

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	DPLUS137
Project title	Transforming Anguilla's Marine Parks: institutionalising sustainable and collaborative management solutions
Territory(ies)	Anguilla
Lead partner	Fisheries and Marine Resources Unit-Department of Natural Resources (FMRU-DNaR)
Project partner(s)	Anguilla National Trust (ANT), Blue finance (Bf)
Darwin Plus grant value	£328,144
Start/end dates of project	1 Jul 2021-30 Jun 2024
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2021-Mar 2022) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2)	Jul 2021-Mar 2022
Project Leader name	Kafi Gumbs
Project website/blog/social media	
Report author(s) and date	Farah Mukhida, Louise Soanes, Kafi Gumbs

1. Project summary

Anguilla has six MPs which protect critical marine habitats (Figure 1). In addition, these MPs support a nearshore fisheries industry, an ever-expanding coastal tourism industry, and provide invaluable coastal ecosystem services to Anguilla. The need to sustainably manage these sites is becoming increasingly urgent, especially as anthropogenic and climate change stressors continue to threaten their health, integrity, and resiliency. Although FMRU-DNR has been identified as the MP management agency, with limited resources, we recognise the value of adopting a more integrated approach that draws on the strengths, knowledge, and capacity of MP stakeholders and other natural resource management agencies.

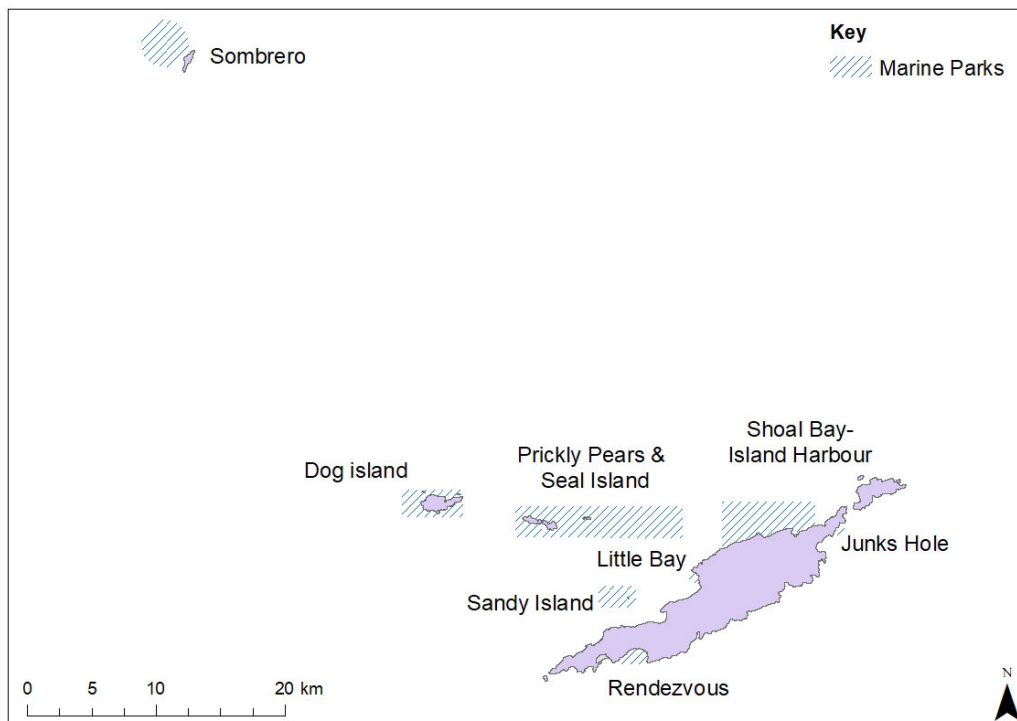


Figure 1. Anguilla's marine parks network.

This project builds on lessons learned from the three-year (2017-2020) DPLUS 060 pilot project at Prickly Pear MP in which a new grassroots approach to MP management was trialled and led to the creation of a multi-stakeholder Marine Park Management Planning Committee (comprised of government and nongovernmental organisations, fishers, the tourism sector, and landowner representatives). The MPMPC developed a five-year management (and zoning) plan and led on the successful implementation of ecosystem-based management actions in collaboration with local stakeholders. This collaborative approach to the Prickly Pear MP has continued post-project with regular meetings of the MPMPC, on-going implementation of the management plan, and expansion of activities leading to the development of a management plan for Little Bay MP. MPMPC members further expressed interest in replicating this integrated, inclusive process across all of Anguilla's MPs.

