

Darwin Plus: Overseas Territories Environment and Climate Fund Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the "Project Reporting Information Note"
(<https://dplus.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources/information-notes/>).

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum** of 20 pages in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2022

Darwin Plus Project Information

Project reference	DPLUS131
Project title	A "B-Line" to Re-Wilding: Anguilla's Pollinator Project
Territory(ies)	Anguilla
Lead partner	Anguilla National Trust
Project partner(s)	Agriculture Unit- Department of Natural Resources (AU-DNaR), Gender Affairs Anguilla (GAA), Alderney Wildlife Trust (AWT)
Darwin Plus grant value	£300576
Start/end dates of project	July 2021-March 2024
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2021-Mar 2022) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2)	July 2021-March 2022
Project Leader name	Farah Mukhida (co-lead) William Vanterpool (co-lead)
Project website/blog/social media	
Report author(s) and date	Farah Mukhida, Louise Soanes, Isabel Rosario, Ronya Foy Connor

1. Project summary

Approximately 75% of the world's crops depend on pollinators. Despite their importance, 40% of insect pollinator species (especially bees and butterflies) and 16.5% of vertebrate pollinators (including birds and bats) are facing extinction due to human activities.

The greatest threats to pollinator survival include landscape structure changes, agricultural practices (including pesticide use), and fragmentation/degradation of habitat. Climate change models predict higher temperatures, droughts, and flooding. These global climatic processes are desynchronising when flowers are in bloom and pollinators are present in required abundance and diversity to provide necessary ecosystem services. In response to these threats and in recognition that solutions cannot always be artificially engineered, efforts are being taken across the world to rewild habitats.

A small island, Anguilla is particularly vulnerable to environmental stressors. Extreme weather events are expected to become more frequent with long-lasting impacts. Combined with concerted efforts to increase food security, wild spaces are being fragmented as they are

converted to agricultural land and seasonal monocultures. A heavy reliance on tourism which involves clearing large tracts of land and substituting native vegetation with less resilient, non-native ornamentals, is further threatening Anguilla’s vegetation and the biodiversity that exists symbiotically with it.

This project takes a “joined up” approach to restore and conserve Anguilla’s pollinators and degraded habitats. It joins-up habitats by creating rewilded pollinator pathways (B-lines) and joins-up people through collaborative, community-based actions. An assessment of Anguilla’s B-Line pollinators (bees, butterflies, birds, bats) informs a collaboratively developed National Pollinators Strategy. Through the creation of sustainable alternative livelihood opportunities (beekeeping), and an increase in public awareness, this project fosters support for community-based conservation and increased species and habitat resiliency while addressing biodiversity loss.



Figure 1. Anguilla, at the top of the Lesser Antilles island chain.

2. Project stakeholders/partners

This project is a collaborative initiative between the Anguilla National Trust (ANT) and the Government of Anguilla. The Government of Anguilla’s Agriculture Unit-Department of Natural Resources (AU-DNaR) and Gender Affairs Anguilla (GAA) are project partners. Two AU-DNaR staff members and the Director of GAA sit on the Project Steering Committee, reviewing the status of project activities and outputs and ensuring that deadlines are met (Annex 3). PSC members from all three agencies (including the ANT) have assisted with the development of a mulit-media communications and outreach plan (Annex 4), and five PSC members have undertaken introductory training in beekeeping (Annex 5). AU-DNaR and GAA will continue to assist with project monitoring and evaluation, public outreach, and more in-depth beekeeping training that is scheduled for the remainder of the project.

As this project emphasises community engagement and collaboration, the general public have participated in outreach activities (an outdoor excursion that focused on searching for nocturnal

pollinators and exploring their habitats) as well as a well-attended presentation by ANT staff about the project and our initial findings (Annex 6). Members of the public have also been sending us photos of pollinators that they have observed which we then collate and save on our box.com cloud platform and have also been uploading images to our project's [iNaturalist](#) page.

In November 2021, 18 women (including three ANT staff, 1 AU-DNaR staff member, and the Director of GAA) registered their interest in forming a women's beekeeping organisation. All 18 individuals have completed the eight-week on-line course targeted at beekeepers in the Wider Caribbean. The on-line theory-based course will be followed by practical, in-person training later in 2022 (Annex 5).

