

DPLR1\1039 Project DPL00015

Darwin Plus Local - Final Report (1)

Officer: Jessica Magnus

Section 1 - Darwin Plus Local Project Information (Essential)

Project Reference Number

DPL00015

Q1. Project Title

South Caicos Reef Restoration Vessel

Overseas Territory(ies)

Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI)

Lead Organisation or Individual

The School for Field Studies

Partner Organisation(s)

No Partners

Value of Darwin Plus Local Grant Award

£50,000.00

Project Start Date

01 April 2023

Project End Date

31 March 2024

Project Leader Name

Heidi Hertler

Project Website/Twitter/Blog etc.

No Response

Report Author(s)

Report Date

27 March 2024

Project Summary

No Response

Project Outcomes

Unchecked	Biodiversity: improving and conserving biodiversity, and slowing or reversing biodiversity loss and degradation;
Checked	Climate Change: responding to, mitigating and adapting to climate change and its effects on the natural environment and local communities;
Unchecked	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?


2 - Outcome moderately exceeded


Project outcomes and justification for rating above


initially thought this was the addition of a skiff (flat bottom boat), similar to our current vessels. The vessel we identified and purchased exceeded our expectations. The purchased Privateer (RV Middleton) has a flat bottom (shallow water access) but also a forward V-hull (smoother boating in rougher waters). We purchased the boat without engines, we then purchased 2 115 hp Yamaha engines separately (4 stroke, more environmentally friendly). We also added seating (for safer transport of community members of varying ages), two ladders for better access in and out of the water, all safety equipment to meet US and TCI standards (lifejackets, extinguishers, signalling equipment) and rewired the boat to include solar charging of the house batteries. Our timeline was delayed due to difficulties identifying a boat and getting it rigged – for this reason we rated our success a “2 – Outcomes moderately exceeded”. In Fall 2023 we completed a Sea Day (100 community participants) focusing on coral reefs and took younger community members into the field on a regular basis (Saturdays) but using our existing vessels. The RV Middleton was launched in early March and has not yet entertained community groups. We anticipate a much more extensive use in late spring and moving forward.


Supporting Evidence - file(s) upload


 [DARWIN SFS Expenses](#)


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 [Boat Sailing 3](#)


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 [Boat Sailing 1](#)


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 [Boat Sailing 2](#)


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 [New Wiring](#)


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 [Boat at Purchase 2](#)


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 [Boat at Purchase 1](#)


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 [Boat at Launch 1](#)


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 [Boat at Launch 2](#)

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Supporting Evidence - links to published document/online materials

Photos attached:

- Boat at Purchase (2 Photos) – Boat purchased without engines and wires everywhere. No engines.
- Boat at Launched (2 Photos) – New bottom paint and some fiberglass repair work, all new safety Equipment to meet US and TCI regulations
- New Wiring (1 Photo) – New navigational lights, radio, and safety lighting (spot light and deck light). House batteries charged by solar
- Boat Sailing (3 Photos) - Boat launched and operating near South Caicos, TCI
- Expenses

Project Challenges

Identifying a boat that would serve our needs in the Turks and Caicos islands turned out to be more challenging than anticipated. This was a surprise considering the number of boats in the TCI. We anticipated having to travel to Providenciales to identify and purchase the boat. Most boats did not fit our requirements – either designed for cruising and recreation or fishing. Once we did identify the boat (surprisingly on South Caicos), there was plenty of work to be done. We worked closely with our local fishermen to mount and install engines. South Caicos has one mechanic and some assistants, whose primary livelihood is fishing. Coordinating support to mount and wire the new engines proved challenging.

Lessons Learned

We had hoped to purchase a boat that was turnkey. Early on we determined this was not going to be possible. We focused our efforts on purchasing in Providenciales. Without success, we even looked to the US. We finally identified a boat on South Caicos. Purchasing a boat and hull separate proved to be our only option. Our community (fishermen) and staff were able to work together to prepare this vessel that will function exactly how we need it. Recommendation to others... Approach the project open minded, look to your community for support, keep communications open. While we prepared the boat for launching, we were able to discuss and gain support for the coral restoration project and gain insight into local user groups perception of the reefs, fishing industry, and what could be done to support them and then environment.

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	50,000.00	49,387.00	1%	

Please provide a short narrative summary on project finances.

We used a 1 £ = 1.25 US Dollar conversion.

Travel to Providenciales – SFS made several trips to Providenciales which included looking at used boats for sale. These trips were combined with SFS administrative trips and not billed to grant. In early October we identified a vessel on South Caicos for purchase. On Oct 20 - 25, Center Director and Marine Operations Coordinator travel to Providenciales to collect information on rigging the new engines (Yamaha dealer) and preparing the vessel (shipyards and marinas visited) as well as purchasing locally necessary equipment. South to Provo 128 return on local ferry; hotel in Provo - 1498; vehicle while in Providenciales – 395 (Cost split with SFS admin).

Capital items – Boat (20000); 2 – Yamaha 115 ph engines and rigging (18439); shipping engines from the US (1060) and Customs (Exempt from duty, 759); two benches made and ladders secured (3120). The vessel was purchased in the TCI but the engines were imported from the US, we were able to get an education discount. Importing for educational purposes were able to apply of duty exemption.

Also purchased batteries (416), bottom paint (564), and battery boxes (61), rigging and safety equipment (1147). This was initially included in Capital Items

Because the boat was not purchased turnkey, we hired local contractors to complete some fiberglass repairs (600) and support the mounting and installation of the new engines (1200). These funds were initially included in the Capital Items.

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)

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Unchecked | 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. |
| Checked | 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

The addition of this vessel to the SFS fleet increases our capacity to engage community members in coral restoration. Five to ten local community elementary aged children visit the reefs each week during SFS program time (10 weeks per year). They engage in benthic and fish assessment.

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.
Checked	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

SFS can now further engage community members. We have not yet but hope to engage adult community members in our reef restoration project through site visits.

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

None applicable

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

None applicable

Section 5 - Project Partnerships, Wider Impacts and Contributions

Project Partnerships

No formal partners as part of this project.

Wider Impacts and Decision Making

Not applicable

Sustainability and Legacy

We anticipate the vessel and engine will be in use for a minimum of 10 and 5 years, respectively.

Section 6 - Communications & Publicity

Exceptional Outcomes and Achievements

Not at this time. We will forward photos and tag the Darwin project in all social media post.

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.

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[Boat Sailing_1](#)
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 jpg 137.35 KB

[Boat Sailing_3](#)
 27/03/2024
 14:55:54
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Photo, video, and/or graphic captions and credits.

Photos attached:

Boat Sailing (3 Photos) - Boat launched and operating near South Caicos, Turks and Caicos Islands

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.

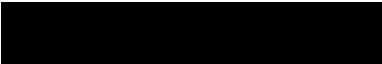

#the_SFS_TCI
#SFS_SCCRC
#SFS

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	Heidi Hertler
Role within Darwin Plus Project	Principal Investigator
Email	
Phone	
Do you need further sections to provide additional contact details?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
