

DPLR1\1049

Darwin Plus Local - Final Report (1)

Officer: Linzi Ogden

Section 1 - Darwin Plus Local Project Information (Essential)

Project Reference Number

DPLR1\1049

Q1. Project Title

No Response

Overseas Territory(ies)

Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia (on Cyprus)

Lead Organisation or Individual

Enalia Physis Environmental Research Centre

Partner Organisation(s)

UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, and Joint Services Health Unit Cyprus, Sovereign Base Areas in Cyprus

Value of Darwin Plus Local Grant Award

£49,909.08

Project Start Date

01 May 2023

Project End Date

31 March 2024

Project Leader Name

Ioanna Angelidou

Project Website/Twitter/Blog etc.

<https://martinoulab.weebly.com/raising-awareness-about-arthropods.html>

Report Author(s)

Report Date

19 April 2024

Project Summary

No Response

Project Outcomes

Checked	Biodiversity: improving and conserving biodiversity, and slowing or reversing biodiversity loss and degradation;
Unchecked	Climate Change: responding to, mitigating and adapting to climate change and its effects on the natural environment and local communities;
Checked	Environmental quality: improving the condition and protection of the natural environment;
Checked	Capability and capacity building: enhancing the capacity within OTs, including through community engagement and awareness, to support the environment in the short- and long-term.

Section 2 - Project Outcomes (Essential)

On a scale of 1 (high – outcome substantially exceeded) to 5 (low – outcome substantially did not meet expectation), how successful do you think your project has been?

1 - Outcome substantially exceeded

Project outcomes and justification for rating above

Throughout this project we had the opportunity to meet and collaborate with stakeholders with different backgrounds (insect experts, naturalists, botanists, computer scientists, publishers, decision-makers, etc.) from Cyprus, SBAs and abroad. In addition, we promoted our work, and we started new collaborations that led in new projects (e.g. DPL00081, bird and bat monitoring projects). From our visits at schools, participation in conferences and dissemination events, we influenced and raised awareness regarding invertebrate taxa.

- Informational materials were designed and printed by the Field Study Council; they can be found printed at Akrotiri Environmental Education Centre (AEEC) or online in our site, in Greek and in English.
- Promotional materials were designed and printed by local companies to raise awareness regarding the project. All promotional materials were given to the participants at the events that were organised.
- A video that aims to raise awareness on mosquitoes (native and invasive species) and how to protect ourselves, was created in collaboration with Mr Josephides (DPLUS197). Story written by Dr Angeliki F Martinou.
- School visits: 1. Asomatos primary school (3/11/2024) - presentation on "Insects and other arthropods of the cities" and promotion of the video created. Students and teachers showed great enthusiasm, and we agreed to

continue our collaboration in the future with more presentations and interactive activities on biodiversity, with emphasis on arthropods. Mr Josephides (creator of the video) gained the opportunity to collaborate with the primary school of Asomatos to make a video on "Internet security". 2. Akrotiri primary school (19/2/2024) – "Raise awareness regarding mosquitoes and how to protect ourselves and others", and promotion of the informative leaflets produced.

- Participation in conferences in Greece (Athens, Patra) and in Portugal. – There was interest from schoolteachers in Greece to collaborate and do activities that aim to raise awareness among students on insect biodiversity, ecosystem services and their protection from human activities.
- Dissemination events were organised at the Akrotiri, in collaboration with the AEEC (i.e. workshop on the "Biodiversity studies at the Akrotiri Peninsula and beyond" (30/3/23), BioBlitz (25-28/4/23)).
- 4/2/24. Participation at the "World Wetlands Day" event organised by the AEEC.
- 13-14 February 2024. A two-day workshop on "MONITORING BIODIVERSITY AND ZOOSES – THE ONEHEALTH APPROACH". Experts from Cyprus and abroad (Greece, Spain, England, Czech Republic) but also stakeholders from competent authorities of the Republic of Cyprus and the SBAs participated. The workshop looked at the monitoring programmes for 'Biodiversity' including terrestrial and freshwater organisms of Akrotiri. A publication of a scientific article based on the discussion of the workshop is in preparation.
- 23/3/24. Participation in the "Life in the Dark-Earth Hour" events organised by AEEC and Ms Springate (DPL00056) - Raising awareness on moths, using moth traps.

