existing and new PP to clarify distribution of roles and the budget.

- **Vanuatu**

There are two project proposals with a total GEF budget of USD 165,870.45. There were no changes in the budget. However, the project concepts and implementation arrangements of these concepts were not very clear. A national workshop had been planned by the DMOU team, before the Project Coordinator joined the Project. In mid-March 2015, a cyclone, level 5 (the highest) devastated Vanuatu. The situation in the country was serious, which impacted the plan of the project team - it was impossible to carry out the national workshop. Instead, the DMOU organized individual meetings with local stakeholders, the main purpose of which was to identify local implementing Partners and to identify potential leverage sources locally.

During the mission the Project Coordinator met with the Dugong Focal Point - Director of the Department of Environmental Protection & Conservation (DEPC), Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR), Department of Fisheries (DF), Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity (MALFFB) and IUCN.

Thanks to SPREP, the Project Coordinator got in contact with VESS, a promising new NGO registered in Port Vila, which was ready to provide support to the Government in writing and implementing the Projects.

More information about the mission in Vanuatu can be found in the mission report enclosed to this report.

Next steps for Vanuatu will be the development and delivery of project proposals by 31 July.

2.1.3. Progress by Project Activity

In this reporting period, all PP were in process of revising their original concepts submitted in 2013 and integration of the recommendations on their concepts, resulting from the technical review organised by the DMoU in 2014-2015. This process initiated real planning, involving meetings, field visits, team formations, contributing to the implementation of the Projects. This gives a reason to the Project Coordinator for reporting on 2% progress for some activities in Section 2.2 below.

Furthermore, during the missions to the Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste, the agenda of workshops (meetings) included presentations of:

- A methodology for identifying seagrass status, distribution and abundance, with information on major steps (Seagrass-Watch Survey). The presentation was given by the Seagrass-Watch Founder, Len McKenzie, a DTG member, who also provided capacity building materials to participants– manuals and instruction books.
- Dugong questionnaire developed by the DMoU, including the steps to take. The presentation also including sharing of experience from the previous application of the survey, presented by the Programme Manager of the DMoU, Dr. Donna Kwan
- An overview of the incentive instruments, with real-case examples and steps provided by Blue Ventures.

The presentations and the interactive sessions, as well as the materials provided contributed to the capacity building of Project Partners and other participants, as well as to organising their Project activities.

In addition, there were active discussions about data gathering with Partners from Sri Lanka and Vanuatu (during the mission of the team in Apr 2015)

Based on the above, progress of respective Activities in Section 2.2. is rated at 5%

In the current report, this part of the narrative provide a narrative of those Activities, for which the progress is above 5%.

Activity 3.3.2 Preparation and implementation of a Project Communication strategy and materials and national communications strategies

- **Communications**

- Clearing House Mechanism – a concept site was developed by the Project Coordinator and discussed with the Project Communications Manager;
- Branding – a special Project header was developed to be used for Project documents.

- Project summary - The PCT developed a summary of the Project to present key facts about it. The summary is distributed during Project events;
 - Media events – two media events were organised for the Project – one in the Solomon islands and one in Timor-Leste
- All communications materials and concepts can be found in Annex 4 Communications Jan-Jun 2015

Activity 4.3.1: Initiation and implementation of national programmes and component projects

In most Project countries, the PCT developed good and effective communications with the Dugong Focal Points. Dugong Focal Points were encouraged and actively supported the PCT in bringing together all Project Partners at national level, which contributes further to the establishment of the National Facilitating Committees.

