

Mangroves for the Future – Medium Grants Facility Format for Reporting

Notes:

- (a) The report should take into account all the impacts, outputs, and outcomes and for the entire project reporting period to date.
- (b) Additional information may be provided as Annexes.

1. Project Profile

	Introduction of a Community-based Management Model for Vankalai Wetland Ecosystem, Mannar, Sri Lanka	
Project Location	Mannar, Sri Lanka.	
Project Number:	87008-000; MFF390	
Project duration:	Start date	01.09.2014
	Original End date	28.02.2016
	Final End date	15.05.2016
Project Budget:	MFF Contribution USD 83,764	Counterpart funds USD 13,158
Name of Organization:	Green movement of Sri Lanka	
Contact Details: (Including tel./ email)	suranjan@gmsl.lk / +94 718 749 665	
Report Submitted by: (name and position)	BanduRangaKariyawasam - Project Manager	
Implementing Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Fisheries Cooperative Societies (South Bar, Vankalai and Achankulam) • Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) • National Aquaculture Development Authority (NAQDA) District office – Mannar • Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DFAR) • Srilanka Tourist Development Authority • UNDP • District Fisheries Federation, Mannar (DFF) • Team of ornithologists • Friends of Heritage • Mannar District Peoples Association (MDPA) • Federation of Chamber of Commerce Industry in Mannar • Solima International 	
Date of Report Submission:	05.06.2016	
Reporting period:	Terminal Report (1 sep 2014 to 30th Apr 2016)	

2. Executive Summary of the report

This report on the MFF funded project titled “Introduction of a Community-based Management Model for Vankalai Wetland Ecosystem, Mannar, Sri Lanka” covers 3rd six monthly report and the terminal report of the project, up to 30.4.2016

The Complete project will establish a community based conservation model to contribute for the long term conservation of the Vankalai coastal wet land in Mannar district. As Mannar district is now in the post conflict rehabilitation stage, introducing a model management system which will be a precautionary effort of conserving Vankalai coastal wetland. The project has two outputs. The first output is “Community driven conservation mechanism to conserve Vankalai coastal wetland is established and functional” and second one is “Income of buffer zone communities is increased”.

The main objective of the project is the management of Vankalai coastal wetland supported through Community driven conservation efforts and alternative livelihoods for its ecosystem dependent communities'

- The project has been implemented in facilitating the conservation actions in the district as it have been deployed in many aspects to enhance the environment quality as well as the quality of life of the communities in Vankalai by; Upholding the awareness of environmental values and legislations therewith, in a widen aspect of the community.
- To develop and strengthen the actions of the Department of Wildlife
- To promote harmony of youths between North and South after 30 years war by creating opportunity for them to learn and share experience.
- Create interest and opportunities for partnership among private and public organisations to involve in tourism development and aquaculture activities in the district.

During the implementation of the project following cross cutting issues were assumed as crucial in comparison with the other areas due to the post war situation which badly affected the socioeconomic and cultures systems of the community. Therefore special attention were given to manage and mitigation impacts of below mentioned cross cutting issues to get the successful execution of this project.

- a. Gender
- b. Climate change
- c. Property rights and resource tenure,
- d. Conflict sensitivity

To ensure the sustainability and to enhance the redundancy of the project, activities to promote tourism industry where introduced instead of micro financing.

However the alterations didn't effected the total output of the project since the changes were made to output two was aligned with output one in order to extend the existing benefits.

This alteration has been supported in enhancing the community involvement by 60% since it allowed more people to involve with the project activities and to build

confidence and their capabilities, The activity positively contributed for the sustainability and strengthen the bird guiding activity in Vankalai.

There are three factors that contributed for the sustainability of the project;

a Sustainability through potential Partnerships

Involvement of stakeholders such as Tourism Development Board, Forest Department, UNDP and IFC during the project implementation contributed to ensure sustainability of the program. As an example IFC provided trainings and equipment to the youth groups that established by the project and Department of Wildlife showed keen interest to further develop the range office which established by the project.

In addition, the project activities encouraged in getting islands in Adams bridge, sea grass beds and coral reefs gazetted as protected areas. (Ref; 1920/3 dated 2015.6.22)

b. Interventions of tourism improved conservation and income of communities

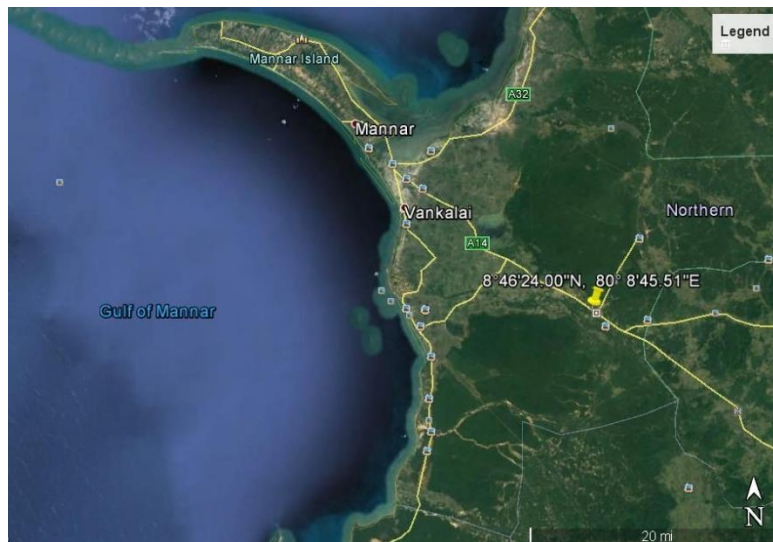
Youth community joined with the tourism activities, which began along with the bird watching activity in Output 1. However at the initial stage of the project, the sustainability of the activity was a question but after introducing and amalgamation of certain tourism related activities under output two, a demand created for youth to involve in the trade.

