

Darwin Plus: Overseas Territories Environment and Climate Fund Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the "Writing a Darwin Report" guidance:
(<http://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/reporting-forms>). It is expected that this report
will be a **maximum** of 20 pages in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2020

Darwin Plus Project Information

Project reference	DPLUS 098
Project title	Restoring and safeguarding wetlands of the Caribbean UKOTs
Territory(ies)	Anguilla, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands
Lead organisation	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Partner institutions	Anguilla National Trust, Montserrat National Trust, Turks and Caicos National Trust
Grant value	299,332
Start/end dates of project	1 April 2019 – 31 March 2022
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2019-Mar 2020) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2)	Apr 2019-Mar 2020, Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	Charlie Butt
Project website/blog/social media	
Report author(s) and date	Charlie Butt 28 th , April 2020

1. Project summary

Caribbean wetlands are critical to achieving island resiliency by providing essential ecosystem services such as flood protection and yet are being destroyed and degraded. This project aims to reverse the loss and degradation of wetlands in Anguilla, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos by sharing best practice, developing and applying practical on-the-ground wetland conservation and restoration measures, promote strengthened safeguard policy and practice and increase public awareness of the value of wetlands.

In one sense, the project aims to address conservation issues at two wetlands in Anguilla and one in Turks and Caicos – selected by our project partners – and to enable the creation of a wetland in Montserrat, which has lost all of its wetlands over the last two decades. Desk and field based research aims to define a baseline for each site, define favourable conservation status and to feed into the identification of goals and objectives for each conservation action plan. Each project has a strong emphasis on local community participation in the development of the action

plans. Further details can be found in the report.

Appendix to Reference Division Note R.2416 WEST INDIAN FEDERATION: A BACKGROUND NOTE. Classification: C, 2b



Figure 1. Location of each participating territory and name of wetland site

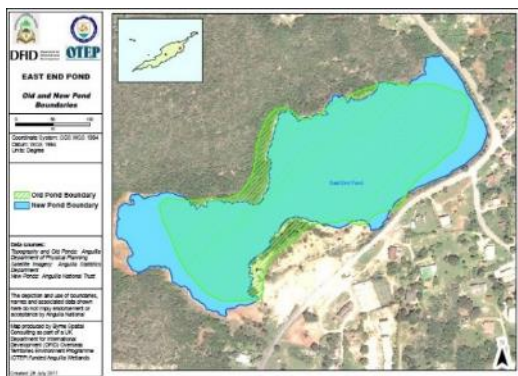


Figure 2. Map of East End Pond Conservation Area (Left) and Road Salt Bay Pond IBA (Right), Anguilla

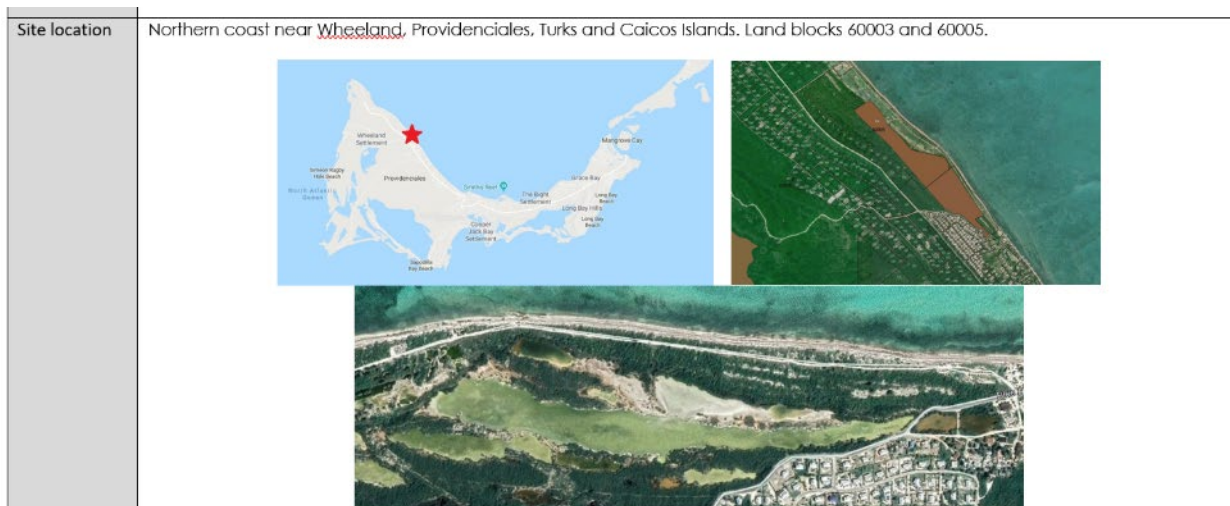


Figure 3. Wheeland Pond, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos

The Belham Valley



Figure 4. Belham Valley birds eye view (left) and oblique view of theoretical location for wetland creation (subject to further stakeholder consultation), Montserrat

In a broader sense the project seeks to increase awareness of the value of wetlands in the Caribbean and elevate momentum around the conservation of wetlands in these territories, the wider Caribbean overseas territories and beyond.

2. Project stakeholders/partners

The project was conceived through extensive consultation with the RSPB's partners in the Caribbean region. Wetlands conservation emerged as an important priority for the Anguilla National Trust, Montserrat National Trust and the Turks and Caicos National Trust. We invited our partners to identify specific sites and issues that they wanted to focus on and then to strengthen the project concept, we – through our national partners - invited relevant government departments to join forces, which led to the Montserrat DoE and the Turks and Caicos Department of Environment and Coastal Resources DECR coming on board and confirmed the demand to address the issues highlighted in the project application. All partners are involved in and lead on decision-making as evidenced by the Year 1 partner project plans (see Supplementary Annex 2.1-2.3)

Anguilla: The Anguilla National Trust (ANT), the project partner in Anguilla, hosted an excellent inception workshop in summer 2019. Several additional stakeholders were able to attend including representatives from Anguilla's Department of Disaster Management, Department of Physical Planning and Department of Environment (See Supplementary Annex 1.1, workshop sign-in sheet). The involvement of key departments – such as Physical Planning – has helped to enhance local dialogue around works that may be needed as defined in the East End Pond Conservation Area Action Plan. Teachers from the local school (East End) also participated which helped to set the scene for the ongoing engagement through the project. ANT, the project partner in Anguilla, has been highly motivated and engaged throughout Year 1. Furthermore, ANT have added value to the partnership overall as they have supported partners in the other OTs through the provision of regionally relevant materials and methods in wetland bird monitoring.

Montserrat: Montserrat National Trust (MNT) and Department of Environment – the joint partners in Montserrat - have worked well together over the past year. Joint meetings have been successfully held to review candidate sites for the wetland creation. The Isles Bay (IB) Community sits adjacent to the lower Belham Valley, where it is proposed the wetland will be created. The IB community were engaged in an initial stakeholder meeting held January 2020. Their involvement is vital as they have previously opposed sand mining in the lower reaches of the valley. Whilst no sand mining is proposed to create the wetland, some groundworks will be needed and no works can be done without their consent. An account of the meeting and discussion can be found in Supplementary Annex 3 (names redacted). Successful meetings were also held with the Minister for Environment and the Permanent Secretary to the Department of Environment in summer 2019 and with the Governor. Finally, a local developer with plans to re-create a golf course in the lower Belham Valley has been engaged and is supportive of the project. We are exploring the potential to integrate the wetland into the golf course design, taking into account the needs and interests of the local community and biodiversity.

