

## Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (Due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018)

<b>Project reference</b>	DPLUS060
<b>Project title</b>	Pioneering a new model for marine park management in Anguilla
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Anguilla
<b>Lead organisation</b>	Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources (DFMR)
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Anguilla National Trust (ANT)
<b>Project leader</b>	<i>Kafi S. Gumbs</i>
<b>Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)</b>	<i>HYR2</i>
<b>Project website/blog/social media etc.</b>	<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 Q2Y2 (timeframe amended, with amendment approved by Darwin Plus).

- STATUS
  - Marine ecosystem assessments were completed between May and July 2018.

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 in Y1.
  - Landscape point photos (18 on Prickly Pear East and 3 on Prickly West) were taken in Year 1.
  - Vegetation assessments were completed in Y1.
  - Insect assessments were completed in May 2018.
  - Iguana assessments are on-going, although Lesser Antillean iguana continued to be reintroduced onto Prickly Pear East (and monitored) in Q1 of 2018. There are now 24 Lesser Antillean iguana on Prickly Pear East.
  - Coastal assessments (beach and sand dune) were completed in Y1.

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

- STATUS
  - Results of ecological assessments were presented to stakeholders on 27 November 2018.

#### 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: COMPLETE

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 was established in Quarter 4 of 2017. The team comprised of dive operators, restaurant owners, land owners, Anguilla Fisherfolk Association, DFMR, ANT, FFI, and RSPB.
  - The management team has met four times

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

- STATUS
  - See Activity 2.2.

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

- STATUS
  - Socio-economic assessment of PPMP was completed through stakeholder interviews and questionnaires between Q4Y1 and Q1Y2.

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

- STATUS
  - Stakeholder-informed management plan was completed in Q1Y2

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 Y3 (timeframe amended, with amendment approved by Darwin Plus)

- STATUS
  - This activity will be completed in Q2Y3.

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 in Y1.

3.3 Rats eradicated from Prickly Pear cays by end of Q1Y2 to enable recovery of terrestrial species and habitats (timeframe amended, with amendment approved by Darwin Plus)

- STATUS
  - Rats were eradicated from the Prickly Pear Cays by the end of Q1Y2. The eradication was led by Ms. Elizabeth "Biz" Bell (Wildlife Management International Ltd.), supported by a team of young Anguillians who worked with Biz to implement the operational plan.

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

- STATUS

- Biosecurity monitoring has been on-going since the eradication of rats (end of May 2018). No rats have been observed on either of the cays since the completion of the eradication. No monitoring of the Prickly Pear East and West has occurred in November and December due to rough sea conditions which has made landing on the cays dangerous.

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 identified by the PPMP integrated coastal zone management team include: the construction of artificial nesting houses for regionally-important red-billed tropicbird (nesting habitat was destroyed during Hurricane Irma in September 2017 and by particularly strong ground seas with 40 foot waves crashing on shore in March 2018), a zonation plan for Prickly Pear Marine Park, and a walking trail on Prickly Pear East.

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

- STATUS

- Artificial nesting houses for red-billed tropicbird were constructed in August 2018.
- The other priority measures will be implemented in Y3

3.7 Long-term biodiversity monitoring plan established by Q4Y1

- STATUS

- Long-term biodiversity monitoring plan was finalised in Q1Y2.

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 in Y1.
- Three ANT staff were trained in benthic biodiversity surveys by DFMR staff in Q2Y2.

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

- Fifteen ANT staff and volunteers were trained in rat eradication methods in Q1Y2.

4.3 Multi-stakeholder workshop held for at least 30 individuals regarding value of marine parks in Y2 (timeframe amended, amendment approved by Darwin Plus)

- STATUS

- This workshop was held in November 2018.

4.4 Innovative advocacy and public awareness plan developed by Q1Y2

- STATUS
  - Communications plan was developed in Y1.

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
  - Articles and updates have been shared using the national newspaper (The Anguillian), Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.
  - Weekly updates (via newsletters) on the rat eradication programme were shared with ANT members, supporters, and the high-level Government of Anguilla officials.

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
  - Surveys were completed in Y1.

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 as yet.

**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.**

There have been no notable problems or unexpected developments. Rough ground seas have limited access to the Prickly Pear cays in November and December 2018 and has therefore limited biosecurity monitoring activity. Ground seas, however, are normal for this time of year and limited access to the cays has been (and is) expected.

**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: N/A

Formal change request submitted: N/a

Received confirmation of change acceptance N/A

**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](mailto: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**