2.2 Project implementation progress²

Outputs ³	Expected completion date ⁴	Implementation status as of end of reporting period expressed in %	Comments if variance ⁵ . Describe any problems in delivering outputs
Output 1.1: (<i>describe</i> ⁶) Governance structures for community involvement in conservation and monitoring of dugong and seagrass ecosystems established or strengthened in target areas			
Activity 1.1.1: (<i>describe</i>) National and local awareness surveys; awareness/ education campaigns	Q3 2018	2%	
Activity 1.1.2: Community meetings/ workshops	Q3 2018	2%	
Activity 1.1.3: Selection of sites for community-based stewardship	Q4 2015	5%	
Activity 1.1.4: Local (e.g. community/ government/ co-management, Fishing Association) structures established & functioning	Q2 2016		
Activity 1.1.5: Consultative committees/ management councils, Dugong Protection Forum (MZ)	Q3 2018		
Output 1.2 Capacity developed for community-based stewardship (conservation and monitoring of dugongs & seagrass)			
Activity 1.2.1.: Awareness/ education campaigns (media, social media)	Q3 2018	2%	
Activity 1.2.2.: Training in dugong and seagrass community-based management (CBM)	Q3 2018	5%	
Activity 1.2.3.: Training in dugong and seagrass monitoring	Q3 2018	2%	

² Information provided in “Quarterly Expenditure Statement and Explanation of Expenditures Reported” should be in line with output/activity progress reported in this table.

³ Outputs and activities as described in the project logframe or in any updated project revision.

⁴ As per latest workplan (latest project revision)

⁵ Variance refers to the difference between the expected and actual progress at the time of reporting.

⁶ Information on expected date of output completion and progress made is a requirement.

Outputs ³	Expected completion date ⁴	Implementation status as of end of reporting period expressed in %	Comments if variance ⁵ . Describe any problems in delivering outputs
Output 1.3: Integrated community management plans (conservation and monitoring of dugong and seagrass ecosystems) developed and piloted			
Activity 1.3.1: Baseline information gathering & consultations	Q1 2016	2%	
Activity 1.3.2: Participatory mapping, zonation	Q3 2018		
Activity 1.3.3: Pilot site management plan preparation	Q1 2016		
Output 2.1: Management and incentive mechanisms and tools for sustainable fisheries – pilots and capacity building (local community and government)			
Activity 2.1.1: Tools developed and tested at pilot sites	Q3 2018		
Activity 2.1.2: Pilots established; seed funding provided – community business plans	Q3 2018		
Activity 2.1.3: Alternative income-generation models developed and tested with communities (from <i>Coastal Communities Toolbox</i> & others)	Q3 2018		
Activity 2.1.4: Communities trained in use of tools/ new income-generating skills	Q3 2018		
Output 2.2: Awareness raising and social marketing programmes contributing to more sustainable practices (subsistence and small-scale artisanal fishers) in target areas			
Activity 2.2.1: Awareness raised; social marketing pilot initiatives providing alternative finance	Q3 2018	2%	
Activity 2.2.2: Economic valuation of ecosystem goods and services	Q3 2018		
Activity 2.2.3: Investigation of long-term sustainable finance mechanisms	Q3 2018		
Output 3.1: Critical knowledge gaps (dugongs and seagrass ecosystems) identified and surveys initiated/ completed			
Activity 3.1.1: Research/ survey methodologies developed & tested (ecological: status, distribution,	Q3 2018	2%	

Outputs ³	Expected completion date ⁴	Implementation status as of end of reporting period expressed in %	Comments if variance ⁵ . Describe any problems in delivering outputs
threats; socio-economic: behaviour/economics of fishers & fisheries; ecosystem services valuation)			
Activity 3.1.2: Training in R&M methods, collaborative/participatory surveys	Q3 2018	5%	
Activity 3.1.3: Monitoring & evaluation systems established (e.g. "COSAP" model, MG)	Q3 2018		
Output 3.2: Good practice guidelines for dugongs and seagrass ecosystems conservation developed from project experience			
Activity 3.2.1: Evaluation of project research (scientific and socio-economic), experience and use of models	Q3 2018		
Activity 3.2.2: Guidelines developed, consulted on (Project Partners, communities, technical experts)	Q3 2018		
Output 3.3: Conservation-relevant information and guidance (dugongs and seagrass ecosystems) collated and disseminated			
Activity 3.3.1: Information and guidance (dugongs and seagrass ecosystems) collated and disseminated; best practice and experience shared	Q3 2018		
Activity 3.3.2: Preparation and implementation of a Project Communication strategy and materials and national communications strategies	Q3 2018	7%	
Output 4.1: Policy, planning and regulatory gaps reviewed (conservation of dugongs and seagrass ecosystems) and recommendations developed			
Activity 4.1.1: National legislative, policy and regulatory review of gaps/ barriers	Q3 2018	2%	
Activity 4.1.2: National workshops and consultation on legal, policy, regulatory gaps and recommendations	Q3 2018	5%	
Activity 4.1.3: Draft National Strategies/ action plans (dugong and seagrass conservation) developed	Q3 2018		
Output 4.2: Advocacy programmes and advocacy			