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Activities being conducted through this DPLUS131 project fall within four main Outputs: 1. Ecosystem values of Anguilla's pollinators and potential effects of climate change identified; 2. Evidence-based, climate change-informed national "B-Line" pollinator strategy produced through a collaborative process; 3. Re-wilding of Anguilla for the short- and long-term benefit of pollinators implemented, monitored, and evaluated; and 4. National capacity to plan, manage, implement, and monitor a national pollinator strategy is raised, supported by enhanced technical skills, greater public awareness, and vested community interest.

Year 1 activities focussed on those related to Outputs 1 and 2.

Output 1. Ecosystem values of Anguilla's pollinators and potential effects of climate change identified

Activities under Output 1 for the first year of the project include completing a bird pollinator assessment based on already-collected terrestrial bird data, conducting bee, butterfly, and bat assessments, collating and analysing climate change data and forecasts to better understand potential climate change impacts on Anguilla's pollinators and the habitats on which they depend, and compiling all species and habitat data into an Anguilla pollinators report.

During the project period, we analysed data that we had collected between 2013 and 2017 from 16 sites on the Anguilla mainland. We also included additional information from surveys we conducted during the fall (September) 2020 and 2021 migration periods. Using this data, we were able to identify three bird pollinator species that reside on Anguilla year-round. The information is presented in the Bird Pollinators of Anguilla report (Annex 7).

Baseline bee, butterfly and other pollinating insects were conducted in November 2021. The work was led by regional experts, Mr. Karl Questel. Local staff assisted with the surveys and were trained by Mr. Questel in insect identification (identifying insects that pollinate at the family level), survey methodology, and specimen collection. A report detailing this assessment has been prepared (Annex 8). Mr. Questel will continue to provide remote assistance to the ANT in insect identification through the remainder of the project should it be required, although the rapid baseline assessment has been completed.

While pollinating insect surveys were being conducted, regional bat expert, Mr. Baptiste Angin, undertook surveys of Anguilla's mainland caves to identify bat roosting areas and to identify species. He was assisted by ANT Council Member, local naturalist, and spelunker Mr. Oliver Hodge. Mr. Angin trained local staff in how to use both passive and active acoustic recorders to locate and identify bat species and in how to identify bat species based on morphology and their calls. In early 2022, he remotely provided additional training in bat acoustic data analysis. The pollinating bat survey results are currently being compiled into a comprehensive report (Annex 9)

Using climate change data and forecasts, we identified potential climate change impacts on Anguilla's pollinators and habitats. Results of this work are presented within the report Climate

Change Predictions for Anguilla (Annex 10). This report will be used to ensure that the National Pollinator Strategy that will be developed in mid-2022 is climate change-informed.

Output 4. National Capacity to plan, manage, implement and monitor a national pollinator strategy is raised, supported by enhanced technical skills, greater public awareness, and vested community increase.

Activities under Output 4 for the first year of the project included completing a self-assessment competencies questionnaire to identify training needs, planning and undertaking training and on-the-job mentoring, establishing a beekeeping/bee product production cooperative, conducting a rapid public survey to evaluate knowledge, attitudes, and performance of Anguilla's pollinators, developing and implementing a public awareness campaign, developing and implementing opportunities for citizen science engagement, and publicising and reporting on project progress and results.

During the project period, 11 ANT, DNaR, and GAA staff completed the self-assessment competencies questionnaire in July 2021 (Annex 11). Following the completion of the questionnaire, we have focussed training opportunities for both adults and young people on insect and bat pollinator identification, bat acoustic data analysis, and beekeeping. More specifically,

- Eight ANT and two AU-DNaR staff members were trained in how to identify insects (understanding which insects are pollinators, identifying insects at the family level), and monitoring and specimen collection techniques (total: 10 individuals).
- Eight ANT staff members, one 6th Form Biology teacher, and three 6th Form Biology students were trained in bat identification and monitoring techniques (total: 12 individuals).
- Six ANT staff were also trained in the methods of analysing bat acoustic data through an on-line presentation and discussion facilitated by Mr Baptist Angin.
- Eight ANT staff members, two AU-DNR staff members, and the Directors of AU-DNR and GAA were introduced to beekeeping by regional expert and Director of the Association of Caribbean Beekeeping Organisations who was on-island as part of a preliminary assessment of Anguilla's beekeeping potential (total: 12).

Following a press release that asked for women to indicate their interest in being a part of a beekeeping cooperative and to undertake more in-depth training, a total of 18 women (including six staff members from ANT, AU-DNR, and GAA) registered to receive training. All eighteen persons successfully completed the 8-week online training course facilitated by the Association of Caribbean Beekeeping Organisation and the Iyanola Apiculture Collective, having passed their final theory exam. Practical components associated with this course will be conducted in early 2022 (Annex 5, Annex 7).