In the Turks and Caicos, the DECR and TCNT are the primary partners. The two key staff involved in the project design during the pre project planning discussions are no longer involved in the project; the former director of TCNT left the Trust in 2019 and there was a change in resource deployment by the DECR prior to project initiation. This has initially presented challenges with project implementation but these challenges have been overcome to some extent; RSPB hosted a virtual meeting with all staff involved and responsibilities allocated to individuals (Supplementary Annex 2.2). This has had the benefit of increasing clarity on roles and responsibilities, nevertheless having an agreed local project leader would be beneficial. To address capacity gaps in the short-term, RSPB has secured external and internal funds to facilitate the recruitment of temporary additional capacity to TCNT (this capacity will only become available once the Covid19 imposed lockdown has abated). RSPB will continue to provide close support to the team in TCI. Indeed, in February 2020, an RSPB Conservation Science team member's sabbatical – an individual with specialism in social science and ecosystem services - helped the local TCI team advance their wetland action plan and inform thinking around survey design (indicator 3.1). In terms of wider stakeholder involvement, TCNT and RSPB held joint meetings with the Environmental Health Department as they have also been involved in clean up work in and around Wheeland Pond, as the Minister responsible for the department is also the district representative for the Wheeland Community. TCI also benefits from annual shorebird surveys (further details available on request) that have a focus on Piping Plover and Red Knot conservation – both listed as species of conservation concern by the USFWS. RSPB supported these surveys and in January 2020, the team kindly agreed to support the TCI team with surveys of Wheeland pond, helping build capacity in the process (data generated from a point count can be found in Supplementary Annex 5.3).

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

1. Wetland conservation action plans are prepared in partnership with local experts and grassroots organisations and capacity to develop and implement plans increased

1.1 Hold a workshop at the start of the project with all project partners, facilitated by technical specialists in wetland restoration

The inception workshop was held in Anguilla (17-20 June 2019) hosted by our project partner, ANT and facilitated by the RSPB. 22 participants attended the workshop from the host and partner territories. The workshop sought to consider the challenges facing wetland sites and provide an overview of wetlands creation, conservation, restoration and management techniques, the latter complimented by RSPB in-house wetlands ecology expertise. The workshop also benefited from participation from the Jost van Dyke Preservation Society of the British Virgin Islands. This helped to achieve the aim of increasing the impact of the project overall and facilitate sharing of expertise and information. The JVDPS director presented on the role of wetlands and mangrove in increasing island resilience, in the context of the impacts of climate change. Details of the workshop, agenda, presentations, a report, images and outputs arising can be found in Supplementary Annexes 1.1 – 1.11 with images in Annex 4.0.

Activity 1.2 Prepare annual monitoring plans to survey birds and plants

Annual monitoring plans for bird (cross-territory) were prepared for all territories, shortly after the project initiated. Supplementary Appendices 2.1-2.3 details the team plans. The template all partners use for monitoring plants and birds is based on the data recording sheet that ANT use for their monthly bird monitoring, which follows closely the Birds Caribbean Wetlands monitoring protocols.

In response to challenges faced by project partners with data recording and storage, the RSPB proposed developing a wetland bird monitoring app – based on Survey123 for ArcGIS – that enables bird monitoring data to be collected on smartphones and stored online. The app was developed and a beta version circulated for testing by partners. However, due to constraints faced by our partners, we were unable to progress the app. Data were captured using

traditional methods and added to spreadsheets to be shared with RSPB and other interested stakeholders.

Activity 1.3 Undertake bird and plant surveys at each wetland site

Anguilla: Two plant monitoring plots were established at East End Pond Conservation Area in August 2019. The two plots were surveyed again in February 2020. Two additional (native) plant species were recorded within the plots. A species plant list was also compiled for East End Pond Conservation Area in August 2019 and a comprehensive plant species list was compiled for Road Salt Pond between May 2019 and August 2019 (Appendix 5.1). Plant monitoring plots are not feasible at Road Salt Pond Important Bird & Biodiversity Area (IBA) as there is only a thin vegetation buffer between the pond and the local road that lines most of its perimeter. St. Barths' Agence Territoriale de l'Environnement assisted with the establishment of the permanent plots at East End Pond as well as with the plant species list at both East End Pond Conservation Area and Road Salt Pond. Students from the Albena Lake Hodge Comprehensive School Environmental Club also assisted with the latter. Bird counts at both sites have been conducted in April 2019 and October 2019 (Appendix 5.2).

Montserrat: The focus of the project in Montserrat is on the creation of a wetland and rehabilitation of the upper Belham Valley, currently being mined for sand. A proposal to create an integrated catchment plan for Belham Valley is being explored. Montserrat lost all of its wetlands due to human induced land use change and to the Soufriere Volcano eruption in the 1990s. Bird Surveys were conducted by Mr. James 'Scriber' Daley and Miss Ahjermae White, as part of the monitoring exercises. Desk and field data are being combined to generate a baseline and conservation targets for the wetland creation. This includes consideration of the wetland being a stopover site on the Atlantic Flyway, and the possibility of the wetland serving as a satellite site to the nearby Redonda IBA. Further surveys were conducted during an RSPB visit in January as part of a sabbatical. Several invasive plant species were observed in the Belham Valley area and this will need to be factored into management plans.

Turks and Caicos: Point counts were conducted at Wheeland Pond as part of a broader effort to survey the Turks and Caicos for shorebirds and during follow-up surveys were conducted by Michael MacDonald (sabbatical-RSPB), Della Higgs (TCNT), and Dodley Prosper (DECR). DECR led plant monitoring efforts and produced a plant list prior to the project initiation (Appendix 5.4).

Activity 1.4 Conservation action plans produced for Anguilla's East End Pond Conservation Area and Road Salt Pond Important Bird & Biodiversity Area (Anguilla) and Wheeland Pond (Turks and Caicos) by Q4Y1

Plans have been prepared for these three sites as an output of the Anguilla wetlands workshop (Supplementary Appendix (SA) 1.11) and through more detailed ground based investigations at each site (SA 5.1 and 5.8).

Anguilla: The ANT reviewed and updated the East End Pond Management Plan and further developed the Road Salt Pond IBA Management Plan. Both plans will be reviewed by respective community/village groups once national restrictions in response to the Covid-19 pandemic have been lifted. These draft plans can be found in Annex 5.1.

Turks and Caicos: The Wheeland Pond conservation action plan was prepared in outline during breakout sessions at the wetlands workshop in Anguilla by the TCI team. It was then further developed in Turks and Caicos with partners with assistance from an RSPB sabbatical visit in February 2020. It will need further refinement by DECR and TCNT before presenting to the community for further input.

Activity 1.6 Meetings held between National Trusts and Government to assist with planning and decision-making relevant to all wetlands in each Territory

Anguilla government departments of Environment, Physical Planning and Disaster Management joined and participated in the ANT-hosted project inception workshop

and participated in breakout group discussions that will inform wetland action plans (Supplementary Annex 1.1).

Montserrat: Please also refer to section 2 above. The RSPB project team and mine rehabilitation consultant visited in June 2019 where meetings were held with project partners and policy leads at Governor's House, planning, with a representative from the community of sand miners and a local developer from the Belham Valley area. The MNT Executive Director, Mrs. Sarita Francis along with the RSPB project team and mine rehabilitation consultant met with Ministry officials during the in-country visit in January 2020. Government is currently working on its policy and regulatory framework to engender a better understanding of the implications of mining activities in the upper Belham Valley and has given commitment to advance the Draft Sandmining Bill. Studies are also being undertaken to explore new areas for the Belham Valley Sandminers to operate in. See Section 2 above for further details and Supplementary Annex 3.0.

Turks and Caicos: Department for Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR) and TCNT have created a cross-team for project implementation, with shared responsibilities, prioritised around core strengths (see Supplementary Annex 2.2).

Output 2. Natural and artificial wetlands where restoration techniques are piloted lead to measurable increase in ecological quality and improvement and enhancement of natural capital values indicators

Activity 2.1 Wetland restoration needs assessment for EEPKA (Anguilla), Wheeland Pond (Turks and Caicos) and Belham Valley Wetlands (Montserrat) completed by Q3 Yr.1 across Territories.

Wetland restoration needs assessments were completed prior to the workshop by project leads in each territory. These were then reviewed and updated with a broader set of stakeholders during the workshop. All wetlands needs assessments materials can be found in (Supplementary Annex 0.1-0.3). More detailed investigations were conducted in **Montserrat** during a wetlands creation scoping mission to Belham Valley and Margarita Valley to assess remediation and restoration needs conducted in June 2019 and January 2020. This involved a senior sites manager from the RSPB guided remotely by an RSPB wetland ecologist, together with a quarry rehabilitation consultant and looked at wetland creation feasibility. Recommendations were made and meetings held with the on-island team and then with local stakeholders.