Outputs ³	Expected completion date ⁴	Implementation status as of end of reporting period expressed in %	Comments if variance ⁵ . Describe any problems in delivering outputs
capacity for improved conservation management of dugongs and their seagrass ecosystems developed and implemented			
Activity 4.2.1: National and local (community) advocacy networks established and capacity developed	Q3 2018		
Activity 4.2.2: Advocacy programmes and campaigns	Q3 2018		
Output 4.3: Capacity for national and regional networking and contribution to global policy for effective dugong and seagrass conservation in Indian and Pacific Ocean basins			
Activity 4.3.1: Initiation and implementation of national programmes and component projects	Q3 2018	10%	
Activity 4.3.2: Functioning regional programme and networks (information, advocacy/ policy)	Q3 2018		

2.3 Action plan to address any project shortcomings.

This Section should be completed if project progress was rated MS, MU, U or HU during the previous Project Implementation Review (PIR) or by the Mid-term Review/Evaluation.

The Project started in January 2015. This is the first progress report and there has not been a previous PIR.

Problem(s) identified in previous PIR	Action(s) taken	By whom	When
N.A.			

2.4 Risk management

If internal or external risks were rated as **Substantial** or **High** during the previous Project Implementation Review (PIR) or during the Mid-term Review, please indicate what risk mitigation measures were implemented during the period and with what results:

Risk Statement	Action taken	By who	Date	Result
N.A.				

3. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

3.1. Please describe activities for monitoring and evaluation carried out during the reporting period⁷

During the reporting period, the Project Coordinator reviewed all project concepts developed and delivered by Project Partners at PPG. Given the identified discrepancies and further to a coordination with the DMOU, the PCT undertook a process of aligning the quality of the concepts and requested from all Project Partners to develop them into comprehensive project proposals. For the purpose, the PCT developed a project proposal package, which integrated to a maximum extend the template of the project concept, provided to Partners at PPG phase. The template comprises a narrative part and an excel sheet, where Partners should populate their workplan, logical framework, budget and plan of the own contribution. It should be noticed that the Workplan contains a component "Project Management", where the PCT predefined the project management activities in line with the global Project reporting that each Partner should consider and plan, accordingly.

At the same time, the template is optimised as it tries to make more explicit the link of national projects to the global Project Objective, Outputs and Activities, as presented in the Project Document. The PCT also requested all Partners to integrate the recommendations provided by the technical reviewers further to the Review Process, initiated by the DMOU in 2014. The proposal also requires information that will enable the revision and adjustment of existing or population of missing information in the Project Biodiversity Tracking Tool.

The project proposal templates were sent individually to every Partner together with a proposed break-down of the available GEF budget per year (to ensure the smooth spending of funds), information of their own contribution, as committed at PPG and the collated review of the experts.

This process will contribute to the establishment of an efficient monitoring and evaluation system at national and global Project level

The PCT also developed two types legal documents to set the terms and conditions of allocating GEF funds to Project Partners. The two documents are the Interim Funding Agreement (IFA), which provides the opportunity to Project Partners to use part of the available GEF funding for their project to support the development of their proposals and related organisational/ coordination and planning activities. The IFA is valid until Partners submit their comprehensive Project Proposals.

⁷ Do not include routine project reporting. Examples of M&E activities 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.