In addition to the bird watching activity, environmental and archaeological aspects were capitalized to add value to the programme. Groups formed by the project were further trained by World Bank IFC and provided necessary equipment by UNDP to engage in tourism. It is important to mention that 70%-80% of the persons used for this purpose are from the youth groups of MFF-MGF project. Meanwhile, Northern Provincial Council has commenced tourism promotional activities in Northern Province using the same group of youths.

c. Growth of the trend towards aquaculture activities

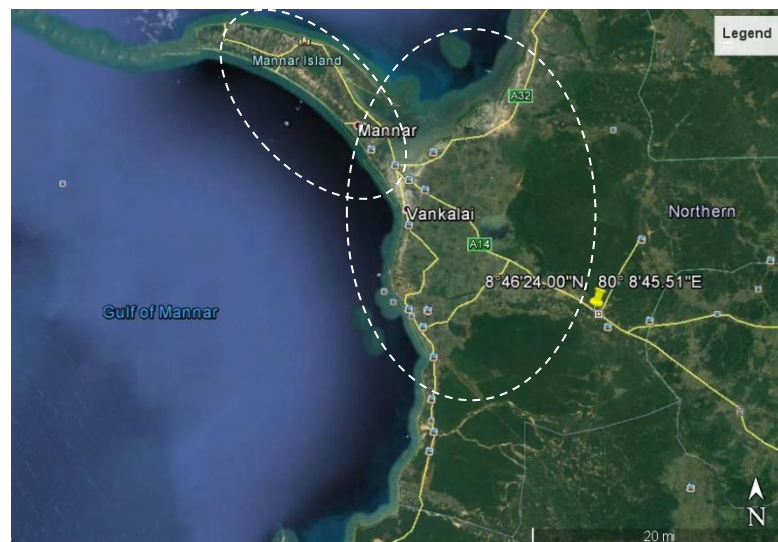
Youth groups are interested in aquaculture activities since the pond aquaculture activity started under the project was of a new business model. Hence the community got an opportunity to learn and get job experience on new techniques and methods of new fishing industry rather than the traditional fishing industry. However for this, there should be a precautionary plan in the government sector to avoid and control any ill effects on the environment. Also attention should be paid to provide technical knowledge to the community and to monitor the use of that knowledge by the community.

and



Geographical
community

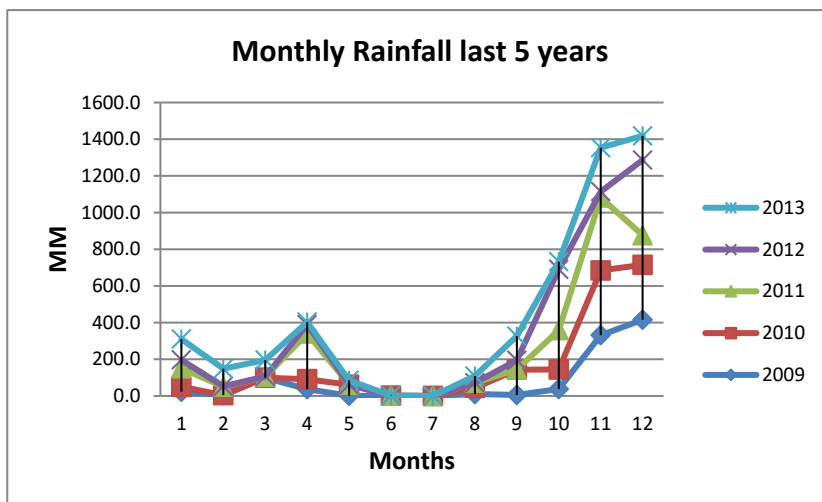
representation targeted at the beginning of the project



Expansion of Geographical area and community representation at the end of the project, with the added new activities

3. Background of the Project and Project Rationale

The project is implemented in Mannar district, which is more than 200,000 ha in size and situated in the arid zone of the country. Highest temperature is recorded in the months of June and November and the highest rainfall in the months of September to November. Sandy *Regasols* and *Latosol* are the dominant soil types covering with 27% and 26% respectively. When we consider the land use of the district 19% of the land is used for agriculture and 63% is covered with forests.



