



Department
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for International
Development



Darwin Plus: Overseas Territories Environment and Climate Fund Annual Report

Important note *To be completed with reference to the Reporting Guidance Notes for Project Leaders:
it is expected that this report will be about 10 pages in length, excluding annexes*

Submission Deadline: 30 April

Darwin Plus Project Information

Project Ref Number	DPLUS013
Project Title	Promoting the creation and appropriate management of protected areas in Anguilla and the Cayman Islands
Territory(ies)	Anguilla, Cayman Islands
Contract Holder Institution	Anguilla National Trust
Partner Institutions	National Trust for the Cayman Islands, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Grant Value	£193,568
Start/end date of project	1 October 2013 / 30 September 2015
Reporting period (e.g., Apr 2015-Mar 2016) and number (e.g., AR 1,2)	April 2014 – March 2015 AR 2
Project Leader	Farah Mukhida
Project website	
Report author and date	Farah Mukhida, 30 April 2015

1. Project Overview

Caribbean small island states, including UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) are a global conservation “hotspot.” Pressures, including climate change, threaten the important biodiversity and ecosystem services that they provide.

Protected areas are important for maintaining critical species, habitats, and ecosystem services. On Anguilla and the Cayman Islands, most land is privately owned, creating unique challenges for site designation and management. Despite formal designation of a limited set of protected areas in the two UKOTs, appropriate and effective management has been constrained by limited financial and human resources and legislative shortcomings. These protected area networks require expansion and improved management so that important features, processes, habitats, and species can be maintained, protected, and climate adapted while management capacity is built.

This project enhances institutional capacity of the two main protected area management organisations in Anguilla and the Cayman Islands, the Anguilla National Trust (ANT) and the National Trust for the Cayman Islands (NTCI), respectively. The project involves the assessment of existing and potential protected areas to quantify their economic and environmental value, identification of key areas that should be protected, land acquisition

planning, sustainable protected areas planning and management (including sustainable financing), review of relevant legislation, development of public and political support for protected areas, and increasing capacity of the two UKOTs' protected areas management agencies (ANT and NTCI).

2. Project Progress

2.1 Progress in carrying out project activities

Output	Activities or tasks to be done to deliver the outputs. Include activities on information sharing and collaboration with other OTs - PROPOSED	Activities or tasks to be done to deliver the outputs. Include activities on information sharing and collaboration with other OTs – CURRENT STATUS
Output 1. Network of protected areas		
1.1	Conduct rapid desk-based ecological literature review on Anguilla and the Cayman Islands	Rapid desk-based ecological literature review on Anguilla and the Cayman Islands completed. • Indicators: i-1
1.2	Conduct rapid desk-based ES assessments and produce reports for both Anguilla and the Cayman Islands in consultation with key stakeholders	Training of the ANT Protected Areas Manager and NTCI staff in the rapid assessment of ecosystem services was provided by Dr. Richard Bradbury and Dr. Michael MacDonald of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds from 13-16 January 2014 in the Cayman Islands. A stakeholder workshop was held during this training period during which the rapid assessments were completed and reviewed for sites within the Cayman Islands. Drs. Bradbury and MacDonald facilitated a second training workshop in Anguilla for ANT staff from 20-25 January. This training workshop was followed by a stakeholder workshop on 5 March 2014 that focused on completing rapid assessments for Anguilla sites. Ecosystem services assessment reports were completed for both Anguilla and the Cayman Islands. The reports were drafted by the ANT and NTCI, respectively, and each was reviewed by all of the project partners. • Indicators: i-2
1.3	Identify priority sites for inclusion within national protected areas networks	Priority sites for inclusion within national protected areas networks identified. • Indicators: i-1; i-2
1.4	Climate change adaptation plans drawn up for the protected area assets of each territory	Climate change adaptation plans in process of being completed. Workshop, facilitated by Climate Change Specialist Dr. Olly Watts from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, on how to make protected areas management plans climate change-informed held in the Cayman Islands

		<p>from 7-13 February 2014. [NUMBER] government and non-government stakeholders from the Cayman Islands attended along with five representatives from the Anguilla National Trust.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicators: i-4
1.5	Hold project partner and stakeholder workshop in the Cayman Islands to study and review the NTCI approach to land acquisition	<p>Stakeholder workshop, facilitated by Protected Areas Management and Land Acquisition Specialist Dr Vivienne Booth from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, on site identification and prioritisation (based on both ecological and social priorities as well as on-the-ground practicalities) held in the Cayman Islands on 12 February 2014. Twenty-six government and non-government stakeholders from the Cayman Islands attended along with five representatives from the Anguilla National Trust.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicators: i-5
1.6	Develop site acquisition plans for ANT and NTCI	<p>Site acquisition plans in process of being completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicators: i-6
1.7	Detailed evaluation of ecosystem services of at least two sites using Stage 2 of the TESSA ES toolkit based on 1.1.	<p>Detailed evaluation of ecosystem services of two sites in the Cayman Islands (Central Mangrove System and Mastic Forest) in process of being completed. Detailed assessments are being undertaken in Cayman Islands only due to the higher ecosystem valuation results that emerged from the rapid assessments (Activity 1.2). Two representatives from the ANT (Mr. Devon Carter [Protected Areas Assistant] and Mr. Giovanni Hughes [Field Officer]) assisted Ms Cathy Childs (NTCI Environmental Programmes Officer) with ecological data collection for detailed assessments from 23 January through 6 February 2015).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicators: i-3
Output 2. Management structures and processes for protected areas		
2.1	Hold project partner and stakeholder workshop in Anguilla to study and review protected areas management achievements and constraints	<p>Stakeholder workshop, facilitated by Protected Areas Management and Land Acquisition Specialist Dr Vivienne Booth from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, on protected areas management planning (including stakeholder identification, site vision, mission, goals, objectives, and strategies) held on 12 and 13 February 2014. Twenty-six government and non-government stakeholders from the Cayman Islands</p>

