



defra
Department for Environment
Food and Rural Affairs

Annual/Interim Project Report for Period 2018/2019

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Project details

1. Defra Project code DEA10352
2. Project title Commonwealth Litter Programme (Cefas code: C7737)
3. Defra Project Officer Theodora Stephens-Manassieva
4. Name and address of contractor The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas)
Lowestoft Laboratory
Pakefield Road
Lowestoft
Suffolk
Postcode NR33 0HT
5. Contractor's Project Manager Julia Baker
6. Project: start date March 2018
end date March 2020

Objectives

7. Please list the objectives as set out in the contract. If necessary these can be expressed in an abbreviated form, indicate where amendments have been agreed with the Defra Project Officer giving the date of amendment.

The main objectives of this project are:

- Support Commonwealth countries in the development, implementation and coordination of their programmes for marine litter reduction
- Develop management approaches to marine litter pollution that are consistent with recognised international approaches
- Prevent and reduce marine litter and its impact on marine organisms, habitats, public health and safety and reduce the socioeconomic costs it causes;
- Remove litter from the marine environment where practical and feasible;
- Enhance knowledge and awareness on marine litter pollution;

Summary of Progress

8. Please summarise, in layperson's terms, progress since the last report/start of the project and how this relates to the objectives. Please provide information on actual results where possible rather than merely a description of activities.

CLiP has successfully delivered its objectives for the Pacific by working actively together with two Commonwealth countries, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. We have increased capacity and ability to tackle land and sea-based sources of marine litter within both Commonwealth countries. Several work products and reports were produced. These include reports on waste generation and management, port reception facility audits, marine litter assessments, training and best practices, socioeconomic surveys and desktop studies (section 11). In order to help local communities better understand the problem of marine litter, resulting in long term behavioural change, a series of marine litter activities were undertaken with different types of communities. Targeted workshops were held with church members, youth organisations, mothers' unions and village communities along beaches, river catchments, lagoons and at remote islands. In order to build capacity and transfer knowledge, we provided several individuals with training to monitor, assess and reduce marine litter. In both countries, government and academics were trained to monitor marine litter and microplastics using internationally recognised scientific techniques.

A regional microplastic laboratory was set up in Vanuatu and government staff were trained in microplastic analysis. Thousands of litter items were removed and disposed off correctly during training, monitoring and cleanup activities. The project increased awareness of the plastic pollution problem within target communities by using CLiP communication material and educational packages in combination with (social) media e.g. Press, Radio, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram. A dedicated CLiP website was created on which the Pacific wide CLiP contests for artists, students and young entrepreneurs was launched. We held a series of technical workshops to focus on country specific waste issues e.g. fishing related debris, organic waste, and diapers. The result of these various engagement activities was a clear increase in awareness by local people, demonstrated by their willingness to encourage other members of their community in marine litter issues. It also led to a network of marine litter related stakeholders who proactively engaged to take measures and solutions forward.

All CLiP evidence was presented and discussed during two-day policy workshops where marine litter action plans were carefully drafted together with local governments and stakeholders. As a result, government officials and key stakeholders have knowledge and skills to reduce marine litter now and in future. Many individuals were engaged through these workshops and best practice activities for policy, communication and waste management. This created a network of marine litter related stakeholders in each country, increasing dialogue and collaborations. Finally, the CLiP Pacific conference was organised to present the CLiP outcomes and resulting actions to the wider public and regional/global stakeholders. The winners of the three contests were announced by UK and Pacific delegates such as Minister Therese Coffey and Minister Ralph Regenvanu. Based on the evidence provided by the CLiP team, the Minister announced a series of new restrictions on use of plastics, to mitigate marine litter impacts. Initially there were some issues with the implementation and timeframes however, following a recent article reporting on the Commonwealth meeting in London it has been stated that Vanuatu will be the first country in the world to prohibit disposable diapers and Vanuatu has introduced one of the strictest bans on single-use plastics, including plates, cups, drink stirrers, egg cartons, plastic flowers and food containers as a result of the CLiP programme.