Activity 2.2 Commission professional rehabilitation and remediation feasibility study (N.S Nettles & Associates proposal to restore East End Conservation Area (Area) wetland site in Anguilla: A feasibility study to restore the East End Pond Conservation Area was completed in May 2019. The purpose of this study was to map the geology of the pond, provide a better understanding of the hydrogeology of this area, and look at the feasibility to remove the in-filled area. The report recommends various approaches for remediation, however, they are all quite costly. The ANT is in the process of reviewing and considering the report and its recommendations. The full study can be found in Annex 5.1.

Activity 2.3 Develop restoration and biodiversity action plans for Belham Valley (Montserrat) and identify restoration measures needed for Wheeland Pond (TCI). **Montserrat:** A professional consultancy was commissioned to assess rehabilitation and remediation feasibility to address sand mining in upper Belham Valley Area and potential wetlands location in bay area (see Annex 5.5 and presentation to Isles Bay Community Annex 5.6). A draft rehabilitation action plan has been prepared by the consultant for consultation with Montserrat National Trust (MNT) and the Montserrat Department of Environment (DoE). **Turks and Caicos** - emphasis is being given to enhance visitor facilities at Wheeland Pond and continue efforts to reduce dumping. It was originally assumed it would be beneficial to try to reconnect the two small and one large ponds that make up the Wheeland Pond complex. Following an appraisal by officials within the DECR, physical restoration works may not be desirable at Wheeland Pond.

Activity 2.4 Pilot-test proposed restoration measures; implement action plans. This activity is scheduled to be in Year 2. However, ahead of schedule ... **Anguilla** National Trust has already signed a contract with KR Services to construct a viewing platform and boardwalk at East End Pond Conservation Area. This viewing area will assist with ANT education programmes as well as provide a sheltered site for both ANT monthly bird counts and birding activities. A mangrove nursery was established at the ANT office. The nursery currently holds approximately 100 red mangrove and seagrape seedlings, with more (red, white, and black mangrove, buttonwood, and seagrape) to be grown in Y2 of the project. A second satellite nursery has also been established at the Albena Lake Hodge Comprehensive School's WISE campus, with students assisting with the daily care of the plants. The ANT has begun transplanting seedlings from the nurseries to East End Pond Conservation Area. Fifteen red mangrove seedlings have so far been planted (mapped and monitored) at East End Pond Conservation Area. Additional seedlings will be planted within the pond as well as around the viewing platform and along the boardwalk, after construction, to provide additional shelter, coverage, and canopy. Seedlings from the nursery will also be planted, in collaboration with the Sandy Ground community, around and within Road Salt Pond.

Output 3. The value of wetlands and need for their wise use is better-understood by those intending to undertake operations or make decisions affecting their ecological quality

Activity 3.1. Integrated/innovative community involvement to raise awareness and significance of wetlands.

Anguilla: In November 2019, the ANT held a public event to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day at Road Salt Pond. Over 23 individuals were trained in bird identification and assisted with the compilation of a species list for the site. In February 2020, 16 individuals assisted with the ANT's Caribbean Wetlands Census at East End Pond Conservation Area (as well as the nearby Mimi Bay Pond). As part of the East End Pond Conservation Restoration Initiative, twelve young children attending the ANT's Young Explorers after school programme have assisted with the planting of red mangrove seedlings in November 2019. Three interpretation signs are currently being designed for the East End Pond Conservation Area viewing platform. The signs will be complemented by seasonal birding pamphlets.

Montserrat: Engaging meeting held with Isles bay community in January 2020 and summarised in Annex 3.0. In this meeting, the team initially received challenges from community members due to community opposition to sand mining in lower Belham valley. The in-territory and external (RSPB led) team had a very informative discussion with the community, which led to some offers to assist the project goals.

Turks and Caicos: a door to door informational walk recently took place led by TCNT and DECR. This included providing literature to community members about the Wheeland Pond restoration plans together with an invitation as to how community members can get involved in the project. The following week, a 'Wheeland Pond Community Beautification and Bird Watching Project' event took place – largely a continuation of the community involvement to raise awareness included engaging school science classes in specific assignments, such as monitoring seasonal wildlife. A Community Clean up event was held at Wheeland Pond with involvement of local schools, followed by bird watching activity.

Activity 3.2. Increase in awareness of values of wetlands with two key decision-makers in each territory by Q2 Year 3.

Turks and Caicos. On-going meetings have begun with the with the Wheeland Representative the Honorable Delroy Williams, Environment Ministry PS and Honorable Minister of Environment Ralph Higgs, to encourage support for the project by highlighting the local economic benefits to safeguarding and restoring the wetland e.g. through increased ecotourism and profile to the Kimcha Village Campsite.

Activity 3.4 Schools to engage science classes in specific assignments from monitoring seasonal wildlife at wetlands to control of invasive species (plants)

Anguilla: Nine school teachers and students joined with plant monitoring/assessment surveys conducted at Road Salt Pond in May 2019. Students and teachers/supervisors were also trained in bird identification and conducted a trial wetland bird count. All 120 students attending East End Village's Morris Vanterpool Primary School (primary through Grade 6) participated in an ANT-led wetlands education programme in October 2019. Age-appropriate wetlands education programmes were held both in the classroom and at East End Pond Conservation Area. The ANT is in discussion with the principal and teachers of the Adrian T. Hazel Primary School to facilitate a similar education programme at Road Salt Pond.

Output 4: Strengthened wetlands conservation management, restoration and organisational capacity of the project partners

Activity 4.1 Agreement on the roles and responsibilities of each party in the project - Where more than one partner is operating in a territory, cross teams have been setup with roles and responsibilities defined, agreed and captured in a project management file, developed on calls with all project partners in attendance and designing and informing these roles and responsibilities. These files have now been shared with all parties and form the basis of follow-up and enable progress to be tracked by all in a transparent way. The additional administrative burden of having these shared documents signed off meant that no MoUs have been produced between partners in country nor will they be. This is on the basis that all parties have clearly been able to demonstrate effective collaborative working relationships on the project. These can be found in Supplementary Annex 2.1-2.3.

Activity 4.2 Produce priority action plan for each wetland site in each Territory – plans for all sites have been produced to an advanced stage and in Year 2 will be reviewed with relevant community and stakeholder groups (following the lifting of travel and social distancing restrictions enacted following the Covid-19 pandemic). Details of progress producing the action plans in TCI and Montserrat have already been detailed under Output 1.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1. *Wetland conservation action plans prepared in partnership with local experts and grassroots organisations and capacity to develop and implement plans increased.*

1.1 Action plan process for target wetland sites initiated at inception workshop in Q1 Year 1 with all project partners, facilitated by technical specialists in wetland restoration

Good momentum generated at the workshop kicking off the action plan process, further details of which can be found in Supplementary Annex 1.0-1.11.

1.2 Bird monitoring re-initiated from Q2 Yr1; site biodiversity baseline estimates established at all sites by Q1 Yr2 with bi-annual monitoring thereafter.

Bird surveys have now been conducted at Wheeland Pond (TCI) East End Pond Conservation Area and Road Salt Bay Pond IBA (Supplementary Annex (SA) 5.2 and 5.3). Island-wide surveys were conducted by the DoE in Montserrat with data published on eBird (freely available to access). Informal observations were made during the RSPB site manager sabbatical (see SA 5.7).

1.3 Two field-based staff lead on wetland conservation actions and by Q1 Yr3 able to demonstrate learned competencies in each Territory

A minimum of two staff were involved in all field activities and the preparation of action plans in each territory. Junior staff in DoE (Montserrat) helped support feasibility assessments with RSPB and project lead Heritage Sites Manager (TCNT) has increased capabilities with wetland bird monitoring thanks to participation in joint field efforts.

1.4 By Q3 Yr3, National Trusts are in strengthened position to be able to assist Government decision-making around wetland conservation

Good relations with key personnel in government in each territory, be it through partnerships or existing relationships has translated to good progress on this indicator in general. More

specifically, partnership outreach to government planning departments in Years 2 and 3 will be crucial to project success, given that Physical Planning departments tend to be where land use decisions are made.