		attended along with five representatives from the Anguilla National Trust. • Indicators: i-7
2.2	Review with policy makers and make recommendations on draft protected areas legislation and/or proposed amendments to existing legislation in Anguilla and the Cayman Island	This activity is scheduled to be completed within Q1 of the 2015-2016 financial year. • Indicators: i-8
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.	This activity is scheduled to be completed by the end of Q2 of the 2015-2016 financial year. • Indicators: i-9
Output 3. Public and political support		
3.1	Use results of detailed assessments undertaken in Output 1 to inform the development of an advocacy and public awareness plan	This activity will be conducted upon completion of the detailed ecosystem services assessments (Activity 1.7) • Indicators: i-10
3.2	Implement public awareness plan	This activity will be conducted following Activity 3.1. • Indicators: i-10
3.3	Publicise project through national and international media	This project has been publicised using print, radio, and social media. • Indicators: i-11
3.4	Protected Area review committee established in Anguilla to move the PA agenda forward.	A Protected Area review committee was established under the already existing Inter-Ministerial Committee of the Environment, chaired by the Deputy Governor of Anguilla. The review committee met on 31 October 2015 during which Ms Jodi Johnson (ANT Protected Areas Manager) presented the results of the rapid ecosystem services assessment. Representatives from ten Government of Anguilla departments and Ministries attended. Discussion centred on the rapid assessment results as well as on environmental management and stakeholder involvement in influencing decision-making. • Indicators: i-12
3.5	ANT and the NTCI advocate for critical crown-owned properties to be designated protected areas	Advocacy on-going. In Anguilla, discussion have been held informally with the Ministry of Home Affairs (responsible for environment) with the Minister suggesting that all formal presentations and discussion with Executive Council be held after the 22 April 2015 elections. The ANT, however, is currently working with the Department of Land and Surveys on a proposal to have coastal land on Anguilla's north coast (Mimi Bay) be vested to the ANT for management. A

		<p>private land donation (a portion of the Mimi Bay Pond) has also been made to the ANT with transfer of property title now being finalised within the Department of Land and Surveys. The Cayman Islands are in the process of implementing their new National Conservation Law. The NTCI is in discussions with the Department of Environment, the Environmental Advisory Committee, and the National Conservation Council to push for protected area designation for key Crown-owned properties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicators: i-14; i-15
Output 4. Technical expertise and capacity building		
4.1	Protected Areas Manager recruited by ANT	<p>Protected Areas Manager Ms Jodi Johnson began employment at the ANT in November 2013. After being offered a permanent position with the United Nations Environment Programme, Ms Johnson resigned from the Protected Areas Manager post. ANT Terrestrial and Wetlands Conservation Officer Ms Clarissa Lloyd, who was working closely with both Ms Johnson and Mr. Carter, has assumed the vacated position (maintaining her previous title). Ms Lloyd is being supported by other ANT staff, including Mr. Hughes, Field Officer Mr. Tashim Fleming and Marine and Coastal Conservation Officer Ms Janeczka Hughes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicators: i-16
4.2	Environmental Programmes Assistant recruited by NTCI	<p>Environmental Programmes Officer Ms Cathy Childs began employment at the NTCI in November 2013. She continues to be the project focal point at the NTCI.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicators: i-16
4.3	Provide training NTCI Environmental Programmes Assistant as well as to other NTCI and ANT staff and government stakeholders in ecosystem services assessments	<p>Training in ecosystem services assessments (rapid and detailed) has been provided by Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (led by Dr. Richard Bradbury and Dr. Michael MacDonald) through workshops held from [DATES] in the Cayman Islands and [DATES] in Anguilla. Dr. MacDonald will be in the Cayman Islands to assist the NTCI with finalisation of the detailed assessments at the end of April/beginning of May 2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicators: i-2; i-7
4.4	Provide training to ANT and NTCI staff and stakeholders in protected areas development, planning, management, and sustainable financing	<p>Training has been provided to the ANT and NTCI staff and stakeholders in protected areas development, planning, management, and (more</p>

		limited) sustainable financing through workshops held in the Cayman Islands from 7-13 February 2015. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicators: i-15
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Changes to the project work plan are outlined in Annex 1.

