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Darwin Plus: Final Report

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

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

Submission Deadline: no later than 3 months after agreed end date.

Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line.

Darwin Plus Project Information

Project reference	DPLUS137
Project title	Transforming Anguilla’s Marine Parks: institutionalising sustainable and collaborative management solutions
Territory(ies)	Anguilla
Lead Organisation	Fisheries and Marine Resources Unit-Department of Natural Resources (FMRU-DNR)
Project partner(s)	Anguilla National Trust (ANT), Blue finance (Bf)
Darwin Plus Grant value	£328,144
Start/end date of project	1 Jul 2021-31 Dec 2024
Project Leader name	Kafi S. Wallace
Project website/Twitter/blog etc.	
Report author(s) and date	Farah Mukhida, Louise Soanes, Kafi S. Wallace, Jasmin Ruan

1 Project Summary

Anguilla has six marine parks (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 had become increasingly urgent, especially as anthropogenic and climate change stressors continued to threaten their health, integrity, and resiliency. Although FMRU-DNR had been identified as the MP management agency, with limited resources, we recognised 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.

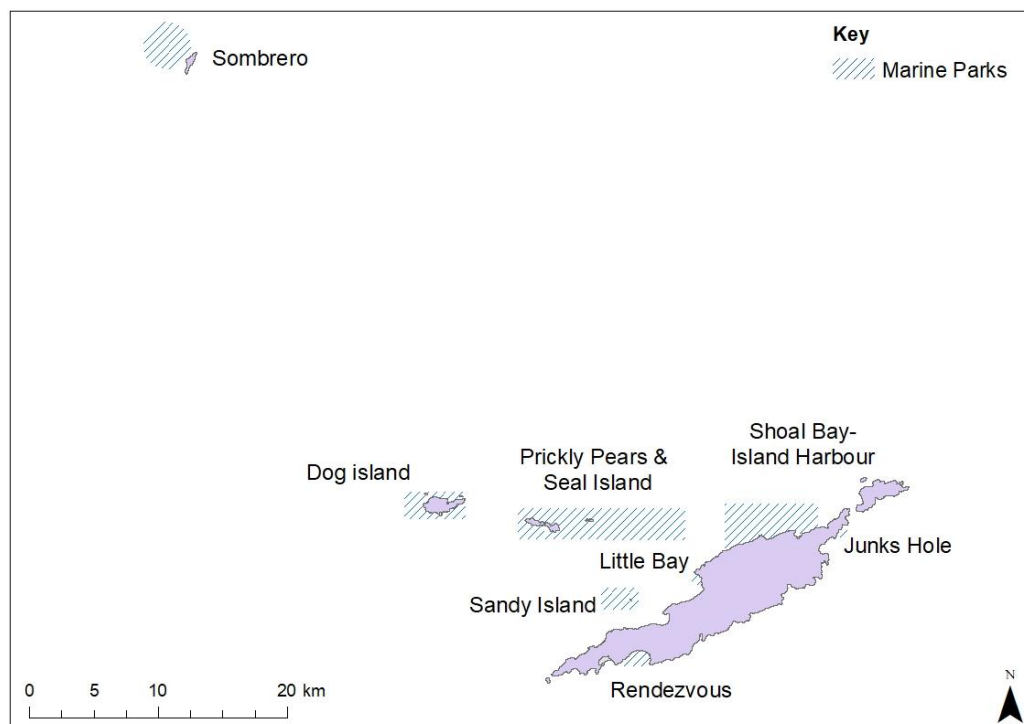


Figure 1. Anguilla's marine parks network.

This project built 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, was not legislated. Through this project, we sought to formalise a more collaborative management arrangement between the Government of Anguilla (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 Partnerships

One of the principal purposes behind this project was to support and formalise stakeholder participation in marine park management in Anguilla. A **Marine Park Management Planning Committee**, first established as part of the DPLUS-funded project *Pioneering a new model for marine park management in Anguilla* (DPLUS060), continued to operate as one of the key management planning bodies for this project. The MPMPC has co-opted additional stakeholders to assist with the development of site-specific management/action plans and reviewed and validated marine park action plans ([Evidence 1](#)).

The **Government of Anguilla's** Minister for Environment, other elected officials and the Permanent Secretary with oversight of both FMRU and the ANT were involved in high-level discussions about this project and has also led to agreement that legislation guiding and regulating Anguilla's marine parks needed to be updated to better reflect what is needed on the ground to protect and conserve these highly valuable and vulnerable underwater habitats and that a more balanced approach to blue economy development was equally imperative. Through

this project, legislative amendments to the Marien Parks Act and Regulations were presented and endorsed by the GOA Cabinet and were submitted to the Attorney General's Chambers for further action ([Evidence 2](#)). This legislative change was highlighted as a priority legislative action by the Government of Anguilla ([Evidence 3](#)).

During this project's timeframe, the Government of Anguilla formally announced its support for the **UK Government's** Blue Belt Initiative and complementary work included a high-level sustainable financing strategy, drafting of legislation to support the establishment of an Environmental Trust Fund, and marine spatial planning ([Evidence 4](#)). As part of the Blue Belt Initiative, FMRU-DNR joined the Coral Conservation in the UK Overseas Territories (C-COT Working Group), with an invitation to join extended (and accepted) to the ANT in March 2025, post-project. As a regional network of marine practitioners, government agencies, nongovernmental organisations (NGOs), and academic institutions from across the six Caribbean and Western Atlantic UKOTs, C-COT's goal is to support coral reef monitoring and conservation efforts by facilitating collaboration, capacity building, and knowledge exchange among members. With most of Anguilla's coral reefs being protected through our MP network, this regional working group is especially relevant to our MP management efforts beyond the timeframe of this project.

