Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project
Half Year Report
(due 31st October 2018)

Project reference	DPLUS067
Project title	Regional collaboration to achieve sustainable Caribbean fisheries management
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Anguilla, British Virgin Islands (BVI), Turks and Caicos (TCI)
Lead organisation	Cefas
Partner(s)	Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources (DFMR) in Anguilla; Conservation and Fisheries Department (CFD) in BVI; and Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR) in TCI.
Project leader	Rosana Ourens
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	HYR2
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 table below includes the activities that should have been started or completed by the first half of the financial year 2018-2019 according the timetable of the project. The last column on the right indicates the current state of progress:

Activity	2017-18 Q1	Q2	2018-19 Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	State
OUTPUT 1: Data collection							
1.Existing fisheries data and policies gathering in all UKOTs	███		███				✓
2.Data rationalisation for all UKOTs			███	███			✓
3.Develop maturity model for all UKOTs		███	███				✓
4.Review BVI logbook holdings, develop analysis routines			███	███			✓
5.BVI logbook trends reporting			███				In progress
6.BVI logbook derived fisheries status indicators			███				In progress
7.Revise BVI logbook data collection programme				███			✓
8.Trial community led rapid species status survey in the Horseshoe Reef FPA			███				In progress
9.Fisheries survey in Anguilla			███				✗
10.Collate and rationalise fish processor datasets from TCI			███				✓
OUTPUT 3: Sustainable management							
11.Assess the strengths and weaknesses of existing fisheries management approaches in each UKOT			███				✓
12.Recommended management options based on best practice identified in other UKOTs or relevant countries			███				In progress

✓ Completed

      ✖ Not started

Comments to the table:

- Activity 3: A maturity model has been designed and completed by the UKOTs. The information has been already analysed and it will be included in the final year report.

- Activities 5 and 6: BVI logbook data has been analysed. However, the data for the last 10 years were saved as paper hard copies only and CFD lost the information during the Hurricane Irma. CFD is trying to recover the information. If successful, the full time series of data will be analysed.

- Activity 8: The fishing season for lobster and conch in BVI is November-July. A survey has been designed to assess the status of the stocks in the horseshoe Reef FPA. CFD will collect the data during the fishing season.

- Activity 9: We have sent a change request to remove this activity (see next section).

- Activity 10: The fish processor datasets from TCI have been collated and rationalised. However, the information is very poorly organised, making very difficult (if not impossible) to analyse. Cefas will assist DECR with the data management by creating a new and organised database for each species.

- Activity 12: Cefas has discussed management options based on best practice in other countries with both the local partners and fishermen in the three UKOTs. However, this activity will be completed next financial year, when the status of the stocks is assessed and Cefas can advise with a scientific-basis.

The following additional activities have been conducted in the last 6 months:

- Cefas and CFD hold a meeting in Anegada (BVI) to present the project to the fishermen and discussed with them the possibility of implementing a fisheries co-management system.

- Cefas has interviewed fishers in the three UKOTs to describe their social profile. A comparison between countries will be conducted. These interviews have been very useful to identify the main issues of the fisheries according to the fishers and informally present the project to them.

- Cefas has interviewed fishers in Anguilla to locate the fishing grounds for lobster. A map with the fishing grounds has been created.

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.

DFMR in Anguilla is a small department with very limited economic and human resources. When the proposal was written DFMR had 5 fisheries officers who collected and analysed the fishing data. Last year the department lost three fisheries officers, including the person in charge of this project in the host country. The officers have not been replaced yet, and currently DFMR does not have enough staff to successfully deliver the project.

We have also found it difficult to find a vessel in Anguilla to conduct the camera survey. Cefas' staff are not allowed to go on board of vessels without a safety card issued by MMO. Fishing vessels in the UKOTs rarely meet the safety card requirements, and charter boats are often used to conduct research surveys in the host countries. There are only three charter companies in Anguilla however none of them are able to deliver services to the project for the following reasons.

1. One company would not send the information required for the safety card despite our multiple calls.

2. Another company sent the safety information, but it asked for a high price for the rent (US$2800/day. Cefas is paying around US$1000/day for similar services in the Caribbean, and this was the price used to estimate the costs of the project).
3. DFMR has had problems in the past with the third charter company and will not work with it.

We have formally requested two changes on the project to adapt it to the new circumstances: 1) Focus the project only on spiny lobster in Anguilla; 2) replace a habitat mapping survey with other activities more relevant for stock assessments.

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: <u>Yes</u>/No
Formal change request submitted: <u>Yes</u>/No
Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/<u>No</u>

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?

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 R24 and asked to provide further information by your first half year report, please attach your response as a separate document.

Please note: Any <u>planned</u> 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 <u>Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk</u> . 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**