To support our public awareness and outreach actions and to inform our public awareness campaign strategy (Annex 4), we conducted a rapid public survey to evaluate knowledge. NUMBER individuals completed the survey and the results have been analysed (Annex 12).

Since the beginning of the project, public awareness activities conducted have so far included: four press releases posted to Facebook and Instagram and shared with two newspapers (The Anguillian, The Daily Herald), four radio stations (Radio Anguilla, Kool FM, Heartbeat Radio, and Klass FM); one public activity (an evening bat and insect exploration and presentation attended by 15 members of the public); and two presentations during a public activity and the ANT Annual General Meeting (attended by 79 individuals). Thus far we have reached 5060 users on Facebook and 216 on Instagram (Annex 6).

To support citizen science engagement, we created an [iNaturalist](#) page specific for the Anguilla Pollinator Project. With 47 observers registered, on 20 March 2021 there were 540 pollinator posts. In an effort to make pollinator reporting more accessible, we also encouraged individuals to forward us any images that they may have. We have uploaded these photos to a box.com account. The iNaturalist page will remain active post-project with the ANT maintaining (and contributing to) the project page. The creation of this page was a first for the ANT and represents a new way for us to engage community members in biodiversity collection. Given the type of work

in which the ANT is engaged we will explore the possibility of establishing additional ANT-maintained pages with different focal areas (e.g. sharks and other marine life, reptiles, birds). We also welcome individuals to share images directly with us, which we save on an internal folder as well as in a [box.com](#) folder.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

This DPLUS131 has four main Outputs: 1. Ecosystem values of Anguilla's pollinators and potential effects of climate change identified; 2. Evidence-based, climate change-informed national "B-Line" pollinator strategy produced through a collaborative process; 3. Re-wilding of Anguilla for the short- and long-term benefit of pollinators implemented, monitored, and evaluated; and 4. National capacity to plan, manage, implement, and monitor a national pollinator strategy is raised, supported by enhanced technical skills, greater public awareness, and vested community interest.

Output 1: Ecosystem values of Anguilla's pollinators and potential effects of climate change identified.

In Anguilla, prior to this project there was a notable lack of data on the diversity, abundance and distribution of insect pollinators. A 2007 report detailed some basic baseline data on the bat species present and the ANT has collected terrestrial bird (including bird pollinator) data since 2013 from 16 survey sites distributed across mainland Anguilla, but this data had not been analysed. As detailed in Section 3.1, during the first year of this project, we have greatly increased our local understanding of the pollinators present on Anguilla and have conducted a desk-based review of the potential impacts that climate change may have on them. The only outstanding activity that is required to support this project output is to present our baseline pollinator survey data to local stakeholders in an effort to raise the profile and economic importance of Anguilla's pollinator species. This will be conducted once the bat pollinator report has been completed. Although we have completed what we had set out to do within this component, we are continuing with our collection data into 2022 and we plan to present an even more detailed summary of this aspect of the project in Q4Y2.

Output 2. Evidence-based, climate change-informed national "B-Line" pollinator strategy produced through a collaborative process.

Our baseline data collection (Output 1) will be used to inform the development of a national pollinator strategy. We have scheduled a national workshop for June 2022 to start the process of developing this stakeholder-informed, evidence-based strategy.

Output 3. Re-wilding of Anguilla for the short- and long-term benefit of pollinators implemented, monitored, and evaluated.

Our baseline data collection (Output 1) and National pollinator strategy (Output 2) will be used to inform our re-wilding efforts beginning Y2Q2. In preparation for our re-wilding activities, and considering that seedlings take at least 3 months to grow hardy enough for out-planting, project partners (ANT and AU-DnR) have begun to propagate the globally threatened Lignum vitae *Guaicum officinale*, red mangrove *Rhizophora mangle*, black mangrove *Avicennia germinans*, white mangrove *Laguncularia racemosa*, buttonwood *Conocarpus erectus* and seagrape *Coccoloba uvifera* in our project nursery. We currently have approximately 100 lignum vitae, 200 red mangrove, 80 black and white mangroves, 50 buttonwood and 80 seagrape seedlings.

Output 4. National capacity to plan, manage, implement, and monitor a national pollinator strategy is raised, supported by enhanced technical skills, greater public awareness, and vested community interest.