The **general public** and **fishers** especially were directly engaged through an intense series of stakeholder meetings and presentations regarding the draft management plans and the necessary legislative amendments that would be required to effectively and sustainably manage these critical sites for the long-term benefit of marine biodiversity as well as people and communities. Using social media and presentations ([Evidence 5](#)), direct engagement of the general public, policy makers (including Government of Anguilla elected officials), we were able to raise the profile of these critical areas as well as the important work that we undertook through this project. An exciting new partnership with the **Anguilla Ocean Keepers (AOK)** was established. AOK is a collection of divers who are passionate about conserving Anguilla's marine environment and who have been working in partnership with us to implement marine park management actions plans, including maintaining the existing Little Bay Snorkel and Dive Trail, restoring habitat through the deployment of reef balls and moving at-risk coral fragments to more secure locations, including within and outside of dive wreck sites – sites that will be protected as marine parks (and no-take/replenishment areas, see Section 3) under the revised Marine Parks Act and Regulations. With one of the founding AOK members also being an MPMP member and with several high-level government elected officials also being members and/or supporters of AOK, the profile of our work – the importance and its impact – have been undeniably heightened.

One of the main goals of this project was to create the frameworks necessary to effective and sustainable management of Anguilla's MPs. Those frameworks include our relationships with government, non-government and private sector stakeholders. Thus, although this project has formally ended, we continue to nurture and strengthen the relationships that we were able to establish while also looking for other opportunities to further engage and collaborate with national and international partners.

3 Project Achievements

3.1 Outputs

This project had three main Outputs: 1. Marine 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

In 2006, with support from the UK Government Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP) funding mechanism, FMRU-DNR (then the Department of Fisheries and Marine

Resources) and the ANT undertook a comprehensive assessment of Anguilla's marine park benthic habitat and fish populations. Following that assessment and to help establish a coastal resources information system for Anguilla, FMRU-DNR initiated our Anguilla Marine Monitoring Programme which focuses on the nearshore rather than only specifically on Anguilla's MPs. As part of this project, however, we recognised that another comprehensive assessment of the MP network was needed, especially if we want to be able to assess impact of MP management interventions over time. Through this project, therefore, we updated our benthic assessments, providing a more current overview of the state of most of the MP network ([Evidence 6](#)); diving conditions at Dog Island Marine were consistently poor throughout much of the project period and when sea conditions tended to improve, visibility tended to be poor. With health and safety of our staff being paramount, we decided against conducting in-water assessments and are considering other options, including using an underwater drone as well as acoustic monitoring data.

With match funding from the EU RESEMBID grant mechanism and with assistance provided by Dr Matthew Witt (University of Exeter), we also deployed six underwater acoustic monitoring stations within the boundaries of five of Anguilla's marine parks (excluding Sombrero Island due to diving conditions, water depth, and lower usage levels by MP stakeholders) in November 2023 and redeployed them in June 2024 to capture a full year acoustic data ([Evidence 7](#)), including during the tourism high and low seasons. This data is currently being analysed, with assistance provided by the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, to determine if there is any correlation between boat traffic and associated noise and marine life. We expect analysis to take some time as there are tens of thousands of recordings that need to be reviewed and assessed.

Complementing our underwater surveys, we also completed seabird surveys across all of Anguilla's offshore cays (including those surrounded by marine parks) as well as Critically Endangered Lesser Antillean iguana *Iguana delicatissima* surveys on Prickly Pear East ([Evidence 6](#)). These surveys were supported by ANT operational funds as well as funds secured through the Prince of Wales Charitable Fund (now King Charles Charitable Fund) by the ANT and Fauna & Flora. Results of surveys indicate that seabird numbers are fluctuating with populations of some species increasing while others slightly declining. Reasons behind those fluctuations need further investigation but could be linked to possible changes in food sources (potentially impacted by climate change) as well as global trends in seabird's numbers. Lesser Antillean iguana numbers, however, have increased (at least three-fold) since they were reintroduced to Prickly Pear East in 2016.

In addition to benthic and acoustic assessments – which have focused on biodiversity and ecological health of MPs – we also completed socioeconomic assessments of all six parks, providing interesting insight into stakeholder values and perceptions which will help guide the implementation of site-based action plans but also our outreach efforts ([Evidence 8](#)). Complementing our socioeconomic assessments, we also wanted to better understand visitors' willingness to pay for MP access and undertaking activities within MP boundaries as well as each site's carrying capacity based on what visitors think is "crowded" or "just enough".

The marine park carrying capacity and willingness to pay survey instrument was circulated via email listservs (Anguilla National listserv, Government of Anguilla listserv), WhatsApp through direct broadcast messages, and Facebook ([Anguilla Connoisseurs](#), [33 Beaches \(Anguilla for Tourists 3.0\)](#), [The Pulse: Anguilla](#), [Anguilla Beneath The Blue](#), [Anguilla National Trust](#)). Over a two-month period, 106 individuals completed the survey and results indicated that persons (not surprisingly) preferred fewer boats within the MPs and for those boats to be moored some distance away from the beach. Results also suggested that visitors to Anguilla's MPs were not opposed to paying additional fees to support marine park management and marine conservation, but (again, not surprisingly) that they would be willing to pay more of a premium for better quality reefs and visitor experiences ([Evidence 9](#)). At the moment, Anguilla's marine parks, as our ecological assessments suggest, are not in the best of condition; enhancing and restoring coral and seagrass health will be necessary if we expect visitors to pay higher amounts. It will also be important to show, through on-the-ground, tangible management interventions, that any funds collected through MP visitor payment programmes are reinvested into management.

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

While all parts of this project were important and with results feeding and supporting the various components of it, this Output was perhaps the most critical. It was through this Output that we were able to develop the structural frameworks that will enable collaborative and sustainable management were developed.

Although we had initially planned on developing distinct management plans for each of Anguilla's six marine parks, following management planning meetings with the MPMPC and other stakeholders who were coopted to assist with management planning, we realised that there was significant overlap amongst the plans in terms of background information, principal values, and priority issues. Instead, a single evidence-based management plan, with site-based action plans along with implementation schedules, was drafted between Years 1 and 2 of the project. The management plan and action plan were developed through a series of stakeholder meetings and by consensus. The meetings were held to be safe spaces for open, constructive dialogue, free of judgement. Questions and conversations focused on building understanding and reaching common ground, recognising that the ultimate goal was the protection of marine biodiversity and supporting sustainable livelihoods. After much discussion, two major conclusions were drawn:

1. In order for Anguilla's MPs to recover and to effectively protect biodiversity and ecosystem functions, they would need to be no-take/replenishment areas, with an exception: limited crayfishing would be permitted within specific areas of Prickly Pear Marine Park for five years (limited by take size, quota, and permits), during which time crayfish stocks would be monitored to assess whether the allowed take was sustainable and whether it could continue within the boundaries of these two marine parks or whether it would also be phased out.
2. Anguilla's underwater wrecks represent important biodiversity areas and serve as artificial reefs and that these sites also warranted the same type of protection and management as Anguilla's marine parks; wrecks should be integrated into the MP network.

