

# DPLR4\1051

Darwin Plus Local - Final Report (1)

Officer: Linzi Ogden

## Section 1 - Darwin Plus Local Project Information (Essential)

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### Project Reference Number

DPL00120

### Q1. Project Title

*No Response*

### Overseas Territory(ies)

Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI)

### Lead Organisation or Individual

Department of Environment & Coastal Resources

### Partner Organisation(s)

Edward C. Gartland Youth Center

### Value of Darwin Plus Local Grant Award

£45,000.00

### Project Start Date

01 October 2024

### Project End Date

31 May 2025

### Project Leader Name

Amy Avenant

### Project Website/Twitter/Blog etc.

<https://www.instagram.com/decrctci/>

### Report Author(s)

## Report Date

29 April 2025

## Project Summary

*No Response*

## Project Outcomes

Checked	<b>Biodiversity: improving and conserving biodiversity, and slowing or reversing biodiversity loss and degradation;</b>
Unchecked	<b>Climate Change: responding to, mitigating and adapting to climate change and its effects on the natural environment and local communities;</b>
Checked	<b>Environmental quality: improving the condition and protection of the natural environment;</b>
Checked	<b>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.</b>

## 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?

4 - Outcome moderately did not meet expectation

### Project outcomes and justification for rating above

The project involves upgrade works and the installation of environmentally inspired art sculptures at the Botanical Garden, Lower Bight, Providenciales. The project, as proposed, was dependent on the mentoring, cooperation and support of the Social Environmental Awareness (SEA) Club Coordinator/Teacher at the Clement Howell High School. Unfortunately, the Department did not have the support and collaboration from the individual as was promised and discussed when the proposal was submitted. Furthermore, the SEA Coordinator/Teacher requested compensation for time that he expected to put into the project. Moreover, the costing for the installation of the sculptures provided by the SEA Coordinator/Teacher and a local Contractor exceeded the project's budget. These issues significantly impacted the implementation and success of the project. Therefore, DECR believe it was best to run the project ourselves, while working with the young people that attend the Edward C. Gartland Youth Centre. A change request was submitted and approved. Although the pivot in project scope did not meet the project's initial vision - the change has still ensured a successful project, outreach and capacity building with the youth. Perhaps not on the scale that was hoped for. Due to the initial delay be the original partner, the project has been severely delayed with works only to wrap up completely by

the end of May 2025.

The project however, has included capacity building workshops with students at the youth center under the guidance of a local artist, who is also assisting with building the large sculptures that will be installed at the botanical gardens. Essentially achieving the ultimate goal of celebrating biodiversity through art, by bringing unique attention to environmental issues by placing the sculptures in the publicly accessed botanical garden.

## Supporting Evidence - file(s) upload

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 [Turtle Sculpture2](#)

 29/04/2025

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 [Turtle Sculpture made from salvaged metal](#)

 29/04/2025

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 [Taping sculpture](#)

 29/04/2025

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 [Filling sculpture with collected waste](#)

 29/04/2025

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 jpg 4.29 MB

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 [Jewel of the Sea](#)

 29/04/2025

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 [Jewel of the Sea2](#)

 29/04/2025

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 jpg 503.73 KB

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 [Decorating plastered sculpture](#)

 29/04/2025

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## Supporting Evidence - links to published document/online materials

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DJAVz24S32J/>

## Project Challenges

When the proposal was drafted it was done so in collaboration with the S.E.A. Coordinator from Clement Howell High School. Personal compensation was not agreed to, as facilitating of extracurricular activities fall within the job-descriptions of TCI Government-employed educators. Demands for compensation were made by the SEA Coordinator/Teacher after approval of the project was received from Darwin. Moreover, the costing for the installation of the sculptures provided by the SEA Coordinator/Teacher and a local Contractor exceeds the project's budget.

The Department met with and discussed the concerns with the SEA Coordinator/Teacher in the hopes that he would understand the terms of the proposal when it was submitted, but unfortunately we were not able to reach an understanding.

The DECR's Outreach Coordinator, Ms. Amy Avenant, instead worked directly with students from the Edward C. Gartland Youth Center instead of specifically with one school. With the assistance from a locally-based artist and students from the Youth Center, we have been complete one, smaller sculpture and have started on one, of two, larger sculptures to be displayed in the botanical garden.

Students from Clement Howell High School were invited to participate; however, after the change request was approved the Department was no longer reliant on the teacher to involve after-school club students and we were not dependent on his unwillingness to collaborate on the project.

## Lessons Learned

The project has the potential to be of great success, still. The pieces that will be displayed have been used as teaching tools for the participants in two separate workshops at the Youth Center (19 & 26 April 2025). During a project briefing, we presented on biodiversity and how to use creative ways to bring attention to environmental concerns. A clean-up and subsequent use of the garbage also got participants thinking about responsible consumption and waste stream management on the islands, and how it may be harmful to biodiversity on islands.

Unfortunately, unwillingness by the teacher to collaborate severely delayed the project, not only in terms of time, but it delayed the impact that could have been had by teaching art students about environmental awareness through art. Students were made to expect compensation for their time, instead of being encouraged to salvage from discarded items and explore greater threats to biodiversity on the islands (such as over development).

Going forward we will ensure that a binding, and very clearly structured Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be drafted, reviewed by the Attorney General's Office, and then agreed to, before submitting a grant application. We implemented an MOU with the Youth Center upon making the project change and this has worked well.

Collaboration is key when it comes to effective outreach and a shared vision needs to be clear and well communicated to ensure that it is indeed shared.

