

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2010)

Project Ref No	DPLUS013
Project Title	Promoting the creation and appropriate management of protected areas in Anguilla and the Cayman Islands
Country(ies)	Anguilla and Cayman Islands
UK Organisation	
Collaborator(s)	Anguilla National Trust; National Trust of the Cayman Islands; Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Project Leader	Farah Mukhida
Report date	21 October 2014
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR2
Project website	

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) 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 report covers activities between April and September 2014 (inclusive). Please note activities already completed between October 2013 and March 2014 are not reported on.

Output 1. Network of protected areas.

Activity 1.2. Conduct rapid ecosystem services assessments and produce reports for both Anguilla and the Cayman Islands in consultation with key stakeholders

- Rapid ecosystem services assessments, using the Toolkit for Ecosystem Services Site-based Assessment (TESSA), were completed for 13 sites in Anguilla and 15 sites in the Cayman Islands.
- Reports have been generated for Anguilla and the Cayman Islands by the Anguilla National Trust and the National Trust for the Cayman Islands, respectively. The reports were completed with assistance from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.
- Reports have been circulated to national stakeholders in both Anguilla and the Cayman Islands.

Activity 1.4. Climate change adaptation plans drawn up for protected areas assets of each territory

- ANT and NTCI have been engaged with RSPB Climate Change Adaptation Specialist, Olly Watts, regarding the integration of climate change adaptation measures into protected area management plans and the holding of a workshop in February 2015 to raise local capacity in Anguilla and the Cayman Islands in climate change adaptation.
- Watts shared a framework for climate change adaptation to ANT and NTCI partners which will be used to structure and guide both the upcoming workshop and protected areas management plan revisions.

Activity 1.6. Identify priority sites for inclusion within national protected areas networks

- Based on the results of a rapid ecological assessment (desktop) and the rapid ecosystem services assessments, lists of priority sites that should be included within national protected areas networks have been generated.
- Sites that have been listed are of particular value for either their overall ecology (especially in Anguilla) and/or their ecosystem services (especially in the Cayman Islands).

Activity 1.7. Detailed evaluation of ecosystem services of at least two sites using Stage 2 of the TESSA ES toolkit based on 1.1.

- After reviewing the results of the TESSA assessments, project partners have agreed that the detailed evaluation of ecosystem services should be for two priority sites in the Cayman Islands (the Mastic Forest and the Central Mangrove).
- Preparations for the detailed assessments are underway, with volunteer field workers being recruited, equipment being sourced, and a plan of action being devised.
- The fieldwork component of the detailed assessment is expected to be completed by end of the 2014/2015 financial year (as projected).

Output 2. Management structures and process for protected areas.

Activity 2.1. Hold project partner and stakeholder workshop in Anguilla to study and review protected areas management achievements and constraints

- This activity has been postponed to Quarter 4, Year 2 (January-March 2015) of the project due to the spread of Chikungunya (a mosquito-borne disease) on both Anguilla and the Cayman Islands and potential health risks for protected areas management consultants travelling from the United Kingdom. The last quarter of the financial year will correspond to the dry season in Anguilla and the Cayman Islands and, hopefully, fewer mosquitoes on the islands. Should Chikungunya still be a concern at that time, project partners have agreed to seek regional support for this component of work.

Activity 2.3. Review existing protected area management plans in Anguilla and the Cayman Islands with project partners and national stakeholders, integrating climate change adaptation measures, frameworks, and sustainability plans

- The East End Pond Conservation Area Management Plan has been reviewed with revisions pending a community meeting scheduled for 12 November 2014. The management plan will then be shared with project partners for further consultation and finalisation. Climate change adaptation measures will be incorporated into the EEPCA Management Plan following a workshop to be held in February 2015 in the Cayman Islands.
- Management plans for the Mastic Reserve and Central Mangrove Wetland (Cayman Islands) has been shared with project partners. The five-year Management Plan for the Mastic Reserve runs to 2016 and will updated after the February 2015 workshop.