Recognising that while the management plans were inherently important to guide conservation interventions and to allow for monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive planning, it was also clear that the management plans needed to be supported by stronger legislation and that the legislation needed to be amended.

Guided by the management plans, our MPMPC meetings, and wider stakeholder meetings, we reviewed the legislation internally and developed a series of legislative amendments ([Evidence 2](#)) which were presented to the GOA Cabinet in April 2023. Cabinet agreed that the amendments were reasonable but requested that they presented to the wider public for additional input. We worked with stakeholder schedules and fishing seasons and held a series of public consultations, including community-based meetings, focal group meetings, and radio sessions during Year 3 of the project, between October 2023 and January 2024 ([Evidence 10](#)) (no. direct consultees = 114 – representing approximately 1/3 of the fishing community, radio reach via Facebook Live = >2500). Conversations were sometimes difficult as positions and values were not always aligned but they were extremely important; they allowed us to better understand stakeholder positions but also to better explain and discuss the reasons behind the proposed amendments and the long-term value of those amendments. While it was important that we did not compromise the overall goal of objectives of Anguilla's marine parks, we also heard what stakeholders were saying regarding their livelihoods and following the consultations, it was agreed that regulated crayfishing would be permitted (for at least 5 years) within part of Shoal Bay-Island Harbour MP (in addition to Prickly Pear MP) as it was also an important and traditional crayfishing ground. Similar to Prickly Pear MP, crayfishing activities would be limited by the size of the crayfish, amount allowed to harvest, and number of permits granted.

The results of the public consultations and the revised legislative amendments ([Evidence 2](#)) were presented to the GOA Cabinet in January 2024 and Cabinet approved their submission to the Anguilla's Attorney General's Chambers for formal legal drafting. The GOA further secured the services of a former UK Chief Parliamentary Counsel who has assisted the AG's Chambers in the past to once again work with the Chambers to move the legislative drafting process forward.

With the approval of the legislative amendments by Cabinet, the marine park management plans were finalised, including a governance structure for the parks. This structure places FMRU-DNR as the main governing body, supported by a technical advisory committee (TAC) comprised of marine park stakeholders (the MPMPC). This is slightly different from what we had first envisioned. Initially, at start of project, we were considering the transfer of management responsibility to a non-governmental agency – either the ANT or a body specifically established to manage the marine park. Blue finance (now Blue Alliance) drafted management and legal agreements that outlined roles and responsibilities as well as commitments for each party (the management body and the GOA). However, after further discussion with the Minister responsible for the (marine) environment and further commitments made through the Blue Belt Initiative, it was agreed that it would be more appropriate for management responsibility to remain with the GOA and, more specifically, with FMRU which would then be supported by the TAC which would be responsible for monitoring and evaluation and with members of the committee also assisting with on-the-ground implementation of the actions plans.

With legislative amendments approved and management plans finalised, we were then able to focus our attention to the sustainable financing mechanisms which would be critical for long-term impactful management. Sustainable financing opportunities have been considered within the wider blue economy framework, and we adopted a two-pronged approach. With FMRU-DNR being identified as the lead management agency for Anguilla's marine parks, GOA is pursuing sustainable financing mechanisms that focus on the collection of funds that would be placed in an environment/ conservation trust fund, with funds collected supporting (among other things) marine parks management. Legislation has been drafted to support the establishment of the fund ([Evidence 4](#)).

Blue Alliance, meanwhile, works with nongovernmental agencies to establish sustainable financing mechanism. They therefore worked with the ANT to establish financing solutions that leverage relationships with tourism partners through education, sponsorships, and merchandise ([Evidence 4](#)). In late 2024, the GOA and ANT entered into discussions with one of Anguilla's main hotels, Four Seasons, to fund the construction of a welcome and interpretation centre for Anguilla's protected areas (terrestrial and marine). This facility would also be used a central location for education and outreach as well as merchandise sales.

With the legislation amendments being formally drafted by the AG's Chambers, our MP enforcement actions have primarily focused on monitoring boat numbers, visitor numbers, and conservations with individuals operating restaurants on Prickly Pear East and Sandy Island regarding biodiversity (Lesser Antillean iguana sightings on Prickly Pear East, and sea turtle nesting activity on both Prickly Pear East and Sandy Island). A total of 118 patrols were conducted over the project period ([Evidence 11](#)). The most common infraction has been illegal anchoring within Little Bay Marine Park. While no one/vessel has been fined for illegal anchoring, conversations with boat captains have always led to anchors being lifted off of the seafloor.

A Gender Action Plan ([Evidence 12](#)) was also developed which helped inform our awareness and outreach activities and training (also see below). While some actions identified within the plan were relevant during the project period, the it was also designed to guide actions post-project to ensure on-going representation of all genders. During the project period, marine park management planning meetings were held after regular working hours when alternative child care providers were available. Parents were also supported and encouraged to bring their children to the meetings if they needed to. In terms of capacity building, at least 30% of those trained through this project were women and a Women in Science group, comprising of female directors and managers within FMRU-DNR, ANT, Agriculture Unit-DNR, Environment Unit-DNR, Gender Affairs Anguilla, the Department of Disaster Management, the Department of Youth and Culture, and Ministry of Finance. The group met twice during the project period, but perhaps more importantly, it facilitated closer personal and professional connections amongst members and what has become an informal support group for the members as we navigate professional challenges and try to seek a work-life balance.

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

The final Output of this project focused on enhancing national capacity through training while also increasing public awareness about Anguilla's marine parks, their relevance to all residents of Anguilla, and the importance of their effective and sustainable management.