During the first 9 months of this project, we have already made great strides in our efforts to increase local capacity, public awareness and vested community interest. Our social media posts have reached more than 5000 people; 14 local staff have been trained by regional

experts in insect and/or bat pollinator identification, monitoring and specimen collection; fourteen people (including 8 ANT staff, 2 AU-DNR staff, the Director of AU-DNR and GAA) were introduced to bee-keeping by Richard Matthias from the Association of Caribbean Beekeepers Organisation (ACBO); and 18 women registered for and completed the online beekeeping training course facilitated by the Iyanola Apiculture Collective, based in St Lucia).

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

The outcome of this project is a joined-up approach to improving habitat connectivity for at-risk pollinators, making them more resilient to climate change while providing communities with opportunities for engagement and alternative livelihoods

The first 9 months of this project have focused on the collecting baseline data and building on-island capacity related to pollinator surveys, pollinator identification and beekeeping. As we move into Year 2 of the project, we have already scheduled a national workshop to be held at the beginning of June where the national pollinator strategy and pesticide policy will be developed. During the same workshop, we will plan our re-wilding efforts through the identification of priority areas. We already have more than 500 seedlings growing in our project nursery and are preparing to start work on re-wilding in Q2Y2. We are confident, based on our project activities scheduled for the beginning of year 2, that we are on track to achieve the project outcome by the end of the project. The indicators stated for measuring the achievement of the project outcome are still relevant to this project.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

The identified risks and assumptions in the project proposal still hold true, but the level of risk has been reduced for some.

Assumption 1. Executive Council continues to support the effective management of Anguilla's threatened and at-risk species.

We have engaged the Minister of Natural Resources throughout this project from its conception through to our early implementation phases. In addition, our partnerships with Government agencies (Department of Natural resources and Gender Affairs Unit) ensure that higher level government officials will remain updated on and connected to the project activities.

Assumption 2. Nationals willing to cooperate on pollinator conservation initiatives.

To date we have been encouraged by the level of local interest in the project. We have recorded good attendance at project-related outreach activities and received a positive response to our call for women to register for beekeeping training, with 18 women registered (exceeding our initial expectation of ten) within just a few days of the press release being issued. Following the actions detailed in our communications action plan, we are confident we can engage and inspire national to cooperate on pollinator conservation initiatives.

Assumption 3. National strategy correctly identifies and addresses main threats, capacity needs, and resources to conserve and protect species and rewild the environment

We are in the process of organising a national workshop to be held at the beginning of June 2022. A range of local stakeholders will be invited (and encouraged) to attend including Environment Unit and Livestock Division of the Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Health-Department of Health Protection, Department of Lands and Surveys, Department of Infrastructure, Department of Education, Anguilla Tourist Board, Anguilla Hotel and Tourism Association, Ministry of Tourism, the Anguilla's Farmer's Association, the Anguilla Enhancement Project, Anguilla's Beautification Club, Lion's Club, Anguilla Garden Centre, and the newly-established Anguilla beekeeping collective. In addition, regional and international experts will be invited (Richard Matthias, Association of Caribbean Beekeepers Organisation, Roland Gauvain, Alderney Wildlife Trust and Dr Jenny Daltry, Re:Wild and Fauna & Flora International). This mix of stakeholders, who represent different industries and areas of expertise should ensure that the national pollinator strategy correctly addresses and identifies main threats, capacity needs and resources to conserve and protect species and rewild the environment. We have also started a

review of other national pollinator strategies from around the world that we will use to inform the development of our own national strategy.

Assumption 4. Field activities can be rescheduled if extreme weather events affect Anguilla during the project period.

As the Atlantic hurricane season approaches, the impact of a severe hurricane on project activities is always at the forefront of our minds. We plan to have out-planted the majority of the seedlings that we currently have growing in our project nursery in July-August before the peak period of hurricane activity (September-October). For any seedlings that are not of a sufficient size/condition to plant out before September, we have protocols in place for moving them inside a secure room at the Agriculture Unit. We are also currently in the process of developing protocols that will secure our project beehives in the event that a severe storm is predicted to pass Anguilla. We have not planned any international visitors/trips during the peak hurricane period to avoid the risk of having to reschedule project activities.

Assumption 5. Sufficient data exist to support consensus amongst conservationists and natural resource managers within Anguilla on the likely impacts of climate change.

We have already completed a desk-based review on the likely impacts of climate change on the region's pollinators. There is a clear consensus of research scientists that climate change will affect the region's pollinator populations through habitat changes and shifts in distribution. We will draw on these conclusions during the development of our national pollinator strategy.

Assumption 6. COVID-19 restrictions do not delay fieldwork.

