



The GEF Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project Project Progress Report

Reporting Period **From:** 01 January 2016 **To:** 30 June 2016

1. PROJECT GENERAL INFORMATION

National Project Code & Title:	LK 4 – 2130. Development of a multiple-community based marine resource management plan in the Gulf of Mannar and Palk Bay to conserve dugong and seagrass ecosystems		
Project Partner(s):	Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC), National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA) Ocean Resources Conservation Association (ORCA), Turtle Conservation Project (TCP), Biodiversity Education and Research (BEAR).		
Location (country, region/ district and commune/ city/ village/ region etc.)	Sri Lanka. Northwestern and Northern areas in Palk Bay and Palk Strait. The project area includes 4 Districts, namely Puttalam, Mannar, Kilinochchi and 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 (306.7 sq.km) in the Northwestern region. Adam's Bridge Marine National Park (189.9 sq. Km.).		
Project start date	15 June 2015	Project intended completion date	15 September 2018

2. PROJECT PROGRESS

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

Three planning meetings at national level meetings were held at the Department of Wildlife Conservation and at IUCN with the participation of project partners. The first meeting was to assess the progress and review activities of project partners. The second meeting was to carry out a training needs assessment for government officials at the District and Local levels in the project areas and other locations. The third meeting was to assess the progress of the partners and to plan meetings for government officials at local level. The officials will include the Divisional Secretaries, Grama Diladharis (village level) Navy, Police, and the Army. These meeting will be held from July 2016 onwards in the 4 districts, namely Puttalam, Mannar, Kilinochchi and Jaffna. The meetings will be held at the office of the Divisional Secretary who is the Chief Administrator of a district.

Training was conducted to the officers of the Marine Management Unit of the Department of Wildlife Conservation to develop their capacity in monitoring of seagrass/coral reefs and associated resources. Several officers were trained in basic snorkelling techniques and lectures were conducted in identifying species associated with seagrass and other sensitive ecosystems. The training was carried out by Arjan Rajasuriya, Coordinator, Marine and Coastal Thematic Area of IUCN. IUCN also assisted the Department of Wildlife Conservation to establish a Marine Management Unit.

Reports are being prepared on the conservation and management policies and gap analysis. Studying the governance structures in the communities which will be utilised when establishing the Community Conservation Groups. Good practice guidelines is being drafted.

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.
Activity 1: 1.1.1 Study of present governance structures in the communities	End June 2016	60%	Additional site visits required to get the informal structures within the communities

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.
1.1.2 Conduct meeting linking government and CBOs and community to establish Community Conservation Groups at key locations	July – October 2016	20%	Several meetings are required to establish trust between us and the resource user communities. Therefore it will take a longer time than anticipated at the design stage of the project.
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Output 1.2:			
1.2.1: Capacity development among the user community for conservation and sustainable use of the resources	Throughout the project and ending in 2018	05%. Ongoing	
Activity 3:			
Output 1.3:			
1.3.1: Integrated community management plans (conservation and monitoring of dugong and seagrass ecosystems)	Mid 2017	0%	Not commenced. The management plans will be prepared after the MPA areas are identified and incorporation of information arising from other studies.
1.3.2: Test functioning of management plan	Early 2018	0%	
1.3.3: Declaration of MPAs	In 2018	0%	
Output 3.2: Good practice guidelines for dugongs and seagrass ecosystems conservation developed from project experience	October 2016	20% Ongoing	
Output 3.3: Conservation-relevant information and guidance (dugongs and seagrass ecosystems) collated and disseminated	September 2016	15% Ongoing	
Output 4.1: Policy, planning and regulatory gaps reviewed (conservation of dugongs and seagrass ecosystems) and recommendations developed	October 2016	15% Ongoing	

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.)	Shortcomings in capacity, funds, deliverables	L	Problems not encountered up to now
Socio-cultural issues (external communications, capacity of and work with stakeholders, cultural aspects)	Full community participation	M	Problems not encountered up to now
Political risks (Political stability in country, political impacts on the project)	Lack of political support	M	Problems not encountered up to now
Environmental risks (severe weather events/ disasters, natural causes negatively affecting project areas, habitats and species)	Climate change related environmental problems. Severe coral bleaching in 2016 and impacts on associated ecosystems and species. Impact on seagrasses and associated species have not been assessed.	H	Increase resilience of communities and ecosystems through better management.
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.

Not scheduled during this reporting period

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
No. 1 National project partners	Review of ongoing activities and planning meeting	DWC	14 March 2016	National Facilitator	NF/ DWC	13	Minutes available	English	
No. 2 Training needs assessment and the meeting	Training needs assessment meeting	DWC	14 March 2016	National Facilitator	NF/ DWC	15	Minutes available	English	
No. 3 National project partners	Review of progress and planning meeting for the district level awareness meetings for the government officials including the District Secretary	IUCN	14 June 2016	National Facilitator	IUCN	07	Minutes available	English	

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.

4.2. List(s) of meeting participants⁶


No.	Name of participant	Nationality
1	1. Dr. Lakshman Peiris – (NF/DWC) 2. Dr. Vasantha Pahalawaththaarachchi - NARA 3. Dr. Gihan Dahanayake – NARA 4. Mr. PrasannaWeerakkody – ORCA 5. Mr. Sajith Subashana - ORCA 6. Mr. Ranil Nanayakkara – BEAR 7. Mr. Arjan Rajasuriya – IUCN 8. Mr. Asoka Rajapaksha - DWC 9. Mr. Keerthi Chandrarathne - DWC 10. Mr. Shantha Weerasingha – DWC 11. Channa Suraweera – DWC. 12. Ms. Kumudu Kumari – DWC 13. Ms. Shana - DWC	Sri Lankan
2	1. Dr. Lakshman Peiris – (NF/DWC) 2. Dr. Vasantha Pahalawaththaarachchi - NARA 3. Dr. Gihan Dahanayake - NARA 4. Mr. PrasannaWeerakkody – ORCA 5. Mr. Sajith Subashana - ORCA 6. Mr. Ranil Nanayakkara - BEAR 7. Mr. Arjan Rajasuriya – IUCN 8. Mr. Asoka Rajapaksha - DWC, 9. Mr. Keerthi Chandrarathne - DWC, 10. Mr. Shantha Weerasingha – DWC 11. Channa Suraweera – DWC, 12. Cmdr. Jayalath – Navy 13. Officer from Coast Guard 14. Ms. Kumudu Kumari – DWC	Sri Lankan

⁶ Expand table as necessary

	15. Ms. Shana - DWC	
3	1. Dr Lakshman Peiris – NF/DWC 2. Mr. Arjan Rajasuriya - IUCN 3. Mr. Channa Suraweera - DWC 4. Ms. Kumudu Kumari – DWC 5. Ms. Shana - DWC 6. Miss. Harini Nishanka - IUCN 7. Miss Matheesha Katuwawala - IUCN	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

Name of Project Manager: Arjan Rajasuriya Coordinator, Marine and Coastal Thematic Area, IUCN		Name of Project Manager Supervisor: Shamen Vidanage Programme Coordinator, IUCN	
Signature: 	Date: 10 July 2016	Signature:	Date:

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