



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:	SB3 – 2124 Mapping critical seagrass fisheries habitats in Lau Lagoon, Solomon Islands		
Project Partner(s):	WorldFish		
Location (country, region/ district and commune/ city/ village/ region etc.)	Lau Lagoon – Malaita Province, Solomon Islands		
Of which areas under protection (please indicate the name and size of protected areas or locally managed marine areas, if applicable)	not applicable		
Project start date	March 2016	Project intended completion date	30 September 2018

2. PROJECT PROGRESS

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

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

A field trip was conducted from 29th April to 5th May to scope for roll out of GEF Dugong and Seagrass activities in the Lau Lagoon. Team members of the trip included staff from WorldFish and the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM) and the local Provincial Member for the Lau Lagoon.

The aim of the trip was to;

1. Conduct visual and consultative scoping and information gathering from community representatives in the Lau Lagoon,
2. Brief presentation and awareness on Dugong and Seagrass Project background, components and importance
3. Discuss ways of working and setting up communication network in preparation for planning and roll out of Dugong and Seagrass project activities.

The dugong and Seagrass scoping team has taken a considerable amount of time to address the issues raised by the participants. Some of the issues raised are related to the likely effect foreseen that will affect or hinder the livelihood activities of the people living in the lagoon such as;

- Conservation of Dugong and Seagrass will restrict access to the mainland through seagrass meadow or stop them from fishing in the seagrass beds. Furthermore, how will people benefit from the dugong and Seagrass project – A brief explanation on the project nature and the importance of Dugong and Seagrass in the ecosystem and its link to Fisheries helped clarify doubt.
- Who will be involved in the implementation of the project – Lau Lagoon covers a wide range of area and different people have different attachments or links to resources and ownership of rights of ownership and use thus involving the right people and everyone is a factor to be considered. The participants selected cater to cover for this issue and a web of network was established at this meeting whereby all communication for the dugong and seagrass project must go through the representatives attending this meeting for identification of participants for the upcoming workshop.

Participants confirmed dugongs' numbers declined over the years to none and are slowly returning through sightings of individuals and some possibly with calf after an estimated period of six (6) years absence. The accurate number of dugongs present in the Lau Lagoon is currently unknown and need proper verification.

Planning for the Dugong and Seagrass mapping in the Lau Lagoon are underway for July and August 2016 based on information gathered during the scoping trip.

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

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 Critical knowledge gaps (dugongs and seagrass ecosystems) identified and surveys initiated/ completed			
Activity 3.1.1 Planning meeting with Honiara stakeholders	March 2016	100% complete	This was combined together with the first NFC meeting
Activity 3.1.2 Conduct a workshop in North Malaita and Lau Lagoon communities on the project	May 2016	100% complete	No difficulties in delivery. The major outcome from this activity was community input to the mapping exercise and awareness that the activity would happen.
Activity 3.1.3 Planning and capacity development with WorldFish research staff in preparation for participatory seagrass mapping	July 2016	25% complete	Planning the trip is ongoing; no major problems are foreseen in delivery.
Activity 3.1.4 Conduct 4 mapping workshops in communities (1 day each)	July 2016	0% complete	N/A
Activity 3.1.9 Collect information during mapping exercises	July 2016	0% complete	N/A
Activity 3.1.10. Liaise with SICCP to collect stories from Western Province sites	April 2017	0% complete	N/A
Activity 3.1.11 Compilation of stories and information	September 2017	0% complete	N/A
Output 4.1 Policy, planning and regulatory gaps reviewed (conservation of dugongs and seagrass ecosystems) and recommendations developed			
4.1.1 Policy brief developed to inform	July 2018	0% complete	N/A

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.
improved policy for management and development of lagoonal seagrass ecosystems			
4.1.2 Presentation to provincial government	September 2018	0% complete	N/A

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.)	There are a number of activities that are tagged to happen in the mapping exercise with a big team of staff (around 10, may change). Field costs are high with regards to team travel and getting around in the communities.	low	Field activities and number of staff will be refined and finalised in line with the available budget. Co-sharing of costs may be sought from other projects. A team planning meeting will be held in the Auki office prior to heading out in the field to ensure awareness of activities/tools and tasks are allocated.
Socio-cultural issues (external communications, capacity of and work with stakeholders, cultural aspects)	We have experienced in the past that key field activities have been interrupted due to community events which meant postponing of activities. The scoping trip in May attempted to inform community representatives in the Lau Lagoon of the project and the upcoming mapping activity. It is to be expected however that majority of	low	The team will have no choice but to postpone activities in this event and plan to redo it. This will have an impact on the budget and will be managed as best as possible. The first session in each of the communities will be to conduct a general information and awareness session.

	community members will be not aware		
Political risks (Political stability in country, political impacts on the project)		low	No risks were mentioned however in the scoping workshop, the team's involvement of the local Provincial Member was appreciated by the participants as it reflected support and joint implementation.
Environmental risks (severe weather events/ disasters, natural causes negatively affecting project areas, habitats and species)	August is not expected to be the rainy season however weather may impact on the field trip.	low	The team will have to manage as best as possible in the event of severe weather events with safety-first foremost.
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.

[INSERT TEXT HERE] N/A. The mapping exercise will be considered as baseline data collection, together with the main field trip expected for August. The NFC meeting will be conducted at the end of the month and will be used to monitor progress then.

4. OTHER INFORMATION

4.1. Meetings⁴

Meeting type ⁵	Title	Venue	Dates	Convened	Organised	No. of	Report	Language	Dated
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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.

				by	by	participants	issued Y/N		
Scoping and awareness meeting	Dugong and Seagrass Scoping	Lau lagoon, Malaita Province	29th April to 5th May	WorldFish and MECDM Environment and Conservation Division	WorldFish	23	Y	English	

4.2. List(s) of meeting participants⁶



No.	Name of participant	Nationality/Community
1	Fred Bata	Foueda
2	Daniel Siale	Taraana
3	Tom Badly	Hatodea
4	Billy Moli	Foueda
5	Ratu Wiki	Ferafaalu
6	John Aneka	Taluabu
7	Eddie Kaia	Tauba
8	John Kaua	Tauba
9	Joseph Aruafu	Takwaiasi
10	James Hare	Surikiki
11	Peter Hare	Surikiki
12	Michael Maesua	Tauba
13	Simon Ben	Surikiki
14	Sale Oligao	Taluabu
15	Bino	Koefou
16	Noman	Hatodea
17	Peter Billiy	Taluabu
18	Lawrence Fadaua	Surikiki
19	Philip Kamai	Funafou
20	Paul Mark	Taraana
21	Fred Wai	Tauba

⁶ Expand table as necessary

22	Luciano Toata	Surikiki
23	Banisi	Surikiki

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
	N/A					

Name of Project Manager: Delvene Boso		Name of Project Manager Supervisor: Neil Andrew	
Signature: 	Date: 10 July 2016	Signature: 	Date: 10 July 2016

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