

Darwin Initiative/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31st October 2020)

Project reference	DPR7P\100059
Project title	DPLUS100: Sustainable solutions for Sargassum inundations in Turks & Caicos 2019-2021
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Turks & Caicos
Lead organisation	University of Greenwich
Partner(s)	The Turks and Caicos Island Government (TCIG) Department of Environment and Coastal Resources; The School for Field Studies, Centre for Marine Resource Studies, South Caicos; The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) UK Overseas Territories Special Interest Group (OTSIG).
Project leader	Dr Debbie Bartlett, University of Greenwich
Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)	HYR3
Project website/blog/social media etc.	N/A

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).

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, requiring shut down of the University and of activities on TCI from March 2020 as request was made for this project to be suspended for a 6 month period.

This was agreed and year 2 will now start on 1st October 2020 and end on 31st September 2021.

Contact has been maintained with wider sargassum related initiatives with the PI attending webinars and keeping in touch with other projects. There have been many enquiries, particularly as a result of the publication of our paper,

Milledge J J, Maneein S, Arribas López E & Bartlett D (2020) Sargassum Inundations in Turks and Caicos: Methane Potential and Proximate, Ultimate, Lipid, Amino Acid, Metal and Metalloid Analyses *Energies* 2020, 13(6), 1523; <https://doi.org/10.3390/en13061523>

The PI has commented on various project proposals and publications.

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.

Covid-19 restrictions preventing travel to TCI for fieldwork, local fieldwork by SFS and University laboratories being completely closed from 20/3/2020 only reopening for essential research from August.

2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with LTS: Yes

Formal change request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes

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: £

The budgets have been realigned to the new timeframe and this revision agreed

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?

No

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 R25 and asked to provide further information by your first half year report, please attach your response as a separate document.

Please note: Any **planned** modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also** be raised with LTS International through a Change Request. **Please DO NOT send these in the same email.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk. The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 25-035 Darwin Half Year Report**