



Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2014)

Project Ref No: DPLUSO22

Project Title: Anguilla National Ecosystems Assessment(NEA)-Towards a Green Economy

Country(ies): Anguilla

Lead Organisation: Department of Environment

Collaborator(s): Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Project Leader: Karim V D Hodge

Report date and number (eg HYR3): 31st October 2014, Half Year Report Number One (1)

Project website: <http://www.gov.ai/doe/anea/> ; <http://www.gov.ai/doe/anguillas-ecosystems-status-trends-change-and-perceptions/>

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 to end September).

Designated team members from the Department of Environment travelled to the UK on two occasions;

1. March 2014: to concretise the NEA working team and;
2. September 2014: to conduct the preliminary works for the November 17-21 NEA training programme.

In addition to this, a Drop Box account was established to allow for a flow of information between all members of the ANEA Working Team.

Activity 1.1: *Conduct literature review or desk study on Anguilla's ecosystem (Biodiversity and associated services).*

Status: Completed

A consultant was contracted to conduct the works for this activity. This activity was extended to include a baseline questionnaire. The Department of Environment worked along with the consultant to develop an appropriate questionnaire to form the baseline for the literature review. The rationale for this approach was to determine how aware the community is on the status and trends of Anguilla's ecosystems and their services. Additionally, this will ascertain the status, trends and drivers of change in Anguilla's ecosystems as seen by the community members. These surveys were conducted island wide and utilised the traditional face to face interview methods as well as the web based survey monkey tool. A draft report was submitted to the DOE who then reviewed and provided the consultant with feedback. The final Report was submitted as Volume 1 and Volume 2 (**Appendix A -1, A-2**).

Activity 1.2: *Develop framework for economic assessment of ecosystem goods and services and integration into national GIS.*

Status: Completed

A Framework for the Economic Assessment of Ecosystem Goods and Services was developed. (**Appendix B**). The values of the ecosystems services derived from Anguilla's terrestrial and marine ecosystems have been incorporated into maps developed using the GIS tool. For example, the value maps of coral reefs, fisheries, medicinal plant species and the distribution of livestock have been developed. These maps have also been integrated into the National GIS system.

Activity 1.3: Through stakeholder interviews and use of national statistics undertake valuation of key national ecosystems.

Status: In progress

This activity is in progress and is near completion. Officers conducted field visits and engaged in one and one interviews with various stakeholders that derive goods and services from specific marine and terrestrial ecosystems. Information was also gathered from relevant Government agencies and the National Statistics Department. All information was collated and shared with the relevant consultants.

Activity 1.8: Create and maintain web link for public access via the Department of Environment's website to access the reports, maps etc. (should be interactive).

Status: In progress

A web link for the ANEA project has been developed and is made accessible through Department of Environment's website. This web link is maintained by the Department of Environment. However, the Department's website is being reconstructed to ensure that the smooth transmission of information and graphical data is readily accessible and available to the public once the reports, maps etc. are completed. The Department of Environment previous website domain through the Government of Anguilla network had space restrictions and other limitations which prohibited the ability to develop interactive pages whilst coping with the additional graphics. Consequently, the decision was made to revamp the site and get a new domain.

Activity 2.4: Develop a web based tool for capturing public perception on current trends and future trends.

Status: Completed

A survey monkey web based survey tool was developed to capture the public's perception on the currents trends of Anguilla's ecosystems. Via mass email, all Government Stakeholders and public institutions (financial companies, insurances etc.) were informed about the survey and the website to visit to participate. Awareness of the questionnaire was also developed through a press release. The data collected were analysed using the web based relational database management system which developed using MySQL. The findings were related in a report that was developed as of subset of Literature Review Report on the status and trends of Anguilla's ecosystems (See Activity 1.1).

Activity 2.5: Develop working relationships with OT'S, NGO's (Local, Regional, and International), academic institutions and research agencies.

Status: In progress

Locally, we have conducted an Orientation Seminar with various entities. These included but was not limited to the following; all GOA agencies, Heads of Departments, Local Statutory Bodies and NGOS as well as Associations and most important, the Permanent Secretaries and Deputy Governor. The seminar was designed to enhance the capacity of stakeholders on the purpose and benefits of the ANEA project as well as the methodologies to be employed. The seminar occurred over a week with different dates scheduled for each of the invited bodies. All persons were given the opportunity to ask questions about the project. In addition to this, a correspondence was also circulated to local and regional universities, environmental institutions (Academic and Research agencies).

Activity 3.2: Utilise media forms (Various) to public abreast of projects and ascertain levels of buy-in (Verification).

Status: In progress

This has been done through production of ;

- Press releases (**See Appendix C**)
- Poster designs and distributed (**Appendix D**)
- Survey Monkey
- Website base Google survey form

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.

Challenge of limited Space for Website based on GOA data services.

Website Update:

We initially did not anticipate having to do a questionnaire. However, based on the fragmented nature of the information available and to ensure we include the communities' view of the status and trends of communities.

Change In Scenario Development Consultant: one of the technical experts consulted for this project was unable to continue due to pressing issues. As a consequence, the DOE in collaboration with the working group contracted another suitably qualified and experienced consultant to perform the specific duties under this project.

Hurricane Impact On Productively: Community meetings were planned to be initiated in October however impact disrupted the entire work plan and will be readjusted to ensure that we can deliver in.

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

Yes No Estimated underspend: £00000.000

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 of justifiable changes within the project and would like you anticipate a significant underspend because 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?

As it stands at present there are no issues we would like 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 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 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 20-035 Darwin Half Year Report**