Output 3. Public and political support

Activity 3.1. Use results of detailed assessments undertaken in Output 1 to inform the development of an advocacy and public awareness plan

- As the rapid ecosystem assessments and the final reports outlining the results of those assessments have only just been completed and the detailed assessments are only just commencing, advocacy and public awareness activities have more generally focused on protected areas and their contribution to national biodiversity conservation.
- In Anguilla, over the last six months, public awareness activities have included:
 - Twelve site visits for students and teachers to the EEPCA, Road Salt Pond (one of mainland Anguilla's priority sites), Katouche Valley, and Dog Island (an offshore cay priority site).
 - On-going and regular contact with the Minister of Home Affairs (responsible for Environment) regarding management of East End Pond Conservation Area and the sustainable management of Anguilla's natural resources and critical habitats.
- In the Cayman Islands, over the last six months, public awareness activities have included:
 - A press release about the importance of mangrove ecosystems to the Cayman Islands which was published in the Cayman Reporter and on-line.

Activity 3.2. Implement public awareness plan

- Ongoing, but limited. A more structured approach will be developed following the completion of Activity 1.7.

Activity 3.3. Publicise project through national and international media

- Ongoing. DPLUS013 publicised in ANT newsletter (One Rock) – circulated to ANT members, interested persons, and supporters (national and international), through local media; national press releases, and ANT weekly radio programme.
- Darwin Initiative logo has been used on both the ANT and NTCI ecosystem services reports.

Activity 3.4. Protected Area review committee established in Anguilla to move the PA agenda forward

- The Protected Area review committee was formed earlier this year. The first meeting is scheduled for Friday 31 October 2014 with meeting objectives centred on reviewing the Anguilla TESSA report, discussing the potential protected areas priority site listing, and agreeing to next steps.
- The Deputy Governor of Anguilla will chair the meeting. Representatives from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Tourism, Department of Environment, Department of Physical Planning, Department of Land and Surveys, Department of Agriculture, Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources, and Department of Health Protection have been invited.

Output 4. Technical expertise and capacity building

Activity 4.1. Provide training to ANT and NTCI staff and stakeholders in protected areas development, planning, management, and sustainable financing

- Postponed to January-March 2015 quarter (please see comments under Activities 2.2. and 2.3.)

Additional Work

- Project Steering Committee meetings (ANT, NTCI, RSPB) held on 2 May 2014 and 30 June 2014 (Appendix 7)

2. 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.

1. With the spread of Chikungunya on both Anguilla and the Cayman Islands, travel restrictions were placed on the UK-based project partner, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Travel restrictions have required project partners to postpone planned workshops (protected areas management, integrating climate change adaptation measures in protected areas management plans, and site acquisition planning) from the second quarter of this financial year (July-September 2014) to the final quarter (January-March 2015). To ensure that the workshops are completed before the end of the financial year, they will be conducted consecutively over a two to three week period.

2. During project partner discussions about the content of the work and workshop that would fall under Activity 2.1. *Hold project partner and stakeholder workshop in Anguilla to study and review protected areas management achievements and constraints*, project partners realised that the situation of protected areas and the legislation that supports them had changed in the Cayman Islands. That is, when developing the proposal, partners agreed to hold a workshop in Anguilla where protected areas legislation had been developed, unlike in the Cayman Islands. Earlier in the year, however, the Cayman Islands introduced and have been applying protected areas relevant legislation.

Given this change in the legislative environment, we will adjust the focus of workshop planned under Activity 2.1. where the focus will be on reviewing/developing protected areas management plans through participatory process while ensuring that those plans also speak to a climate change-affected future. The approach to this workshop (now planned for February 2015) will still address Activity 1.4 *Climate change adaptation plans drawn up for the protected area assets of each territory* as well as Activity 4.4. *Provide training to ANT and NTCI staff and stakeholders in protected areas development, planning, management, and sustainable financing*.

3. In Anguilla, the ANT Protected Areas Manager submitted her resignation notice, stating that she will be joining the United Nations Environment Programme Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife team in November 2014. The ANT has decided to not re-post her position and have decided to re-allocate duties to other ANT staff members. The ANT Terrestrial and Wetlands Conservation Officer will become the lead DPLUS013 project officer and will continue to be assisted by the Protected Areas Assistant and two Conservation Field Officers, along by the ANT Executive Director. The Terrestrial and Wetlands Conservation Officer is also working on a project that focuses on establishing a Ramsar Site for Anguilla. This work should directly complement and add value to the work of this project.

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 in 3 July 2014 and 3 October 2014

Formal change request submitted: no

Received confirmation of change acceptance yes in 9 July 2014 and 9 October 2014

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

Yes No

If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible. It would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication 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?

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 directly.

Please send your **completed form 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**