Our public outreach strategy included taking advantage of all forms of media, including social media posts (Facebook, Instagram), newspaper press releases, radio shows, celebrating BLUE week with high level government officials from Anguilla and the UK, site visits, experiential learning opportunities including summer camps and after school programme sessions, presentations for national and international audiences including school children, a series of short documentaries, and stakeholder consultations and meetings ([Evidence 4](#)). We have directly and indirectly reached tens of thousands of individuals. Through our outreach efforts, including extensive consultations with fisherfolk and other stakeholders which have led to the endorsement of marine park legislative changes (and in turn, marine park management plans), we have reached a common understanding that marine parks require management and special consideration to ensure biodiversity and ecosystem integrity, health, and resilience.

National capacity to manage Anguilla's marine parks has been enhanced ([Evidence 13](#)). At the beginning of project, FMRU-DNR and ANT staff completed a competency questionnaire with results being used to identify training needs ([Evidence 14](#)). Key training priorities included additional training in enforcement protocols and practices, boat captain certification, and crew safety certification. Over the project period, 9 staff members from our agencies received training in Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (including 3 women), the ANT hired an already-trained boat captain and both FMRU-DNR and ANT had an additional staff member certified to operate <15m outboard vessels and VHF radios (awaiting certificate for FMRU-DNR staff member). Nine FMRU-DNR, ANT, and Royal Anguilla Police Force staff received training in marine parks enforcement protocols and techniques (including 3 women) by US-based Marine Parks Enforcement Ltd. This initial training will be supplemented with follow-up training in April 2025 for FMRU-DNR and ANT staff, to be provided by colleagues from the Turks and Caicos Islands. We also increased our capacity in data management, with 11 FMRU-DNR staff trained by the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism in the use of the in [Kobo data collection and enforcement app](#) and 5 ANT staff were trained by the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology in a bespoke iRecordAXA data collection and enforcement app (supported by the complementary Darwin Plus-funded *DPL00021* project). Seven of our (FMRU-DNR, ANT) staff were also trained in statistical analysis using R programming (including 3 women).

Regional exchanges including with colleagues from neighbouring St. Martin (Reserve Naturelle St. Martin *RNSM*), St. Barthelemy (Agence Territoriale de l'Environnement *ATE*), and Bonaire (Stichting Nationale Parken Bonaire *STINAPA*) also provided invaluable opportunities to exchange ideas and share lessons learned about what has worked and what has been more challenging as it relates to marine park management and marine biodiversity conservation.

In addition to upgrading of skills, with match funding through the European Union RESEMBID funding mechanism, we were able to secure a fit-for-purpose vessel for FMRU-DNR. Following a comprehensive procurement process, a contract was signed with a local boat building company, Rebel Marine, to construct a 37' vessel for FMRU-DNR. The vessel was launched on 10 July 2024 at a ceremony chaired by the ANT, with remarks provided by the Government of Anguilla (Ministry of Environment, FMRU), the RESEMBID Secretariat, and one of Anguilla's dive operators and marine park stakeholder. This new Fisheries vessel adds value and capacity to marine park management, with the ANT's vessel *Corvina* providing support. The vessel has so far been used for biodiversity monitoring (sharks and rays within marine park and connected/associated nearshore environments), mooring buoy deployment, and marine park enforcement.

With EU funding, we were also able to purchase 60 mooring buoys for deployment within the MP network, responding to stakeholder calls for additional moorings while easing pressure on and preventing damage to our coral reefs and seagrass beds. Through the Blue Belt Initiative, we have also been able to secure boundary markers for our parks which are currently being installed.

To help better understand the impact and value of this training and networking, we reevaluated our competencies, with results indicating an improvement in capacity (knowledge, skill sets) to undertake management and conservation interventions ([Evidence 14](#)).

Outcome

The intended Outcome of this project was 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.

Indicators used to measure success included the approval and signing of a marine parks governance agreement, the development of management plans that can and will be implemented by the co-management entity, and the integration of action plans in relevant agencies' workplans and budgets.

Through this project, we were able to develop, by consensus, a governance framework that has been approved by Cabinet ([Evidence 1](#), [Evidence 2](#)). The governance framework, although different from what we had first envisioned, identifies FMRU-DNR as the principal managing authority and formally integrates the MPMPC into MP management through the establishment of the TAC which is tasked with oversight and holding FMRU-DNR accountable as it relates to MP management plan implementation. More specifically, this governance structure is integrated into the Cabinet-approved marine parks legislative amendments which are now being formally drafted by the Anguilla Attorney General's Chambers. The Government of Anguilla engaged the services of a consultant to move these amendments forward (including the governance structure), further cementing their commitment to enhanced marine parks management and governance.

Marine park management is a formal work programme of the Fisheries Unit and the amended legislation solidifies our responsibility for management. We are committed to implementing, in collaboration with the ANT and our MP stakeholders, our evidence-based MP management and action plans ([Evidence 1](#)). As part of our efforts to implement these plans, we have integrated marine park management into our operational budget and have also identified priority projects for which we will (and have sought) external project funding. For example, last year, as part of a cross-territory application led by the UK's Joint Nature Conservation Committee, we applied for funds through the UK Government Biodiversity Challenge Funds' Darwin Plus Strategic Initiative to develop and implement coral restoration and research initiatives and targeted outreach and engagement. Complementing these efforts, ANT and AOK have established a new relationship with US-based The Nature Conservancy and attended a coral restoration symposium in December to further build local capacity and to support future Department- and NGO-led restoration interventions. In addition, the ANT is currently reviewing their five-year strategic plan and have indicated that amongst their priorities over the next five years is the integration and implementation of site-based management and action plans as well as species conservation action plans. Their budget, which was presented to and approved by the GOA, clearly articulates this position.

The GOA at Cabinet and Ministerial levels have also continued to actively support the UK Government-led Blue Belt Initiative, engaging the services of additional/independent consultants (including Finance Earth) to support Blue Belt implementation (especially as it relates to blue economy sustainable financing, marine park management competences and pursuit of professional certification of marine park personnel, and marine spatial planning) ([Evidence 4](#)).

Based on the Indicators outlined within our project logframe, we believe that we have succeeded in meeting all of our targets. We believe that much of this project's success has been due to its collaborative, open, transparent approach as well as our – and Darwin Plus' – adaptability. While we never expected legislative change to be a part of this project, it actually ended up being absolutely imperative, especially as stakeholders agreed that the long-term health and viability of our MP network depended on its transition into replenishment areas and the integration of our underwater wrecks into that network. Legislative change, however, takes time and buy-in and we were fortunate enough to have both.