This co-management approach, while clearly feasible, is not legislated. Through this project, we will formalise a co-management arrangement between GOA and the MPMPC, develop evidence-based management plans for the remaining four MPs, and identify and develop sustainable financial tools to support long-term management plan implementation and MP management team capacity for the benefit of Anguilla's marine biodiversity, coastal resiliency, coastal communities, and blue economy.

2. Project stakeholders/partners

One of the key premises behind this project is to build and formalise stakeholder participation in the marine park management in Anguilla. In 2018 through the DPLUS060 project, FMRU-DNaR and the ANT trialled a new approach to marine park management within the Prickly Pear Marine Park (PPMP). A Marine Park Management Planning Committee (MPMPC), comprised of representatives from other key government agencies, the Anguilla Fisherfolk Association, charter boat operators, dive operators, restaurant owners, the Anguilla Tourist Board, and landowners, developed a management plan for the PPMP, with decisions being made by consensus for both terrestrial and marine ecosystems (recognising that the marine park boundaries did not extend onto land). This MPMPC remains as the key management planning body for this project. Recognising that there are different stakeholders for each of the other five marine parks, the MPMPC co-opted additional expertise and invite additional stakeholder representatives to assist with the development of other site-based management plans, to ensure representation, buy-in, and comprehensiveness of the management plans. Since the beginning of the project, the MPMPC has met six times, resulting in the finalising of management plans for two additional

marine parks (Little Bay Marine Park and Sombrero Island Nature Reserve Marine Park and Ramsar Site) (Annex 3); Annex 4).

The Project Steering Committee oversees the overall implementation of DPLUS137 and has met twice since the commencement of the project (Annex 5). The Project Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from FMRU-DNaR, the ANT, Bf, and Dr Jenny Daltry (Re:Wild/Fauna & Flora International). Anguilla-based partners also regularly correspond via email and text messaging to discuss the project.

The Government of Anguilla's Minister responsible for natural resources as well as the Permanent Secretary with oversight of both FMRU-DNaR and the ANT have been involved in discussions about this project and have received updates via email as well as in-person during DNaR and ANT Directors quarterly meetings with the Permanent Secretary. A meeting with the Government's Cabinet has been scheduled for May 2022 to present management plans for PPMP, Little Bay Marine Park (LBMP), and Sombrero Island Nature Reserve Marine Park and Ramsar Site (SINRMP). With Sombrero Island also being a Ramsar Site, the management plan has also been shared with the Joint Nature Conservation Council as they work to update the site's Ramsar Information Sheet in collaboration with both DNaR and ANT.

A communication strategy has been developed to guide project outreach activities (Annex 6). Most Year 1 efforts, however, centred on engaging stakeholders and in developing management plans. At the same time, through the completion of socio-economic assessments, we have discussed the importance and value of Anguilla's marine parks one-on-one with 30 stakeholders (Annex 7). We also plan on implementing the outreach activities identified in earnest in Q1Y2, beginning with talking to marine park users about their perceptions about MP use and carrying capacity.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Activities being conducted through this DPLUS137 project fall within three main Outputs: 1. Marine park values (ecological, socio-economic) are established to inform sustainable management frameworks and to monitor and evaluate management impacts; 2. Effective and sustainable co-management structures and tools are in place for the integrated management of Anguilla's marine parks; and 3. National capacity to plan, manage, and monitor marine parks is raised, supported by enhanced technical skills and greater public awareness and cooperation.

Output 1. Marine values (ecological, socio-economic) are established to inform sustainable management frameworks and to monitor and evaluate management impacts

Activities under Output 1 for the first year of the project include conducting marine ecosystem assessments within the six marine parks, conducting a vessel and visitor carrying capacity survey, and conducting socio-economic assessments for each of the marine parks.

During periods of calm sea conditions, marine ecosystem assessments have been completed within Shoal Bay-Island Harbour Marine Park (SBIHMP), Sandy Island Marine Park (SIMP), and Little Bay Marine Park (LBMP), following FMRU-DNaR's Anguilla Marine Monitoring Programme Protocols. A different approach was applied within SINRMP due to the depth of the water, sea conditions, and safety concerns. For SINRMP, underwater surveys conducted using a combination of SCUBA and towed underwater video cameras (Annex 8). We were unable to complete benthic surveys within PPMP and Dog Island Marine Park (DIMP) before the winter ground seas season. While we had initially hoped to complete surveys within these last two sites before the end of March 2022, sea conditions have not improved and they are now scheduled to be conducted between May and June 2022.