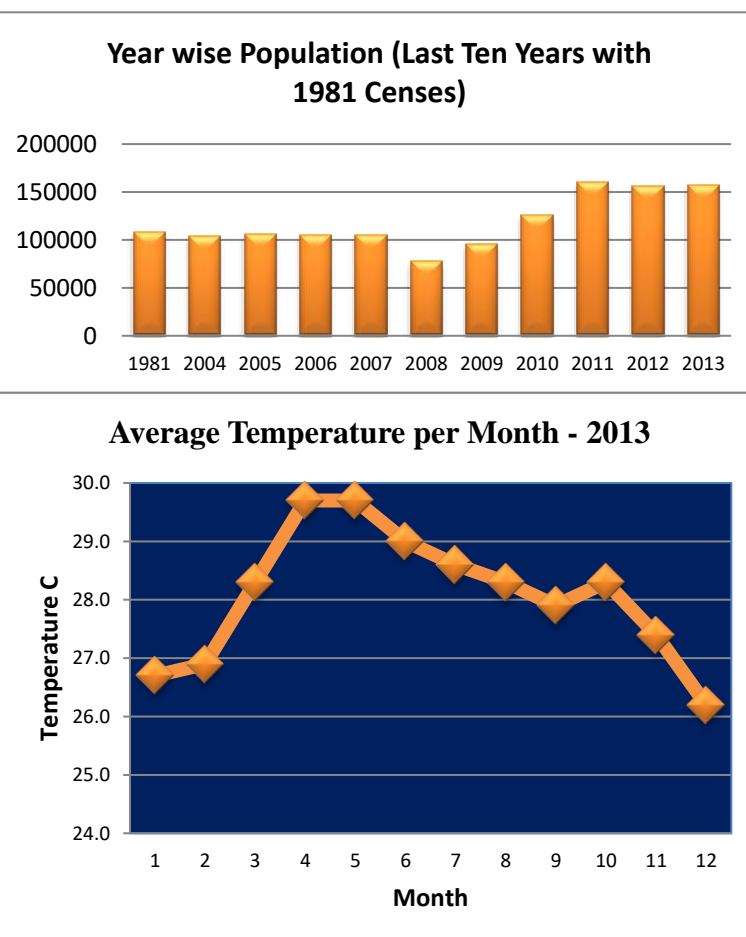
Since the civil conflict was over, there is a sharp rise in population in the district.

There are about 9000 active fishermen in the district in 2013 and this number is an increase of 1200 since 2010. Home gardens are also an important aspect in agriculture and food security and there are about 5600

home gardens covering 2300 hectare of area. Total number of families engaged in agriculture is about 19000, which includes a representation of families in both fisheries and agriculture.

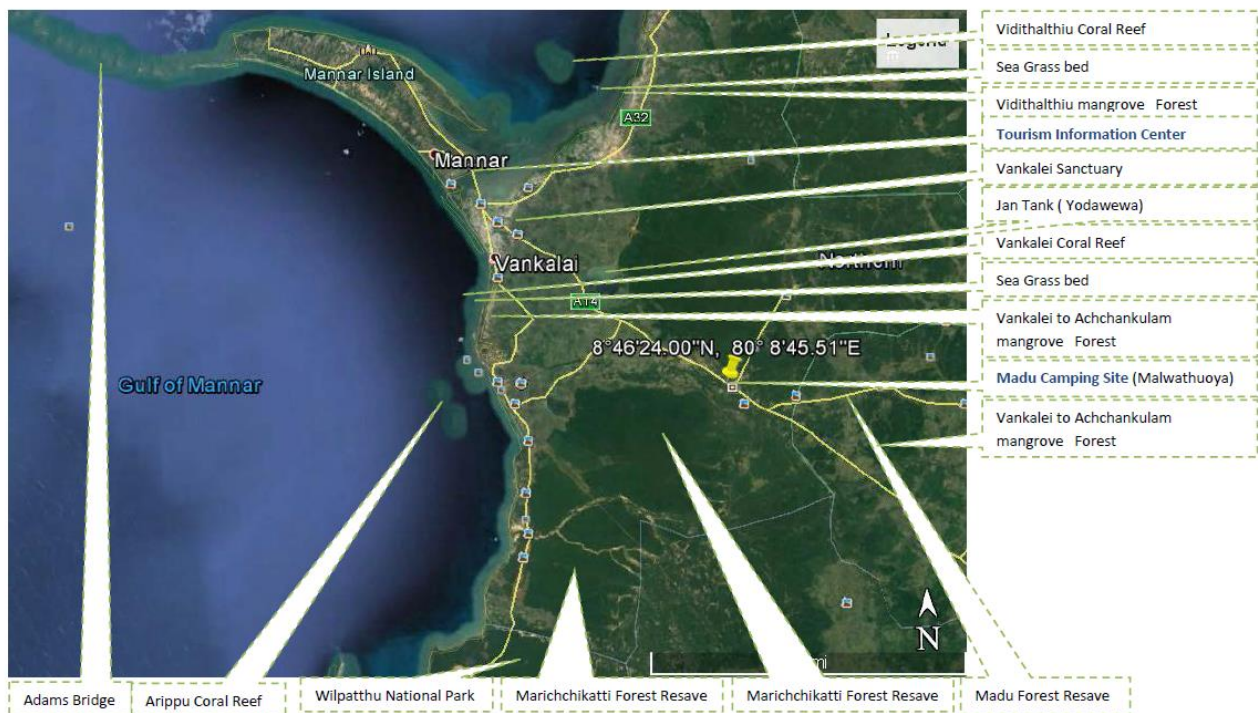
There are many environmental values in the district. (see the map below). Most of these environmental resources are wetland based and ocean based environmental resources. Hence the current state of income is not to be limited for fisheries and agricultural sectors only. In addition to this, if there is no effort to control the destruction of current environmental resources, the income generation methods can collapse. Impacts of the changing weather patterns should be also taken in to consideration. Hence it is important to introduce alternative income generation methods while

conservation strategies should also be taken in to consideration. The proper actions of the relevant state agencies are also of importance.