Even with Anguilla's quarantine restrictions in place, our baseline data collection was able to begin in November 2021, along with a scoping visit by Richard Matthias related to beekeeping. COVID-19 restrictions are easing in Anguilla and the percentage of vaccinated people remains high, thus we do not expect there to be any future lock-downs that will affect project activities. However, fieldwork can and will be undertaken throughout years 2 and 3 of this project so is unlikely to be affected if Anguilla unexpectedly enters a third lockdown period.

Assumption 7. Trained expertise remains in Anguilla.

This project has already involved and trained 29 Anguillian nationals, we are confident that by the end of this project we will have increased local capacity and understanding.

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

The primary purpose of this project is to enhance the resilience of Anguilla's at-risk habitats and species to inspire other islands to conserve native pollinators and other wildlife. This project directly supports Anguilla's ability to achieve long-term outcomes for the coastal and marine environment, including delivering on commitments made by the Government of Anguilla under national strategies and plans as well as contributing towards international agendas and conventions. We are confident that by the end of the project we will have addressed all of the components stated below. During the first year of this project, this project has contributed to:

- *Implementing National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)* by gathering and collating “data on the components of biodiversity that are important for conservation and sustainable use,” using “guidelines, tools, and processes necessary for identifying, monitoring, regulating, and conserving biodiversity,” establishing and maintaining “technical training in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity,” and promoting environmental awareness and education.
- *Implementing National Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS)* by promoting “environmental education training, capacity building, and awareness.
- *Implementing Anguilla Agricultural Policy* by increasing public awareness about Anguilla's biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- *Implementing Convention on Biodiversity (CBD)* by identifying and monitoring biodiversity important for its conservation and sustainable use as well as the activities that place this biodiversity at risk (Article 7), establishing and maintaining education and training programmes to support capacity building in biodiversity conservation (Article 12), and promoting and encouraging “understanding of the importance of, and the measures required for, the conservation of biodiversity” (Article 13).
- *Implementing CBD's International Pollinator Initiative* by “monitoring changes in the diversity, population levels and frequency of pollinators through time” using best practice methodologies (Element 1), strengthening stakeholders' capacity to manage pollinator diversity and raising stakeholder awareness about the value of pollinators (Element 3).

This project is also fosters cross-agency partnerships between Government agencies (AU-DNR, GAA), non-government agencies (ANT), regional organisations (Association of Caribbean Beekeeper Organisations, Iyanola Apiculture Collective) and regional and international experts (Jenny Daltry, Roland Gauvin, Karl Questel, Baptiste Angin, Richard Matthias).

5. OPTIONAL: Consideration of gender equality issues

Day-to-day management of the project is handled by an almost all-women coordinating team comprised of the Executive Director and Project Manager of the ANT (two female), the AU-DNaR Agriculture Officer (one female, one male), the Director of Gender Affairs Anguilla (one female), and the Director of Alderney Wildlife Trust (one male). The local, on-the-ground project implementation team is mixed gender, comprised of ANT and AU-DNR staff members (four male, six female). The newly established beekeeping collective is all-female. This bias towards women's active engagement is intentional: farming is a male dominated industry while backyard gardening is more female-dominated. Ensuring that there are increased opportunities for women to be engaged in agriculture-based alternative livelihoods that have the potential to generate revenue is important.

At the same time, as we begin work on the national pollinator strategy and the pesticide policy in Year 2, we expect there to be a more balanced gender representation.

Ethnicity and age are equally well-represented based on Anguilla's population demographics.

6. Monitoring and evaluation

All project partners, led by Farah Mukhida, have been responsible for ensuring that the project is on schedule and is monitored. The established PSC has met twice during the first nine months of the project (Annexe xx - minutes) and, on each occasion, have reviewed the project logframe

and indicators to ensure that the project is on track. We have also established a project WhatsApp group that includes all project partners to allow for easy, quick communication and project updates.

No changes have been made to the Monitoring and Evaluation plan over the reporting period.

7. Lessons learnt

Through our initial training in both insect and bat identification and training, we have come to the conclusion that while we can conduct the insect surveys, identification of species will undoubtedly require additional assistance; learning how to identify and differentiate between the many different species will take longer than the duration of this project. Fortunately, with well-developed relationships, we have the off-island support we need to continue this work.

In terms of our bat identification and assessment training, we have already identified areas where conservation action will likely be required: two important caves for roosting bats have protective grates over their openings. At these two sites, the spaces between the metal bars that form the grates may be too small to allow for larger bat species to move through and could therefore be impeding or preventing their movements. Over the next few months, we will look at adjusting the grate at Fountain Cavern (crown-owned) and will engage with the landowner of the other cave (Katouche) about the possibility of doing the same.