1.5 Conservation action plans produced for East End Pond Conservation Area, Road Salt Pond (Anguilla) and Wheeland Pond (Turks and Caicos) by Q4 Year 1

Please refer to Activity 1.4 above.

Output 2. *Natural and artificial wetlands where restoration techniques are pilot-tested enable measurable increase in value of sites for wetland birds and people*

2.1 Wetland restoration needs assessment for EEPCA (AXA), Wheeland Pond (TCI) and Belham Valley Wetlands (MNT) completed by Q3 Yr.1 across Territories. Wetland needs assessments were conducted early on and can be found in Supplementary Annex 0.1-0.3.

2.2 Rehabilitation and remediation plan in place to restore East End Pond Conservation Area (EEPCA) (Anguilla) by Q3 Yr1 with application to remove fill submitted by Q2 Year 2; the Nettles (Annex 5.1) report is an important milestone; further progress will be reported at the end of Year 2.

2.3 By Q4 Year 1. Restoration and biodiversity action plans developed for sand mining operations of Belham Valley wetland in Montserrat with interventions identified and integrated into operating procedures Detailed action plan can be found in Annex 5.5. good dialogue initiated with sand miners of upper Belham Valley

2.4 Restoration measures pilot-tested in Anguilla, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos by Q3 Year 3. Pilot testing at all sites can begin once the Covid19 pandemic-induced lockdown measures ease.

2.5 Wheeland Pond (Turks and Caicos) becomes free of building and household debris, plastic and litter following local community engagement and public awareness; transforms to eco-tourism destination compared to baseline with, by Yr 3, a 20% increase in number of paying tourists participating in National Trust guided tours of wetlands from Yr.1 baseline; 50% decrease and 95% decrease in volume of waste material in pond by Q1 Year 2 and Q2 Year 3 respectively. Considerable efforts have already been undertaken to clean up Wheeland Ponds. Much of the visible waste around the ponds as been removed translating to good progress against this indicator.

Output 3 *The value of wetlands and need for their wise use is better-understood by civil society, private sector and government stakeholders (local use, commercial development and government planning)*

3.1 Of stratified random sample of 350 adults in Anguilla 150 in MNT, and 200 in TCI, more than half demonstrate awareness and understanding of named wetlands and their values by Q2 Year 3. Further work will be done in year 2 to identify the cohort of adults to be sampled in each territory. Good progress made through RSPB sabbatical to design questionnaire for use in TCI when lockdown ceases.

3.2. Increase in awareness of values of wetlands with 2 key decision-makers in each territory by Q2 Year 3. Further discussion will be needed in each territory to identify the most appropriate decision-makers to focus this indicator towards.

3.3. At least one developer in each territory recognises wetland value through engagement in at least one wetland restoration activity by Q1 Year 3; Each territory has promise; there is an active dialogue with local developers in TCI and in Montserrat regarding wetland value (further details available on request). Anguilla anticipate opportunities engaging specific hotels in the locality and securing their endorsement.

3.4 Over 85% of East End Village (Anguilla) school children interviewed are aware of the ecological values of the other priority wetlands and importance to island resiliency by end of Year 2; Good progress made already (refer to report against activity 3.1 above).

3.5 At least one territory government authority has, by the end of the project a development policy or statement explicitly calling for the need to protect key wetlands. The DECR retain an ambition to secure greater protection for Wheeland and we hope, subject to constraints

imposed by Covid19, to be able to secure formal protection for Wheeland and enhanced protection for other key TCI wetlands through this project.

Output 4 Strengthened wetlands conservation management, restoration and organisational capacity of the project partners

4.1 Agreement on the roles and responsibilities of each party in the project. All agreed and defined (as per Supplementary Annex 2.1-2.3). Will be revisited during project team meetings at the beginning of Year 2.

4.2 Priority action plan in place for each wetland in each Territory by Q3 Yr3 Good progress made, please refer to section 3.1 above for more information and more detailed information in Annex 5.

4.3 At least one Territory Development Plan incorporates wetland protection, enhancement and safeguard in (Q1 Yr.3); this indicator requires the opening up and engagement in the physical development planning process; we will continue to explore where best energy should be expended. Montserrat could well be a good candidate given the potential around an incentives-based approach to securing new mineral rights for the sand miners conditional upon rehabilitation of the upper Belham valley. The idea being that sand miners use their equipment and skill to create landforms that aid the protection of the wetland proposed to be created in the lower Belham Valley. There would be considerable benefits to TCI's incredible wetlands – not least its IBAs and Ramsar wetland - if wetland protection were formally incorporated into the island development plan.

4.4 By Q2 Yr3, all participating Trusts and Government representatives have strengthened capabilities in wetland conservation and restoration. The inception workshop, bilateral meetings and field visits have all contributed towards enhanced wetland conservation capabilities (Supplementary Annex 1, 1.10, 1.11 and Annex 3).

3.3 Monitoring of assumptions

Stakeholders available and able to impart local / relevant knowledge to inform management plans. For the most part this holds true, however there are some important practical considerations to factor in. The expert ecologist for the TCI project team sits within DECR and is based in North Caicos. This presents challenges for travel and availability, coupled with existing commitments from the day job. To address this in the short-term, we have mobilised expertise from a joint US-Canada mission in January 2020 and an RSPB sabbatical in February 2020. We will need to re-assess this situation early in Year 2 to explore ways forward, particularly in light of Covid19 virus outbreak and the TCI lockdown. **Senior officials willing to approve and then implement the site management plans.** For EEPKA no issues are foreseen as ANT have the management rights to the pond. Road Salt Bay Pond IBA may require further government outreach. There are two ministries with interests in Wheeland Pond; environmental health and environment and tourism. Both will need to be in dialogue about the plans for Wheeland and agree on the community-backed vision. Coordination so far in TCI between ministries has been poor – to some extent due to capacity constraints - this will need to be improved upon from year 2. There is good positive extensive consultation on going in Montserrat but the key group to sign off plans are the Isles Bay Community, so they need to continue to be included and engaged throughout.

Measures needed to restore wetlands are effective and project timeframe is sufficient to demonstrate positive impact of interventions. Measures have been identified but not deployed so it is too early to comment on the first half of this assumption. Two years is a very short timeframe to determine positive impact of interventions in terms of ecological response, but it may be possible to demonstrate positive progress along the results chain. **Hurricanes or other extreme weather events do not prevent pilot and testing of management plan actions; Extreme weather events do not disrupt ability to update or develop baselines for wetland sites; do not undo conservation efforts** Early reports indicate 2020 may be one of the hottest years on record. There is a considerable worry that at least one or more of our

partner OTs will be yet again hit by a devastating hurricane. We can only watch and hope the predictions for 2020 do not come to pass in the Caribbean.

Conservation management plan actions can be delivered and adaptively managed by Governments and Trusts. The ANT has a strong, highly capable local team who have already demonstrated their ability to implement and take forward plans. There are capacity gaps in TCNT and DECR which are attempted to be filled through coordinated cross partnership working. RSPB has helped with these capacity gaps in the interim but more will need to be done to ensure these gaps are filled going forward. Resources secured to be deployed in second half of Year 2 may help with this. **Openness and willingness of Trusts and Government to collaborate and work transparently and openly.** This assumption holds true for the TCI and Montserrat. There has been a reorganisation of government departments in Anguilla, the project partnership will be guided by ANT as to the potential for collaboration. **Communities continue to accept need for remediation of EEPKA (AXA) and Wheeland Pond (TCI)-** feedback from TCNT, DECR and ANT suggests that early signs are good in terms of community participation and acceptance. **Businesses recognise need to adhere to international or regional standards of restoration already developed in the region; businesses ok with signing agreement underpinning action plans** – A key focus for this assumption will be in Montserrat where sandminers are being engaged and encouraged to adopt enhanced standards in order to rehabilitate the upper Belham Valley and consider a new site from which to extract sand. **Studies able to determine point and diffuse pollution sources at Road Salt Pond** – water levels may be the more important factor to focus on at RSP than pollution, following feedback from ANT. **Advocacy materials developed are relevant across all of the participating National Trusts and therefore effective at the Territory / local level** – dialogue will likely be most important particularly with Physical Planning Departments in each OT. **Improved knowledge / access to knowledge leads to improved habitat and species conservation** – this assumption is still relevant assuming no significant staff turnover or illness. **Children able to retain lessons into adulthood and, remain on island in sufficient numbers to be vocal advocates for wetlands in future** – most eNGOs recognize the considerable value of outreach to young people from an early age. Indeed, many youth volunteers with ANT are now full-time staff members. **Partners are willing to sign MoU agreements and agree on roles and responsibilities with the lead partner;** the administrative burden associated with developing and signing MoUs in-country meant that this assumption has not held; however roles and responsibilities were agreed and verbally signed off on (Supplementary annexes 2.1-2.3). **Government processes are willing and able to accommodate wetland protection commitments in their plans;** this remains an important assumption. Machinations of government vary by territory and none are simple to engage with. **All partner staff are successfully able to participate in capacity-strengthening workshops** – so far, so good.