The development of tourism activities and the introduction of aquaculture activities were carried out as a step of this. The development of basic institutional facilities necessary for the conservation activities and the building up the necessary background for the declaration of conservation areas were also carried out.

The main objective of the project is the management of Vankalai coastal wetland supported through Community driven conservation efforts and alternative livelihoods for its ecosystem dependent communities'



Map 03; Expansion of project activities at the completion of project

- **What was the problem to be addressed? Provide the rationale for the project.**

The district is being developed after stagnation for about 30 years, due to the civil war district was prevented from development activities. As a result, the community was economically affected due to non availability of permanent income source. The over exploitation of natural resources was unavoidable due to such situations and unawareness of communities on conservation activities and their participation was at a minimum level. In addition sustainable use of environmental resources is also at minimum level.

Due to the prolong war the government institutes were not fully functioning as required due to short of manpower and resources. Further baseline information on environment also a shortfall to regularize the system to control environmental crimes.

Considering youth as most critical influential group, the project proposed to built their capacities and help them to improve knowledge and skills for better livelihood options.

Also proposed to facilitate them to share and obtain experiences with the youth groups in other parts of the country since they have been marginalized for quatelong period of time due to conflicts.

Less skills and experience of youth with sector specific dynamics due to non exposure and opportunities available for career development.

Since these youth representing the low income category of the area, they are looking for faster solutions for their economic burdens. It could be experienced that they were looking for fast earning methods and loosing the interest of environmental conservation mentality.

- **What were the expected contributions to MFF's Outcome Objectives?**

The project has two outputs which are directly supported by 03 project objectives of MFF as follows

1. Community driven conservation mechanism to conserve Vankalai coastal wetland is established and functional – This mechanism is being established and is proven effective with the participation of the youth.
2. Income of buffer zone communities is increased – This activity contains of two separate actions;
 - a. Establishing one model community based sustainable aquaculture site-
 - b. Establishing one model community based tourism Company
3. Ability of state organizations to monitor the Ramsar site increased – The Range Office of the Department of wildlife Conservation is now established in the site, facilitated by the project and monitoring also increased.

- **Provide the Project's most up-to-date log frame(Annex01).**

4. Impacts of the project:

Positive impacts

- a. Created tourism based livelihood opportunities for 25 youth in Mananr

- b. Protection of environmentally sensitive areas such as Vedithalathivu, Adams bridge, and Madu ensured through gazetteing (Ref; 1920/3 dated 2015.6.22 -and 2016/3/1)
- c. New partnerships and collaborations created to work towards tourism development through agency collaboration
- d. Tourist service support improved via establishment of a tour service providing company consisting of five tour operating groups
- e. Awareness on bird identification of tourists increased with the establishment of bird guiding teams
- f. Youth skills and capacities pertaining to offering support and services to tourists increased.
- g. Frequency of wildlife crime reported increased. Before the project no incidents were reported. However, since the inception of the project, 20 cases were reported and took actions by the Department of Wildlife and Department of Forest Conservation.

Negative impacts

Due to project intervention to arrest illegal environmental activities, Disputes created between the project team and some community members who were involved in such activities.

Activities completed:The activities completed are indicated below and pictures pertaining to the respective project activities are attached as annexed 02

All Planned activities	Any change between planned and Actual activities
1.1. Facilitated the establishment of 5 youth Conservation groups	Activities completed
1.2. Conduct 5 awareness and training program targeting youth	Activities completed
1.3. Conduct 05 youth camps for youth groups along with FOGSL	Activity completed.
1.4. Provide materials and equipment for youth groups to popularize bird watching	All equipment needs are completed.
1.5.Facilitate each group to conduct minimum 04 School programs as follow-up of the training	Activities completed
1.6. Raising awareness of the public through displaying sign boards in Three languages	Activity completed.
1.7.Tourism Development and Management Plan - Mannar District	Activity completed.
2.1. Establishing one model community based sustainable aquaculture site	Activity completed.
2.2 Establishment of Ecotourism as a model to strengthening youth groups and developing livelihoods in the area	Activity completed.

- **Explain if there were any major delays and the reasons for such delays.**

01. Few problems were found when action was taken to implement activities 1.7, 2.2. and 2.3 in the project. It was obvious of the difficulty in obtaining a result by implementing those activities. Hence those activities were delayed and proposals were submitted to amend those activities. In this situation, it is difficult to commence project activities within the stipulated time frame.
02. The project planned to establish the information center as a joint initiative with DWC. A lengthy approval process had to be undergone for the building plan of the information center. Delays occurred due to mobilization delays of contractor .
03. Delay in receiving authority to acquire for camping site from relevant authorities. (Lack of proper documentations, displacement of some of those files during the War torn period)

- **Provide a narrative on the Beneficiaries.**

- a. Community groups/ visitors

- Opportunity to aware on laws and regulations governing on conservation activities in Vankalai area..
- 12 persons received Training on aquaculture activities
- 30 youths received Training on English & Sinhala Language skills to facilitate tourism activities
- 25 youths received basic service provider training on tourism. The training conducted in collaboration with Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority. Training covered areas of first aid, tour guiding, hospitality management etc
- Tourism related income opportunities generated for around 30 personnel through providing boat services, guiding, snorkeling, providing food, toddy tappers.
- Total 8 temporary employment opportunities created through Aquaculture farming.
- Aquaculture
- Tourist Hotel sector in Mannar
- Opportunity for visitors (Local & Foreign) to visit environmental and archeological valuable places in Mannar