Monitoring of assumptions

When first developing this project, we had identified five risks and assumptions. Both risks and assumptions were monitored and managed during the project implementation period. We did not observe changes in assumptions.

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 as well as the Project Officer at the Ministry of Finance and all members of Cabinet. Following the presentation to Cabinet, the Government of Anguilla formally endorsed the project and its ultimate goal of transforming Anguilla's MPs from paper parks to effectively managed areas for the benefit of biodiversity and people. Throughout the +3 years of the project, Government officials continued to be engaged in the project through meetings, the review of legislative amendments, and through their commitment to the sustainable development of the blue economy and the adoption of the UK Blue Belt Initiative which also includes/calls for the protection and sustainable use of marine resources and spaces. The GOA's approval of the recommended legislative amendments (which includes a MP governance structure), however, is perhaps the most significant indicator of support for effective management of Anguilla's MP. At the same time, the GOA, through the Ministry of Tourism, are also developing a Dive Tourism Policy which directly complements the approved expansion of Anguilla's marine parks network to include underwater wrecks and have also approved changes to the Fisheries Act and Regulations to enable more effective management of fisheries resources (outside of the MP network). This policy and the endorsement of the MP and Fisheries legislative amendments show GOA's comprehensive, holistic approach MP management and nearshore marine conservation.

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

The MPMPC, first established under another Darwin Plus-funded Project (*DPLUS060*), was the primary management planning body for Anguilla's marine parks. It was comprised of representatives from the fisheries, tourism, and public sectors. This Committee developed the MP management plan and site-based actions plans through open and respectful dialogue, finding common ground and considering what was in the best interest of marine biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods. Once the management and action plans were completed, they were taken to wider public for additional consultation, with requests made (and accepted) to allow limited and managed crayfishing within certain areas of the Shoal Bay-Island Harbour Marine Park for five years. With the management and action plans now completed, we will formally and fully transition from management planning to management plan implementation post-project once the legislative amendments have been enacted (although there are some aspects of the plan that we, and partners are already implementing, e.g., biodiversity and biosecurity monitoring, coral restoration, rewilding, lobbying for reef-safe sunscreens, monitoring use of the sites, and issuing warnings against infractions). Furthermore, with the approval of the MP legislative amendments, the MPMPC will transition/transform into the TAC.

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

Management and actions plans were informed by the results of ecological and socio-economic data, by (combined) decades of experience of individuals working directly within Anguilla's MPs who have seen how the sites changed over time as well as what tended to work well (and no so well) within the various MPs. Actions plans were also directly informed by stakeholders with an interest in those sites, ensuring that their knowledge, expertise, and recommendations were considered within the planning process.

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

While field activities were not affected by extreme weather events, there were affected by sea conditions. While we were able to complete benthic surveys of Little Bay MP, Shoal Bay-Island

Harbour MP, Sandy Island MP, Prickly Pear MP, and Sombrero Nature Reserve MP, sea conditions at Dog Island MP were consistently poor, posing particular risk to divers. And when sea conditions were bit better, visibility tended to be poor. While not ideal, we decided for health and safety reasons that we would not conduct surveys at Dog Island. At the same time, though, we are always monitoring sea conditions and will conduct surveys post-project as soon as the opportunity arises.

Assumption 5. COVID-19 restrictions and/or outbreaks do no impact implementation of the project (or components of the project)

Fortunately, COVID-19 restrictions and outbreaks were no longer a concern during the project period and we were able to operate as we had pre-COVID.

4 Contribution to Darwin Plus Programme Objectives

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

The primary purpose of this project was to protect and sustainably use Anguilla's coastal and marine habitats and biodiversity. This project directly supported Anguilla's ability to achieve long-term outcomes for the coastal and marine environment, including delivering on commitments made by the GOA under national strategies and plans as well as contributing towards international agendas and conventions. It also addressed 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.

More specifically, this project 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 action plans for Anguilla's marine parks.
- *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 formally signing onto the Initiative, developing and implementing "evidence-based, tailored management strategies" to "ensure long-term sustainable marine management" as an official Blue Belt Programme partner.

Through this project, we also built 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

4.2 Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board ¹ .	75%
Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women ² .	66%

¹ A Project Board has overall authority for the project, is accountable for its success or failure, and supports the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.

² Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

GESI Scale	Description	Put X where you think your project is on the scale
Not yet sensitive	The GESI context may have been considered but the project isn't quite meeting the requirements of a 'sensitive' approach	
Sensitive	The GESI context has been considered and project activities take this into account in their design and implementation. The project addresses basic needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups and the project will not contribute to or create further inequalities.	x
Empowering	The project has all the characteristics of a 'sensitive' approach whilst also increasing equal access to assets, resources and capabilities for women and marginalised groups	
Transformative	The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	

This project is embedded in enhancing governance and collaboration – from high level, formal GOA involvement through to the stakeholders (users, coastal communities) who benefit from healthy, resilient and well-managed marine resources and spaces. While most individuals who are directly engaged in marine-based livelihoods are male (e.g. all fishers and dive operators are men and there is only one female charter boat captain in all of Anguilla), Anguilla, however, is a very small coastal island and everyone, regardless of gender, age, race, social status, has a direct or indirect relationship with the nearshore environment.

While almost all MPMPC members were male (seven) due to the demographics of the stakeholder groups, wider consultation of the management and action plans were open to anyone and everyone interested. Meetings were held during the evenings, outside of work hours and we consulted with fishers to ensure that our meetings would not conflict with the majority's fishing schedule. We encouraged women to bring their children to meetings if no alternative child care could be secured, with snacks and child-friendly activities being provided to help keep them from getting bored. Despite efforts to be gender inclusive, marine park legislative review consultations tended to be male-dominated (primarily because they were predominantly attended by fishers who are exclusively male), but women were also represented (24 women: 90 men, 21% women).