Over the last few months, we have developed (but still reviewing) visitor questionnaires to determine perceptions regarding perceived capacities for SBIHMP, LBMP, and SIMP as well as

willingness to pay for activities and/or services provided (Annex 9). These sites represent the marine parks that are actively and routinely visited by charter boats (from Anguilla and elsewhere). The results of the carrying capacity surveys will inform where and how many moorings should be installed within the MP boundaries. The number of moorings was already established for PPMP through the previously funded DPLUS060 project and therefore an assessment at that site was deemed unnecessary. Willingness to pay and carrying capacity surveys are scheduled to be conducted between May and June 2022, both in person and using existing social media platforms and networks to ensure maximum reach.

Socio-economic assessments have been completed (or are almost completed) for Sombrero Island Marine Park (Annex 7). An assessment for PPMP was completed as part of the recent DPLUS060 project, with results still being relevant. Socioeconomic assessments are currently being completed for Little Bay Marine Park and Sandy Island Marine Park with assessments for Dog Island Marine Park and Shoal Bay-Island Harbour Marine Park scheduled to be completed before the end of September 2022. As part of this work for this project, 30 individuals have so far been interviewed.

Output 2. Effective and sustainable co-management structures and tools are in place for the integrated management of Anguilla's marine parks

The only activity under Output 2 for the first year of the project enforcing MP legislation and regulations.

MP enforcement activities have been conducted by both project partners at LBMP, PPMP, DIMP, and SINRMP (Annex 10). Due to COVID-19 restrictions, especially at the beginning of the project period, there was limited use of these sites by both locals and visitors. As restrictions have eased, use has increased. Fortunately, however, no major marine park regulations infractions have so far been recorded or reported. We will continue with our enforcement activities throughout the remainder of the project period.

To support enforcement activities, enhance this project's outputs and outcomes, and the overall work of FMRU-DNaR, early this year the ANT was fortunate to secure a European Commission grant (through the Resilience, Sustainable Energy, Marine Biodiversity Programme) that will allow for the construction of fit-for-purpose vessel for FMRU-DNaR. ANT and FMRU-DNaR will begin the procurement process with the hopes that the vessel will be ready to launch by the end of the year or early 2023.

Although not technically scheduled for Year 1 of the project, project partners reviewed and finalised the management plans for PPMP, LBMP, and SIMPNR (Annex 4). As part of this review process, the Minister responsible for natural resources was contacted about moving the three completed management plans through the Government of Anguilla Executive Council for formal endorsement. A meeting with the Government of Anguilla Cabinet has been scheduled for May 2022. Members of the MPMPC, including fishers, charter boat operators, and dive operators, will join FMRU-DNR and ANT staff at this meeting and will help answer questions. As we are ahead of schedule, we plan on completing management plans for the three remaining sites (SIMP, SBIHMP, and DIMP) over the next six to nine months). An MPMPC meeting to begin work on the SIMP management plan has been scheduled for 25 April 2022.

Output 3. National capacity to plan, manage, and monitor marine parks is raised, supported by enhanced technical skills and greater public awareness and cooperation

Activities under Output 3 for the first year of the project include completing self-assessment competencies questionnaires, undertaking formal and the on-the-job training, developing and implementing an advocacy and public awareness campaign, and publicising and report on project progress and results through national and international forums.

At the beginning of the project, FMRU-DNR and ANT staff completed a competencies questionnaire with results being used to identify training needs (Annex 11). As one of the outputs of that assessment, we identified the need for additional training in enforcement protocols and practices and, with the easing of COVID-19 restrictions and mandates, we are currently

organising an enforcement training workshop with a US-based company, MPA Enforcement International. In an effort to enhance safety at sea, three ANT staff recently successfully received Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) certification – certification that is required by all seafarers who work onboard commercial ships or superyachts (Annex 12). Although not directly a part of this project, 11 FMRU-DNR and ANT staff members have received training in stony coral tissue loss disease (SCTLD) monitoring and treatment. The disease was first reported by diver operators (also members of the MPMPC) and verified by international experts and the FMRU-DNR team, triggering the call for urgent training and the sourcing of treatments.