- Opportunities for trained guides to work with other NGOs on tourism related activities.

b. Government organizations

- Wildlife Department received permanent office premises together with necessary facilities at Vankalai.
- 2 job opportunities created at the wildlife range office.
- Co-management and community outreach activities improved the reporting and involvement of communities against environmental crimes which benefitted for wildlife officers to undertake their duties more effectively.
- NAQDA received new experience and knowledge on milk fish farming.

c. NGOs

- Opportunities for few I/NGOs to obtain services from trained tour guides for their tourism related activities.
- Could be able to identify the new project opportunities with the interventions of MGF project.

d. Environment.

Reduction of activities that caused environmental damages.

- **Provide a narrative on Implementing Partners and their roles and responsibilities.**

Partners	Roles and responsibilities
3 Fisheries Cooperative Societies (South Bar, Vankalai and Achankulam)	Provide nominations and facilitate for the participation of youth and women of the fishing community in the activities of the project
Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC)	Providing guidance, facilities and coordination required for the protection of sanctuaries

National Aquaculture Development Authority (NAQDA) District office – Mannar	Providing coordination for guidance, necessary approvals and technical guidance to undertake the aquaculture activities
Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DFAR)	
District Fisheries Federation, Mannar (DFF)	
Team of ornithologists	Providing knowledge and training on bird watching for the youth groups in Mannar District
Friends of Heritage	
Mannar District Peoples Association (MDPA)	Ensuring community participation for all project activities
Sri Lanka tourism development authority	Providing training for tour guides
UNDP	Cooperated with the project to enhance the values of the tourism industry with our trained community through interaction. up scaling the standard of the Vankalai Wildlife office and standard of living in accomodation
Sohhbb	Providing training for tour guides

5. Achievement of Objectives and Results (=Outputs)

Objectives	Results/outputs	Outcomes and impacts	Achieved/ not achieved /partially achieved
Management of Vankalai coastal wetland supported through Community driven conservation efforts and alternative livelihoods for its ecosystem	Community-driven conservation mechanism to conserve Vankalai coastal wetland is established and functional	5 youth groups are formally established and functional	Achieved
		A guideline for visitors and tourists is in placed and displayed at the entrances.	Achieved
		Bird guide prepared	Achieved
		Existing data and information on the sanctuary is verified and improved further	Achieved
		Income earned by guiding the visitors and providing equipments	Achieved

dependent communities.		2 employment opportunities will be created by DWC	Achieved
		Tourism Development and Management Plan - Mannar District	Achieved
		Establishing two protected areas in the Mannar district	Achieved
	• Income of buffer zone communities is increased	A sustainable aquaculture model Company	Achieved
		Trade skills for alternative livelihood of 30 youths	Achieved
		33 alternative livelihoods created	Achieved
		Ecotourism as a model Company	Achieved
		Income of ---33-----families increase by----10-----%	Achieved

- **The extent to which the achievement of outputs and objectives have contributed to meeting the overall Goal of the project (long-term effects).**

Objectives	Results/outputs	Outcomes and impacts	Contribution to meeting overall goals of the project
Management of Vankalai coastal wetland supported through Community driven conservation efforts and alternative livelihoods for its ecosystem dependent communities.	Community-driven conservation mechanism to conserve Vankalai coastal wetland is established and functional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 youth groups are formally established and functional • A guideline for visitors and tourists is in placed and displayed at the entrances. • Bird guide prepared • Increase of bird watching events by 15% at the end of the project. • Existing data on the sanctuary is verified and improved further • Monthly report on visitors and their finding (with photos) is prepared and sharing with DWC • Income is earned by guiding the visitors and providing equipments 	<p>Bird watching provides an income for the youth and they keep away from activities that cause damage to the wetland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased tourism related bird watching and other activities were instrumental in reducing environmental crimes. • The activity facilitated law enforcement by respective authorities. • The Department of Wildlife Conservation established a range office in the wetland. A single officer is stationed at present and 2 more officers are being trained and will be engaged in duties after 5 month. • People also increased the observation and reporting of illegal activities where all this

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 employment opportunities will be created by DWC 	provides more opportunities for conservation.
	Income of buffer zone communities is increased	A sustainable Aquaculture model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities that threaten the Vankalai Sanctuary has been minimized by the contribution of aquaculture activities and the support for alternative livelihood of youths in Vankalai. • The activity has become a good model to replicate to generate employment opportunities for community
		A community based tourism Company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The company found to be the first registered tour guide company in Mannar. • The vision of the company is to become the leading travel and tour operator in the region • becoming the most responsible tour coordinator in Northern Province by 2020. • Within five years period the Visitwetland pvt ltd will become the most recognized leading entity in Sri Lanka on the travel trade that contribute for the conservation of ecosystems and cultural values.