4. Project support to environmental and/or climate outcomes in the UKOTs

The project has helped to raise the profile of the importance of wetlands in the Caribbean UKOTs at the local, national level as well as with government. In all territories, the project is making a direct contribution to most of the commitments in their respective Environment Charters (2001), which guides the ambitions of government. Sand mining is an important economic activity in Montserrat, where the project is helping to tackle the challenge of maintaining this sector whilst leaving a positive environmental legacy for Montserrat (Annex 5.5). The Belham valley rehabilitation effort also follows on from the Sand Mining State Intervention Assessment and Action Plan, a process that began evolving in 2018 (details available on request). Team members across each OT benefit from the cross-team training and development, e.g. TCI has sand mining issues and is able to learn from the project implementation in Montserrat; both teams in TCI and Montserrat have been able to benefit from ANT's experience in wetland site monitoring. The rehabilitation of the upper Belham valley and restoration of EEPKA could well reduce flood risk to local communities and protect livelihoods, as well as bring biodiversity benefits. A study in Anguilla is being discussed that would determine flood risk reduction benefits of site restoration.

5. OPTIONAL: Consideration of gender equality issues

Each of the project teams is well balanced in terms of gender, with female conservation leaders driving the project in each territory. Careful consideration by each team is given to the representativeness of the voice of community leaders. No issues of gender inequality have so far arisen.

6. Monitoring and evaluation

RSPB steering group meetings have been held almost every quarter since the project began (See Annex 6.0 for example agenda). These meetings serve as a venue to discuss project progress, challenges and how to address them. RSPB has facilitated partnership meetings in each territory to help define roles and responsibilities and to track progress (as per annexes 2.1-2.3). An end of project M&E mission was commissioned for a separate Darwin project (DPLUS 055) and the consultant tasked with this did a rapid appraisal of the project implementation in the TCI. If time and resources permit we will explore scope to repeat this assessment in years 2 and 3. RSPB is largely responsible for M&E but this necessarily is done in conjunction with our partners through zoom (videoconference) meetings, email, whatsapp and phone calls.

7. Lessons learnt

Some of our partners experience challenges due to limited capacity, coupled with a very high existing workload. The Covid19 pandemic impacts has not helped. RSPB will seek to increase the frequency of catch-ups with each OT team and have more of a regular off and on-island presence in the TCI to aid project implementation.

We have learned of considerable community opposition to sand mining in the lower Belham valley, manifesting in a court injunction. Further work is needed to win over community activists as some ground works will at some point be needed to create the wetland and these could be closer to cost neutral if it were possible for the sand to be sold. Formal consent will need to be sought from IB community members prior to any undertaking of works in Belham Valley.

Montserrat and TCI teams may benefit from a clear, agreed project leader to 'own' the project and drive this forward. RSPB has invested in additional capacity support to MNT and TCNT to help address this issue (available in TCI only post lockdown and once isolation measures abate).

8. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

N/A.

9. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

A department of TCI Government (not DECR) undertook some 'beautifying' works at one of the three ponds that make up Wheeland in mid 2019, which involved clearance of bankside vegetation and partial in-filling for a 2m wide walkway. These works were done without consultation with the DECR or TCNT. This has underlined the need for continuous dialogue between government departments and officials to ensure successful outcomes for Wheeland. There have also been rumours of a proposed development that would impact Wheeland Pond and again, the DECR were not consulted. Similarly, a proposal for a marina berthing port emerged in Anguilla for the Road Salt Bay Pond IBA, though almost as quickly this threat dissipated. In summary the need to formally protect wetland sites has been underlined as a result of these events.

Because of the strength of feeling about extractive operations in the lower Belham valley, coupled with the court injunction, there is a small risk that the team may need to find a suitable alternative site for the wetland creation in Montserrat. Fortunately a scoping exercise revealing site options was undertaken early on in the project. Some of these alternative sites may be viable but the lower Belham Valley is demonstrably the best location for creation of a wetland.

The biggest risk to all partners at the present time are the direct and indirect consequences of Covid19 global pandemic. TCI has experienced a collapse in tourism and a significant proportion of TCNT's income is derived from tourism site revenue fees. TCNT's survival will in large part depend on the goodwill and availability of financial aid measures from the TCI government, UK government or the EU (who have made available some emergency financial instruments to OCTs).

10. Sustainability and legacy

All partners have a mandate to safeguard wetland sites for future generations. Statutory agencies partnering on the project have a responsibility to conserve and restore these sites and have been closely involved. To increase impact and enhance legacy it would be beneficial to have much closer involvement of Physical Planning Departments from Year 2 and once lockdown measures ease (in response to CV19 pandemic).

The project seeks official declarations by Government in at least one of the Territories as to the value of and need to conserve wetlands. We are hoping to see this manifest in each territory but will concentrate efforts where we may get the most traction

All team members have been able to benefit from the cross-team training and development, particularly during the workshop. Very few wetland sites in TCI have government approved management plans. With an approved plan for Wheeland, the hope is that a resource-light process can be adopted by the DECR to develop biodiversity baselines and action plans for other wetland sites within the existing Protected Area network. This may also help to increase protection for key sites such as East Caicos Ramsar wetland.

There has been good local promotion of the work in each of the territories around the local wetland sites. More of this will continue throughout the project implementation.

11. Darwin identity

The Darwin Logo was prominent throughout all materials and presentations shared in and at the Anguilla hosted inception workshop. The January mission to Montserrat, led by Caribbean Territories Officer, Lyndon John with support from specialist site manager from RSPB reserves network (John Badley) and consultant (Jonathan Stacey) managed to get good profile at the Montserrat level (see article below) (Figure 5). The Anguilla team also got good coverage shortly after the project began (see figure 6.) and took opportunities to raise awareness around both the Feb 2020 Caribbean Waterbird Census and at an event for International Migratory Bird Day (See images in Appendix 5.1).

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Montserrat National Trust Spearheads Belham Valley Wetlands Project

BY NERISSA GOLDEN - JANUARY 29, 2020



The Montserrat National Trust on Monday and Tuesday hosted meetings with stakeholders on a proposed plan to rehabilitate the Belham Valley and develop a wetland area which would serve as a bird sanctuary.

The Belham Valley Rehabilitation Project is part of three-island programme developed by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) which received 300,000 pounds in funding from the Darwin Initiative. The other two Overseas Territories are Anguilla and the Turks and Caicos Islands, who will benefit from the project to protect four wetland sites. The national trust identified the Belham Valley as an opportunity to halt the degradation of the area and develop a wetlands which could provide a haven for birds who travel South in the winter and an attractive place for residents and

left to right - John Badley, Wetlands Manager for the RSPB, Johnathan


Figure 5. Discover Montserrat article on Belham Valley Wetlands, January 29th 2020, Source: https://discovermni.com/2020/01/29/montserrat-national-trust-spearheads-belham-valley-wetlands-project/?utm_campaign=shareaholic&utm_medium=email_this&utm_source=email

FLOODING AT THE EAST END POND BEING ADDRESSED

By anguillian
June 3, 2019 10:27

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L-R Devon Carter, Sandy Nettles, Paul Chournard & Farah Mukhida

The East End Pond is almost dry as a result of the prolonged severe drought affecting Anguilla. This is generally regarded as a concern for the scenic environment and the bird life there. It is, however, a good opportunity for researchers to see what can be done when, after heavy rainfall, the pond overflows its banks sending torrents of water across the public road and into settlement areas.

