



GEF-Satoyama Subgrantee Highlights Report

Organization Name:	EPCO
Country:	Mauritius
Reporting Quarter:	FY17 Q1
Person submitting Report:	Estelle DEJA

<Highlight 1>: Collation of local knowledge on resource usage in the Collaborative Management Area (CMA). Twenty-one meetings were conducted with the targeted local fishermen at different locations in Mahebourg and Residences La Chaux. Locally registered and non-registered fishermen of Residences La Chaux and selected fishermen of Mahebourg, as well as the project manager and project assistant debated and brainstormed project design and planning. The main objectives of the meetings with fishermen were to:

- Involve the local fishermen in the decision making processes of the planning and design phase of The Barachois Project.
- Include the fishermen's wants, needs and opinions in project planning and design.
- Regularly inform fishermen of the activities of the management team to provide them with the opportunity to participate.
- Evaluate fishermen's attitudes and perceptions towards the project.
- Identify and predict potential conflicts that may arise over project implementation and management, and mitigate these conflicts in advance.
- Ensure ownership of the project by key stakeholders.

In addition to the focus group interview, participatory mapping and observational walks and boat trips were conducted. The main outputs of these consultation strategies were:

- Fishermen from the communities of Residences La Chaux and Mahebourg attended meetings at a location agreed upon by all participants.
- The timeline and gradual nature of the project was explained.
- The role of the meetings as productive platforms for discussion and information sharing by all involved shareholders was outlined.
- A map on resource use patterns, as well as the final strategic plan for mariculture were created based on traditional knowledge voiced by fishermen.
- The frequency of the meetings was established.
- Conflicts were resolved.

Map on the resource use patterns in the CMA, established through various consultation strategies@EPCO/Estelle DEJA



<Highlight 2>: Creation of bamboo cages for crab (*Scylla serrata*) culture in the Barachois.

As part of the mariculture initiative in the barachois, experimental cages will be designed and constructed under the guidance of local and regional experts and local traditional knowledge. The cages will be constructed using three different materials; (1) Plastic materials; (2) Bamboo stems; and (3) china gavas stems.

The floating and drive-in cages will be located at two different locations in the barachois area and will be used as part of the fattening process to combat the cannibalistic behavior that occurs during moulting.

The pictures below illustrate examples of cages in bamboo stems (L=270cm, l=90cm, H=35cm divided into 16 compartments of L=45cm, l=33cm and h=35cm) designed and made recently by fishermen from Residences La Chaux. During the experimental study, the cost and durability of cages will be the criteria used to select the adequate type of cages to ensure project sustainability.



Pictures illustrating the process to establish bamboo cages with local fishermen of Residences La Chaux, Mauritius @EPCO/Mathieu Roignant (Intern)& Estelle Deja

<Highlight 3>: Creation of awareness signs to prevent dumping along the coastal area of the barachois.

Eleven panels will be erected throughout Residences La Chaux in an effort to stop illegal dumping that pollutes the barachois and degrades the natural environment. Standing 180 centimeters high, the panels, themselves 60 x 90 centimeters, are the result of collaboration between the project manager of The Barachois Project, two local artists, local fishermen and schoolchildren between the ages of 6 and 15.

Made of pressure-treated wood with pallets donated by the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport (Grant 2 Air), the panels will include reminders to “Keep the Island Clean” and “Don’t Dump in the Barachois” in Creole. As a community effort, the panels will be erected and dug by local fishermen . They will feature murals and quotations by established artists from Residences La Chaux surrounded by depictions of the barachois and the natural biodiversity of the area painted by children ages 10 to 15. The stakes will include handprints from schoolchildren under 10, fostering a sense of ownership for the community-driven project, which will eventually be transferred into their care.

Finally, the logos from GEF and COI’s Smart Fish program will be included on each panel as aluminum-carbon stickers to ensure their longevity.



Awareness panel made by local fishermen held by a community member and an artist of Residences La Chaux, Mauritius @EPCO/Estelle DEJA.

<Highlight 4>: Creation of a one-day community-based event.

The fishermen's group voiced the need to first create awareness in both communities, Mahebourg and Residences La Chaux, about the project, and to explain the relevance for increased local livelihood through a community-based event. The event must be conducted before the implementation phase to avoid potential conflicts. It will be a useful communication and information tool to provide the scope, actions and benefits of the planned mariculture initiative.

