

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

Project reference	DPLUS067
Project title	Regional collaboration to achieve sustainable Caribbean fisheries management
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	British Virgin Islands, Anguilla, Turks and Caicos
Lead organisation	Cefas
Partner(s)	Governments of Anguilla, British Virgin Islands and Turks and Caicos
Project leader	Rosana Ourens
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	HYR1
Project website/blog/social media etc.	

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).

The following activities have been conducted over the last 6 months (April-Sept):

- 1) Rosana Ourens, Koen Vanstaen and Ewen Bell visited Anguilla and BVI in June to start up the project. The data requirement and data sources were identified, and the work plan was discussed and agreed.
- 2) Rosana Ourens, Koen Vanstaen and Ewen Bell had a videoconference with the Fisheries Division of Turks and Caicos in June to start up the project. The data requirement and data sources were identified, and the work plan was discussed and agreed.
- 3) Existing fishing data were collated in Anguilla and TCI. BVI must digitalize and send to Cefas the fishing data from the logbooks of the last year.
- 4) A maturity model questionnaire has been developed to monitor project progress.
- 5) A flyer has been designed to disseminate the goals of the project and engage the fishing industry in the project.
- 6) A survey is being designed to identify the species status in the Horseshoe reef in BVI.
- 7) The Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources in Anguilla is conducting interviews with fishers in order to identify the most important fishing areas for spiny lobster in the North of the island. A TV camera survey will be conducted in the identified areas. Vessel and required equipment for the survey have been identified, and the methodology defined.
- 8) A questionnaire to reconstruct the fishery history in Anguilla has been developed.

In summary, all activities detailed in the workplan for the first half year of the project have been initiated and one of them already completed:

Existing fisheries data and policies gathering in all UKOTs: completed

Review BVI logbook holdings: In progress

Trial community led rapid species status in BVI: In progress
Fisheries survey in Anguilla: In progress
Collate and rationalise fish processor datasets from TCI: In progress

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 three countries have been devastated by the Hurricane Irma (category 5 storm) on 6th September 2017. Government officials reported extensive damage to airports, houses, hospitals, shelters, schools, and ports, and most of the roads were impassable. It will be months before the islands are able to recover.

This unfortunate event is causing significant delays with the project. A trip to the three countries had been set up at the end of September in order to conduct a TV- camera survey in Anguilla, and complete the questionnaires detailed above. This trip could not be conducted yet.

In order to give enough time to our partners to focus on work again, we would like to postpone the project until next financial year (1st April 2018). This option has been already discussed with LTS International and we will submit a formal change request soon.

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: £41082

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.

Because of these unforeseen circumstances, we will request to postpone the project, and move accordingly part of the funds agreed for this financial year for the next ones.

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

Start Wynne, fishery officer in Anguilla, will start working at Cefas next financial year. He will continue working on the project but as a Cefas staff member located in UK. Kafi Gumbs, Director of the Fisheries Department in Anguilla, and two qualified and experienced staff

members of the Department (Remone Johnson and Carlos Sasso) will work with us on the project from Anguilla. We do not anticipate any setback on the project.

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**