Reflect on the logical links between Objective(s), Results and Activities

Objectives	Results/outputs	Activities	Linkage and relevancy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of Vankalai coastal wetland supported through Community driven conservation efforts and alternative livelihoods for its ecosystem dependent communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community-driven conservation mechanism to conserve Vankalai coastal wetland is established and functional 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 youth groups are formally established and functional • A guideline for visitors and tourists is in placed and displayed at prominent places. • Bird guide prepared • Increase of bird watching events by 15% at the end of the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The establishment of bird watching groups is useful as that can reduce the pressure on the wetland by generating income for the youth of the area. • The establishment of the range office of the Department of Wildlife Conservation facilitates law implementation on wildlife crimes with the support of the youth and

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing data on the sanctuary is verified and improved further Monthly report on visitors and their finding (with photos) is prepared and maintained Income earned through guiding the visitors and hiring guiding equipment 2 employment opportunities created by DWC Tourism Development and Management Plan - Mannar District 	<p>community. This also facilitates a connection between the state sector agencies and people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The preparation of conservation plans with the support of the community will further ensure community involvement. Cumulative efforts to develop tourism industry by more partially driven activity. Through strategic plans and actions.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income of buffer zone communities is increased 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A sustainable aquaculture model Ecotourism as a model Company 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase of income of the ecosystem dependent communities will support conservation efforts of wetland by reducing threat to the system. This activity avoids the over exploitation of environmental resources in the area. The minimization of the pressure on the resources will ease the implementation of the conservation actions of the area.

• **Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation results?**

Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation results?	How did the project apply and/or meet
Monitoring	
1. Monthly monitoring team meetings to assess the progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings were held in 30 Nov 15, 28 Dec 15, 25 Jan 16, 22 Feb 16, 29 Mar, 26 Apr, 31 May, 28 Jun, 26 Jul, 30 Aug 2015
2. Number of complains or positive community actions against destructive and illegal anthropogenic activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feb 2016- 4 Records

3. Number of well-functioning youth groups established a. Registration details company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field visit records available - Jan (3), Feb (12) Action is been taken for Registration
4. Income increase monitoring of target groups a. Evaluation reports of house hold income generating activities, b.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The income generation activities are yet to commence. Record keeping books of youth groups
Reporting	
5. Monthly progress of their activities to the project manager from partner organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duly submitted by youth groups
6. Quarterly progress review meetings with the participation of project partners, community representatives and the project manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly progress review meetings were held on 30 Nov 15 and 22 feb 15 for the 1st and 2nd quarters respectively.
7. Quarterly report to the MFF secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The report for the 1st and 2nd quarter is being prepared.
Communications	
1. GMSL being contacted by local contact points in every village and youth group representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth group representatives and community leaders and partners contacting project manager
2. Establishment of billboards and fliers on what is being done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Billboards on Vankalai sanctuary tourism are already fixed.
3. Lessons learnt workshop with all stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be held at the completion of project in -----months after completionof the projectwith the financial contribution of GMSL

How were the project's risks and assumptions managed?

project's risks and assumptions	How to managed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoiding the risk of Bird Watching group becoming inactive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selection of the group from a larger group of individuals Ensuring the participation of the Department of Wildlife Conservation Building the environment to facilitate the Bird Watching Group to conduct tour guiding throughout the entire year. Capacity building of teams through further training and facilitate for building partnership with other organisations who are working tourism

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoiding the risk of a failure of aquaculture group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking action according to the legal framework available to reduce the risk in group activities • Completion of the needs required to reduce the risks in community participation •
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior evaluations on climate changes and impacts to help for themanagement . • Taking enough strategies to mitigate and mange the damages.

How were the project's risks and assumptions managed?

Avoiding the risk of Bird Watching group becoming inactive

- Selection of best individuals from a larger group of individuals
- Department of Wildlife Conservation to lead and owned the activity to continue.
- Facilitating youth groups to involve with tour guiding services in partner with other agencies. other than the bird guiding services.

Avoiding the risk of a failure of aquaculture group

- Taking action according to the legal framework available to reduce the risk in group activities
- Completion of the needs required to reduce the risks in community participation
- Intervention to manage conflicts between community over use of resources.

- **The extent to which the achievement of outputs and objectives have contributed to meeting the overall Goal of the project (long-term effects).**

This project has fulfilled the basic action required to achieve the overall goal of the project. Observing migratory birds is an activity which was limited to local tourists and few foreign tourists only. It is not established as a need of the community of Mannar. At present, based on the need of the tourists, they are taken to places where the birds can be observed, which differ based on the tidal waters during the day and the weather. This facilitates trapping and egg collection of birds too. This is something more than monitoring by a state sector official.

Along with the development of tour guiding service, the Department of Wildlife Conservation commenced a range office in the area. At present a single officer monitors the activities of the department and two more officers. With the development of tourism activities, people engaged in that will be increased and observations will also be increased. Reporting of environmental and wildlife crimes, which were not reported prior to the commencement of the project provides more opportunities for conservation. Hence the project has provided a support for the short-term and long-term conservation of Vankalai sanctuary and other birding places and coral reefs with mangrove ecosystems, forests, etc.

Eg. The camping ground we selected there at Madu has been used as a sand mining place. As we have selected this ground for camping; the land owner has stopped the sand mining process.

However, to ensure this further, community -tourism has to be developed as a tool.