Through our outreach work, we continue to recognise that the best way to reach individuals is usually through social media platforms and we will likely start using our staff's and colleagues' WhatsApp networks to increase our audience (although measuring reach using this media will not be possible). We also recognise the value of in-person training and outreach and are pleased that despite COVID-19, there are still opportunities to safely engage with stakeholders.

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

Not applicable

9. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

No additional comments

10. Sustainability and legacy

As stated in Sections 3.1 and 3.2, during the first nine months of this project we have already engaged local stakeholders and started to build national capacity. This training of resource managers, stakeholders, and volunteers in survey methods, monitoring, and habitat restoration will build long-term national capacity.

Following the development of the national pollinator strategy, further outreach and capacity development will be implemented including those related to re-wilding activities, beekeeping and pollinator conservation.

Our planned exit strategy is still valid: the national pollinator strategy and pesticide policy will provide the long-term (post-project) framework for pollinator conservation and sustainable agriculture and landscaping.

11. Darwin identity

The Darwin Initiative has been recognised on all materials produced through this project, including pollinator reports (Annex 4) and outreach materials (Annex 13). All social media posts (Facebook/Instagram) include the tags #dplus #darwininitiative and all Instagram posts are linked to Defra's handle (@defrauk).

This project is also supported by additional funds provided by the European Commission's BEST 2.0+ funding mechanism.

12. Impact of COVID-19 on project delivery

The only challenge encountered was the conducting of a rapid public survey about Anguilla's pollinators within the first six months of the project. While we initially had planned to do the survey in-person, due to the increased spread of COVID-19 on Anguilla, we decided to instead circulate the survey instrument electronically using various platforms (email distribution lists, WhatsApp contacts and lists).

In an effort to protect project staff and beneficiaries, we have followed all government recommendations and mandates and we will continue to do so, including by practicing social distancing, being careful to limit potential exposure by limiting direct non-essential contact and face-to-face interactions, allowing staff to work from home when possible, facilitating meetings through the use of zoom and holding in-person meetings outdoors or large, well-ventilated meeting spaces. Face masks are also worn in the office and when interacting with others.

With the lifting of restrictions beginning to happen, we will still continue to use virtual meeting platforms (zoom) and to hold in-person meetings outdoors. Wearing of masks is now option but we will encourage individuals to continue to wear them.

13. Safeguarding

Please tick this box if any safeguarding violations have occurred during this financial year.

If you have ticked the box, please ensure these are reported to ODA.safeguarding@defra.gov.uk as indicated in the T&Cs.

14. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022)

Project spend (indicative) in this financial year	2020/21 D+ Grant (£)	2020/21 Total actual D+ Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs	████████	████████	██████	n/a
Consultancy costs	████████	████████	██████	n/a
Overhead Costs	████████	████████	██████	n/a
Travel and subsistence	████████	████████	██████	COVID-19 quarantine requirements were reduced (including stay-in-place, testing, and cost of entry) which allowed for some cost savings.
Operating Costs	████████	████████	██████	n/a
Capital items	████████	████████	██████	Following bat biodiversity surveys, long-term passive acoustic monitoring equipment had been identified which would assist with both short- and long-term bat monitoring. Costs savings under travel and subsistence were applied to the purchase of this equipment. No other capital equipment will be purchased through this project; expenditure on capital items is ██████ of the total project budget.
Others (Please specify) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beekeeping start-up kits (including personal protective gear and beekeeping tools) 	████████	████████	██████	We were able to take advantage of our relationship with the Iyanola Beekeeping Collective and were able to receive a discount on all beekeeping start-up materials.
TOTAL	████████	████████		

15. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

I agree for the Darwin Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

In this section you have the chance to let us know about outstanding achievements of your project over the year that you consider worth highlighting to the Darwin Secretariat and sharing with the wider Biodiversity Challenge Fund community. This could relate to achievements already mentioned in this report, on which you would like to expand further, or achievements that were in addition to the ones planned and deserve particular attention e.g. in terms of best practice. We may use material from this section for various promotion and dissemination purposes, including for example, publication in the Defra Annual Report, Darwin Plus promotional material, or on the Darwin Plus website. As we will not always be able to ask projects on an individual basis for their consent to publish the content of this section, please note the above agreement clause.

Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the correct template (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and deleted the blue guidance text before submission?	X
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 should 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 need 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?	X
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	