



The GEF Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project Project Progress Report

Reporting Period **From:** Month / Year January/2016 **To:** Month / Year Jun/ 2016

1. PROJECT GENERAL INFORMATION

National Project Code & Title:	LK 5 - 2131 Ensuring seagrass ecosystem values are incorporated with coastal area planning in Sri Lanka		
Project Partner(s):	NARA		
Location (country, region/ district and commune/ city/ village/ region etc.)	Puttalam/Mannar/Jaffna		
Of which areas under protection (please indicate the name and size of protected areas or locally managed marine areas, if applicable)	Bar Reef Marine Sanctuary-		
Project start date	June 2015	Project intended completion date	September2018

2. PROJECT PROGRESS

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

Several meetings were conducted within the institute and with the project partners regarding progress of the project. Existing data compilation conducted. Base map for the sampling locations from Mannar to Jaffna were prepared. Coastal area from Walepadu to Iranathivu islands were identified occurring diverse seagrass patches. More over locations near Palk Bay, and coastal areas around Jaffna islands were sampled. Highest biomass of seagrasses recorded from *Enhalus acroides* followed by *Cymodocea* species. The sampling locations were low in tiny delicate seagrass species such as *Halophila* and *Halodule* which are the major constituents of the stomach content of dugong analysed by NARA. Anyway there are some records for dugong existing long time ago according to the coastal dwellers. . The illegal fishing gears on the seagrass beds recorded that some of the gears such as surface gill nets, trammel net, disco nets, mono filament and bottom set gill nets cause damage to seagrasses. The survey initiated to rank the impact of fishing gears on seagrass beds as well as seagrass associated fauna. Water quality was detected in the sampling area. Also it is revealed that some of the seagrasses are damaged due to environmental pollution. Anoxic conditions were observed in some locations and water quality recorded more phosphates in the water column. Seagrasses were observed dying and accumulating in the shore area seasonally. Another factor we should consider is the impact of aquaculture practices in the area. Seaweed farming has been developed in the area at commercial stage. Continues culture on the seagrass patches could be harmful for the seagrass survival. That impact also will be encountered in further studies.

2.2. Project implementation progress²

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 3.1:			
Activity 1: plan the survey	July 2015	100%	The field work started in Nov 2015 after receiving the money and the should had to wait until the clearance obtained to proceed to field
Activity 2: Review of the existing collected	March 2016	100%	

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

² Information provided in “Quarterly Expenditure Report” should be in line with output/activity progress reported in this table.

³ Outputs and activities as described in the project proposal or in any updated project revision. Expand table as necessary.

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.
data			
Activity 3 :Preparation of Seagrass distribution maps in spatial scales	March 2018	15%	
Activity 4 :Ground truthing and monitoring	March 2018	15%	Conducting parallel with the field trips
Activity 5 : Continuous updating and validation of seagrass distribution maps by monitoring in temporal scale	March2018	%	
Activity 6 : Identification of important habitats to be study in details	April 2016	50%	It needs to revised the time upto April 2017
Activity 7 :Conduct studies on ecological studies seagrasses in selected areas	March 2018	20%	
Activity 8 : Collate information on impact of fishing gears on seagrass destruction and seagrass associated fisheries	March 2018	10%	
Activity 9 : Collate information on other associated habitats such as mangroves and coral reefs as these ecosystems are interrelated.	March 2018	20%	Apart from coral reefs and mangrove habitats , fishery associated with the seagrass habitat as may documented
Activity 10 : studies on water quality in selected areas	March 2018	20%	
Activity11 :: Survey on illegal activities in selected areas	March 2018	15%	
Output 3.2:			
Activity 2:			

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.
Activity 3:			
Output 3:			
Activity 4:			
Activity 5:			
Output 4:			
Activity 6:			
Activity 7:			

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.)			
Socio-cultural issues (external communications, capacity of and work with stakeholders, cultural aspects)	Limited access to some of the sea areas due to security reasons	Low	Get necessary approvals
Political risks (Political stability in country, political impacts on the project)			

Environmental risks (severe weather events/ disasters, natural causes negatively affecting project areas, habitats and species)	Monsoonal periods , severe floods during May 2016	High	Avoid unfavourable seasons when conducting monitoring and ecological studies on seagrasses
Other (please specify)	Could not stick with time frame regarding some activities , activity 6	Low	Readjust the time frame and complete work

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.

Baseline maps, Baseline data collection, field surveys, meetings,

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
National facilitating committee meeting	Discuss about the progress &	Wild Life Dept	14.03.16	Wild Life dept.	Project team	8	N	English/Sinhala	

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.

	logistics project								
Expert group meeting	Discuss about the project activities	NARA	15.03.16	NARA management	NARA Management	4	N	English/Sinhala	
Expert group meeting	Discuss about the project activities	NARA	13.05.16	NARA management	NARA Management	4	N	English/Sinhala	
National facilitating committee meeting	Discuss about the progress & logistics	IUCN	01.07.16	Wild Life dept.	Wild Life Dept, Sri Lanka	7	N	English	
Meeting at Puttalam District Secretariat	Awareness of stake holders	District Secretariat	4.07.16	Wild Life dept.	Wild Life Dept, Sri Lanka	35	N	English/Sinhala	

4.2. List(s) of meeting participants⁶


No.	Name of participant	Nationality
1	1. Dr. Lakshman Peiris – Assistant Director (Research and Training) 2. Mr. Chaana Suraweera , Dept of Wild Life 3. Dr. Vasantha Pahalawaththaarachchi - NARA 4. Mr. Prasanna Weerakkody – ORCA 5. Mr. Sajith Subashana - ORCA 6. Mr. Ranil Nanayakkara - BEAR 7. Mr. Arjan Rajasuriya – 8. Mr. Thushan Kapurusingha - TCP	Sri Lankan
2	Dr. Palitha Kithsiri. Actg. Director General, Deputy Director General, NARA, Mr. A.B.A.K. Gunarathna, Director Monitoring and Evaluation, NARA; Dr. V. Pahalawattaaarachchi , GEF project coordinator; Dr. G. Dassanayake (Scientist, NARA)	Sri Lankan
3	Dr. Palitha Kithsiri. Actg. Director General, Deputy Director General, NARA, Mr. A.B.A.K. Gunarathna, Director Monitoring and Evaluation, NARA; Dr. V. Pahalawattaaarachchi , GEF project	Sri Lankan

⁶ Expand table as necessary

	coordinator; Dr. G. Dassanayake (Scientist, NARA)	
4	1. Dr. Lakshman Peiris – Assistant Director (Research and Training) 2. Dr. Vasantha Pahalawaththaarachchi - NARA 3. Dr. Gihan Dahanayake - NARA 4. Mr. Prasanna Weerakkody – ORCA 5. Mr. Sajith Subashana - ORCA 6. Mr. Thushan Kapurusingha 7. Mr. Arjan Rajasuriya – IUCN	Sri Lankan
5	35 participants; NARA , Wild Life, IUCN, ORCA, TCP, District and local level Officers; Sri Lanka Nay, Sri Lanka Police, District Sectary., Divisional Secretary. Fisheries Department ; NARA regional Center, Kalpitiya,	Sri Lankan

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	Printed material	Poster on Seagrasses in Sri Lanka	V.Pahalawattaarachchi			Ongoing

Name of Project Manager.V Pahalawattaarachchi		Name of Project Manager Supervisor:	
	Date: 8.07.16	Signature:	Date:
Signature:			

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