The means of verification are outlined by indicator. Details of each of the indicators is outlined in Section 2.3.

2.2 Project support to environmental and/or climate outcomes in the UKOT's

As this project focuses on protection and management of habitat and biodiversity in two of the UKOTs through improving management of existing protected areas and identifying opportunities for the expansion of protected area networks on these islands, this project speaks directly to the overarching objective of Darwin Plus. Thus far, major accomplishments include ecological and ecosystem services assessments. Updated site management and land acquisition plans are in the process of being developed and steps are being taken to increase national awareness of protected areas and biodiversity.

This project is also helping to increase and improve national capacity to manage environmental assets through training in ecosystem services assessments, management planning, and acquisition planning. More specifically, seven staff have been trained within the ANT in all of these areas while three have been trained within the NTCl. Stakeholders (government, private sector, and the general public) have participated in training workshops and meetings that have involved both skill development and information sharing.

2.3 Progress towards project outputs

Output (what will be achieved e.g. capacity building, action plan produced, alien species controlled)	Indicators of success (how we will know if its been achieved e.g. number of people trained/ trees planted) - PROPOSED	Indicators of success (how we will know if its been achieved e.g. number of people trained/ trees planted) – CURRENT STATUS	Source of information (where will you obtain the information to demonstrate if the indicator has been achieved?) - ACTUAL
1. Existing and potential protected areas are identified and prioritised for their biological and ecosystem service values and acquisition plans are developed.	<p>i-1 Rapid ecological assessments of all existing and potential protected areas on both Anguilla and the Cayman Islands completed by the end of Q2Y1</p> <p>i-2 Rapid desk based assessment of ecosystem services of all existing and potential protected areas completed by the end of Q3Y1</p>	<p>i-1 Rapid ecological assessments of all existing and potential protected areas on both Anguilla and the Cayman Islands completed the end of Q2Y1</p> <p>i.2 Rapid desk based assessment of ecosystem services of all existing and potential protected areas completed by the end of Q3Y1</p>	<p>i-1 Anguilla: habitat maps; protected area evaluation sheets Cayman Islands: rapid ecosystem services appraisal sheets</p> <p>i-2 Anguilla: rapid ranking of sites spreadsheet; rapid ecosystem services appraisal sheets; Ecosystem Services Provided by Potential Protected Areas in Anguilla: a rapid assessment</p>

	<p>i-3 Detailed evaluation of ecosystem services of at least two sites (based on findings of i-2) completed by the end of Q4Y1</p> <p>i-4 A climate change adaptation plan completed for the protected area assets of each territory by end of project</p> <p>i-5 Site visit and site acquisition workshop attended by key stakeholders from civil society, government and private sector by the end of Q1Y2</p> <p>i-6 Site acquisition plans completed for the ANT and the NTCl by the end of Q2Y2</p>	<p>i-3 Detailed evaluation of ecosystem services of at least two sites (Central Mangrove System and Mastic Forest, Cayman Islands) to be completed by the end of Q2Y3</p> <p>i-4 A climate change adaptation plan completed for the protected area assets of each territory by end project – SET TO MEET TARGET COMPLETION DATE</p> <p>i-5 Site visit and site acquisition workshop held in the Cayman Islands and attended by twenty-six stakeholders from civil society, government, and the private sector in Q4Y2 (12 February 2015). Workshop delayed due to the spread of the Chikungunya disease in the Caribbean and RSPB travel restrictions</p> <p>i-6 Site acquisition plans currently being completed for the ANT and the NTCl. Scheduled to be completed by the ANT by the end of Q2Y3 and by the NTCl by Q3Y3</p>	<p>Cayman Islands: rapid ecosystem services appraisal sheets, Ecosystem Services Provided by Potential Protected Areas in the Cayman Islands: a rapid assessment</p> <p>i-3 Cayman Islands: Work in progress</p> <p>i-4 Anguilla and Cayman Islands: Workshop presentations; workshop handouts; photographs Anguilla: Work in progress Cayman Islands: Work in progress</p> <p>i-5 Anguilla and Cayman Islands: Workshop presentation; Workshop handouts</p> <p>i-6 Anguilla: work in progress Cayman Islands: work in progress</p>
2. Effective and sustainable management structures and processes in place for managing protected	i-7 Protected area management review workshop held in Anguilla by the end of Q2Y2 and attended by all key	i-7 Protected area management review workshop held in the Cayman Islands in Q4Y2 (12-13 February 2015) and attended by public	i-7 Anguilla and Cayman Islands: Workshop presentation; Workshop practicum

