The coral reef marine biodiversity survey of project sites was carried out by a team of four divers from 5th to 15th March. It was designed to provide a baseline of reef health and diversity prior to OSOL conservation and management interventions and built on initial pilot surveys on fish in February 2014. Survey sites were selected in fishing grounds associated with the project villages where fishery catch data are being collected by OSOL but also included some additional sites that may serve as controls. Logistics were extremely challenging with the need for a compressor, tanks and accommodation in remote locations. This was compounded by a severe case of conjunctivitis with no access to medication for 6 days which afflicted both Melita and David. A total of 22 dive sites were surveyed with a full complement of data collected from 20 of these and coral and reef resilience data but no fish collected from the other 2 sites. Report upcoming.

The first advisory group meeting was held on 9th March 2015 in Pemba with the EU, FFI, ADNAP, IDPPE, IIP, AMA, Bioclimate and ZSL. This conception meeting introduced the project and the idea of sustainable financing of fisheries co-management. The foreseen role of the advisory group for Our Sea Our Life is to provide advice on the formation of an appropriate support mechanism and associated governance arrangements for channelling resources and support to coastal communities to improve fisheries co-management in Cabo Delgado. The remit of the advisory group was accepted by members, and will be further refined in subsequent meetings. Report available on demand. Second meeting to be held in July/August.

The February 2015 exchange visit in Madagascar was a wonderful opportunity for the OSOL project participants to learn key lessons about the process leading to fishery co-management and anticipate the upcoming challenges. A video has been published about the trip and is available on demand. This tool has been made to share the experience in the project villages and raise debates on how to manage marine resources.

A pilot Participatory Threat Assessment (PTA) on marine resources was conducted in the project communities late May. This is the first step of a process that will lead to the co-management plan of the LMMAs by the end of 2015. We surveyed 12 focus groups in Quifuve (thanks to the new project boat!), Quirinde, Quiwie and Malinde. Threats are fairly common to all the villages: migrant populations, fishing at all tides several times a day, bad fishing technics (breaking stones, use of mosquito nets, etc.) and increasing population. The PTA will be completed by late June and the report written by mid-July.

The OSOL project has applied to the special call of proposals of the Fondation Ensemble “Sustainable management of artisanal fisheries along the coast of Mozambique”. If successful, the fund will work as match funding to the existing OSOL project, expand the actual “GPAF” project led by Bioclimate to 6/7 months and include a new component mainly led by Blue Ventures. The resource user groups will be invited to record catch monitoring data through a mobile participatory fisheries catch reporting system (open access software, via the android platform on smartphone or tablet app). Decision to be made by Fondation Ensemble late June.