During the first year of the project, we developed a Gender Action Plan to help balance gender representation. The plan included three main outputs: 1. Marine parks governance is strengthened; 2. Marine parks management plans are gender-informed and -sensitive; 3. Sustainable livelihoods within marine parks boundaries are enhanced; and 4. Communications and marine parks management monitoring and evaluation processes are gender-informed and -sensitive. The Plan, while implemented during the project period, is also relevant post-project. The marine park regulations and the management and action plans are gender neutral, recognising that beneficiaries of the park are both men and women, while individuals engaged in livelihoods within the park are predominantly male (fishers, dive operators, charter boat operators).

In terms of training, women comprised 37% of all individuals trained (marine park enforcement – 3 women: 6 men; biodiversity monitoring – 6 women: 6 men; STWC certification: 3 women: 7 men, recognising that there were some individuals who benefitted from more than one training opportunity).

A national Women in Science network has been established with representatives from government and non-government agencies

Day-to-day management of the project was handled by all-women coordinating team comprised of the Director of FMRU and the Executive Director of ANT, with Dr Jenny Daltry providing external oversight and expertise. The project implementation team, however, was mixed gender, comprised of FMRU, ANT and Bf staff members (eight male, five female).

5 Monitoring and evaluation

We did not make any major changes to the project design or the logframe. The monitoring and evaluation framework was based on both the logframe and the implementation schedule and involved all three project partners. An additional Excel-based workplan was reviewed monthly to check on activity and output progress and to guide discussions with project partners. Although a Project Steering Committee was established, comprising representatives from the implementing agencies (FMRU-DNR, ANT, Blue Alliance) as well as an external advisor, informal meetings were more prevalent, through regular email exchanges and a WhatsApp group that allowed for quick communication and project updates. While undeniably convenient, this form of communication does make it harder to formally report on. At the management planning level, monitoring and evaluation of management planning progress was conducted during the MPMPC meetings, where management and action plans were developed and successively built upon with various iterations drafted until the final version was agreed.

With match funding provided by through the EU's RESEMBID funding mechanism, an external evaluation was conducted as mandated by donor and while the evaluation speaks to the RESEMBID-funded project, we note that the project required funding from both the UK Darwin Plus Initiative as well as the EU's RESEMBID funding mechanism to complete as presented. Thus, the findings of the RESEMBID-funded terminal evaluation also are true for this Darwin Plus-funded project.

The terminal evaluation ([Evidence 15](#)) was conducted by an external evaluator who assessed project outputs (including narrative and financial reports), scrutinised key documents, and interviewed project partners, MPMPC members, and project beneficiaries. A site visit was conducted in January 2025 and follow-up discussions were held as necessary. The evaluation report covered key findings in the areas of project relevance and effectiveness as well as impact contribution by indicator and end of project targets.

The external evaluator found that "*The project implemented almost all planned activities and achieved most of indicators.*" Some of the most important achievements identified by the evaluator included:

- The project following a clear logical pathway linking work that started in 2018 and setting a clear agenda for follow-up work post-project.
- A key set of data and information is now in place which will help inform future planning and provide a baseline to monitor change/impact.
- New legislation, when enacted, will provide the basis for future effective management including a stakeholder advisory committee.
- A set of management and action plans outline site-based priority interventions.
- An agreed path forward to secure sustainable financing for effective and long-term management of Anguilla's MPs.
- Enhanced capacity of management (and supporting) agencies, including through training as well as new vessel for FMRU-DNR.
- Communication materials which can be used and built upon post-project.
- Enhanced relationships between governing agencies and a range of key stakeholders.

The evaluator also identified key challenges and setbacks, including:

- A change in approach from government in terms of MP management – while not necessarily negative, it did mean that some project activities were re-designed and some future financial options may not necessarily be available.

- Some stakeholder interaction were difficult; for example, while fishers were an important stakeholder group, reaching all individual fishers is difficult due to resource constraints and the lack of an organised fishers association.
- Transitioning from essentially paper parks to managed parks with restrictions is a significant change and achieving agreement can be difficult; compromise is often necessary, as was seen at Shoal Bay-Island Harbour Marine Park.
- Some activities were delayed or took longer than expected which required an extension of the project timeframe.

Overall, the evaluation was fair, balanced, and positive, and additional recommendations for the next phase of marine park management were outlined which we will consider and use post-project, including pushing for a swift and effective enactment of the MP legislation and regulations and the establishment of an Environmental Trust Fund, ensuring that agency budgets allow for management plan implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, continuing to raise awareness of the importance of Anguilla's marine environment, using case studies from other countries to support awareness raising activities, seeking greater collaboration with other government agencies including customs, the police and the judiciary, providing space for stakeholders to be involved in action plan implementation, considering alternative livelihoods options/opportunities for groups whose former economic activities are shown to no longer be compatible with the protection and conservation of the marine environment, and assessing what data may be necessary in the future to make judgements on marine park policy. All of these recommendations are valid and valuable and will be considered and applied as we transition from MP planning to management.

6 Lessons learnt

As a collaborative, inclusive initiative, this project drew on the strengths and expertise of project partners (FMRU, ANT, Blue Alliance) as well as our multi-stakeholder MPMPC. This inclusivity allowed us to develop comprehensive management plans that reflect site-specific management needs and contexts as well as stakeholders' capacity to contribute to management. This approach was essential to ensuring buy-in. It was also the same approach we took to the amendment of marine park legislation and regulations. We engaged in extensive stakeholder consultation, adopting multiple approaches (community-based meetings, focal group meetings, wider public meetings, one-on-one meetings, and radio). This approach led to GOA endorsement of amendments that are rooted in science, apply best practice, and recognise the need for some compromise. This approach has therefore worked well, but it has also been a long and slow process and it caused delays in the implementation of the second phase of the project which focused on sustainable financing mechanisms.

In addition, changes in GOA positions required us to be flexible in our marine park governance approach. While we initially planned for the establishment of a co-management entity, GOA decided that marine park management would best fall under FMRU-DNR. This may potentially be attributed to GOA signing onto the UK Government's Blue Belt Initiative which has enabled additional technical support, including within the area of sustainable financing.