The objectives of the event include:

- Increasing awareness and understanding of local residents toward planned mariculture
- Give residents the opportunity to be involved in management activities
- Increase willingness to participate in coastal watch (surveillance strategy) to avoid illegal fishing activities.
- Debate and brainstorm regarding the project design and plan
- Increase local community support toward mariculture
- Identify potential conflicts that may arise and seek solutions in advance
- Increase the satisfaction of local community with the project

The day-long community event will be conducted on November 6, 2016 from 7 AM to 10 PM with the collaboration of the women in the community, as well as various associations based in Residences La Chaux. Six focus group interviews have been conducted with women and two meetings with local artists and two with associations were conducted to design and organize the community-based event. Moreover, a free raffle is planned during the event. Prizes have been donated by various local shops, companies, restaurants and hotels that have increased awareness regarding the project.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6TH 2016

Community event to raise awareness for

THE BARACHOIS PROJECT

Residences la Chaux and Mahebourg

WITH PERFORMANCES BY:
ASHLEY MANIKION
SOLDAT WILLYJAH
EDDY TOLBIZE
LADY PRISCA
NSP SOLDAT
JAZZY FRAS
RASTJAHHEL
SAPPARLA
MAHELA
MAN
... AND A SURPRISE!

**Meet at the
football field in
Residences La Chaux
10:00 - 22:00**

Games, music, races, dance
competition, raffle, project
presentation, artisanal and
traditional goods, food
and drinks for sale from
community members

**ENSAM NU REDONE
NU BARACHOIS LAVI!**

In collaboration with Mouvement bien-etre Cite La
Chaux, Nu Zenfant Cite and JOC

<Highlight 5>: Renovation of the store house.

A store house ideally located in the center of Residences La Chaux has been generously offered for use by The Barachois Project by one of the local fishermen heavily involved with the project. The house will serve as a storage facility for materials used by the project, including traps, bags and various other materials. The grounds of the house were previously used as a dumping area for the village, and the revitalization of the property has become a community initiative, with assistance in cleaning and securing the property offered by community members and interns.



Renovation of the Store house by local people of Residences La Chaux, Mauritius @EPCO/Mathieu Roignant(Intern)



Store house of The Barachois Project, Mauritius
@EPCO/Estelle Deja

<Highlight 6>: Questionnaire survey with local fishermen.

The goal of the survey was to provide baseline data on the socio-economic conditions and livelihood of the local fishermen, who are the main stakeholders in the project. This data will serve as a benchmark to monitor the results of the planned project's activities and guide the project manager during the project design and planning phase.

The main objectives of the survey are to:

- Establish socio-economic baseline data regarding local fishermen whereby the selected indicators can be effectively tracked to measure project effectiveness and determine the socio-economic effects of the project on the local fishing community.
- Accumulate knowledge on the commercial livelihood of the fishermen, and correlate this knowledge to the design, planning and implementation of mariculture activities.
- Understand how fishermen interact with their environment and use their marine and coastal natural resources.
- Identify threats and pressures on natural resources.
- Create a baseline to assist in economic valuations of the project.
- Increase interaction between EPCO staff and local fishermen.
- Assist in determining and measuring changes in the motivations and willingness of fishermen to contribute to the project.
- Provide information for sustainable management of marine resources.
- Evaluate fishermen's perceptions and attitudes toward the project.

The interview survey was conducted using a questionnaire by the project manager and project assistant, as well as two local women, who were selected and trained to conduct interviews. The survey principally targeted fishermen who live closest to the barachois area in the village of Residences La Chaux, as it is assumed that this was the community the most likely to be impacted by the project. Each interview was conducted either in French or in the local dialect "Creole" depending on the interviewer. The questionnaire included both closed and open-ended questions that were grouped into 8 different sections: (1) A series of personal and demographic questions about the fishermen;(2) Income from fishing; (3) Additional income; (4) Location of fishing zone; (5) Type of gear used; (6) Catch characteristics; (7) Stakeholders interaction and; (8) Project Perception.

A total of 34 fishermen from Residences La Chaux (76% of all registered fishermen) and 15 fishermen from Mahebourg (94% of all selected registered from Mahebourg) were interviewed for an average of 49 min. The output of the survey highlighted:

- Clear dependency on natural marine resources for livelihood, as estimated by the number of registered and unregistered fishermen and associated family members who fish for a living.
- Fishing conditions have become more difficult due to overfishing and illegal activities, climate change and lagoon pollution.
- Incomes for fishing are low and insufficient to cover the day-to-day expenses of the family.
- Market demand for seafood consumption is high at the local level.
- Additional income generating activities are conducted by a small number of fishermen, emphasizing the difficulty in finding part-time income-generating activities.
- Clear idea of the frequency and timing spent fishing per day, as well as per week for each individual.
- High level of awareness about the project.
- Positive perception of future mariculture activities and a strong willingness to participate in the project.
- While most fishermen enjoy their profession, most are interested in having an additional or alternative income-generating activity resulting from mariculture implementation.

<Highlight 7>: Household survey.

The main goal of the household survey is to assess the resources and capacity of the local community through a questionnaire-based survey with a target of reaching all 2,500 houses within Residences La Chaux to create a socio-economic baseline to gauge the effect of the project on the community and establish stronger connections and contacts within the village to facilitate future implementation of the project.