Figure 6. Article in The Anguillan about the efforts to address flooding at East End Pond (June 3 2019) Source: <https://theanguillian.com/2019/06/flooding-at-the-east-end-pond-being-addressed/>

The RSPB's Caribbean Territories Programme Manager has tweeted images and profile to Darwin at the launch of the project in Anguilla and in subsequent field visits (Example in Figure 7).



Figure 6. Tweet by programme manager – including to RSPB - giving profile to Darwin Defra project

12. Safeguarding

The RSPB takes safeguarding extremely seriously. RSPB has a safeguarding policy and all RSPB staff on the project have passed the minimum level of safeguarding training required; advanced training has been undertaken by project leads. Our contracts with partners require that they have safeguarding measures in place and implement these accordingly. The RSPB safeguarding policy is available online:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/globalassets/downloads/documents/abouttherspbrspb-safeguarding-policy-statement-2019.pdf>

13. Project expenditure

This section will be filled out in due course once all financial information has been received by our partners and fully analysed by our finance team.

Table /1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020)

Project spend (indicative) in this financial year	2019/20 D+ Grant (£)	2019/20 Total actual D+ Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items				
Others (Please specify)				
TOTAL				

T

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2019-2020 – if applicable

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</p> <p>Improved ecological status and climate-resiliency of wetlands through better recognition, protection, and restoration of wetland biodiversity and ecosystem functions at key sites across the Caribbean UKOTs</p>		<p>Good progress made on determining and defining baselines for all sites from which to set targets to improve ecological status. Excellent community participation and engagement across the board. DECR have committed to increase formal protection for Wheeland Pond.</p> <p>R</p>	
<p>Outcome Key threatened wetlands across the Caribbean UKOTs have enhanced protection and are in better ecological condition through improved engagement, networking and collaboration between government and civil society</p>	<p>Wetland action plans produced and actions piloted and tested at four < ANT 2, TCI 1, MNT 1 > priority wetland sites across participating Territories by Yr2</p> <p>0.2 Wetland sites where actions are piloted show progress along the results chain that leads to favourable conservation status being achieved</p>	<p>See section 3.3.</p> <p>Draft action plans have been fully prepared at East End Pond Conservation Area, Road Salt Bay Pond IBA (Anguilla). A rehabilitation action plan has been prepared for the upper reaches of Belham Valley and ground truthing has been done as part of preparations to plan for wetland creation in Montserrat. The basic elements of the action plan for Wheeland Pond have been defined but the partnership between TCNT and DECR is yet to formally agree a draft outline plan to present to the community for buy-in and participation.</p> <p>No actions have yet been piloted to report back on.</p>	<p>The TCI partnership will need to reconvene early in Yr2 – pending the consequences of the covid19 outbreak – and reaffirm roles and responsibilities across TCNT and DECR to ensure actions are delivered.</p> <p>Results chain indicators need to be incorporated into all action plans to enable progress towards favourable conservation status to be tracked once actions are implemented.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>0.3 Statutory bodies recognise action plans developed for priority wetland sites.</p> <p>0.4 Improved collaboration and capacity of the project partners results in better informed planning decisions that helps sustain and restore wetlands and informs better site-led conservation.</p> <p>0.5 Increased awareness across government and the private sector of the value and need for wise use of wetlands</p> <p>0.6 Community endorsement of wetland action plans</p>	<p>Statutory bodies are partners in TCI and Montserrat; there is good x-team working as illustrated in annexes 2.1-2.3 and in joint action plans</p> <p>Collaboration in Montserrat between project partners is good, as is joint planning and decision-making around wetland creation plans. The project has brought renewed energy and emphasis to ANT's work on EEPKA and given a stronger focus to a Road Salt Bay IBA; this has helped see off a possible threat posed by a development scheme</p> <p>There is good awareness by government across all territories thanks to the workshop and follow up meetings (Annex 1, 3, 4). Local business awareness of the project in TCI is good</p> <p>Community outreach has been welcomed at Wheeland (TCI) thanks to DECR and TCNT led clean-ups of Wheeland Pond</p>	<p>Further work to bring in wider cohort of state actors to recognise plans and value wetland sites</p> <p>Build on the sound in-territory collaborations in Year 1 to strengthen partnerships and plans for each wetland</p> <p>Increase our communication efforts across the board and identify specific business sectors, businesses and audiences appropriate to the project and wetland goals</p> <p>Hold community meetings to further refine action plans</p>
<p>Output 1. Wetland conservation action plans prepared in partnership with local experts and grassroots organisations and capacity to develop and implement plans increased</p>	<p>1.1 Action plan process for target wetland sites initiated at inception workshop in Q1 Year 1 with all project partners, facilitated by technical specialists in wetland restoration</p>	<p>Process has initiated (see annex 1)</p>	<p>Continue action plan process, build on momentum</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>1.2 Bird monitoring re-initiated from Q2 Yr1; site biodiversity baseline estimates established at all sites by Q1 Yr2 with bi-annual monitoring thereafter.</p> <p>1.3 Two field-based staff lead on wetland conservation actions and by Q1 Yr3 able to demonstrate learned competencies in each Territory</p> <p>1.4 By Q3 Yr3, National Trusts are in strengthened position to be able to assist Government decision-making around wetland conservation</p> <p>1.5 Conservation action plans produced for East End Pond Conservation Area, Road Salt Pond (Anguilla) and Wheeland Pond (Turks and Caicos) by Q4 Year 1</p>	<p>Bird monitoring established (annexes 5.2 and 5.3); desktop and field based baseline needs to be identified for lower BV (Montserrat)</p> <p>Good staff involvement from each partner so far and still time to demonstrate learned competencies by Q1 Yr3</p> <p>Partnership ethic is strong in TCI and Montserrat; some further work needed in Anguilla to identify partnerships following government reorganisations.</p> <p>Plans have been produced (see annex 5.1 and 5.3)</p>	<p>Continue bi annual bird monitoring at all wetland sites</p> <p>Partnership-led projects (where Trust and Government involved) would benefit from agreed project leads to drive project progress</p> <p>Increase outreach to planning departments in each territory; support partners explore policy advocacy options</p> <p>Continue to adaptively manage action plans as the project progresses</p>
1.1 Hold a workshop at the start of the project with all project partners, facilitated by technical specialists in wetland restoration		Completed, see Annex 1.1 – 1.11	Preparations for end of project (Year 3) workshop
1.2 Prepare annual monitoring plans to survey birds and plants		Completed, see Annex 2.1-2.3	Review project leads, roles and responsibilities for Year 2

