



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

Project reference	DPR8S2\1030
Project title	Cayman Islands Coastal Education Guide
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Cayman Islands
Lead organisation	Mangrove Action Project
Partner(s)	Cayman Islands Department of Environment and Ministry of Education, National Trust of the CI, Sea Elements/Clever Fish, Mangrove Education Project, Caribbean Utilities Corp.
Project leader	Martin Keeley
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	
Project website/blog/social media	www.mangroveactionproject.org ,

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).

Output 1: Development of Coastal Lagoon Education Guide using latest and most pertinent science for local ecology.

1.1 Local organisations, Ministries of Environment & Education consulted with Coastal Education materials.

Completed

1.2 Book linked to National Curriculum involving several educators. Completed

1.3 Local scientists consulted for local up-to-date scientific data & ecological information:

Completed

Output 2: Education guide is developed, published & distributed

2.1 Collection of materials including illustrations of relevant species & ecosystems: Completed

2.2 Copy & Materials assembled for final draft, reviewed & edited for publication. Underway

2.3 Final draft of guide printed and pilot project conducted with two Cayman schools. Underway

Output 3: Website & associated materials developed to augment capacity building of educators & interfaced with educational guide

3.1 Supplementary materials - such as flash drives and inter-active ecology games - developed to augment classroom materials. Underway

3.2. Interactive complimentary website developed to enhance & monitor coastal curriculum (CLE), plus links to other Cayman related materials. Underway

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.

Any major problems encountered in the past six months have been caused by Covid-19 and they, together with our responses, are outlined in Section 2b.

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.

The main problem we encountered was the redirection of some of the projected funding towards Covid-19 related needs. In addition, while the schools had reopened in the Spring of 2021 enabling workshops, classroom teaching and field trips to take place, schools in the Cayman Islands closed again in October, 2021 because Covid-19 had reached the community. This meant that we needed to once again redirect schools participation in the CLE as well as in the projected teacher involvement to online. We were able hold the pilots in a West End Primary School on Cayman Brac and John A Cumber, Red Bay Primary, Prospect Primary and Cayman Prep on Grand Cayman, during the Spring and Summer of 2021.

Because of the continued shift towards remote teaching we continue to use a variety of methods to incorporate remote teaching that will be available when we start again the teacher training workshops in the winter/spring of 2022. The Cayman Islands Mangrove Rangers formed in Summer 2020 under the umbrella of our Cayman partner, the Mangrove Education Project, have continued to provide support for the implementation of the CLE. They have been assisting in teaching during the CLE and will continue to do so in this mode when we again run teacher training workshops.

Because of the incorporation of more digitised materials and the illness of Billy Bryan – the webmaster - there has been a minor delay in the launching of the website which is still under construction. The site is being designed to incorporate all the added interactive projects and this process will be complete by the 2021 year-end.

Catherine Childs has been replaced as Education Director at the National Trust by Louisa Sax although the two of them continue to develop presentation materials for environmental workshops. Because the base environmental curriculum cannot be presented in the foreseeable future in its workshop setting in Cayman schools, Ms. Childs’ energies have been expended at hosting environmental workshops for the Mangrove Rangers who have been trained to monitor and be “environmental keepers” of the lagoon ecosystems. The Rangers, together with Ms Childs, have also introduced a mangrove research program which is carried out annually in the Central Mangroves.

These are the main adaptations that we have initiated, and we do not see them as having any direct impact on the budget, and so, while the distribution of the expenditures among the various categories has not materially changed, the activity able to be performed has been significantly altered due to the Covid-19.

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.

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

No issues.

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**