



MEMBER OF
BASQUE RESEARCH
& TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE

T. +34 94 657 40 00
info@azti.es | www.azti.es

Txatxarramendi Irla, sin número,
Sukarrieta - BIZKAIA (Spain)

Fundación AZTI - AZTI Fundazioa
C.I.F. G-48.939.508

Bilbao, 06 June 2022

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT – APRIL REPORT

To Echebaster Sustainability Working Group,

Both parties agreed below chronogram to carried out the Tasks described in the project entitled “Study of the interaction of derelict FADs on coral communities in the Indian Ocean”. The work corresponding to Phase 1 and Phase 2:

PHASE 1.

Task 1 “Analysis of the dynamics of dFADs, especially those that are lost and may become derelict, and their potential interaction on coral communities in the IO” has initiated in June 2021.

- AZTI has analysed Echebaster buoy data corresponding to years 2016-2020 in order to research on dFAD drift to understand the dynamics with identification of possible beaching location by region.
- Buoy data has been analysed to develop a risk matrix assessment based on Productivity Susceptibility Analysis (PSA) approach to identify the areas/regions affected by beaching of dFADs.
- Searching of available maps of coral location in the IO using generalized grid data set at 500 m resolution as developed by the World Resources Institute is being conducted.
- A review of available information on the structure of reefs and species composition in the potentially main affected regions is in progress.

Task 2 “Analysis of the potential impact of derelict dFADs on coral communities in the context of other risks” has initiated in July 2021.

- A review of available information to identify and describe other risk factors (e.g., climate change, pollution, marine debris, impacts of anchoring from recreational and fishing vessels) that may reduce the structure and function of the coral reefs to a point where there would be serious or irreversible harm has been conducted.





MEMBER OF
BASQUE RESEARCH
& TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE

Task 3 “Review of the current understanding of the risk to coral communities from interaction with derelict dFADs” has initiated in September 2021.

- Preliminary review of available information to identify the potential risk to corals from derelict dFADs and identify factors that could be extrapolated or linked to dFAD generated impacts is in progress.

Task 4 “Identification and analysis of measures to reduce the potential impacts on coral communities from derelict dFADs” has initiated in October 2021.

- Internal survey with key experts from different fields (fishery, environment, management, etc.) to identify measures to reduce the potential impacts on coral communities from derelict dFADs” has been conducted.

Task 5 “Review of IOTC policy and Stakeholder Views on the recovery of lost / derelict dFADs” will initiate in December 2021.

- External survey with key experts from different fields (fishery, environment, management, etc.) to identify measures to reduce the potential impacts on coral communities from derelict dFADs” has been conducted.
- A review of available information to identify IOTC policy and Stakeholder view on the recovery of lost / derelict dFADs is in progress.

PHASE 2.

All the necessary permissions from pertinent institutions have been obtained to carry out this second phase:

- A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Echebistar, Save Our Seas Foundation (SOSF) and AZTI to carry out the field work in the D’Arros and St Joseph Islands.
- Approval was obtained from Seychelles Bureau of Standards (SBS) to carry out the study.
- SIOTI’s participation in the project was consolidated.
- Beached FADs searching around islands was conducted with 15 potential beached FADs locations identified with data provided by ANABAC, CFTO and SAPMER fleets.
- Finally, 4 beached FADs were found around D’Arros and St Joseph Island.
- All logistical planning regarding fieldwork and necessary permits/paperwork was carried out by AZTI, Echebistar and SOSF.

