



## Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report

<b>Project reference</b>	DPLUS073
<b>Project title</b>	Improving small island resilience and self-sufficiency in habitat monitoring and management
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	British Virgin Islands
<b>Lead organisation</b>	University of Roehampton
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Jost Van Dykes Preservation Society (JVDPS) and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
<b>Project leader</b>	<i>Louise Soanes</i>
<b>Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)</b>	<i>HYR1</i>
<b>Project website etc.</b>	

### 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).

*Please see table below for update on project activities:*

Activity	Due date	Description of activities
<b>Output 1. Baseline data collection and assessment of the status and resilience of key habitats in JVD and its offshore cays to future climate change</b>		
1.1 Training workshop in methods for assessing resilience and baseline data collection	Y1Q1	Dr Kathleen Wood (from TCI) facilitated a five-day training workshop 3 <sup>rd</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> May in JVD, participants included three JVD staff members, the Deputy Director of Virgin Islands National Parks Trust, and team leader of Actionquest/Go Beyond, a youth community service programme. Training included survey methods of mangroves, seagrass, and coastal vegetation and methods for ranking habitats in terms of their resiliency. Dr Wood advised on key survey areas for resilience ranking and to establish as long-term monitoring sites). JVDPS Director Susan Zaluski has since trained additional community members in monitoring protocols. (Robert Isaac, Janice Graham, Teresa Callwood, Justine Callwood, and 7 youth as part of our annual summer programme).
1.2 Training manual produced	Y1Q1	Survey methodology guides complete for mangroves, seagrass, benthic habitats and coastal vegetation and a draft report detailing the guidelines for restoration and monitoring of Sandy Spit produced. Training manual for resilience assessments of coastal habitats in preparation.
1.3 Resilience assessment of mangrove areas	Y1Q1	Initial assessments of mangrove sites on JVD and the wider territory funded in part by Darwin plus and BirdsCarribean hurricane relief grant. Interest from the Tortola Rotary club and the BVI Department of Disaster Management will expand mangrove work across the territory. This work is on-going. Protocol for mangrove monitoring developed during this project will be adapted in at least 2 more BVI communities with participation by Community Based Organisations in Tortola with training carried out by JVD based project leaders.
1.4 Resilience assessments of seagrass	Y1Q1	Surveys undertaken of primary seagrass habitats around JVD populated coastlines, and presence of invasive seagrass species mapped. <i>This work is on-going</i>
1.5 Resilience	Y1Q1	Surveys of coral reef areas have been undertaken around the coastline of