The success of the project is measured by the overall public outreach, that received through the participation of citizens in dissemination events; all participants enriched their knowledge of the conservation of invertebrates, biological invasions, etc., and they are happy to participate in more actions in the future.

Supporting Evidence - file(s) upload

I had a valuable learning experience through this grant, especially as it marked my first time leading a project. My main challenge was to deal with fluctuations in the prices of equipment and consumables which was stressful in some instances as it affected the overall management of the project. However, it was an opportunity for me to grow and develop in the sector of financial management. More specifically, I had to adapt and rethink the project's needs in response to these fluctuations, and to demonstrate resourcefulness and flexibility. I made some changes on the timeline I proposed at the outset. I tried to cover first the main expenses, such as those for the design, preparation and printing of the informative leaflets, the promotional materials, the expenses for our participation and organisation of conferences, workshops, and dissemination events, and the overhead. Then, I covered other operating costs, such as insect traps and other necessary lab and field consumables, for which I contacted various companies, most of them in Cyprus, to obtain offers, and I conducted negotiations to ensure the best value within the available budget. I also tried to stay in the budget line.

I believe that this experience has honed my skills in financial management, including budget revision and resource optimization. In addition, this experience helped me to improve my communicating skills and the ability to make sound judgements under pressure. So, despite managing the financial of the fellowship challenging, it has ultimately contributed to my personal and professional development.

Lessons Learned

No serious problems were encountered during the project. The success of our project heavily relied on the collaborative efforts of all participants who shared ideas, experiences, and knowledge, but also, on the existing knowledge and experience build from the other Darwin Plus projects implemented by the JSHU (British Forces Cyprus) and Enalia Physis Environmental Research Centre.

Our teamwork fostered a harmonious working environment and facilitated the completion of project deliverables; all outcomes, including informational leaflets, promotional materials, and the video (not in the original outcomes) were completed on time.

In addition, all the project team actively engaged in various dissemination activities, including conferences, workshops, and school visits, to raise public awareness and promote our study and work. These efforts led to new collaborations with experts from different backgrounds and primary schools in Cyprus and Greece, demonstrating the project's positive impact and outreach.

The only challenge we faced was on the budget management, although we were able to overcome this and successfully complete the project. Thus, I recommend others that are doing similar projects, to conduct thorough planning and risk assessment, especially regarding budgetary considerations, is invaluable advice for ensuring project success, as I will also do for my next project.

Section 3 - Project Finance (Essential)

Project Expenditure

Project Spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2023/24 Grant (£)	2023/24 Total actual Darwin Plus Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff Costs				
Consultancy Costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and Subsistence				

Operating Costs			
Capital Items			
Others			
Total	49,909.08	49,909.08	0

Please provide a short narrative summary on project finances.

- Travel and subsistence: We covered travel expenses (airplane tickets, taxi, rental cars, parking), accommodation and daily expenses for international experts, coffee breaks and some meals for the local stakeholders who participated also at the workshop.
- Operating Costs:
 - a) Insect traps – We purchased all the traps and the consumables we referred to in our proposal except for the mosquito magnet traps, which was purchased by another funding source. Instead of that we bought a malaise trap, a 3D printer, and filaments (for producing material that we can use during raising awareness events on biodiversity), a camera (for taking photos of insects, plants, etc. that will be used for future projects and presentations, and to upgrade our website and Facebook page, to attract more visitors/citizen scientists). With the rest of the money, we purchased field and lab consumables (i.e. forces, nets, bug pots, etc.) and two USB digital microscopes, that we will use in the future dissemination events during our visits at schools.
 - b) Informative leaflets and mini guides – We designed 3 informative leaflets and 3 mini guides that printed in both Greek and English. Instead of the identification key for the mosquitoes of Cyprus, we developed a video on invasive alien mosquito species and how to protect ourselves.
 - c) Promotional material – The money spent on promotional materials and symbolic gifts given to the participants of the workshops we organised.
 - d) Participation in conferences – Travel expenses, accommodation, daily expenses, conferences registration, printed posters.

Section 4 - Contribution of Project to Darwin Plus Programme Objectives

Please select up to **one** indicator that applies within **each group/indicator list (A, B, C, D)** and report your results for that indicator in the text box underneath. If you do not have relevant results to report for any of the indicators in a particular group, you can leave them blank.

Please also submit some form of evidence (above) to demonstrate any results you list below, where possible.