<p>areas in Anguilla and the Cayman Islands</p>	<p>stakeholders.</p> <p>i-8 Set of protected area legislation and legislation review recommendations submitted to governments by the end of Q3Y2</p> <p>i-9 National stakeholder workshops to review protected areas management plans held in Anguilla and the Cayman Islands (one in Anguilla, three in the Cayman Islands) sites by the end of Y2</p>	<p>and private stakeholders from the Cayman Islands and representatives from the ANT (staff and Council)</p> <p>i-8 To be completed</p> <p>i-9 Stakeholder workshops held in Anguilla in Q3Y2 (19 November 2014) and Q4Y2 (2 February 2015 and 18 February 2015) and in the Cayman Islands in Q4Y2 (16 January 2014) and Q4Y3 (12-13 February 2015)</p>	<p>sheets; photographs</p> <p>i-8 Anguilla: Not yet applicable Cayman Islands: Not yet applicable</p> <p>i-9 Anguilla: Stakeholder meeting presentation; minutes of meetings; press releases Cayman Islands: Photographs from 12-13 February meeting (indicators i-4, i-5, i-7)</p>
<p>3. A constituency of support for national protected area networks in Anguilla and the Cayman Islands</p>	<p>i-10 Advocacy and public awareness plan developed by the end of Y1</p> <p>i-11 Project reported on in media and radio</p>	<p>i-10 To be completed</p> <p>i-11 Project reported on in media (print, radio, and social)</p>	<p>i-10 Anguilla: Not yet applicable Cayman Islands: Not yet applicable</p> <p>i-11 Anguilla, Cayman Islands, and United Kingdom: DEFRA (pages 32-33) and Darwin Plus newsletters Anguilla: press releases; Facebook entries (photo album: "Darwin Plus Project – Protected areas workshop in Cayman Islands"; notes: 31 January 2014, 11 April 2014, 19 September 2014); radio shows (KoolFM 103.3: 1 October 2014); ANT Newsletter One Rock¹; Government of Anguilla Department of Disaster Management Newsletter The Mitigation Outlook</p>

			(Vol. 6 Issue 1, March-May 2015) Cayman Islands: Facebook posts: 18 December 2014 "What's All the Fuss About Cayman's Mangroves?", 31 January 2015 "RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands", 2 February 2015 "Happy World Wetlands Day" highlighting importance of local wetlands, 27 March 2015 "UN Report Warns of Grave Consequences if Mangroves Not Protected"; <i>Cayman Reporter</i> articles in "Paradise Discovered": 11 October 2014 "What's All the Fuss About Cayman's Mangroves?", 1 November 2015 "Black Mangroves", 31 January 2015 "Seagrass" ²
	i-12 Protected area review committee established by the end of Q1Y1	i-12 Protected area review committee, chaired by the Deputy Governor of Anguilla, established and meeting by end of Q1Y1, with first meeting held on 31 October 2015	i-12 Anguilla: presentation, minutes of review committee meeting
	i-13 Cayman Environmental Programmes Committee meets regularly to discuss and support Protected Area management	i-13 Cayman Environmental Programmes Committee meetings held on 27 November 2013, 2 December 2014, 27 January 2015, 16 February 2015, and 23 February 2015	i-13 Cayman Islands: minutes of Environmental Programmes Committee
	i-14 Governments of Anguilla and the Cayman Islands consider protection of 2 crown owned	i-14 Government of Anguilla considering the vesting of coastal land in Mimi Bay and Executive Council approval to	i-14 Anguilla: memo from the Department of Land and Surveys to Executive Council

	properties in Anguilla and 5 in Cayman Islands, respectively	nominate Sombrero Island as Anguilla's first Ramsar site.	(currently being drafted); Executive Council minutes from 12 March 2015
4. Capacity of NGO staff and relevant government representatives to identify, designate, plan and implement protected area management plans increased.	<p>i-15 Two staff from ANT and two from NTCI have skills in ESA, PA development and planning, management and sustainable financing by end of project</p> <p>i-16 ANT and NTCI increase their organisational capacity and knowledge base through an increase in full-time staff complement in the area of protected area management, including through the recruitment of a Protected Areas Manager at the ANT and an Environmental Programmes Officer at the NTCI</p>	<p>i-15 Seven staff from ANT and three staff from NTCI have skills in assessing ecosystem services as well as protected areas development, planning, and management</p> <p>i-16 ANT increased organisational capacity through an increase in full-time staff complement in 2013-2014 with the employment of a Protected Areas Manager – following her resignation, ANT has employed two additional field officers (Mr. Giovanni Hughes and Mr. Tashim Fleming) who assist with protected areas management, with financial support from the RSPB, the ANT has also hired Mr. Devon Carter as the Protected Areas Assistant; NTCI increased organisational capacity through an increase in full-time staff complement in 2013 (and on-going) with the employment of an Environmental Programmes Officer (Ms Cathy Childs)</p>	<p>i-15 Anguilla and Cayman Islands: workshop attendance records; photographs (refer to indicators 1-4, i-5, and i-7)</p> <p>i-16 Anguilla: employment contract for Protected Areas Manager Cayman Islands: employment contract for Environmental Programmes Officer</p>

¹ Links to relevant ANT One Rock newsletters:

