

Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31st October 2017)

Project reference	DPLUS060
Project title	Pioneering a new model for marine park management in Anguilla
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Anguilla
Lead organisation	Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources (DFMR)
Partner(s)	Anguilla National Trust (ANT)
Project leader	<i>Kafi S. Gumbs</i>
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	<i>HYR1</i>
Project website/blog/social media etc.	<i>n/a</i>

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).

1. Biodiversity values of Prickly Pear cays and their surrounding coastal waters identified.

1.1 Marine ecosystem assessments of Prickly Pear Marine Park completed by end of Q2Y1

- STATUS
 - This activity is being led and conducted by DFMR. The ecosystem assessments have been postponed to Q3Y1, due to the passage of hurricane Irma.

1.2 Biodiversity assessment of terrestrial ecosystems (including beach and sand dunes) completed by end of Q3Y1

- STATUS
 - Assessments for seabirds, terrestrial birds, wetland birds, and lizards (ground lizards and tree lizards) were completed between 15 and 18 April 2017 (inclusive).
 - Iguana assessments are on-going, although the population, based on 2016 and 2017 re-introduction numbers, is 14 individuals.
 - Landscape point photos (18 on Prickly Pear East and 3 on Prickly West) were taken in April, May, and June 2017.
 - Vegetation and insect assessments are to be completed before the end of Year 1.
 - Beach and sand dunes assessments are to be completed before the end of Year 1.

1.3 Results of ecological assessments presented to at least 30 stakeholders by the end of Q3Y1

- STATUS
 - Will be postponed to the end of Year 1, after all terrestrial and marine assessments have been completed.

2. Effective and sustainable management structure and tools for the integrated management of Prickly Pear terrestrial and marine ecosystems in place

2.1. Project Steering Committee comprised of project partners and external experts established by beginning of Q1Y1 and meets quarterly

- STATUS: The first formal Project Steering Committee meeting was held via Skype on 31 July 2017. The second Project Steering Committee was scheduled for end of September 2017 but was postponed due to communications problems arising from the passage of Hurricane Irma. The meeting will be held via Skype once DFMR and ANT offices are functioning (neither office currently has electricity or internet connections).

2.2 PPMP integrated coastal zone management team comprised of local national partners and primary stakeholder representatives established by Q1Y1 and meets monthly

- STATUS
 - The PPMP integrated coastal zone management team had been identified and comprises of:
 - Dive operators, restaurant owners, land owners, Anguilla Fisherfolk Association, DFMR, ANT, FFI, and RSPB
 - The first management team meeting was scheduled for 26 September but was postponed due to the passage of Hurricane Irma. All individuals (and agencies) on the management team were severely affected by the hurricane. The meeting has been postponed to November 2017.

2.3 PPMP stakeholders and management authorities meet at least quarterly throughout project period

- STATUS
 - This activity will commence after the first management team meeting is held in November 2017.

2.4 Socio-economic assessment of PPMP completed by end of Q4Y1

- STATUS
 - Interview questions will be drafted in Q3Y1, with stakeholder interviews to take place during Q4Y1.

2.5 Stakeholder-informed management plan for PPMP finalised by the end of Y1

- STATUS
 - Stakeholder-informed management plan will be completed in Q4Y1

2.6 Project reviewed to identify lessons learned and recommendations for replication in Anguilla's other marine parks and within the region (particularly amongst other UKOTs)

- STATUS
 - The project will be reviewed during Q4Y3.

3. Priority measures implemented to restore, protect, manage, and monitor critical island and marine biodiversity and ecological processes in PPMP

3.1 At least 15 mooring buoys and 20 marine park boundary markers installed within the Prickly Pear Marine Park by end of Y1

- STATUS
 - This activity is being led and conducted by DFMR. The buoys were ordered and are in the possession of DFMR, but will be installed at the end of the hurricane season in Q3Y1.

3.2 Operational Plan (based on 2015 feasibility study) for rat eradication completed by end of Q2Y1

- STATUS

- The operational plan for the proposed rat eradication was completed by Ms Elizabeth Bell of Wildlife International Management Ltd. Ms Bell was in Anguilla from 13-23 April 2017 during which time the operational plan was finalised after four days on the Prickly Pear cays during which eradication methods were discussed and meetings with stakeholder: Alan Ruan, Prickly Pear Restaurant; Johnno Edwards, Johnno's Restaurant; and the Department of Health Protection were held.

3.3 Rats eradicated from Prickly Pear cays by end of Y1 to enable recovery of terrestrial species and habitats

- STATUS
 - The eradication of rats is scheduled for Y1Q4 although the island is currently being prepared in anticipation of the eradication: a team of six track cutters have been cutting tracks through the vegetation on Prickly Pear East during August 2017. By 1 September, almost all tracks that should have been cut on Prickly Pear East were cleared. Work was stopped due to the passing Hurricane Irma. Track cutting will resume in November 2017, if sea conditions allow safe travel between the mainland and Prickly Pear East (location of the camp) and Prickly Pear West (where tracks still need to be cut).