Group A: Capability and Capacity - Core Darwin Plus Standard Indicators (select one)

Checked **DPLUS-A01: Number of people from key national and local stakeholder groups completing structured and relevant training.**

Unchecked	DPLUS-A02: Number of secondments or placements completed by individuals of key local and national stakeholders.
Unchecked	DPLUS-A03: Number of local/national organisations with improved capability and capacity as a result of project.
Unchecked	DPLUS-A04: Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training.
Unchecked	DPLUS-A05: Number of trainers trained reporting to have delivered further training by the end of the project.

Group A Indicator Results

67 people participated at the workshop of One Health monitoring biodiversity and zoonoses. Indicatively members from several government departments from Cyprus, NGOs, University and Research Centres (i.e. Game and Fauna Service, Water Development Department, University of Cyprus, Birdlife, etc). Training was provided during the workshops to all the participants.

Group B: Policies, Practices and Management- Core Darwin Plus Standard Indicators (select one)

Unchecked	DPLUS-B01: Number of new/improved habitat management plans available and endorsed.
Unchecked	DPLUS-B02: Number of new/improved species management plans available and endorsed.
Unchecked	DPLUS-B03: Number of new/improved community management plans available and endorsed.
Unchecked	DPLUS-B04: Number of new/improved sustainable enterprises/ community benefits management plans available and endorsed.
Unchecked	DPLUS-B05: Number of people with increased participation in local communities / local management organisations (i.e., participation in Governance/citizen engagement).
Unchecked	DPLUS-B06: Number of Local Stakeholders and Local Communities (people) with strengthened (recognised/clarified) tenure and/or rights.

Group B Indicator Results

N/A

Group C: Evidence and Best Practices - Core Darwin Plus Standard Indicators (select one)

Unchecked **DPLUS-C01: Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed.**

Unchecked **DPLUS-C02: Number of new conservation or species stock assessments published.**

Unchecked **DPLUS-C03: New assessments of habitat conservation action needs published.**

Unchecked **DPLUS-C04: New assessments of community use of biodiversity resources published.**

Unchecked **DPLUS-C05: Number of projects contributing data, insights, and case studies to national Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) related reporting processes and calls for evidence.**

Group C Indicator Results

N/A

Group D: Sustainable Benefits to People, Biodiversity and Climate - Core Darwin Plus Standard Indicators (select one)

Unchecked **DPLUS-D01 Hectares of habitat under sustainable management practices.**

Unchecked **DPLUS-D02: Number of people whose disaster/climate resilience has been improved.**

Unchecked **DPLUS-D03: Number of policies with biodiversity provisions that have been enacted or amended.**

Group D Indicator Results

N/A

Section 5 - Project Partnerships, Wider Impacts and Contributions

Project Partnerships

International (from UKCEH & University of Exeter, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, The Doñana Biological Station (EBD- CSIC), Ionian University, University South Bohemia, and ELGO Dimitra), local experts, decision-makers, members from several government departments from Cyprus, NGOs, University and Research Centres (i.e. Game and Fauna Service, Water Development Department, Veterinary Services, University of Cyprus, Frederick University, The Cyprus Institute, Birdlife, etc.), and early career researchers participated at the workshop of One Health monitoring biodiversity and zoonoses, where we discussed about monitoring projects in the RAMSAR area of Akrotiri, and novel monitoring technologies that could be adapted at this protected area. All participants developed new skills and exchanged knowledge during the workshop. Some of the archives we gain from this workshop are new collaborations with experts from Cyprus and abroad; bird and bat monitoring projects are planned. In addition, a publication of a scientific article based on the discussion, highlighting the need of the use of new technologies on monitoring, and suggest the most suitable per taxon, for the area of Akrotiri, is in preparation.

Wider Impacts and Decision Making

N/A

Sustainability and Legacy

All informational materials (printed) prepared through this project are available at the AEEC and will be given to all visitors of the centre (tourists, locals, school children), but also in future dissemination events and schools visits; they are also available online. Information materials will be also used as the base for the new Darwin Plus Local project (DPL00081) by Mrs Apostolidou.

All project staff are Darwin Plus Fellows, while Mrs Angelidou with Dr Kelly Martinou and Prof. Helen Roy are also participated at the new Darwin Plus Local Fellowship (DPL00081).

All resources will be used for future activities, dissemination and raise awareness events organising by the fellows, Enalia Physis Environmental Research Centre, Joint Services Health Unit Cyprus, and the Darwin Fellows. The new collaborations gained through this project are very beneficial for all team members, as future monitoring projects, but also for raising awareness at several schools in Cyprus and in Greece, are planned.