December 2014: <http://preview.cmail2.com/t/ViewEmail/d/155B5893666E66D2>

September 2014: <http://preview.cmail1.com/t/ViewEmail/d/40AD6AC00301E6F2>

March 2014: <http://preview.cmail3.com/t/ViewEmail/d/4FFD71E96C03D8B8>

² Links to the articles in the Cayman Reporter:

<http://www.caymanreporter.com/tag/national-trust/>

2.4 Progress towards the project outcome

Expected contribution of output to project outcome	Progress made towards project outcome
Output 1 will contribute to protecting terrestrial and marine habitats, biodiversity, and ecosystem services by identifying and prioritising protected areas and establishing climate change adaptation plans for each	This project has thus far allowed for the identification of sites of particular importance based on both their biodiversity and the ecosystem services that they provide. Such site identification has allowed the ANT, NTCI, and environmental management partners to further identify priority areas on which resources (personnel, financial, and otherwise) could/should be directed. Recognising that climate change can affect the biological and physical composition of all of these sites, the RSPB has increased local capacity by building organisational skills and knowledge in the context of making management of protected areas climate change-informed. That is, through a practical workshop, protected area stakeholders have a better grasp on what we may be able to do to better adapt to climate change and what mitigation measures may be more appropriate and feasible within the short-, medium-, and long-terms.
Output 2 will help evaluate and establish the appropriate management structures for protected area management	Through workshops conducted in February 2015 (on protected areas management planning that is climate change-informed), the ANT and NTCI are better equipped to identify both potential protected areas management issues and solutions. The development of management plans for established protected areas that are based on science, informed by stakeholders, and flexible enough to accommodate changing on-the-ground situations are currently being developed. The format of these management plans can be used as templates for new sites as they are established.
Output 3 will build a constituency of support for protected areas through an advocacy strategy, public awareness, and effective government engagement	Building public support for protected areas is on-going. As levels of apathy are particularly high in Anguilla, the ANT has found that raising awareness requires a long-term commitment with results (change in attitudes and behaviour) not realistically expected within project timeframes. At the same time, however, there are small achievements which suggest that there is hope: the Government of Anguilla has agreed to nominate Sombrero Island as Anguilla's first Ramsar Site, marine parks are on political parties agendas (for example, within the now-in power Anguilla United Front's five year manifesto), the East End community recognises the importance of the East End Pond Conservation Area as an important catchment area particularly during tropical storms (as recorded in a stakeholder-developed vulnerability community

	<p>assessment), private individuals see the ANT as an organisation that is capable of managing and protecting valuable lands (as suggested with the private donation of lands in Mimi Bay [transfer of lands in progress]). In the Cayman Islands, the National Trust has a good working relationship with the Minister of Environment who consults the Trust regularly for information and advice. The Trust also has staff on the National Conservation Council and the Environmental Advisory Council, and a close working relationship with the Department of Environment. The Trust leverages these relationships to advocate for increased protected areas. The new National Conservation Law has also given the National Trust opportunity to promote basic environmental protections in the Cayman Islands.</p> <p>Of course, both the ANT and NTCI will continue to invest in environmental education programmes. A public awareness plan will be developed within FY3, based on the findings of the technical work completed between October 2013 and June 2015. This plan will be implemented during the latter half of the 2015-2016 financial year and will go beyond the completion of this particular project.</p>
<p>Output 4 will enhance institutional capacity of civil society and government agencies to develop and manage PA networks to ensure the long-term survival of most valuable and threatened species, habitats, and the on-going provision of ecosystem services</p>	<p>Capacity of both the ANT and the NTCI have tangibly been enhanced through increases in our staff complements. Staff of both organisations have also be trained and actively involved in ecosystem services assessments, management planning, assessments of climate change impacts on protected areas, and land acquisition planning. Stakeholders – both from the private and public sectors – have also been involved in these various assessments and protected area planning exercises, thereby increasing general knowledge, national skill bases, and engagement levels. This capacity building, particularly within the National Trusts, is especially valuable as both agencies play a critical role in protected area management.</p>

2.5 Monitoring of risks

Description of the risk	Current relevance and management of risk
<p>Hurricanes and adverse weather disrupts field component of the action</p>	<p>Relevance of risk between April 2014 and March 2015: Yes Field activities and travel were scheduled outside of the hurricane season (June through November 2014). Detailed habitat assessments were completed during the January-March 2014 quarter with the rapid assessments having been completed before the hurricane season commenced.</p> <p>Although not necessarily planned for, the mosquito-borne</p>