assessment of coral reefs		JVD and its offshore cays. In addition, JVDPS supported a Stanford undergraduate student (Andrea Contreras) in her research work which uses photogrammetry to record the rugosity of coral reefs using JVD as one of her study sites, her work will feed into this Darwin project and she will return for further survey work in 2019. <i>This work is on-going</i>
1.6 Resilience assessment of beaches/dunes	Y1Q1	Tree and shrub presence and height along populated bays recorded and coastal vegetation surveys undertaken on two offshore cays and populated bays on JVD. <i>This work is on-going</i>
1.7 Identification of key habitats for resilience building activities	Y1Q1	Undertaken during the training workshop in May, and after stakeholder consultation.
1.8 Report on resilience assessments	Y1Q1	Data still to be collected at some sites, but report is in progress
1.9 – 1.12 Monthly monitoring of marine parks, beach and, mangroves,	Y2Q1	Expert advice from Dr Gregg Moore and Dr Wood recommended that monthly monitoring of these sites is not worthwhile, for example very little change will be recorded in a mangrove habitat between months. Instead we are focusing our efforts on expanding the base-line survey data of coastal and marine sites around JVD that we are able to collect as part of this project so that we can build a comprehensive picture of habitat resiliency around JVD, and will repeat surveys of key habitats in 2019 to monitor change (e.g. re- growth of mangrove forests that were severely damaged by the hurricanes in 2017).
1.12 Report on baseline data collection	Y2Q2	Data is still being collected to feed into this report
<b>Output 2. Development of conservation management actions to increase the resilience of key ecosystems to severe weather events, incorporating stakeholder input.</b>		
2.1 Stakeholder workshops to discuss the implementation of small-scale measures for increasing resilience	Y1Q2	JVDPS has led meetings between local landowners (Sandy Ground Estates) and local businesses (Foxy's Bar and Restaurant located in Great Harbour, and Taboo Restaurant located at the East End), and the Virgin Islands National Parks Trust and the BVI Rotary Club to discuss implementation of resilience building activities. In addition, local community members have been asked for opinions using social media postings on facebook.
2.2 Implementation of at least 3 stakeholder informed conservation actions by the end of the project	Y2Q2	Project activities to date have included: 1) Removal of hurricane debris from three ponds (East End, White Bay and West of Great Harbour). 2) Pilot translocation of mangrove seedlings to a pond located at the East End of JVD as part of summer camp activities. 3) Mapping of historic vegetation line on Sandy Spit (recognised as a National monument) for re-planting.
2.3 Production of long-term management plans	Y2Q3	<i>Not due yet</i>
<b>Output 3: Increasing understanding of the important role that healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems can play in improving small islands resilience to extreme weather events</b>		
3.1 Stakeholder meeting to introduce the project	Y1Q2	Project introduced during training workshop in May and introduced on social media (JVDPS facebook and JVDPS community Facebook page) to ensure local community awareness. Stakeholder meetings have also been held with the Virgin Islands National Parks Trust and the Rotary club
3.2 Training offered to local community	Y2Q4	This activity is on-going throughout the project but to date includes: - Four BVI based (inc. two JVD-based) community members attended training workshop - JVDPS has provided training in survey methodology to 12 JVD community members (including 7 youths). - Three JVD community members trained in operating Skidskeer heavy machinery with the purpose of clearing hurricane debris

		- Eight JVD school children trained in mangrove seedling translocation
3.3 at least 10 press and social media posts throughout the project	Y2Q4	Nine social media postings made to date: <a href="https://www.roehampton.ac.uk/life-sciences/news/darwin-grant-awarded-to-build-new-resilient-ecosystems-in-the-british-virgin-isles/">https://www.roehampton.ac.uk/life-sciences/news/darwin-grant-awarded-to-build-new-resilient-ecosystems-in-the-british-virgin-isles/</a> <a href="http://bvibeacon.com/study-finds-mangroves-will-grow-back/">http://bvibeacon.com/study-finds-mangroves-will-grow-back/</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/JVDPS/posts/10156343701487230">https://www.facebook.com/JVDPS/posts/10156343701487230</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/JVDPS/posts/10156378765762230">https://www.facebook.com/JVDPS/posts/10156378765762230</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/JVDPS/posts/10156475083922230">https://www.facebook.com/JVDPS/posts/10156475083922230</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/JVDPS/posts/10156505593292230">https://www.facebook.com/JVDPS/posts/10156505593292230</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/965964390229471/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/965964390229471/</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/CREEBroehampton/status/1029067967894630402">https://twitter.com/CREEBroehampton/status/1029067967894630402</a>
3.4 Lecture given at community college	Y2Q4	<i>Not yet due</i>
3.5 Project activities incorporated into JVD educational camps	Through out the project	7 JVD students were trained in benthic habitat monitoring during JVDPS' annual summer programme. With additional support from BVI Unite, these students are undergoing certification in SCUBA to enable them to participate in long term monitoring plans for JVDPS. In addition eight JVD school children and participants of the ActionQuest youth sailing programme took part in a pilot mangrove seedling translocation, hurricane debris removal and coastal clean-up at the East End of JVD on 11 <sup>th</sup> August 2018.
3.6 End of project meeting	Y2Q4	<i>Not yet due</i>

**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.**

We were advised by project consultants (Dr Gregg Moore and Dr Kathleen Wood) that monthly monitoring of habitats will not show significant changes and instead our efforts should focus on expanding the number of sites to collect base-line data from so we have a more comprehensive set of data from around JVD and it's offshore cays. We then plan to conduct repeat surveys of key sites in 2019 to assess status and recovery.

**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: No (in progress)

Formal change request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Not yet

**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.**

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

None to report