3.4 PPMP routinely monitored for signs of terrestrial invasive species every four weeks during Y2 and Y3 of project

- STATUS
 - Biosecurity monitoring will be conducted during Y2 and Y3 of the project, after rats have been eradicated.

3.5 Identification of priority integrated coastal zone management measures and development of action plan based on approved management plan by end of Y1

- STATUS
 - Priority measures will be identified by the end of the project once the management plan has been finalised.

3.6 Implementation of stakeholder-agreed upon integrated coastal zone management measures by end of Y3

- STATUS
 - Management measures will be implemented during Y2 and Y3 of the project.

3.7 Long-term biodiversity monitoring plan established by Q4Y1

- STATUS
 - Long-term biodiversity monitoring plan will be finalised in Q4Y1.

3.8 Paper on PPMP project produced by end of project

- STATUS
 - This paper will be drafted in Y3 of the project.

4. National capability to plan, manage, and monitor marine parks is raised, supported by enhanced technical skills and greater public awareness and cooperation

4.1 At least ten persons (including ANT and DFMR staff and volunteers) trained in and apply new skills in terrestrial and marine biodiversity surveys and monitoring, improving data quality by end of Q1Y2

- STATUS
 - Ten ANT staff and volunteers trained terrestrial biodiversity surveys and monitoring (re-training of six ANT staff and new training of four ANT volunteers in terrestrial bird, seabird, and lizard survey protocols; training of six ANT staff in vegetation and insect survey protocols) in April 2017.

4.2 At least ten persons (including ANT and DFMR staff and volunteers) trained in invasive species eradication and biosecurity surveillance procedures by end of Y1

- STATUS
 - Training in invasive species eradication and biosecurity surveillance procedures will take place by the end of Y1.

4.3 Multi-stakeholder workshop held for at least 30 individuals regarding value of marine parks in QY1

- STATUS
 - This workshop will be held in Q4Y1.

4.4 Innovative advocacy and public awareness plan developed by Q1Y2

- STATUS
 - Communications plan was developed in May 2017.

4.5 Project reported in at least six newspaper articles, bi-annual updates within ANT newsletters, quarterly updates on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram), and at least four radio programmes by the end of Y3 (end of project)

- STATUS
 - An article announcing funding for the project was published in the national newspaper, The Anguillian, and on-line (Facebook) about the project on 9 November 2016.
 - A photo album was uploaded to [Facebook](#) with photos related to the project.

4.6 Project presented to at least four national groups and Executive Council by end of Y3 (end of project)

- STATUS
 - Presentations will be held in Y3 of the project

4.7 Public awareness campaign evaluated for effectiveness through pre-project survey/questionnaire of at least 600 individuals conducted in Q1Y1 and post-project survey/questionnaire of at least 600 individuals conducted in Q4Y2

- STATUS
 - Over 200 surveys were completed by the end of August 2017. The rest of the surveys will be completed in Q4Y1 of the project.

4.8 Marine parks highlighted in comments provided to the Land Development Control Committee and the Trade and Investment Committee (when relevant)

- STATUS

No development projects that would affect Prickly Pear Marine Park have been submitted to the Government of Anguilla for consideration.

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.

Hurricane Irma hit Anguilla as a catastrophic Category 5 storm on 6 September 2017. The hurricane's passing did not interfere with any of the planned in water work around the Prickly Pear Cays, as the DFMR was waiting until the end of the hurricane season to begin.

Hurricane Irma, however, forced the ANT to stop all work on the cays (preparations of the Prickly Pear cays for the rat eradication programme scheduled for Q4Y1). As recovery efforts on the mainland continue (with the ANT office still not functioning as power has not been restored and most businesses operating with generators for power supply), ANT has not been

able to continue track cutting work on the Prickly Pear cays. They were able to connect with Dr. Jenny Daltry (Fauna & Flora International) and Ms Elizabeth Bell (Wildlife International Management Ltd.) via Skype to discuss the impact of Hurricane Irma on the rat eradication schedule. Following these discussions, we have decided to continue to aim for a Q4Y1 eradication, with the track cutting team working on the offshore cays, when ANT schedules allow and when sea conditions permit. It was also suggested that tracks on Prickly Pear West could also be cut while the eradication campaign is occurring on Prickly Pear East.

The hurricane caused the delay of Project Steering Committee and Prickly Pear Marine Park Management Team meetings, as well as the completion of public awareness surveys. Meetings will be postponed to November 2017 while surveys will be conducted/completed in Q4Y1.

None of the minor delays/setbacks and major damages caused by hurricane Irma will interfere with the project budget, objectives nor deadlines.

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 (e.g., more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully. 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, please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary.

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

n/a

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. Additionally, if you were funded under R23 and asked to provide further information by your first half year report, please attach your response as a separate 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 e.g. Subject: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**