To help guide our advocacy and outreach activities, particularly for Years 2 and 3 of the project, we have developed a public awareness strategy that outlines activities that take advantage of all media types as well as face-to-face engagement opportunities (Annex 6).

Since the launching of this project in July 2021, we have (Annex 13):

- Disseminated one press release announcing the funding award (June 2021) (reach of 737 individuals)
- Partnered with the Anguilla-based not-for-profit organisation Sustainable Anguilla (July 2021) during which 28 young people were taken on site visits to two of Anguilla's marine parks (Dog Island and Prickly Pear) to discuss and explore the role and value of Anguilla's marine parks as well as the need to protect and enhance the species and habitats on which those species depend
- Presented on Anguilla's marine parks and this project as a part of Fauna & Flora International's Marine Working Group's session *Marine conservation in the Eastern Caribbean: progress and challenges* (August 2021, 25 attendees).

Reached 30 individuals, one-on-one, to discuss the socioeconomic value of Anguilla's marine parks (Annex 4).

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

This DPLUS137 has three main Outputs: 1. Marine park values (ecological, socio-economic) are established to inform sustainable management frameworks and to monitor and evaluate management impacts; 2. Effective and sustainable co-management structures and tools are in place for the integrated management of Anguilla's marine parks; and 3. National capacity to plan, manage, and monitor marine parks is raised, supported by enhanced technical skills and greater public awareness and cooperation.

Output 1. Marine park values (ecological, socio-economic) are established to inform sustainable management frameworks and to monitor and evaluate management impacts

Benthic assessments have been conducted at four of the six MPs during the first nine months of the project. Socio-economic assessments have also been completed for two MPs. Results of both ecological and socio-economic assessments have informed MP management plan reviews for LBMP and SINRMP. For the latter, it was agreed that additional benthic surveys covering a wider area (outside of existing MP boundaries) would be exceedingly helpful as stakeholders indicated that the existing boundaries may not be sufficient and/or appropriate. Additional surveys are planned for this coming summer (along with surveys within PPMP and DIMP waters).

Although not a specific component of this project, seabird surveys on the Prickly Pear cays, Dog Island, and Sombrero Island will be conducted between May and July 2022. Land and wetland bird surveys along with lizard assessments will also be conducted on the Prickly Pear cays and Dog Island during this same period.

All collected ecological data will help us determine change over time and especially change due to applied management interventions.

Output 2. Effective and sustainable co-management structures and tools are in place for the integrated management of Anguilla's marine parks

A Project Steering Committee was established and a multi-stakeholder Marine Park Management Planning Committee (as developed under DPLUS060) has been maintained. The Project Steering Committee has been overseeing the progress of the project while the Management Planning Committee has been overseeing the review and finalisation of MP management plans (Annex 4). During Year 2, we will begin working with Bf to examine how to formalise these committees and/or other viable frameworks as well as identify sustainable financing mechanisms to ensure and support long-term effective site management.

Output 3. National capacity to plan, manage, and monitor marine parks is raised, supported by enhanced technical skills and greater public awareness and cooperation

Working with a range of stakeholders to develop management plans, we are increasing national capacity across sectors and interests. Recognising that both FMRU-DNaR and ANT are limited in terms of staffing and drawing on the expertise, experience, and time that other stakeholders spend on and in the water, including within Anguilla's marine parks, we are able to increase the overall capital and resources from which we can draw for environmental management and resources. national capacity; we know that effective, sustainable environmental management must a shared responsibility and that we can accomplish so much more by working together. We are fortunate to be working with individuals who, although they may not always agree with the decisions of FMRU-DNaR and the ANT, recognise and respect the need for management plans and the enforcement of legislation and regulations.

One of the most challenging stakeholder groups to arrive at consensus with has been fisherfolk. Over the last few months, however, there has been a shift in perspectives towards greater support for marine parks as no-take areas which is exceedingly encouraging as all other stakeholders and members of the MPMPC fully support and endorse such designation. While we have always recognised that consensus may not be achievable, it is something that we genuinely work towards.

We will continue to raise capacity and awareness in Years 2 and 3 of the project as we complete management plans for the other three MPs and begin to implement management interventions in collaboration with MP stakeholders.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Having only completed Year 1 of a three-year project, we have created the framework for realising the project's outcome.

The project outcome is the transformation of Anguilla's marine park system from paper park status to an effective, financially-sustainable network based on already-tested collaborative management approaches.