	<p>Chikungunya disease has affected a concerning amount of individuals in both Anguilla and the Cayman Islands, so much so that RSPB staff travel to these islands and the region was restricted from September through December 2014. In response to these restrictions, planned workshops were postponed from September/October 2014 to February 2015. While the postponement of the workshops set report and management planning back, site management plans and land acquisition plans will still be completed before the end of the project.</p>
<p>Lack of public support for the development of national protected area networks</p>	<p>Relevance of risk between April 2014 and March 2015: Yes</p> <p>Environmental concerns do not tend to rank as a high priority in either Anguilla or the Cayman Islands. Both agencies, however, have tried to involve the public through stakeholder meetings and presentations.</p> <p>Anguilla: In Anguilla, poor attendance at meetings is the norm (less than five people, on average, attended a series of three meetings regarding the development of a management plan for the East End Pond). The ANT has found that one-on-one engagement, while far more time consuming, does tend to have a greater impact in terms of sharing conservation messages and explaining conservation action. Individuals have also been hesitant in agreeing to be active members of an East End Pond Conservation Area management sub-committee. In response to this, the ANT will approach one or two individuals personally and ask if they would like to be involved and act as a community liaison between the ANT and the East End community. Through monthly ANT members' activities, the ANT has been able to engage members in outdoor activities that involve both exploring the natural environment and discussions about the stressors that are affecting its health and integrity. Through environmental education programmes directed at both primary school students (a nature photography programme [Island in Focus], field trips to wetlands, coastal areas, and dry forests and scrubland) and high school students (an afterschool environmental education programme [Environment. Research. Action. Programme], wetland field trips, hikes, class presentations), the ANT has attempted to raise the level of awareness about the natural environment amongst young people - both theoretically and practically. The ANT will continue to work with and engage communities and individuals in its work programme.</p> <p>Cayman Islands: Public support for the idea of protected areas is good for the most part. The individuals that are opposed to the idea, however, are very vociferous. The public also fears controls that would stop development. Protected areas are thought to be a positive idea as long as regulations do not impinge on property rights. To combat these fears, the NTCI talks about the importance of sustainable development, not the absence of development. The NTCI also visits every Year 5 class in every public school every year to teach the importance of mangroves to tomorrow's leaders and voters.</p>
<p>Lack of political will for the development of national protected area networks</p>	<p>Relevance of risk between April 2014 and March 2015: Yes</p> <p>Anguilla: Ministers and Government of Anguilla Departments have been engaged through the Protected Areas Review Committee (first meeting was held on 31 October 2014 with the second meeting scheduled in May 2015). Informal meetings and</p>

	<p>site visits have also taken place with the (former) Hon. Minister of Home Affairs (Minister responsible for Environment) Mr. Jerome Roberts as well as the (former) Representative of the District of East End (where the East End Pond Conservation Area is situated) Mr. Othlyn Vanterpool over the last year. In early March 2015, the Chief Minister of Anguilla called a general election for 22 April 2015. None of the incumbent district representatives were re-elected and the ANT will be seeking an audience with new Ministers and advisors of the Anguilla United Front in May 2015.</p> <p>Cayman Islands: The new National Conservation Law is improving the future for protected areas in the Cayman Islands. The Environmental Minister is also an effective supporter of environmental protection. We still face challenges with some powerful individuals however who are committed to stopping environmental progress. One member of government is obstructionist as regards conservation and unfortunately, a large percentage of important areas for protection fall within his district. It is hoped that the Conservation Law will stop a few individuals from hindering progress on protection measures.</p>
<p>Inability to find suitable local candidates for the Protected Areas Manager post (ANT) and the Environmental Field Officer post (NTCI)</p>	<p>Relevance of risk between April 2014 and March 2015: No</p> <p>Anguilla: While the ANT had hired a Jamaican national to serve as Protected Areas Manager, Ms Jodi Johnson resigned from the post in November 2014. Ms Clarissa Lloyd, ANT Terrestrial and Wetlands Conservation Officer has since filled the position. Ms Lloyd keeps her current title while absorbing much of the responsibilities of this project. She is supported by Mr. Devon Carter (Protected Areas Assistant), Ms Janeczka Richardson (Marine and Coastal Conservation Officer), Mr. Tashim Fleming and Mr. Giovanni Hughes (field officers) as well as Ms Kimberly Gumbs (ANT Administrative Manager) and the ANT Executive Director. With training and mentoring provided by the RSPB in early 2014 and full staff engagement within the project thereafter, all staff members have been able to step in to assist with various project activities. Not directly filling the Protected Areas Manager position was discussed with LTS/Darwin Plus prior to the ANT making this decision.</p> <p>Cayman Islands: NTCI was able to fill the position of Environmental Programmes Officer nationally. Ms Cathy Childs continues to capably serve in this position. She is supported by Mr. Paul Watler (Environmental Programmes Manager) and Ms Christina Pineda (Executive Director).</p> <p>RSPB training and mentoring have also played an invaluable role in increasing organisational capacity within both National Trusts.</p>

3. Project Stakeholders

Anguilla:

General public. The general public, and more specifically, the East End community has primarily been directly engaged through three separate stakeholder meetings that focused on the management of the East End Pond Conservation Area. Informal, one-on-one meetings have also taken place, during and outside of work hours, usually when a community member has happened upon a staff member. During these meetings, the public had an opportunity to review and make suggestions on how to improve the draft East End Pond Conservation Area Management Plan (2015-2019). In addition, as a way to more actively engage the community in

site management, the Plan calls for the establishment of a management subcommittee on which a member of the community would sit. Ideally, the community would decide amongst themselves as to who they would like to be their representative. This individual would also act a community liaison, allowing for a direct two-way exchange between the ANT and the East End community. There is some hesitancy amongst the community to take on such a role – often times, individuals who would be most interested are also over-committed, serving on various boards, committees, community groups, and clubs. While the position is open, no one has yet voiced an interest in serving. Furthermore, while three community meetings were held (one in November 2014 and two in February 2015), attendance has been poor despite the publicising of the meeting and phone calls to key community members who have a large network within the community and who agreed to spread the message and encourage attendance and participation. Overcoming this hurdle will undoubtedly take time and continued effort on the part of the ANT.