Activities that threaten the Vankalai Sanctuary as a challenge for its conservation can be minimized by the contribution of aquaculture activities and the support for livelihoods. The state of people's development and the ensuring of the subsistence of environmental resources are important for the conservation.

6. Cross-cutting issues:

- **Climate change impacts –**

Aquaculture activities are affected by the changes in tidal water which changes suddenly and unexpectedly due to the change of weather. Receding of tidal waters in unexpected nature can cause more adverse effects for the ponds. Reduced water level during the existing dry weather can cause a rise of temperature in the ponds and pumping of water to the ponds is required to control this situation. During the weakness in receiving tidal water, ammonia level rises in the ponds. Proper monitoring, recording and use of appropriated technology is required to minimize the impacts of whether changes caused due to potential climate change impacts.

The tour guiding activities were affected since coral reefs and other sensitive ecosystems got damaged due to the El-nino effect.

- **Gender equality**

Participation of young women is increasingly high in this activity and many of these women were affected from unemployment. Total 8 _____ number of women guides were trained under the project which is of ratio _____. They tend to engage in jobs in other areas and monthly waged salaries. Many men are engaged primarily in fishing industry and some have migrated out of the area seeking other job opportunities. Behavior and the needs of this labor force should be properly studied prior to the commencement of any project activities with them.



- **Conflict sensitivity**


It is common to observe serious conflicts based on small incidents. Conflicts within the village as well as neighbors are quite common in the community. There is a division within the villages as well as Grama Niladari Divisions. This situation sometimes affects the community development activities differently.

- **Property rights and resource tenure**

Considerably this issue seems to be lesser than in the other districts of the Northern Province. Because the Mannar district comparatively has the lowest populations and lower population growth in the north.

7. Interesting stories


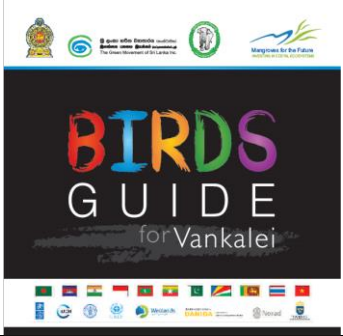
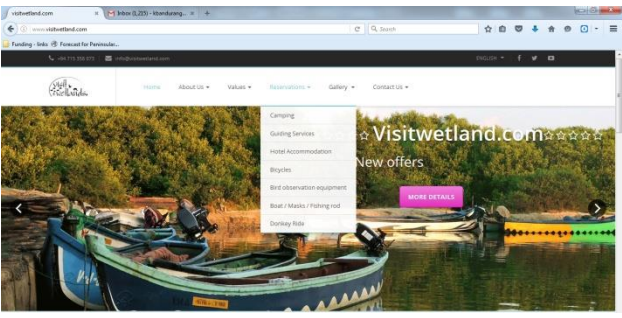
	<p>NishanthanSobana # 160, Periyamadhu West, Periyamadu, Mannar sanantharasha@gmail.com</p> <p>I am a degree holder, who is living in PeriyamaduMannar. This program was very good opportunity for us to develop our skills on tourism. As I am an educated woman I couldn't go for different areas for a job due to our culture, and gender. But this opportunity was a good path to do our job or income generation through the tourism. Under this program we had training programs on tourism and after these programs we received equipments like Boats and life jackets. We used these items for tourists to visit mangroves and the coral reefs in Vedithalathive-Mannar. Per one visit we charged six thousand rupees.</p>
	<p>RohiniNishanthan Bridging Lanka, Mannar nishanthanrohini@gmail.com</p> <p>This was very useful and we were learnt about the tourism well. We got this opportunity and now I am involving for facilitating infractures for the tourists under this program and I am earning money from this. This was a good opportunity to me and my family.</p>

	<p>NirooparajBalachandran District Aquaculture Develop officer - NAQDA nirooparajb@yahoo.com</p> <p>Northern Sea of Sri Lanka is blessed with numerous aquatic resources both in Marine, and freshwater. It has been utilized in the form of capture fisheries for many hundred years by the local and national population, latterly international participation also. Recent environmental changes and unprecedented fluctuation of climatic variations, pouching, and illegal fishing have been questioning the fishing options and the livelihood of fisherman who utilizing the deep sea fishing as their livelihood and income.</p> <p>As Sri Lanka is an island nation, it would be easy to promote aquaculture or culture basis fishery to cater the need in two ways that is income generation and food security of the island.</p> <p>Presently National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka is a legitimated institution that introduced and promoting aquaculture both in coastal and marine.</p>
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	<p>As aquaculture field is too advanced around the world Sri Lanka only in the initiation phase and waiting to hick off for the profitable and lucrative business through aquaculture.</p> <p>Mannar is one the district of Sri Lanka is a territory with different topography and ethnic groups with major engagement in fishery that now in immense threat. It has coastal strip of more than 200km, seven lagoon (area Achchankulan, Vankalai, Vidathatheevu, Illupaikadi, Thevanpitty, Kalliyadi, Pappamoddai) which have much potential for all kind of Aquaculture practices in Mannar</p> <p>After long discussions and pilot research, aquaculture was unanimously proposed by experts and population for their alternative income while protecting nature, diversity.</p> <p>Despite we Sri Lanka do not have much advanced techniques we are practicing successfully with traditional method in few aspects.</p> <p>Shrimp, Sea Cucumber, sea weed, Crab fattening, Milkfish rearing, Sea bass culture, Oyster Culture, All kind of reef fish culture are notability conducted in Sri Lanka now as well as Mannar to Jaffna Coastal belt. It is providing space for poor people to enhance their income and food security and conservation from over exploitation.</p> <p>In the conservation side Artificial propagation of corals, Culture basis protection for endangered species, Protection for bio diversity by specific culture species, biological control method of harmful aquatic organisms</p> <p>At the present stage Sri Lanka specially Northern Sri Lanka need some experts in aquaculture with breeding technologies, financial inputs for small level Eco friendly aquaculture practices which can utilize the idle resources.</p> <p>To initiate and promote sustainable aquaculture that could provide job solutions, income generation and part of Aquatic resources conservation we need have more engagement from investors and funding organizations.</p>
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8. Communications and knowledge products