A Pacific roundtable was organised and chaired by the UK and Vanuatu to discuss next steps and future collaborations in relation to marine litter. The Cefas team returned from the Pacific early March and immediately started organising the CLiP activities for Belize, starting end of April.

Amendments to project

9. Are the current objectives appropriate for the remainder of the project? YES ☐ NO ☒

If **NO**, explain the reasons for any change giving the financial, staff and time implications.

Contractors cannot alter objectives without the agreement of the Defra Project Officer.

Due to sensitive/political issues, a change in the original country selection has occurred:

- Following health & safety advice, activities in Sri Lanka have not be taken forward
- As a result, the individual country budget of Belize and South Africa has been increased accordingly

Progress in relation to targets

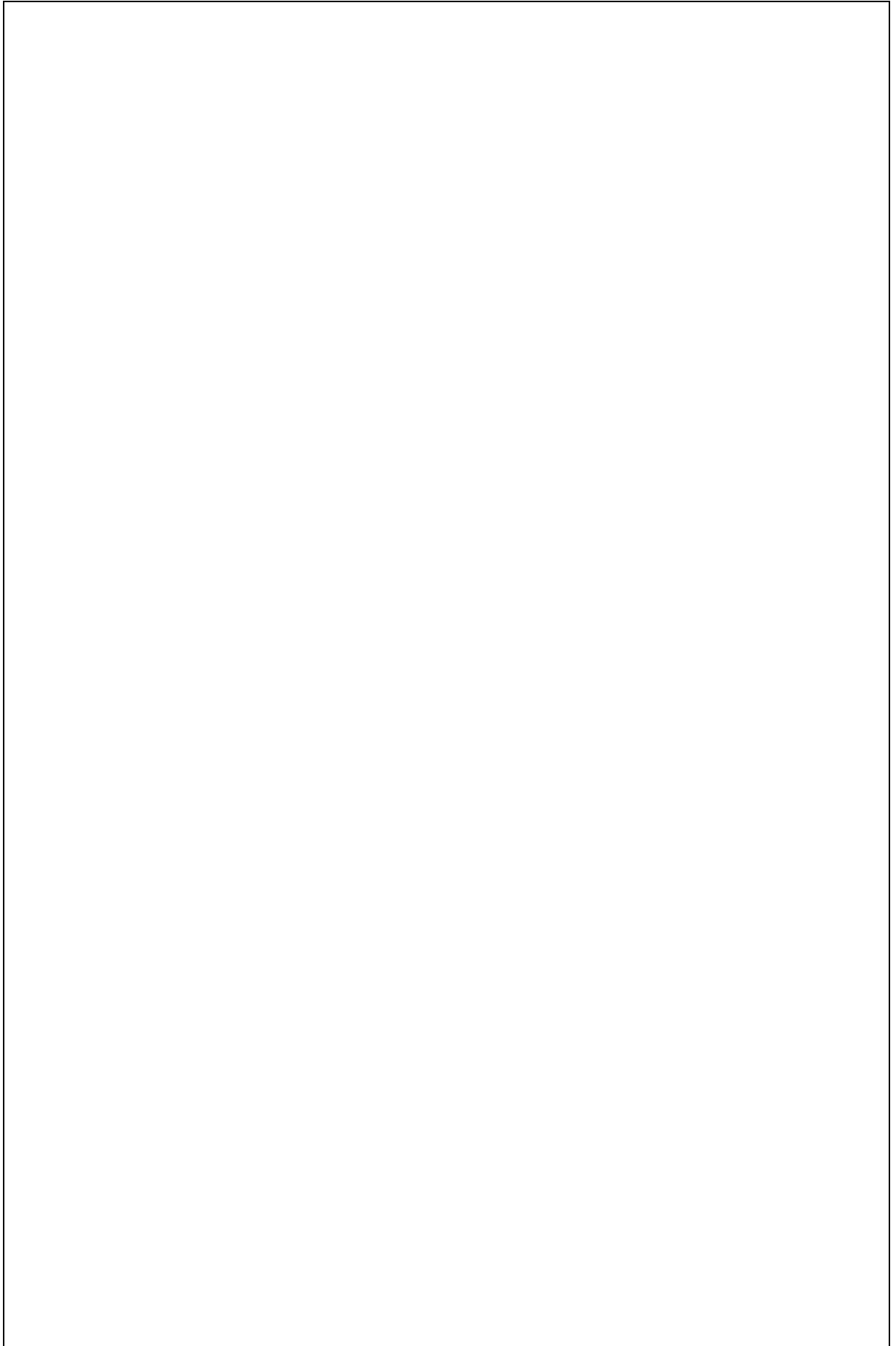
10. (a) List the agreed milestones for the year/period under report as set out in the contract or any agreed contract variation.