Although still early into project implementation, significant progress has been made towards the Outcome: management plans for the three of the sites have been finalised by the MPMPC and will be presented to the Government of Anguilla Cabinet for approval and endorsement. We have already begun implementing aspects of the management plans, including continuing to collect data to inform adaptive management strategies, restoration and enhancement of benthic and terrestrial habitats (including treatments for SCTLD).

This work has set the stage for the next major component of the project: with comprehensive ecological and socioeconomic data, including estimated carrying capacity of the most-visited MPs, and with management plans in hand, we will be in a position to both identify the best structural framework for MP management in Anguilla and the necessary financial framework to ensure that management interventions can be maintained for the long-term. It is these frameworks and the strong relationships that we have forged with MP stakeholders that will make Anguilla's marine parks fully-functioning and effective protected areas.

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/Government of Anguilla continues to support the effective management of Anguilla's marine parks.

Government officials were engaged when the project was first conceived with the project concept first being discussed with the Minister responsible for natural resources and the Project Officer with the Ministry of Finance and then all of Cabinet. Following the presentation to Cabinet, the Government of Anguilla formally endorsed the project and its ultimate goal of transforming Anguilla's marine parks from paper parks to effectively managed areas for the benefit of biodiversity and people. We have scheduled another meeting with Cabinet during which the MPMPC will present the first three management plans. Ensuring that the MPMPC presents the management plans (rather than FMUR-DNaR and/or the ANT) will directly and clearly show that the management plans are stakeholder-informed and -supported, thereby allaying any concerns that Cabinet may have about the stakeholder buy-in.

Assumption 2. Nationals continue to cooperate within the marine park management planning process.

The MPMPC, first established under DPLUS060, continues to be the primary management planning body for Anguilla's marine parks. Still comprised of representatives from the fisheries, tourism, and public sectors, members continue to consistently attend and actively participate in meetings. We have asked additional relevant individuals, who have a direct stake in specific MPs, to attend to provide input into the plans as they are being drafted in order to ensure that we are able to address any of their concerns, capture their thoughts, and integrate their knowledge. All members have shown, through their participation, that they are committed to not only the development of management plans, but also their implementation. As a Committee, we have decided that the next management plan that we will develop will be for Sandy Island Marine Park. In addition to our core Committee group, key stakeholders are additional charter boat operators as well as the owners of Sandy Island Restaurant. These stakeholders have been invited to the upcoming meeting; personal reminders of the meeting will be sent at least two days before the meeting.

Assumption 3. Management plans do not correctly identify and address the main threats, capacity needs, and resources to protect and manage Anguilla's MPs.

We continue to engage a wide range of stakeholders to develop the management plans, thereby ensuring their relevance and effectiveness. Management plans are also informed by the results of ecological and socio-economic data and by (combined) decades of experience of individuals working directly within Anguilla's MPs who have seen how the sites have changed over time as well as what has tended to work well (and not so well) within the various sites.

Assumption 4. Field activities are not affected by extreme weather events.

Some field activities have been impacted by seasonal weather events, including ground seas which generally occur between November and April, making sea conditions rough and making in-water work difficult. As this is a 36-month project that spans three viable field seasons, we are confident that we will be able to complete all work within the timeframe of the project.

Assumption 5. COVID-19 restrictions and/or outbreaks do not impact implementation of the project (or components of the project).

COVID-19 has not impacted the project as much as we had initially thought. During the first nine months of the project, we have focused on reviewing and finalising site-based management plans and collecting ecological and socioeconomic data. This work is being conducted by FMUR-DNaR and the ANT; outside expertise has not been required so international (and Anguilla entry) travel restrictions have not been an issue for us.

The high vaccination rates, combined with high case numbers of the omicron variant, has appeared to create a high level of immunity amongst the local population, so much so that the Government of Anguilla has lifted many restrictions as of 1 April 2022. If this remains the case, this easing of restrictions will only make our work with Bf easier in Year 2 as they will be

travelling to Anguilla to work with us on activities related formalising structural and financial frameworks for the MPs. Of course, we are still prepared to adjust our work programme should the COVID-19 situation change yet again; over the last two years, we have learned how to quickly adapt in the face of uncertainty and travel restrictions and even lockdowns will not impact our ability to complete the work – it would only require moving from in-person interactions to virtual which, while not ideal, is still a viable option.