Please provide a table of Publications, posters, brochures, photos, videos, etc. in the format below:

Description of the Knowledge Product [citation, no. of copies, publisher/producer etc.]	How was this product used?
(a) Billboards	<p>These were used to direct tourists who intend to watch birds to Mannar.</p> <p>Directing the tourists to obtain the service of the team.</p> <p>Community being aware of the wildlife conservation laws and protected areas.</p> 
(b) Bird observation handbook	<p>This handbook is used to prevent difficulties in identification of some of the birds..</p> 
(c) Web Site	<p>http://www.visitwetland.com</p> 

(d) Tour Guide Handbook for Mannar	(1000 copyes)
(e) Tourism Development Plan for Mannar District	

9. Major constraints and challenges

- Although the state sector has directed towards development activities after the end of the war in the area, institutions for conservation action are still being established and not facilitated properly.
- Language issue, the lack of understanding of the legal mandates of respective organizations and malpractices of some of the officials are among the general issues.
- Project activities were affected by the divisions within the community and problems within the village due to social and cultural issues.
- It was obvious that community participation in conservation or any other activity is ensured if there is some economic benefit only.
- Administrative problems existing in some of the state agencies cause difficulties in working with them.
- Unexpected extreme climatic events such as Eln-eno were affected negatively on the project success
- It is still need more external inputs to expand some initiatives as industry.

10. Lessons learnt:

01. It was obvious that community participation in conservation or any other activity is ensured if there is some economic benefit only.
02. Substantially high economic benefits and year round economic activity is required to improve the community participation in conservation activities.
03. People have been realizing that working with NGOs is limited to the project period. The impact of this could be managed by demonstrating the negative impact in working with legally binding agreements and receiving other supports etc. Activities of the state sector agencies were not up to the required level and political interferences to their activities were visible.
04. It was created a great opportunity for NAQDA to gain vast range of experiences in Mannar district on aquaculture development of the area.

11. Policy recommendations, if any.

Mannardistrict contains many environmentally significant locations and Vankalai wetland is such a small area when compared. These include canal systems, riparian forests, forests associated with tanks, mangroves, lagoons, sea grasses and few coral reefs. It is required to prepare management plans and law enforcement for the conservation of these areas. In addition, a proper plan is required for ecotourism activities.

12. Sustainability

- **Provide an Exit Strategy for the Project, which should contain a statement on continuation of the project after the grant ends;**
 - I. Relevant institutes registered legally and agreements are established
 - II. Green Movement is to continue its participation with the registered institutes continue the activities in profitable manner
 - III. Providing opportunities to obtain financial benefits and other profits
 - IV. Representation and engagement of government agencies for technical assistance, monitoring and guidance
 - V. Promote partnership with local and international NGOs who are working in related sectors such as tourism etc.

Project contribution for sustainability of tourism activities

- I. It has been developed basic infrastructure facilities to develop tourism in the area
- II. Capacity building and strengthening of local organizations
- III. Formation of community group of 25 members for service providing for the sector
- IV. Established linkages with relevant government agencies specially with Tourism Development Authority

- V. Facilitate local organization to be registered under tourism authority.
- VI. Signed an agreement with Solimar Intonation
- VII. Conduct a camp management feasibility study along with Walkers Tours
- VIII. It has been planned to conduct a camping festival in the area.

Pond Culture

- I. Income from crab rearing were higher than the others
 - II. Rearing period of crab were comparatively low
- **Replication of successes from the Project including potential replications;**
Expansion of the experiences gathered during the development of tourism activities is an important aspect. There is a considerable prospect of expanding tourism opportunities. In addition there is a possibility of expanding other livelihood activities. However the opinion based on our experience is that any expansion should not be taken place without ensuring the protection of the conserved areas. All opportunities should be replicated with an understanding of the carrying capacity.
 - **Identify leaders and champions from the stakeholders who are likely to continue the work of the project;**
Community -tourism Service Providers team and Aquaculture group show that they are willing to continue the activities. However future monitoring and guidance are required for its continuation.
 - **Are the Beneficiaries and Implementing Partners likely to continue with project activities?**
State agencies who are partners of the project requires to take the community - tourism and aquaculture as models for the conservation and development needs. It is expected that state agencies will look at this in a positive attitude and contribution. It also seems that other non-government bodies are also interested in continuing this activity. Department of Wildlife agreed to provide balance funding to complete the information centre and manage the same. UNDP get the services of tour guides to promote tourism in Mannar.

13. Financial report - Annex3