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
1.3 Undertake bird and plant surveys at each wetland site		Completed, see Annex 4.1, 5.2-5.4	At least two further bird surveys to develop the baseline
1.4 Produce conservation action plans for EEPKA, Road Salt Pond (AXA) and Wheeland Pond (TCI)		Good progress made for EEPKA, RSP and more work needed to finalise Wheeland Pond action plan.	Leader role to be identified within national TCI partnership. Scope for government involvement in Anguilla to be explored by ANT (as necessary / beneficial to project)
1.5 Conservation actions undertaken at the target wetland sites		Planned to occur from Year 2 onwards, subject to impacts of Covid19	Preparations for undertaking of works once lockdown restrictions ease
Output 2. Natural and artificial wetlands where restoration techniques are pilot-tested enable measurable increase in value of sites for wetland birds and people	<p>2.1 Wetland restoration needs assessment for EEPKA (AXA), Wheeland Pond (TCI) and Belham Valley Wetlands (MNT) completed by Q3 Yr.1 across Territories.</p> <p>2.2 Rehabilitation and remediation plan in place to restore East End Pond Conservation Area (EEPKA) (Anguilla) by Q3 Yr1 with application to remove fill submitted by Q2 Year 2;</p> <p>2.3 By Q4 Year 1. Restoration and biodiversity action plans developed for sand mining operations of Belham Valley wetland in Montserrat with interventions identified and integrated into operating procedures</p> <p>2.4 Restoration measures pilot-tested in Anguilla, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos by Q3 Year 3.</p>	<p>These have been completed as annex 0.1-0.3</p> <p>Plans are in place with further details available in Annex 5.1.</p> <p>Restoration action plan developed and being refined with partners (see Annex 5.5)</p> <p>Not yet started.</p>	<p>No further action needed.</p> <p>Proposal to remove inert fill to be explored pending available funds (very high cost – see annex 5.1).</p> <p>Virtual convening of MNT, DoE, RSPB specialists and consultant to refine rehabilitation action plan and develop options for wetland creation; meetings with sandminers to explore and embed proposed practices; community meeting to develop vision for lower belham valley.</p> <p>Explore what measure can begin in Year 2 in light of island wide</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
	2.5 Wheeland Pond (Turks and Caicos) becomes free of building and household debris, plastic and litter following local community engagement and public awareness; transforms to eco-tourism destination compared to baseline with, by Yr 3, a 20% increase in number of paying tourists participating in National Trust guided tours of wetlands from Yr.1 baseline; 50% decrease and 95% decrease in volume of waste material in pond by Q1 Year 2 and Q2 Year 3 respectively	Good progress made on this with community-backed clean ups led by DECR and TCNT. (image in Annex 4)	lockdowns and Covid19 related restrictions on movements Organise community meeting hosted by DECR and TCNT once TCI lockdown measures cease and pending impacts of CV19 crisis on TCNT
2.1 Scoping missions to assess individual restoration needs		Completed pre project and early on after project initiation.	Further work needed to firm up plans for ecotourism infrastructure at Wheeland Pond
2.2 Rehabilitation and remediation feasibility study for East End Conservation Area (Area) wetland site in Anguilla		Study completed.	Spin off mini project to model inland flooding catchment around East End Pond Conservation Area to be undertaken in Year 2 to strengthen case for enhanced remediation measures
2.3 Develop restoration and biodiversity action plans for Belham Valley (MNT) and identify restoration measures needed for Wheeland Pond (TCI)		Actions identified for Belham Valley; priority measures identified for Wheeland Pond.	Actions at both sites to be shaped by further inclusive community participation.
2.4 Pilot-test proposed restoration measures; implement action plans		Planned for Year 2 (subject to restrictions imposed by lockdown)	Prioritise measures to be taken in Years 2 and 3 at each site.
2.5 Encourage local communities to partner with National Trusts for long term implementation of management plan for wetland sites		Planned for Year 2 however already good participation by communities at all sites (see Annex 3 and 5.1)	Community meetings to be held in Year 2

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Output 3. The value of wetlands and need for their wise use is better-understood by civil society, private sector and government stakeholders (local use, commercial development and government planning)</p>	<p>3.1 Of stratified random sample of 350 adults in Anguilla 150 in MNT, and 200 in TCI, more than half demonstrate awareness and understanding of named wetlands and their values by Q2 Year 3.</p> <p>3.2. Increase in awareness of values of wetlands with 2 key decision-makers in each territory by Q2 Year 3.</p> <p>3.3. At least one developer in each territory recognises wetland value through engagement in at least one wetland restoration activity by Q1 Year 3;</p> <p>3.4 Over 85% of East End Village (Anguilla) school children interviewed are aware of the ecological values of the other priority wetlands and importance to island resiliency by end of Year 2;</p> <p>3.5 At least one territory government authority has, by the end of the project a development policy or statement explicitly calling for the need to protect key wetlands</p>	<p>Questionnaire developed in Anguilla (Supplementary Annex 5.1) and for Turks and Caicos (Supplementary Annex 5.9)</p> <p>Minister level awareness in TCI and Montserrat</p> <p>Private sector already engaged in TCI and Montserrat</p> <p>100% participation of school children participated in ANT led wetlands education programme</p> <p>Good progress bringing attention to projects in TCI and Montserrat to Ministry level</p>	<p>Surveys to be undertaken post lockdown (COvid19).</p> <p>Explore scope to elevate awareness of the project with Government officials in Anguilla</p> <p>Translate engagement to action or involvement in project in all participating OTs where opportunities arise</p> <p>Potentially follow-up with same students and next cohort of students to reinforce learnings</p> <p>Further work to translate momentum generated into a development policy or explicit commitments in line with Environment Charters</p>
<p>3.1 Integrated/innovative community involvement to raise awareness and significance of wetlands.</p>		<p>Communities engaged and involved at all sites (Supplementary Annexes 3, 5.1 and 5.8)</p>	<p>Community workshops at Wheeland Pond, East End Pond, Road Salt Bay and with the Isles bay Community</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
3.2 Hold regular meetings with decision-makers focussed on communicating the natural capital value of wetlands		Good progress made in Montserrat (Supplementary Annex 3) and TCI (See section 3 above)	Partners to explore scope for high-level meetings to be held with officials, subject to pressure easing post lockdown
3.3 Private company volunteer day working on practical activities held at one of the wetlands		Planned for Year 2	Identify specific individuals within relevant businesses to participate in project
3.4 Schools to engage science classes in specific assignments from monitoring seasonal wildlife at wetlands to control of invasive species (plants). (AXA only)		Schools engaged through ANT Young explorer programme (see section 3 above and Supplementary annex 5.1)	See comment above under 3.4
3.5 RSPB policy advocacy team to prepare draft policy and work directly with one of the authority representatives to have it adopted		Examples of good policy were presented at the Anguilla workshop. Good discussion around sand mining policy in Montserrat.	Further explore scope to support Montserrat government develop sand mining policy; RSPB to continue policy advocacy efforts in TCI alongside our partners
Output 4. Strengthened wetlands conservation management, restoration and organisational capacity of the project partners	<p>4.1 Agreement on the roles and responsibilities of each party in the project</p> <p>4.2 Priority action plan in place for each wetland in each Territory by Q3 Yr3</p> <p>4.3 At least one Territory Development Plan incorporate wetland protection, enhancement and safeguard by Q1 Yr.3</p> <p>4.4 By Q2 Yr3, all participating Trusts and Government representatives have</p>	<p>Achieved and evidenced in annexes 2.1-2.3</p> <p>Action plans prepared for all sites (Annex 5.1, 5.5, 5.8)</p> <p>Good potential for formal protection to be granted in Montserrat (see section 3 above)</p> <p>Excellent workshop held in Anguilla (June 2019, see annexes 1.1 – 1.11),</p>	<p>Repeat exercise early in Year 2 with all teams, once lockdown pressures on our partners ease</p> <p>Community outreach and participation in development of all action plans; increase recognition within high-level of government</p> <p>Potential to grant formal protection in TCI remains but commitments expressed by committed individuals needs to be mirrored by action from highest level within TCI government</p> <p>Virtual meetings between all OTs on zoom to share excellent outputs and</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
	strengthened capabilities in wetland conservation and restoration	with learning built upon by doing in each OT (see annexes 5.1, 5.5, 5.8)	experiences generated in Year 1 – RSPB to facilitate
4.1 Project Steering Group setup and meeting quarterly in Year 1 then twice=yearly		Several Steering Group meetings held (see Annex 6.0 for example agenda)	Continue to hold biannual SG meetings
4.2 Produce priority action plan for each wetland in each Territory		See supplementary annexes 5.1, 5.5, 5.8 and section 3 above	See sections covering output 1 and output 2 above
4.3 RSPB policy specialists to work closely with governments to support territory development plans that recognise wetlands value		Good ongoing discussion in Montserrat; good initial discussion with planning dept. in TCI (contact point has now left dept.)	Advance the conversation in Montserrat around sand mining rehabilitation and wetland protection; step up efforts around engaging with physical development planning in TCI
4.4 Workshops to build capacity and capability of partner staff in wetland conservation and restoration		Excellent inception workshop held (See annex 1.1-1.11)	Hold virtual meeting mid-late 2020 (once dust settled a bit from CV19 pandemic)

Annex 2: Project’s full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed) - if applicable