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

The primary purpose of this project is to protect and sustainably use Anguilla's coastal and marine habitats and biodiversity. 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. It also addresses DPLUS' priority of conserving and effectively managing coral reef, seagrass meadows, and mangrove forests, as Anguilla's MPs encompass all of the island's major reef and seagrass ecosystems.

During Year 1, this project has contributed to:

- *Implementing National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)*, by collecting and using data to inform management, training nationals in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, promoting environmental awareness and education, and promoting the exchange of information nationally and internationally.
- *Implementing National Environmental Management Strategy*, by developing MP management plans that “ensure the sustainable use of natural resources in a manner which recognises the intricate linkages between ecological systems in small island states, and between these systems and human activity;” creating and strengthening existing national agencies with responsibility for environmental management;” supporting and enhancing “the capacity of non-governmental and community based organisations for environmental management;” and establishing, strengthening, and promoting “structures and procedures for broad participation of civil society and the private sector in the design, implementation and evaluation of decision-making processes and programmes.”
- *Implementing Management Plan for Anguilla's Marine Park System*, by establishing and implementing site-specific management plans for three of Anguilla's six MPs (with the other three to be completed before the end of 2022).
- *Implementing UN Convention on Biodiversity*, by developing “national strategies, plans, or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity” (MP management plans) (Article 6); monitoring components of biodiversity with a particular focus on those “requiring urgent conservation measures and those which offer the greatest potential for sustainable development” (Article 7); establishing a system of protected areas, developing and implementing management plans/frameworks for the benefit of ecosystems, habitats, and species (Article 8); encouraging “cooperation between governmental authorities and the private sector in developing methods for sustainable use of biological resources” (Article 10); and promoting, encouraging, and supporting research and training (Article 11).
- *Implementing UN Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol*, by adopting and implementing “planning, management, and enforcement measures for protected areas,” including developing management plans, undertaking research, raising awareness, and involving local communities and stakeholders in management planning and implementation (Article 6).
- *Achieving UK Blue Belt Programme objectives*, by developing and implementing “evidence-based, tailored management strategies” to “ensure long-term sustainable marine management.”

This project is also building the capacity of natural resource managers and decision makers to take an evidence-based approach to MP management planning, while also enhancing existing stakeholder partnerships, networks, and relationships.

5. OPTIONAL: Consideration of gender equality issues

Day-to-day management of the project is handled by all-women coordinating team comprised of the Director of FMRU-DNaR and the Executive Director ANT, with Dr Jenny Daltry providing external oversight and expertise. The project implementation team, however, is mixed gender, comprised of FMRU-DNaR and ANT staff members (five male, three female). We recognise that all external MPMPC members are male due to the demographics of the stakeholder groups. As we begin work on management plans for SIMP and SBIHMP, in particular, in Year 2, we expect there to be a better gender representation and balance within the management planning process.

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

6. Monitoring and evaluation

This project is monitored internally by FMRU-DNaR and project partners during Project Steering Committee meetings during which project progress is determined by comparing what activities have been started, completed, or have yet to be initiated and comparing them to the proposed implementation plan and submitted logframe. Please refer to Sections 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 for more detail regarding project progress and the indicators used to evaluate progress.

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

All partners share Monitoring and Evaluation work, with partners reporting at least quarterly to the Steering Committee on progress as well as constraints.

7. Lessons learnt

This project is a collaborative initiative amongst FMRU-DNaR, ANT, and Bf. Beyond our partnership, however, we work very closely with a dedicated group of marine park stakeholders who have been committed to the process of developing management plans and overseeing implementation since the 2018 (and the DPLUS060 project). Together, we have informally established this working group as the Marine Park Management Planning Committee.

As we have worked through the development of marine park management plans and through the interviews that we've completed as part of our site-specific socio-economic assessment, the core group has found that we sometimes need additional input, knowledge, and expertise from others who are either familiar with the sites or who operate within them. We've therefore reached out to individuals and asked them to join Committee meetings and discussions to ensure that we consider and include everything that needs to be captured within the plans. While we maintain the core committee as is, keeping it fluid and open allows us to be circumspect and transparent and also shows key stakeholders that we are serious about adopting a grassroots approach to management planning, that their thoughts and voices matter, and that we are listening. While we (the Committee) may not always agree and while we may not always be able to take all of their suggestions or desires on board, we have been very careful to ensure that everyone understands the reasons behind the decisions that have been made in terms of what is and is not included within the management plans. Respectful dialogue has been integral to this process.