Government Ministers. The ANT has had a good working relationship with the Minister of Home Affairs (responsible for the environment). While the Minister is supportive of the work of the ANT as it relates to protected areas, indicating an understanding of the constraints under which we operate, we recognise that the environment is one of many sectors that are competing for attention and often times, job creation will trump it. Engagement with the Minister has primarily been through phone calls and short meetings both at the ANT and the Ministry. One letter regarding ANT concerns about the allocation of protected land for commercial development was also submitted to Executive Council (dated 16 December 2014)

Government departments. Government departments have been formally engaged within this project through the Protected Areas Review Committee under the Inter-Ministerial Committee for the Environment, chaired by the Deputy Governor of Anguilla. A presentation to the Committee was made on 31 October 2014 outlining the results of the rapid ecosystem services assessment. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for May 2015.

Cayman Islands:

General public. The NTCI shares activities on social media, email blasts, and on its website in order to engage the public. The NTCI also has District chapters that are able to bring concerns down to the neighbourhood level. A major challenge is the high level of private ownership of valuable natural areas and how to conserve these sensitive and dwindling ecosystems with limited funds.

Government Ministers. The NTCI has a close working relationship with the Minister of Environment who has often asked for feedback on related issues. The NTCI feels fortunate to that this minister was elected as he has pushed through the National Conservation Law (after 13 years of trying) and is now seeing that provisions of the law are being implemented. It is hoped that having a sympathetic ear in government will aid in increased protected area designation.

Government departments. The NTCI works closely with the Department of Environment. Knowledge and manpower is often shared between organizations and the DOE is pursuing increased protected area designation as well.

4. Monitoring and evaluation

To assist with assessing proposed action and outputs with actual action taken and achievements, a project spreadsheet was developed (and is currently being used). Any potential adjustments to the project workplan have first been discussed by project partners (during Steering Committee meetings and through e-mail correspondence between meetings) and major changes have been discussed with (and approved by) LTS – for example moving workshops from the July-September and October-December 2014 quarters to the January-March 2015 quarter. Accounts continue to be compiled monthly by the ANT Administrative Manager.

Specific actions that have been monitored during this 2014-2015 financial year include reviews of the Anguilla and the Cayman Islands rapid ecosystem services assessments by all partners and national dissemination and discussion of these reports, especially amongst the islands' respective protected areas review committees. Public awareness materials that are circulated nationally (press releases, blog entries) are first reviewed internally by project partners before wider circulation. Training in the areas of detailed ecosystem assessment methodology, protected areas management (including how to make management plans climate change-informed), and acquisition planning have taken place. Evaluating skill development is on-going and will be better assessed upon completion of management and acquisition plans. Two ANT staff members assisted the NTCI with detailed ecosystem assessments of the Mastic Forest and the Central Mangrove System. The NTCI Environmental Programmes Officer provided the training and assessed their skill development in the field. The ANT staff members will be teaching students involved in the ANT Environment. Research. Action. Programme how to conduct such an assessment at the Little Harbour wetland system – Anguilla's most extensive mangrove area (although it is small in comparison to Grand Cayman's Central Mangrove System) in May/June 2015. Their ability to transfer knowledge will be assessed in the field by the ANT Executive Director.

5. Lessons learnt

Over the last year, a number of organisational and project-based changes and challenges occurred:

- The ANT lost its Protected Areas Manager and travel restrictions caused postponements to project implementation.
- In Anguilla, with elections being held on 22 April 2015, political commitments were sometimes difficult to obtain.
- Although public awareness is not supported directly by project funding (due to funding mechanism constraints), it is a critical component of project implementation and sustainability. With funding being allocated to other parts of the project, public awareness is sometimes (unintentionally) not given the priority it deserves and requires. In addition, it is difficult to quantify changes in attitude and awareness within the time constraints of a two-year project as the real benefits of increased awareness is behavioural change and this takes time to achieve. It is also difficult to document and provide evidence for casual and informal imparting of information as, in both Anguilla and the Cayman Islands, populations are relatively small and opportunities to share information or to discuss the project and its importance is as likely to happen during formal meetings as it is on a Saturday at the grocery store or while waiting for an order at restaurant. How to measure this type of interaction (and the value of this interaction) needs to be discussed by project partners.

