

Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31st October 2019)

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 Gumbs & Farah Mukhida</i>
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	<i>HYR3</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 Q2Y2 (timeframe amended, with amendment approved by Darwin Plus).

- STATUS
 - Completed in Y2.

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

- STATUS
 - Terrestrial ecosystem assessments were completed in Y1 and follow-up bird and lizard assessments were completed in Y2.
 - **Iguana assessments are on-going.**
 - Coastal assessments (beach and sand dune) were completed in Y1.
 - Marine/coastal ecosystem assessments were completed in Y2.

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

- STATUS
 - Completed in Y2.

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: Completed in Y1 and on-going throughout project.

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

- STATUS
 - PPMP management planning committee was established in Q4Y1. The management planning committee met in Y1 and Y2 to develop the draft management plan for the PPMP and cays. The committee met once in April 2019 to finalise the PPMP and cays zoning plan. The team comprised of dive operators, restaurant owners, land owners, Anguilla Fisherfolk Association, DFMR, ANT, FFI, and RSPB. **The next planned meeting is in October 2019 during which the committee will begin management planning activities for Little Bay Marine Park.**

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

- STATUS
 - Completed in Y2. **Final report is currently being generated as a supporting document to the management plan.**

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

- STATUS
 - **Stakeholder-informed management plan (finalised with zoning plan) was completed in Q2Y3**

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
 - **DFMR attempted to install mooring buoys and marine park boundary markers in Q2Y3.** Unfortunately, the substrate is far too dense to install even with use of a drill. DFMR are currently constructing sinkers made out of engine blocks and concrete to hold buoys and markers in place.

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. The final check to ensure that all rats were actually eradicated took place in Q4Y2. The eradication was successful.

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 detected on either of the cays since the completion of the eradication.

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 were identified in Y2 and include: the construction of artificial nesting houses for regionally-important red-billed tropicbird (completed in Q2Y2), a zonation plan for Prickly Pear Marine Park (completed in Q1Y3), 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 Q2Y2.
 - **Zoning plan was finalised in Q1Y3.**
 - **Walking trail is currently being developed/implemented. Text for the interpretation signs is being finalised and the trail system has been identified and cleared to allow for access.**
 - **The Anguilla Fisherfolk Association and the Anguilla Fishermen's Cooperative have also indicated interest in creating designed habitat for crayfish, lobster, and other marine life within the PPMP replenishment zone. External funds have been secured to create this habitat, using reef balls (layer cake design). Fishers will work with ANT and DFMR staff members to create the layer cakes and deploy them in Q3Y3.**

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
 - **Seven additional volunteers and regional colleagues were trained in terrestrial biodiversity surveys and monitoring (bringing the total to 58) in Q1Y3.**
 - 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
 - **Seven additional ANT staff and volunteers were trained in biosecurity surveillance procedures in Q1Y3 and Q2Y3 (bringing the total to 22).**

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 Y2.

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
 - Updates in Q1Y3 and Q2Y3 have been made on social media (Facebook and Instagram).
 - Presentation on Anguilla's marine parks and, specifically, Prickly Pear Marine Park at the 2019 Inter-Island Environment Meeting and Wilder Islands Conference held in Alderney, Channel Islands (28 September 2019).

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 Q3Y3 and Q4Y3 of the project.
 - Update provided to the Minister responsible for the environment (and the Anguilla National Trust) in Q1Y3.

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 Q4Y3

- STATUS
 - Surveys were completed in Y1.
 - Post-project surveys are scheduled for Q4Y3.

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.

The only major problem that has so far been encountered this year is the hard substrate surrounding the Prickly Pear cays. The substrate has made it difficult to secure mooring buoys and marine park boundary markers. DFMR is currently constructing heavy concrete sinkers to hold the mooring buoys and boundary markers in place. The sinkers will need to cure above water before deployment.

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. 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**