The other legal document is the final Funding Agreement (FFA), which is to be signed between the MbZSCF and the Partner upon the delivery of a comprehensive project proposal, making sure that Partners have a clear, activity and time-wise plan of implementing their Projects. Under the FFA, Partners receive cash advance on a regular basis

The PCT developed reporting templates – a template of half-yearly progress report, which Partners should provide every 6 months, quarterly expenditures report and semi-annual cofounding report. The PCT will further work on optimizing the reporting process in order to decrease the administrative burden of Partners but still receive their input necessary for the reporting of global Project progress.

In this period, the PCT also proposed some budget changes, related mostly to the Project team structure and external support.

It should be noticed that the Project Coordination Team structure differentiates from the originally proposed one. The PCT comprises a Project Coordinator, an Associate, a Communications Manager and a Finance Manager. The Coordinator and the Associate are full-time project positions funded with GEF funds, while the other two positions are part-time and their cost is covered by the MbZSCF (as part of the own contribution to the Project).

4. INVENTORY OF STAFF, CONTRACTS, MEETINGS AND OUTPUTS

4.1 Staffing details of Executing Partner (Applies to personnel, experts, consultants paid by the project budget)

Functional Title	Nationality	Budget Line (1101, 1102, 1201,1301, etc)
Project Coordinator	Bulgarian	1101, 1102
Project Associate	Egyptian	1201
Project Finance Manager	Lebanese	1301
Project Communications Manager	American	1301
Team Assistant	British	1201

4.2 Sub-contracts⁸

Name of contractee	Address	Budget Line (2101, 2201, 2301, etc)
SICCP	P.O.Box 2378, SIDT Building, Honiara, Solomon Islands	2125
IUCN Sri Lanka	53, Horton Place, Colombo 07, Sri Lanka	2130
Blue Ventures	Omnibus Business Centre, 39-41 North Road,	2136

⁸ Expand table if necessary

	London, N7 9DP, UK	
The Tribe Advertising LLC	Building 3, Unit 3205, Gold & Diamond Park P.O. Box 282661, Dubai,UAE	2202

4.3 Meetings⁹

Meeting type ¹⁰	Title	Venue	Dates (dd/mm)	Convened by	Organized by	Number of participants	Report issued Yes/No	Language	Dated
Coordination Meeting	GEF Matters	Al Mamoura Building A, Abu Dhabi, UAE	18/01	UNEP CMS & MbZSCF	UNEP CMS & MbZSCF	3	Yes	English	Jan 15
Coordination Meeting	GEF Progress and Contracting	Al Mamoura Building A, Abu Dhabi, UAE	09/02	UNEP CMS & MbZSCF	UNEP CMS & MbZSCF	4	Yes	English	Feb 15
Coordination Meeting	GEF SB Catch-Up Meeting	Al Mamoura Building A, Abu Dhabi, UAE	22/03	UNEP CMS & MbZSCF	UNEP CMS & MbZSCF	4	Yes	English	Mar 15
Workshop	National inception workshop	Honiara, Solomon Islands	13-17/04	UNEP CMS & MbZSCF	UNEP CMS & MbZSCF	22	Yes	English	Apr 15
Meetings	Side meetings with the government and stakeholders	Port Vila, Vanuatu	18-22/04	UNEP CMS	UNEP CMS		Yes	English	Apr 15
Meeting	Dugongs and their Conservation – a talk about dugongs and presentation of the project before	Port Vila, Vanuatu	21/04	VESS	VESS	+40			

⁹ Expand table if necessary

¹⁰ Meeting types: Inter-governmental meeting, expert group meeting, project inception workshop, training workshop/seminar, Partners consultation workshop, project Steering Committee meeting, other.

