



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office



Department
for International
Development



Darwin Plus: Half Year Report (due 31 October 2015)

Project Ref No	DPLUS016
Project Title	Caicos pine forests: mitigation for climate change and invasive species
Country(ies)	Turks and Caicos Islands
Lead Organisation	Royal Botanic Gardens Kew
Partner(s)	Department of Environment and Maritime Affairs (DEMA)
Project Leader	<i>Martin Hamilton</i>
Report date & #	<i>HYR2</i>
Project website	http://www.kew.org/science-conservation/research-data/science-directory/projects/turks-and-caicos-islands-pine-recovery

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) (max 500 words).**

Project continues going well and on schedule with outputs for Y2 Q1/Q2 achieved. Project was highlighted through Twitter (#KewTCI), TCI magazine articles and Darwin Initiative newsletter, peer reviewed publication, poster presentation and participation at UKOTs Conference, schools' workshops and community events in TCI. See **Appendix 1** for a full listing of Media/Publications, Community engagement, Main collections and Other activities.

Output 1: Two successful visits to TCI undertaken in April/May 2015 with two key TCI DEMA staff involved in all activities. Kew team included PI, project co-ordinator/geneticist, chemical biologist, horticulturist, mycologist and restoration ecologist. These fieldwork trips enabled completion of sampling and data collection necessary for research/protocols, in addition to community engagement and training. More than 530 samples were collected for analysis and an additional 520 records made (Output 1.2). Detailed activities, list of collections and photos available in Fieldwork Reports:

Samples were analysed at the Jodrell Laboratory, Kew and lists of fungi, chemical compounds and genotypes in the wild and *ex situ* collection have been produced and are now available for the protocols (see **Appendix 2**) (Outputs 1.3, 1.4, 1.5). Population Viability Analysis has been undertaken ahead of schedule (Output 1.7). 'Core Conservation Areas' were identified and habitat and ecological data is now being collated for production of suitable habitat maps (Output 1.8).

Output 2: The *ex-situ* collection has been strengthened with 194 new seedlings added, totalling 561 pine seedlings and saplings (Output 2.3) and allelic richness target (3.6) achieved. The 2 key DEMA staff, trained by Kew specialists, are now able to undertake targeted pine seed collection in TCI (Output 2.1), sending seeds to the UK for banking (Output 2.2) or sowing them to produce new healthy and pest-free trees for out-planting (Output 2.3). Pines grown in the nursery (n = 146) have been planted out in Pine Cay restoration plots by DEMA staff and community members, resulting in more than 300 pines in these pilot restoration plots to date. Please see photos in Twitter (#KewTCI) and **Appendix 3** as well as the article submitted for the most recent Darwin Newsletter.

Output 3: Local staff participated in all activities during field trips in April/May, receiving training from Kew specialists on sampling techniques, collection of monitoring data and

horticultural skills (Output 3.2) (See field reports). Kew staff assessed their performance (Output 3.3), providing feedback and endorsement accordingly (Output 3.4). The nursery standards and techniques applied to production of new pine trees were assessed by Kew staff and discussed with DEMA staff (Output 3.3). Great improvement in skills and confidence was noted and can be verified by the successful local production of pine trees mentioned in Output 2 above.

Output 4: Collation of data for protocols has started and practical applications are being agreed with partners (Output 4.3) via meetings during fieldtrips, project manager visit to Kew in July (see attached report) and Skype meetings with DEMA staff involved in the project, including its new director Dr John Claydon. Seed longevity study completed (see **Appendix 2**).

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt 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 (max 300 words).

The project team tried, unsuccessfully, on more than one occasion to meet with TCI government officials to discuss the projects' activities and, more importantly, its legacy. However, the new DEMA Director was able to meet with the project team and is in full support of the project and understands the importance of the Restoration Strategy for the pine forests in TCI. Also, the project has received strong support from the local community, including the District Commissioner for North Caicos and the Director of the Department of Education (both of whom have met with the project team). Funding for three posts to carry on the Caicos Pine Recovery Project were requested by DEMA in the annual TCI Government budget plan for 2016-17. We don't expect any changes to the budget or timetable of the project.

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:	No
Formal change request submitted:	No
Received confirmation of change acceptance:	No

3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully as it is unlikely that any requests to carry forward funds will be approved this year. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year. If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project and would like to talk to someone about the options available this year, please indicate below when you think you might be in a position to do this and what the reasons might be: **N/A**

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

None 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.

No response requested until Final Report.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also be 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 e.g., Subject: DPLUSXXX Darwin Half Year Report