Finally, the publication of a scientific article based on the discussion of the workshop is in preparation; this will be published in an open access scientific journal.

Section 6 - Communications & Publicity

Exceptional Outcomes and Achievements

We are very happy to share all the informational materials and the video on mosquitoes (native and invasive species) created in collaboration with Mr Josephides (DPLUS197).


Please find all the informational materials in English:


- The Three Mosquiteers learn about Aedes invasive mosquitoes (mini-guide).
- The Three Mosquiteers learn about Ticks
- Alien insects as hitchhikers on ornamental plants
- Invasive alien insects of Cyprus (mini-guide)
- Pollinators of Akrotiri Peninsula and their host plants
- Mini-guide for the flagship species of Akrotiri

And the video on invasive alien mosquito species and how to protect ourselves.


Photo, video or graphic to be used for publicity and communications.


Please upload at least one relevant and engaging image, video or graphic that you consent to be used alongside the above text in Defra, JNCC or NIRAS communications material.


 [DPLR1049-Pollinators](#)


 20/04/2024


 10:42:32


 png 1.61 MB


 [DPLR1049-Ticks](#)


 20/04/2024


 10:42:32


 jpg 209.29 KB


 [DPLR1049-Alien-species](#)


 20/04/2024


 10:42:32

 jpg 256.64 KB


 [DPLR1049-Alien-species2](#)


 20/04/2024


 10:42:32


 png 255.16 KB


 [DPLR1049-Flagship-Species](#)


 20/04/2024

 10:42:32

 jpg 142.82 KB

 [DPLR1049-Workshop11](#)

 20/04/2024

 10:42:32

 jpg 303.38 KB

Photo, video, and/or graphic captions and credits.

Please use the informational material and the educational video produced through this project. Unfortunately, I cannot upload them in the system but I can sent them via WeTransfer or find them here:
<https://martinoulab.weebly.com/raising-awareness-about-arthropods.html>

Short description:

Despite their great abundance, invertebrates are largely neglected in conservation practices and perceived as pests by the public. Considering the global pollination crisis and insect loss, the threat of biological invasions, and the role of invertebrates as vector of pathogens and diseases, this project aimed to raise public awareness about invertebrate taxa as key organisms in various ecosystem functions and ecosystem services provision, while it highlights the anthropogenic threats they face and provided practical solutions to conserve beneficial taxa at the UK Sovereign Base Areas and Cyprus.

Find all the informational materials and the educational video produced through this project here:
<https://martinoulab.weebly.com/raising-awareness-about-arthropods.html>

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds Secretariat, Administrator, and/or JNCC to publish the content of this section.

Yes, I agree for the BCFs Secretariat and/or JNCC to publish the content of this section.

Please list any accounts that you would like tagged in online posts here. This can include project pages, partners' pages or individuals' accounts for any of the following platforms: LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram.

@martinoulab (Twitter)

The Tree Mosquiteers (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/thethreemosquiteers>) and or The Pollinators

Monitoring Scheme of Κύπρος (PoMS-Κύ) - Επικοινωνία (Facebook)

(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/215883836961593>; Facebook)

Enalia Physis Environmental Research Centre (LinkedIn)

Enalia Physis Environmental Research Center (Facebook)

Enaliaphysis (Instagram)

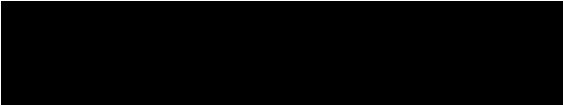
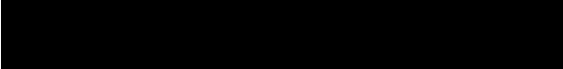
Enalia Physis ERC (Twitter)

Section 7 - Darwin Plus Contacts

Please tick here to confirm that you have read and acknowledge the BCF's Privacy Notice on how contact details will be used and stored and that you have sought agreement from anyone that you are sharing personal details with us on their behalf.

I confirm I have read the Privacy Notice and have consent to share the following contact details

Project Contact Details

Project Contact Name	Ioanna Angelidou, Angeliki (Kelly) Martinou
Role within Darwin Plus Project	Project manager, co-manager
Email	
Phone	
Do you need further sections to provide additional contact details?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