	the Vanuatu Environment Science Society (VESS)								
Coordination meeting	Project Briefing	Abu Dhabi, UAE	03/05	UNEP CMS & MbZSCF	UNEP CMS & MbZSCF	4	Yes	English	May 15
Meeting	Side meetings	Jakarta, Indonesia	13/05	MRF & MbZSCF	MRF	+3	No		
Coordination meeting	Internal Project Planning Meeting	Abu Dhabi, UAE	14/06	UNEP CMS & MbZSCF	UNEP CMS & MbZSCF	3	Yes	English	Jun 15
Workshop	National Workshop	Dili, Timor Leste	29/06-2/07	MbZSCF	MbZSCF with support from the Government	+ 45	Yes	English	

4.4 List(s) of meeting participants¹¹

No.	Name of participant	Nationality
GEF Matters Coordination Meeting, Abu Dhabi, UAE (18 Jan)		
1	Dr Frédéric Launay	French
2	Dr Donna Kwan	Australian
3	Ms Corallie Hunt	British
GEF Progress and Contracting Coordination Meeting, Abu Dhabi, UAE (09 Feb)		
1	Dr Frédéric Launay	French
2	Dr Donna Kwan	Australian
3	Ms Mariam Yacout	Egyptian
4	Ms Corallie Hunt	British
GEF SB Catch-Up Meeting, Abu Dhabi, UAE (22 Mar)		
1	Dr Frédéric Launay	French
2	Dr Donna Kwan	Australian
3	Ms Mariam Yacout	Egyptian

¹¹ Expand table if necessary


4	Ms Corallie Hunt	British
National inception workshop, Honiara, Solomon Islands - Solomon Island mostly – list of participants enclosed in Annex 3.1 List of participants		
Side meetings with the government and stakeholders, Port Vila, Vanuatu (18-22 Apr)		
1	Trinison Tari	Vanuatuan
2	Jayven Ham	Vanuatuan
3	Vatu Molisa	Vanuatuan
4	Ginny Chapman	New Zealander
5	Mathew Kenson	Vanuatuan
6	Michelle Fletcher	Canadian
7	Dr. Donna Kwan	Australian
8	Dr. Christina Shaw	British
9	Maya Bankova-Todorova	Bulgarian
Project Briefing Coordination Meeting, Abu Dhabi (03 May)		
1	Dr. Donna Kwan	Australian
2	Ms Maya Bankova-Todorova	Bulgarian
3	Ms Corallie Hunt	British
4	Ms Mariam Yacout	Egyptian
Side meetings, Indonesia (13 May)		
1	Dr. Nicolas Pilcher	British
2	Agus Dermawan	Indonesian
3	Ahsanal Kasasiah	Indonesian
Internal Project Planning Meeting, Abu Dhabi, UAE (14 Jun)		
1	Dr Donna Kwan	Australian
2	Ms Maya Bankova-Todorova	Bulgarian
3	Ms Mariam Yacout	Egyptian
National Workshop – Timorese mostly - list of participants enclosed in Annex 3.1. List of Participants		

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

No	Type ¹²	Title	Author(s)	Publisher	ISBN	Publication
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¹² Documents and printed material types are: Report to inter-governmental meeting, technical publication, meeting report, technical/substantive report, brochures, media releases, etc.

			Editor(s)			date
1	Website	First Project Newsletter http://www.dugongconservation.org/	Maya Todorova, Philippa Heard, Kirk Duthler	MbZSCF		
2	Document	Project summary	Maya Todorova, DMOU			
3	News	Information on the Project http://www.speciesconservation.org/about-us/	Kirk Duthler	MbZSCF		
4	News	Project to protect seagrass, dugongs http://www.solomonstarnews.com/news/national/6689-project-to-protect-seagrass-dugongs	Solomon Star	Solomon Star		18 Apr
5	News	Project to protect seagrass, dugongs http://www.pacificclimatechange.net/index.php/new/8254-project-to-protect-seagrass-dugongs	Solomon Star	Pacific Climate Change Portal		18 Apr

Name of Project Manager: Maya Bankova-Todorova		Name of Project Manager Supervisor: Dr. Frederic Launay	
Signature: 	Date: 31 July 2015	Signature:	Date: 31 July 2015