It is the responsibility of the contractor to **check fully that all milestones have been met** and to provide a detailed explanation when they have not been achieved.

Milestone		Target date	Milestones met	
Number	Title		In full	On time
Outcome Indicator	<p>1A Number of work products produced (grouped per country) e.g. internal reports, subcontractor reports, key deliverables</p> <p>2A Number of community activities and different types of communities involved in marine litter activities</p> <p>2B Number of individuals provided with knowledge to reduce marine litter as a result of CLiP</p> <p>3A Numbers of CLiP marine litter action plans introduced to governments</p>	Mid Term - March 2019	<p>Targets reached</p> <p>-</p> <p>For more details see results framework</p>	On time
Output Indicator	<p>1A Number of individuals engaged with through workshops and best practices for policy, communication and waste management</p> <p>1B Number of groups/organisations participating in knowledge sharing workshops</p>	Mid Term - March 2019	<p>Targets reached</p> <p>-</p> <p>For more details see results framework</p>	On time

	1C Number of laboratories set up to gather evidence and monitor plastic pollution 1D Number of individuals trained in marine plastic monitoring 2A Number of social media engagements for CLiP communications materials 2B Number of entries to CLiP awareness contests 2C Number of people attending CLiP outreach events – (including contests, policy workshops, stakeholder workshops) 2D Number of educational and communications materials produced 3A Number of CLiP workshops with policy makers 3B Number of individuals attending the policy workshops 4A Number of stakeholders attending public and private CLiP events 4B Number of draft marine litter action plans produced in partnership with the host governments			

(b) Do the remaining milestones look realistic? **YES** ☒ **NO** ☐
If you have answered **NO**, please provide an explanation.



Publications and other outputs

11. (a) Please give details of any outputs, e.g. published papers/presentations, meetings attended during this reporting period.

All Pacific CLiP evidence was presented during the:
- Solomon Islands Policy Workshop 31/01-01/02/2019
- Vanuatu Policy Workshop 22-23/01/2019
- CLiP Pacific Conference 18-19/02/2019

Presentations can be found here on the CLiP website

DEFRA monthly meetings

Peer reviewed manuscripts are being drafted, to be submitted to journals by winter 2019.

- (b) Have opportunities for exploiting Intellectual Property arising out of this work been identified? **YES** ☐ **NO** ☒

If **YES**, please give details.

(c) Has any other action been taken to initiate Knowledge Transfer?.....YES ☒ NO ☐

If **YES**, please give details.

The programme provided inputs in the form of technical assistance, analysis, data collection, capacity building, resources, infrastructure and other services. Direct outputs are: (1) Action plans to reduce pollution from land based sources; (2) Action plans to reduce pollution from sea based sources; (3) Development of policy and measures for marine plastic prevention and reduction; (4) Revision of waste management systems; (5) Increased awareness through education and communication; (6) World-class research, science infrastructure, training and knowledge exchange; (7) Progress and cooperation in a manner consistent with obligations under the national and international requirements; (8) Development of a framework for (other) Commonwealth countries to take actions and add value through regional collaboration.

Future work

12. Please comment briefly on any new evidence opportunities which may arise from the project.

Now action plans have been drafted and presented to local and regional governments, further engagement with national and regional stakeholder will be necessary to understand how further UK funded technical assistance could be of benefit. These should be considered by UK Government and once options are selected relevant expertise and equipment should be sourced to delivery the necessary assistance.

Declaration

13. I declare that the information I have given is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Name

Thomas Maes

Date

24/06/2019

Position held

Principal Marine Litter Scientist