

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2013)

Project Ref No	DPLUS006
Project Title	Seed conservation in the Caribbean UKOTs
Country(ies)	Turks and Caicos Islands, British Virgin Islands, Anguilla, Montserrat, Cayman Islands
Lead Organisation	Royal Botanic Gardens Kew
Collaborator(s)	Turks and Caicos Department of Environment and Maritime Affairs, National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands, Anguilla Department of Environment, Montserrat Department of Environment, Cayman Islands Department of Environment
Project Leader	<i>Thomas Heller</i>
Report date and number (eg HYR3)	<i>HYR1</i>
Project website	<i>n/a</i>

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up).

This project began on the 1st July 2013, so this report represents the first quarter of the project. Please note also that the timetable shows project activities beginning in Q3 of year 1 and ending in Q2 of year 3). This is not correct and activities should be shifted *forward* by one quarter.

Much of this first quarter has been spent organising and planning the seed conservation training workshop, being hosted by the Turks and Caicos Department of Environment and Maritime Affairs 21st – 25th October, which is taking place at the time of writing. Five participants are in attendance from TCI, two each from Anguilla, BVI and Montserrat, and three from Cayman.

The equipment needs of partners have been assessed, with many items required for collecting and processing seed and herbarium vouchers already available across several partners. Equipment for banking seed in-country (freezers and some other items) will need to be procured in the coming quarter (as per timetable).

Collecting is already underway in Cayman and TCI, where some capacity for collecting already exists, with 16 collections accessioned at the MSB since the beginning of the project, including several species endemic to the UKOTs.

Work on compiling data for prioritising and targeting species has begun, with a cross-Caribbean-UKOT plant checklist having been compiled allowing us to establish level of overlap amongst the UKOTs floras for the first time. This will allow discussions at the workshop on how best to establish priorities. Additional data will be incorporated in the coming months, to further develop the prioritisation process.

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

None.

2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with LTS: Yes/No

Formal change request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/No

3a. Do you expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No

3b. If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible through the formal Change Request process. However, it would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication now of how much you expect this request might be for.

Estimated carryforward request: £

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

No

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with LTS International through a Change Request.

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 17-075 Darwin Half Year Report**