## Section 3 - Project Finance (Essential)

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### 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)
<b>Staff Costs</b>				
<b>Consultancy Costs</b>				
<b>Overhead Costs</b>				
<b>Travel and Subsistence</b>				
<b>Operating Costs</b>				

<b>Capital Items</b>			
<b>Others</b>			
<b>Total</b>	45,000.00	25,400.00	56.4

**Please provide a short narrative summary on project finances.**

Due to sever project delays, project works are yet to be completed. This is to be completed by 31 May 2025. Still be completed:

- Landscaping: [REDACTED]
- Sculptures & Installation: [REDACTED]
- Installations' signs (including designs): [REDACTED]
- Opening Ceremony: [REDACTED]

**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.**

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- Unchecked **DPLUS-A02: Number of secondments or placements completed by individuals of key local and national stakeholders.**

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- Unchecked **DPLUS-A03: Number of local/national organisations with improved capability and capacity as a result of project.**

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- Unchecked **DPLUS-A04: Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training.**

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- Unchecked **DPLUS-A05: Number of trainers trained reporting to have delivered further training by the end of the project.**

## Group A Indicator Results

Two workshops were held at the Youth Center (19 & 26 April) which included 24 students.

## 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.**

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Unchecked **DPLUS-B02: Number of new/improved species management plans available and endorsed.**

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Unchecked **DPLUS-B03: Number of new/improved community management plans available and endorsed.**

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Unchecked **DPLUS-B04: Number of new/improved sustainable enterprises/ community benefits management plans available and endorsed.**

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Unchecked **DPLUS-B05: Number of people with increased participation in local communities / local management organisations (i.e., participation in Governance/citizen engagement).**

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Unchecked **DPLUS-B06: Number of Local Stakeholders and Local Communities (people) with strengthened (recognised/clarified) tenure and/or rights.**

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## Group B Indicator Results

NA

## 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.**

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

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

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

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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.**

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## Group C Indicator Results

NA

## 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.**

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

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

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## Group D Indicator Results

NA

### Section 5 - Project Partnerships, Wider Impacts and Contributions

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#### Project Partnerships

As project lead, the DECR encouraged students to produce designs to inspire the sculptures - asking students to think about local species as inspiration. 'The Pelican' and the 'Sea Turtle garbage eater' were the winning designs by high school students from Clement Howell High school. The youth center have been instrumental in providing a local artist and ensuring that workshops were well advertised and attended by school students. This was in accordance with the MOU put in place after the project change was approved.

As previously mentioned, initial challenges with a perceived change of scope of works by the original partner has lead to severe delays and expectations of the possibility of the projects reach and impact not being met. Changes have been discussed above and addressed within the constraints of time.

The local community sponsored prizes for the winning submissions (kayak excursions through a biologically diverse and rich mangrove area, west of Providenciales).

#### Wider Impacts and Decision Making

The project has inspired similar projects across the islands and has highlighted the need to think critically about the loss of biodiversity in light of current development trends on the islands. Similarly, it has highlighted the potential art holds in giving young people a voice to create awareness and promote conservation that serves both this goal and beautifying urban areas.

#### Sustainability and Legacy

Success of the project will make it easier to lobby for further financial support from Turks and Caicos Island s' Government (TCIG), as we do not have an established botanical garden or outdoor 'gallery' on island. Linking conservation to more tangible subjects such as art , will engage a wider audience and add value to the every day beach experience. This will also lead to greater community involvement through further environmental outreach, and art-based projects for schools to participate in.

The DECR has already been able to motivate for expansion of this project, with interest in expanding this model to Grand Turk.

## Section 6 - Communications & Publicity

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### Exceptional Outcomes and Achievements

Although the project is still underway, we will have two student-inspired sculptures in a highly trafficked public area. An article and social media posts will be prepared at the unveiling of the sculptures, which will be shared with Darwin Plus.

### 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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 [Turtle Sculpture2](#)

 29/04/2025

 16:58:00

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 [Taping sculpture](#)

 29/04/2025

 16:57:58

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 [Jewel of the Sea](#)

 29/04/2025

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 jpg 3.09 MB

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 [Filling sculpture with collected waste](#)

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 [Decorating plastered sculpture](#)

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 [Jewel of the Sea2](#)

 29/04/2025

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 [Untitled-2 \(2\)](#)

 29/04/2025

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 png 1.02 MB

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

Workshop posters  
Workshop photos  
Sculpture progression photos

These will provided upon completion of the sculptures

**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.

Instagram: @DECRtci

Facebook: @DECR TCI

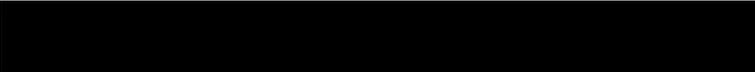
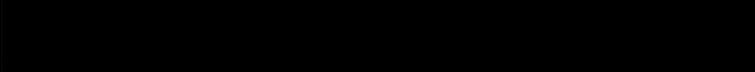
## Section 7 - Darwin Plus Contacts

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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.

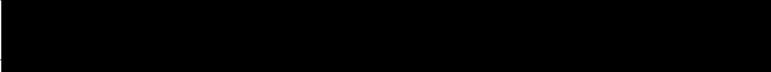
I confirm I have read the Privacy Notice and have consent to share the following contact details

### Project Contact Details

Project Contact Name	Amy Avenant
Role within Darwin Plus Project	Project lead
Email	
Phone	
Do you need further sections to provide additional contact details?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes

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### Additional Project Contact Details

Project Contact Name	Luc Clerveaux
Role within Darwin Project	Director, DECR
Email	
Phone	
Do you need further sections to provide additional contact details?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No

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