



**Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects
Half Year Report
(due 31st October 2021)**

Project reference	<i>DPLUS108</i>
Project title	<i>Caribbean Overseas Territories Natural Capital Accounting Programme</i>
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	<i>Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands</i>
Lead organisation	<i>eftec</i>
Partner(s)	<i>Joint Nature Conservation Committee; OTs government departments</i>
Project leader	<i>Jake Kuyer</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	<i>Half Year Report 2; October 2021</i>
Project website/blog/social media	-

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed project implementation timetable (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).

Good progress has been made over the past 6 months, generally aligned to the project plan (previously revised due to delays in year one resulting from COVID restrictions). Key actions as follows:

- Initiation of the project assigned Ecosystem Accounting Coordinator role (Jody Maxwell)
 - Including training, introductions and planning and execution of role activities and responsibilities
- Completion and publication of the 2019 Ecosystem Account, Summary report, and Technical report for each of the five OTs
 - No.15 individual project deliverables
- Production and circulation of the initial issue of the “Caribbean Ecosystem Accounting Newsletter: The latest on Ecosystem Accounting in the Caribbean Overseas Territories”
 - 2nd issue also circulated, 3rd in progress
- Presentation of the 2019 Ecosystem Accounts to government Ministers and other stakeholders for all five OTs
 - Including Ministers from respective environment ministries, finance ministries, premiers, attorney generals, governors, and other stakeholders
- Launch of the “Ecosystem Accounting Practitioners Network”
 - Including participants from environment and statistics departments from across all five OTs, two practitioner network events conducted and well participated in
- Engagement with the statistics department from each OT on development and ownership of the 2020 Ecosystem Accounts
 - Training sessions scheduled
- Ecosystem Accounting Practitioners Network
 - Scheduled for 1st to 3rd March 2022 in Anguilla, planning has commenced
 - Site visits to British Virgin Islands and Cayman Islands also planned for February 2022 and planning is in progress

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months (for COVID-19 specific delays/problems, please use 2b). Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

The project is challenging by nature, working with numerous stakeholders across 5 OTs, and being dependent on local engagement and support. However, the project team is experienced in this working context and working to overcome these challenges. While initial engagement activities with the statistics departments has been encouraging, their ongoing support and enthusiasm will be necessary to make the most of the opportunity for collaboration and deliver the projects objectives.

2b. Please outline any specific issues which your project has encountered as a result of COVID-19. Where you have adapted your project activities in response to the pandemic, please briefly outline how you have done so here. Explain what residual impact there may be on your project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

As previously submitted, Covid-19 initially led to a delay in beginning the project. Restrictions within the OTs have not caused significant issues for overall project delivery, but some general delays in responses and data collection activities due to this occurred. A major issue is in the site visits involving engagement activities, training and data collection which were initially proposed for Q4 2020 and were subsequently planned for Q1 2021. These are now going ahead in Q1 2022 and are a valuable component of the project.

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

Discussed with LTS: Yes/No

Formal change request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/No

3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

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. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.

- N/A

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

- There are several engagement activities planned for the coming 6-month period with which we hope to raise the profile of the project leading up to the practitioner's conference.
- Further feedback on expectations for yearend / end of project reporting would be appreciated.

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.

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: 25-001 Darwin Half Year Report**