As Blue Alliance works with nongovernmental agencies, rather than governments, the change in governance structure in turn required a change in our approach to sustainable financing through which we have been able to identify legal instruments that GOA can apply and softer, voluntary instruments that fostered and developed in collaboration with tourism partners who have the most to gain from effectively managed nearshore environments. Although different than first planned, the approach seems to be working well: an Environmental Trust Fund would/should have a consistent and reliable source of funding to support marine protected area programmatic and project funding while relationships with hotels and tourists provide us with an opportunity to not only raise funds but also awareness amongst visitors who are especially interested in visiting an Anguilla that has healthy and vibrant marine environments. The latter of which has already led to tangible investments, including the sponsoring of a marine and protected area visitor and interpretation centre. Keeping options open while being responsive and adaptable has enabled project partners – and the project itself – to meet goals, outputs, and milestones despite changes in project approaches.

7 Actions taken in response to Annual Report reviews

Based on comments received on our Annual Reports for Years 1 and 2 of the project, we suitably responded to the Reviewers' comments (related to additional terrestrial biodiversity surveys, carrying capacity and willingness to pay surveys, enforcement activities, stakeholder consultations, stakeholder-supported reef restoration initiatives, updating of management plans post-consultation, staff training opportunities, and implementation of the Gender Action Plan).

We received two additional comments to address based on Year 3 Annual report including:

Review comment 1. The project has considered the issues raised in the review of the second annual report, although it should provide more evidence in relation to training to allow the reviewer the opportunity to consider the quality of training provided. We hope that we have provided adequate evidence in this report although we do note that much of the training was practical, hands-on, including in data management and analysis and marine park enforcement. Other trainings (e.g., STCW training and boat captain licence training) were provided by the Maritime School of the West Indies (based in neighbouring St. Martin) and follow international training protocols to ensure that the certification is recognised globally. Post-project, staff re-evaluated their competencies with results showing an overall improvement in perceived understanding and skills in targeted areas.

Review comment 2. A more detailed discussion of M&E was requested in the first and second annual report reviews, and the present reviewer would urge the project to address this important issue. We hope that we have addressed this limitation in Section 5 of this report.

8 Sustainability and Legacy

Anguilla's blue economy has been one of the GOA's main focal areas over the last three years. After signing on to the Blue Belt Initiative in early 2023, significant steps have since been taken to meet the Initiative's objectives, including the long-term protection of UKOT marine environments. Embedded within the Blue Belt initiative is enabling sustainable growth, ensuring climate resilience, and connecting people with the natural environment. Recognising that Anguilla is a small island developing state, the GOA has been drawing on the assistance being provided by the UK Government to move the Blue Belt Initiative forward, especially through external technical assistance to develop necessary frameworks for sustainable development and technical competences. This project, meanwhile, has helped to address the protection-related aspects of the Blue Belt and having achieved GOA approval of key marine park legislative amendments will allow for us to not only meet project-related targets, but to effect long-lasting change and impact.

Evidence-based, stakeholder-informed management plans and legislative amendments that enable the transition of Anguilla's marine parks into replenishment areas for marine biodiversity (with an exception to allow for limited (by quantity and by permit) crayfish harvesting within two marine parks for a period of five years), the scaling up and expansion of Anguilla's marine park network to include biodiverse underwater shipwrecks, and a governance structure that enables direct and genuine stakeholder involvement will allow for enhanced protection of Anguilla's marine protected areas and nearshore environment. We recognise that the tangible benefits of this work may not be seen in the short-term. The work that this project has supported is an investment in the long-term viability and health of Anguilla's critically important marine biodiversity.

Both the ANT and FMRU are committed to the management of these protected areas. Marine park management is a formal work programme of FMRU-DNR and the amended legislation solidifies our responsibility for management. DNR recruited a scientific and research officer in November 2024 who will support the implementation of marine park management plans. ANT is in the process of reviewing the organisation's strategic plan and already-identified priorities include the integration and implementation of site-based management and action plans as well as species conservation action plans. The GOA has also continued to actively support the UK Government-led Blue Belt Initiative, engaging the services of additional/independent consultants (including Finance Earth) to support Blue Belt implementation, especially as it relates to blue economy sustainable financing, marine park management competences and pursuit of professional certification of marine park personnel, and marine spatial planning.

