

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2013)

Project Ref No	DPLUS012
Project Title	Conserving plant diversity and establishing ecosystem based approaches to the management of forest ecosystems in the British Virgin Islands
Country(ies)	British Virgin Islands
Lead Organisation	National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands (NPTVI)
Collaborator(s)	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (Kew)
Project Leader	Joseph Smith Abbott, Director
Report date and number (eg HYR3)	HYR1
Project website	

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).

The following list of outputs were slated to occur during the first six months of the project (Year 1):

Output 1.1: Conduct desktop analysis of University of Colorado satellite data vegetation map in GIS, overlaying all existing GIS related plant data and existing aerial photos for the BVI

Action: NPTVI was responsible for this action which entailed reviewing an existing satellite interpreted GIS map that was created by an external source, the University of Colorado, but had not been groundtruthed. NPTVI overlaid all of the plant data that has been gathered from previous Darwin funded projects to determine the areas that have been groundtruthed locally in order to determine the remaining areas that should be assessed through this Darwin Plus funded project. The majority of work has been done on Anegada and Virgin Gorda, with some other areas visited as part of ongoing field work with Kew to determine locations of endangered and endemic species. This assessment will guide the creation of a schedule of field visits this year to update the existing base map created by the University of Colorado.

Output 3.2: Conduct survey of existing collections at the JRO'Neal Botanic Gardens and update existing GIS map and plant list

Action: NPTVI was responsible for this action which required the staff at the JRONBG in visually assessing the existing composition of plant collections, listing species within the beds and updating the existing GIS map for the garden layout. This task is ongoing as signage has been lost for some of the plant species and confirmation of species type was unknown. A prioritization of the inventory process by collection is now taking place, to ensure that this list is complete by the March 2014 visit of the Kew team.

Output 6.1: Conduct literature review of existing recommendations for management of forest ecosystems in the BVI and other island systems based upon existing projects

Action: NPTVI was responsible for this task which entailed the compilation of all known publications pertaining to BVI forest ecosystems. These documents and reports have been stored in digital format on the NPTVI server, for future inclusion in the management planning process that is slated to begin in the 4th quarter of year 1, carrying over into Year 2.

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.

N/A

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?

Not at this time.

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**