The primary objectives for the household survey included:

- Facilitate engagement and interaction with the local community
- Understanding of the demographics of the community to longitudinally assess changes within households over time.
- Increased interaction between EPCO staff and local residents.
- Understand the skills represented within the community and cultivate a list of contacts for future contributions to the project.
- Development of community-driven metrics to gauge the success of the project.
- Understanding of the priorities, needs and wants of the local residents in order to design and implement management activities.
- Track changes in local people's knowledge, attitude, perception and use of coastal and marine biodiversity.

The questionnaire includes both closed and open-ended questions that are grouped into 9 different sections: (1) Personal and demographic information; (2) income generating and extracurricular activities; (3) biodiversity and types of activity in the CMA; (4) Perception towards the project and willingness to participate; (5) socio-economic baseline; (6) perceptions towards the status of the surrounding environment and the issue it faces; (7) needs and wants regarding the project; (8) level of awareness and perceived benefits of the project; (9) preferred means of communication about the project.

The Project Manager and the field assistant (a local woman from Residences La Chaux) are entrusted with collecting timely responses. At this point, approximately 30 surveys have been conducted and this process will continue until the target number of households is reached.



Picture illustrating a household questionnaire survey conducted by a trained local woman with family members @EPCO/Estelle Deja

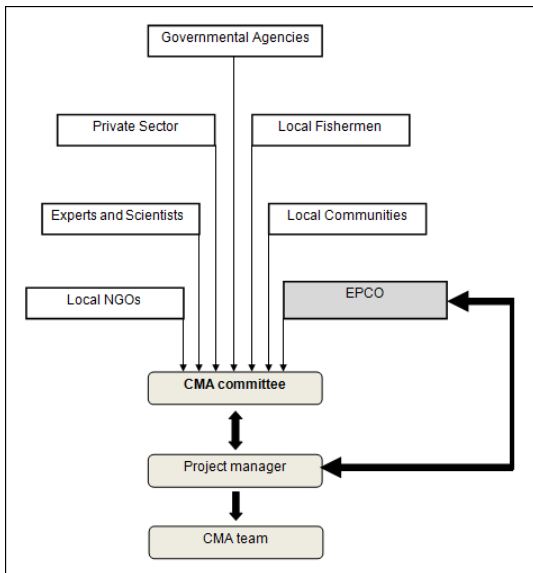
<Highlight 8>: Creation of the CMA Committee

The Collaborative Management Area Committee (CMAC) has been established and includes 32 members from various stakeholder groups including government agencies, local associations and NGOs, as well as local and national experts. Each group's representatives have been consulted, are aware of the Project scope and objectives and willing to participate. Community members are an important component of the Committee and thus will also participate in the decision-making processes. Community representatives include the President of Residences La Chaux as well as the President of Mahebourg, the president of La Chaux Social Welfare Centre and representatives of the local people.

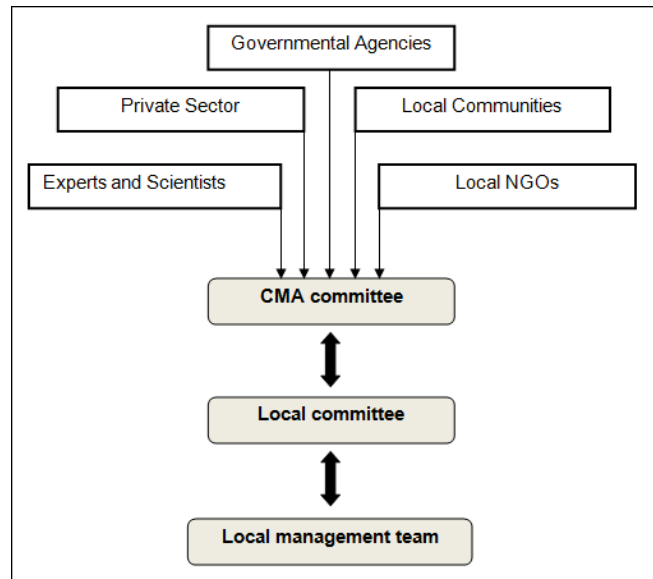
The election of fishermen's representatives has been conducted through individual interviews that allowed for input by quieter members of the community. The fishermen were given the opportunity to suggest two representatives, and there was general agreement about the selection. Three representatives of the fishermen were elected representing both Residences La Chaux and Mahebourg communities. Two women's representatives have been elected in a focus group interview with women. The role and responsibilities of the representatives has been clearly communicated.

The organizational management structure of the project is now in place and clearly defined. The CMAC will occur in Quarter 2. Moreover, the ongoing management structure of the project was established through significant consultation strategies with key informants, a focus group, and individual interviews with community members.

The management structure will have to be brainstormed and approved by all CMA Committee members.



Flowchart of the project management structure.



Flowchart of the ongoing management structure