More positively, relationships between the ANT and the NTCI, in particular, have grown stronger with the sharing of ideas and the transfer of knowledge and skills. Despite the loss of the ANT Protected Areas Manager, with training provided by the RSPB and close internal collaboration and support, the position was easily filled within agency thereby allowing for a seamless transition. In addition, the completion of the rapid ecosystem based assessment has provided the framework for almost all future action on this project – from identifying priority sites for protection to assisting with acquisition planning – ensuring that it was done correctly and as comprehensively as possible was important; it was the ideal way to start the project.

General lessons learned:

1. In small organisations, training and involving as many staff as possible is important – this will allow for both succession planning and improved project implementation in case there are changes to the staff complement.
2. It is important to remain flexible while remaining forward thinking – circumstances and situations change frequently and sometimes unpredictably; we must be able to adapt, keeping in mind the end goal.
3. Coordination and communication are critical.

4. Natural resources management and environmental conservation work is difficult and often quite thankless, and many people outside of the field often believe that they can do better. Giving people an opportunity to be involved in and to understand both the opportunities and constraints that exist within natural resources management may not make the actual work any easier, but it can help lessen stress on managers and the organisation.
5. Stakeholders cannot be forced to be involved – but opportunities for involvement must always exist.

If we were to do the project again, we would likely put more focus on the administrative aspects of the project. A cross-territory project requires careful coordination and the time required to address the technical, financial, and reporting components of the project is substantial. We would try to be even more organised from the beginning (that is, develop and use the spreadsheet, as suggested by the reviewer, comparing progress made with progress expected on a weekly or monthly basis rather than by quarter).

From the Anguilla perspective, community stakeholder involvement has not been especially high – although it has not been from a lack of trying. Government of Anguilla, particularly at the Departmental level, has been better although this could be due to already established and good working relationships. The ANT will continue to try to directly engage stakeholders in the project through one-on-one informal discussions (which seem to work best) and community meetings.

The NTCI has found it easiest to work with government ministers, agencies, and individuals who already have the same priorities. It is much more difficult to interest people in discussions that have a different viewpoint. If we could entice those agencies and individuals to participate in meetings and discussions, presumably more change could be realized and middle ground found to ensure that development proceeds in a sustainable manner.

6. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

Issues raised in the review of last year's annual report focus primarily on the limited amount of evidence that was provided to the reviewer to properly assess project progress. Project partners agreed with the comment, stating that it would be better to provide too much information than too little.

We have also developed an Excel spreadsheet (as suggested) so that we can properly monitor the project to ensure that it remains on target. Some changes in the delivery of outputs were required due to Chikungunya-related travel restrictions and staff changes. As the review also suggested, approval to make changes to the budget was also requested and confirmed (via e-mails to/from LTS).

7. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Already discussed in other sections of the report.

8. Sustainability

Sustainability was built into this project. While this project has specific project time-frame bound goals (for example, hopefully expanding the Territories' protected areas networks and ecosystem services assessments), the management frameworks and guiding documents that are set to be produced by the end of the project are just as important – the site management plans and the acquisition plans will allow for long-term conservation and long-term planning. Both National Trusts will be in position to prioritise (limited) organisational resources to maximise long-term benefits. In addition, why staffing costs were built into the project budget, both National Trusts intend to at least maintain their staff complement through external fundraising and lobbying.

9. Darwin Identity

The Darwin Plus initiative has been recognised in all publications (press releases, newsletter entries, reports) as well as in presentations – in name, and whenever possible, by logo.

The Initiative has been recognised in relation to this specific project.

It is difficult, at this time, to determine the level of understanding of the Initiative within the Territories as no specific analysis has been done to measure this. It would be assumed, however, that government agencies would be more familiar with it than the general public despite the project's publicity.

10. Project Expenditure

Table 1 Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015)

Project spend (indicative) in this financial year	2014/15 Grant (£)	2014/15 Total actual Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs				In part, due to change in exchange rate over the last year as US dollars were used to calculate staff costs in the UKOTs
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				Change in exchange rate over the last year as US dollars were used to calculate overhead costs in the UKOTs
Travel and subsistence				Instead of holding two workshops (one in the Cayman Islands and one in Anguilla) a single workshop, longer workshop was held in the Cayman Islands. This was discussed with (and approved by) Darwin Plus prior to finalising the change.
Operating Costs				
Capital items				Using the underspend from the Travel and Subsistence and Other costs budget lines, binoculars, spotting scopes, a laptop, and a gps unit were purchased to support long-term monitoring of the protected areas (and potential protected areas). This was discussed with (and approved by) Darwin Plus

				prior to finalising the change.
Others (Please specify)				Expenditure for workshops and National Trust-based stakeholder meetings. As one cross-territory workshop was held instead of two, significant savings were made in this budget line. In addition, stakeholder meeting expenses in Anguilla were very small as most costs were covered in-kind by stakeholders. Savings were re-allocated to capital equipment. This was discussed with (and approved by) Darwin Plus prior to finalising the change.
TOTAL	108,741.00	108,740.95		

11. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

I agree for the Darwin Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here)

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	x
Have you included means of verification? You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	x
Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number.	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	x
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	x
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	