N.B. if your application’s logframe is presented in a different format in your application, please transpose into the below template. Please feel free to contact Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk if you have any questions regarding this.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Improved ecological status and climate-resiliency of wetlands through better recognition, protection, and restoration of wetland biodiversity and ecosystem functions at key sites across the Caribbean UKOTs			
Outcome: Key threatened wetlands across the Caribbean UKOTs have enhanced protection and are in better ecological condition through improved engagement, networking and collaboration between government and civil society	<p>0.1 Wetland action plans produced and actions piloted and tested at four < ANT 2, TCI 1, MNT 1 > priority wetland sites across participating Territories by Yr2</p> <p>0.2 Wetland sites where actions are piloted show progress along the results chain that leads to favourable conservation status being achieved</p> <p>0.3 Statutory bodies recognise action plans developed for priority wetland sites.</p> <p>0.4 Improved collaboration and capacity of the project partners results in better informed planning decisions that helps sustain and restore wetlands and informs better site-led conservation.</p> <p>0.5 Increased awareness across government and the private sector of the value and need for wise use of wetlands</p> <p>0.6 Community endorsement of wetland action plans</p>	<p>0.1 Priority wetland action plans produced and publicised in National Reports.</p> <p>0.2 Scientific reports detailing baseline assessments for pilot wetland sites produced and change in ecological status; monitoring reports</p> <p>0.3 Official letters approving and endorsing plans</p> <p>0.4 Summary documents of partner meetings; Planning authority decision notices</p> <p>0.5 Knowledge, attitude and practice questionnaire analysis report</p> <p>0.6 Letters from community leaders following consultation</p>	<p>Stakeholders available and able to impart local / relevant knowledge to inform management plans.</p> <p>Senior officials willing to approve and then implement the site management plans.</p> <p>Measures needed to restore wetlands are effective and project timeframe is sufficient to demonstrate positive impact of interventions.</p> <p>Hurricanes or other extreme weather events do not prevent pilot and testing of management plan actions</p>
Output 1 Wetland conservation action plans prepared in partnership with local	1.6 Action plan process for target wetland sites initiated at inception workshop in Q1 Year 1 with all	1.1 Inception workshop agenda and objectives document; attendance list; PowerPoint presentations; feedback	Extreme weather events do not disrupt ability to update or develop

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>experts and grassroots organisations and capacity to develop and implement plans increased</p>	<p>project partners, facilitated by technical specialists in wetland restoration</p> <p>1.7 Bird monitoring re-initiated from Q2 Yr1; site biodiversity baseline estimates established at all sites by Q1 Yr2 with bi-annual monitoring thereafter.</p> <p>1.8 Two field-based staff lead on wetland conservation actions and by Q1 Yr3 able to demonstrate learned competencies in each Territory</p> <p>1.9 By Q3 Yr3, National Trusts are in strengthened position to be able to assist Government decision-making around wetland conservation</p> <p>1.10 Conservation action plans produced for East End Pond Conservation Area, Road Salt Pond (Anguilla) and Wheeland Pond (Turks and Caicos) by Q4 Year 1</p>	<p>sheets; minutes and actions; draft training materials; workshop report</p> <p>1.2 Short note on monitoring protocols to be used across all wetland sites. Site biodiversity / species monitoring reports; bi-annual reports.</p> <p>1.3 workshop exercise sheets inc. draft management plans; feedback emails or documents from experienced wetland managers published on project staff led restoration plans</p> <p>1.4 NT report recommendations / plan to Government on wetland and Government decision letter publicised</p> <p>1.5 Conservation action plans (refer to 0.1)</p>	<p>baselines for wetland sites; do not undo conservation efforts</p> <p>Conservation management plan actions can be delivered and adaptively managed by Governments and Trusts.</p> <p>Openness and willingness of Trusts and Government to collaborate and work transparently and openly</p>
<p>Output 2 Natural and artificial wetlands where restoration techniques are pilot-tested enable measurable increase in value of sites for wetland birds and people</p>	<p>2.1 Wetland restoration needs assessment for EEPKA (AXA), Wheeland Pond (TCI) and Belham Valley Wetlands (MNT) completed by Q3 Yr.1 across Territories.</p>	<p>2.1 Restoration needs assessment report(s) for each target wetland site</p>	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>2.2 Rehabilitation and remediation plan in place to restore East End Pond Conservation Area (EEPCA) (Anguilla) by Q3 Yr1 with application to remove fill submitted by Q2 Year 2;</p> <p>2.3 By Q4 Year 1. Restoration and biodiversity action plans developed for sand mining operations of Belham Valley wetland in Montserrat with interventions identified and integrated into operating procedures</p> <p>2.4 Restoration measures pilot-tested in Anguilla, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos by Q3 Year 3.</p> <p>2.5 Wheeland Pond (Turks and Caicos) becomes free of building and household debris, plastic and litter following local community engagement and public awareness; transforms to eco-tourism destination compared to baseline with, by Yr 3, a 20% increase in number of paying tourists participating in National Trust guided tours of wetlands from Yr.1 baseline; 50% decrease and 95% decrease in volume of waste</p>	<p>2.2 Reports on effectiveness of measures</p> <p>2.3 Guidelines for wet and dry restoration; signed agreement with landowner underpinning action plans</p> <p>2.4 Reports on effectiveness of measures; technical restoration manual and executive summaries for EEPCA (Anguilla) prepared by Nettles; copy of application to remove inert fill submitted to Anguilla Government</p> <p>2.5 Public awareness materials, engagement and meeting reports, tourist receipts, litter reports</p>	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	material in pond by Q1 Year 2 and Q2 Year 3 respectively		
Output 3 The value of wetlands and need for their wise use is better-understood by civil society, private sector and government stakeholders (local use, commercial development and government planning)	<p>3.1 Of stratified random sample of 350 adults in Anguilla 150 in MNT, and 200 in TCI, more than half demonstrate awareness and understanding of named wetlands and their values by Q2 Year 3.</p> <p>3.2. Increase in awareness of values of wetlands with 2 key decision-makers in each territory by Q2 Year 3.</p> <p>3.3. At least one developer in each territory recognises wetland value through engagement in at least one wetland restoration activity by Q1 Year 3;</p> <p>3.4 Over 85% of East End Village (Anguilla) school children interviewed are aware of the ecological values of the other priority wetlands and importance to island resiliency by end of Year 2;</p> <p>3.5 At least one territory government authority has, by the end of the project a development policy or statement explicitly calling for the need to protect key wetlands</p>	<p>3.1 Interview results, records of positive mentions of wetlands in published, minuted government meetings</p> <p>3.2 Questionnaires with participating officials and analysis report</p> <p>3.3 photos of company staff participating in restoration actions; reviews endorsing wetlands restoration enhancement efforts posted by visitors in Tripadvisor, booking.com;</p> <p>3.4; Awareness baseline and end line questionnaires. photos of school children with materials prepared during school visits; materials used</p> <p>3.5 Meeting agendas; minutes, actions of meetings captured; participation lists of attendees</p>	<p>Advocacy materials developed are relevant across all of the participating CCN National Trusts and therefore effective at the Territory / local level</p> <p>Improved knowledge / access to knowledge leads to improved habitat and species conservation</p> <p>Children able to retain lessons into adulthood and, remain on island in sufficient numbers to be vocal advocates for wetlands in future</p>
Output 4: Strengthened wetlands conservation management, restoration and organisational capacity of the project partner	<p>4.1 Agreement on the roles and responsibilities of each party in the project</p> <p>4.2 Priority action plan in place for each wetland in each Territory by Q3 Yr3</p>	<p>4.1 A signed and agreed MOU between the partner organisations at the start of the project will clearly set out the obligations and roles of all parties in delivering the project objectives.</p>	<p>Partners are willing to sign MoU agreements and agree on roles and responsibilities with the lead partner</p> <p>Government processes are willing and able to accommodate wetland protection commitments in their plans</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>4.3 At least one Territory Development Plan incorporate wetland protection, enhancement and safeguard in (Q1 Yr.3);</p> <p>4.4 By Q2 Yr3, all participating Trusts and Government representatives have strengthened capabilities in wetland conservation and restoration</p>	<p>4.2 Signs publicising planned management activities and actions at each wetlands</p> <p>4.3 Development plan wetland policies on Government websites; wetlands annexes in development plans</p> <p>4.4 Project team-led action plans for post-project period</p>	<p>All partner staff are successfully able to participate in capacity strengthening workshops</p>
<p>Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)</p>			

Annex 3 Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the Subject line.	X
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Have you included means of verification? You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	X
Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	X
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	