Having completed three of the six marine park management plans, we are now ready to present these documents to the Government of Anguilla for discussion and endorsement. As our work has always been collaborative, we want to ensure that this next step is equally representative; the Committee will present the management plans rather than just FMRU-DNaR and/or the ANT.

As we move into the second year of the project, we will now begin considering how to make this informal Committee into something more structured, formal, and recognised by higher levels of government. This is where Bf's knowledge and expertise comes into play.

Through our work over the last nine months (and even before through our DPLUS060 project), we have learned the importance of taking a logical and holistic approach to not just marine park management planning but also to how the plans and our work are presented. We have recognised the importance of underscoring this work as being collaborative and stakeholder-informed as well as placing it within the larger context of the value of and need for sustainable fisheries and eco-tourism and how marine parks are just one tool out of many that need to be applied to ensure the long-term viability of Anguilla's natural heritage and economy.

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

Not applicable.

9. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

No other comments.

10. Sustainability and legacy

Over the last nine months, most of our efforts have been placed on developing management plans for Anguilla's marine parks. Anguilla's small population has worked in our favour: through day-to-day interactions FMRU-DNaR and the ANT are constantly and consistently talking about our work with fishers, tourism operators, government officials, and the general public. Our MPMP members have also become ambassadors for Anguilla's marine parks by talking about the importance and value of our marine environment and the need to take better care of it as well as by putting what we have been discussing in our meetings into practice. For example, some charter boat operators have begun only stocking reef-safe sunscreen while dive operators are assisting with coral reef enhancement through the deployment of additional designed habitat (lobster casitas/reef balls), transplanting of coral from sites that may be lost (collapsing wrecks) to the designed habitat, and reporting lionfish sightings and stony coral tissue loss disease outbreaks. Through conversations with representatives of the Anguilla Fisherfolk Association, we understand that discussions about marine parks have taken place within Association meetings. Dive operators have also been invited to these Anguilla Fisherfolk Association meetings during which they have discussed and emphasised the importance of marine parks as no-take sanctuaries. Association members have reported to us that fishers not only have a better understanding of why we are doing the work that we are doing but also recognise the value of it – that marine parks and the management plans that outline and regulate the type of activities that can and cannot occur within the boundaries are actually necessary. This is heartening.

Our planned exit strategy is still valid: the management plans provide a ten-year framework for site-based management and the work that we will conduct with Bf in Years 2 and 3 of the project to identify and formalise the marine park management body and the marine park sustainable financing mechanisms will provide the necessary long-term structural framework and ensure a sustained legacy beyond this three-year project.

11. Darwin identity

The Darwin Initiative has been recognised on all materials produced through this project, including management plans (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).

12. Impact of COVID-19 on project delivery

Fortunately, COVID-19 has not yet had any significant impact on project delivery; please see Section 3.4, Assumption 5.

We continue to assure the healthy and safety of project staff and beneficiaries by following recommendations and government-instituted mandates, including practicing social distancing,

limiting exposure of staff and beneficiaries by limiting direct contact, using hybrid approach to the conducting of work (in-person and remote), facilitating meetings through the use of zoom and, when in-person meetings are necessary, holding them outdoors or in well-ventilated spaces. Face masks are also worn in the office and when conducting work in-person.

We expect to continue to use virtual meeting platforms (zoom) and to continue to hold in-person meetings outdoors or well-ventilated spaces. Wearing of masks is no longer required in outdoor spaces, 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

Please expand and complete Table 1. If all receipts have not yet been received, please provide indicative figures and clearly mark them as Draft. The Actual claim form will be taken as the final accounting for funds.

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	██████████	██████████	██████████	-
Overhead Costs	██████████	██████████	██████████	n/a
Travel and subsistence	██████████	██████████	██████████	n/a
Operating Costs	██████████	██████████	██████████	n/a
Capital items	██████████	██████████	██████████	n/a
Others (Please specify) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Open Water SCUBA diving training • Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers 	██████████	██████████	██████████	n/a
TOTAL	██████████	██████████		

Highlight any agreed changes to the budget and **fully** explain any variation in expenditure where this is +/- 10% of the budget. Have these changes been discussed with and approved by Darwin?

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).

There have not yet been any outstanding achievements as we are still in the early phases of project implementation.

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?	
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the Subject line.	
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.	
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	
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	