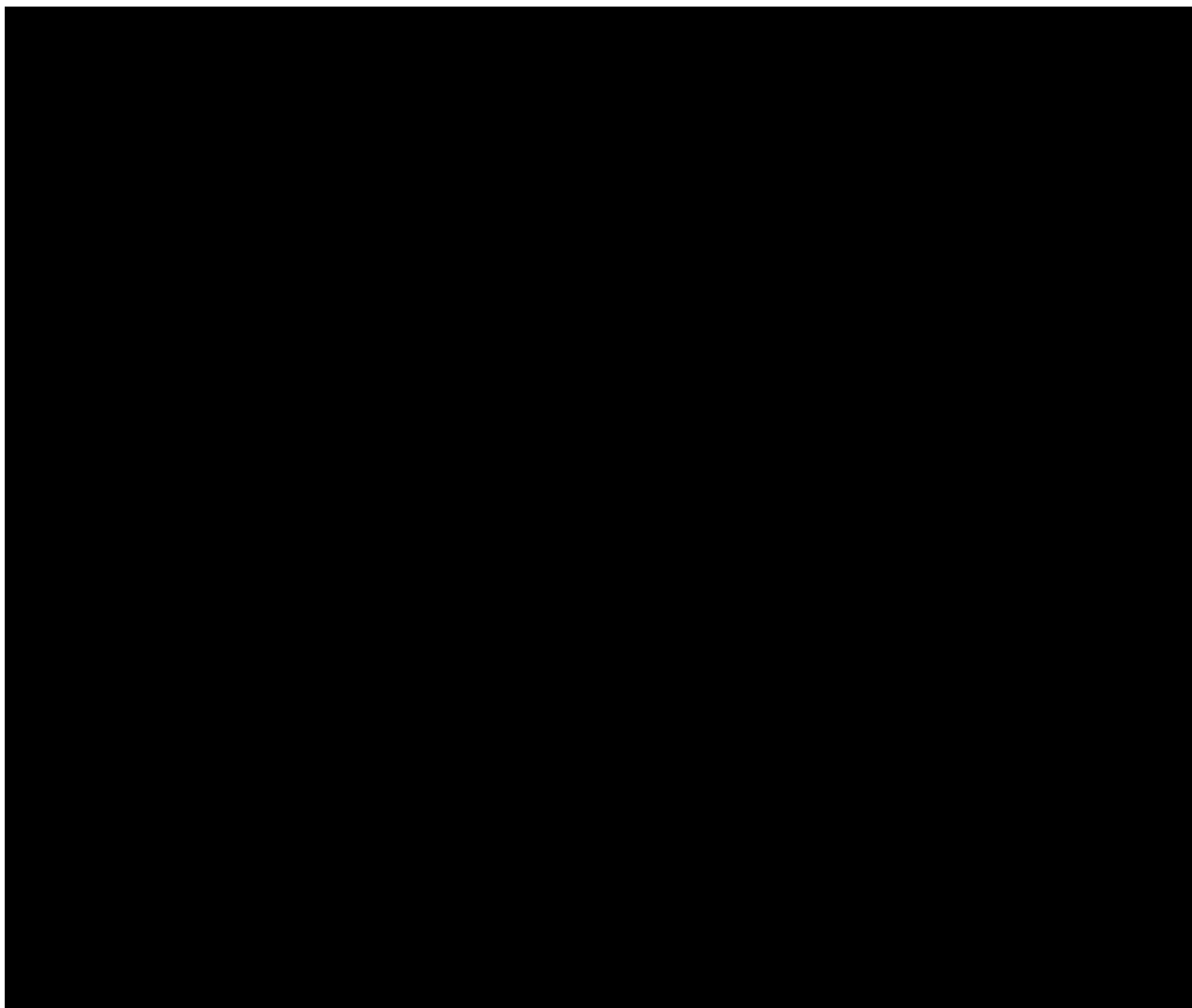
9 Darwin Plus Identity

The Darwin Plus Initiative has been recognised on all materials produced through this project (Evidence 4). All social media posts (Facebook/Instagram) include the tags #dplus, #darwinplus, and #BCFs and all Facebook and Instagram posts are linked to Defra's Biodiversity Challenge Funds' handle (@biodiversitychallengefunds).

10 Risk Management

No new risks arose during the last nine months (Year 4) year of the project.

11 Safeguarding



12 Finance and administration

12.1 Project expenditure

Project spend (indicative since last Annual Report)	2024/25 Grant (£)	2024/25 Total actual Darwin Plus Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items				
Others				
TOTAL	20,645	20637.11		

Staff employed (Name and position)	Cost (£)
Farah Mukhida, Project Lead	
Kimberly Gumbs, Project Administration	
Jonas Hochart, Boat Captain and Project Officer	
Giovanni Hughes, Project Officer	
Clarissa Lloyd, Project Coordinator	
Dean Carty, Boat Crew	
TOTAL	

Consultancy – description and breakdown of costs	Other items – cost (£)
TOTAL	

Capital items – description	Capital items – cost (£)
TOTAL	

Other items – description	Other items – cost (£)
Boat captain certification	
TOTAL	

12.2 Additional funds or in-kind contributions secured

Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project	Total (£)
RESEMBID	
TOTAL	

Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project	Total (£)
TOTAL	

12.3 Value for Money

We believe that this project has represented excellent value for money. With just over £ we have created comprehensive management and action plans for all of Anguilla's marine parks, established ecological baselines from which we can measure impact of those plans' implementation, identified realistic sustainable financing mechanisms which, when applied, will help ensure that management interventions can be maintained while also supporting on-going capacity building of not only FMRU-DNR as the principal managing agency but also of our implementing partners.

Our relationships with our marine park stakeholders have also been strengthened both through project collaboration (e.g., ANT, Blue Alliance, charter boat operators, dive operators, restaurant and hotel owners, fishers) through direct engagement within the MPMPC as well as through our consultations related to the finalising of the management and action plans as well as the proposed (and endorsed) legislative amendments. We were also able to develop new partnerships, including with the Anguilla Ocean Keepers, The Nature Conservancy, the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (as a training agency), and the UK's Blue Belt Initiative. All of these relationships will be key to successful management of our nearshore habitats – both within and outside the MP boundaries.

We were also able to leverage DPLUS137 funding to secure more than £480,000 in European Union funding which allowed us to secure a new vessel for FMRU, mooring buoys for all of our marine parks, and benthic monitoring equipment (acoustic stations).

All capital equipment purchased through this project (SCUBA diving equipment, laptops, and a tablet) as well as with additional funding secured from the EU (vessel, benthic acoustic stations) have remained on Anguilla with FMRU-DNR and the ANT and will continue to be used post-project. In addition, cost comparisons, based on needs and project requirements, were conducted to ensure that we effectively used project funds. We also followed comprehensive and transparent procurement procedures for high value capital items.

13 Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

No additional comments.

14 OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes.

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds Secretariat to publish the content of this section.

Annex 1 Report of progress and achievements against logframe for the life of the project

Project summary	Progress and achievements
Impact The protection and sustainable use of Anguilla's coastal and marine habitats and biodiversity through an integrated, collaborative management approach	Anguilla's marine parks encompass some of the island's most important habitats for marine life. Over the last 45 months, we have raised the profile of the importance of these spaces especially through extensive public consultations, marine parks legislative amendments, finalising of marine park management plans, and identification and approval of a governance structure that enables direct stakeholder engagement.
Outcome Transformation of Anguilla's marine park system from paper park status to an effective, financially-sustainable network based on already-tested collaborative management approaches.	(Report progress against indicators, and reference where evidence is provided e.g. Evidence provided in section 3.2 of report and Annex X). This should be a condensed summary of your reporting in section 3.2 of the report)
Outcome indicator 0.1 Marine Park governance agreement signed by Government of Anguilla Executive Council and the co-management entity by end of Q3Y2	While a governance agreement was not signed, the GOA has agreed to legislate the marine parks governance framework, including formally identifying FMRU as the leading governing agency, supported by a multi-stakeholder technical advisory group. These legislative amendments are with the Anguilla Attorney General's Chambers for finalising. Once finalised, they will be taken to the House of Assembly for enactment. Additional details are provided in Section 3.1 and Section 3.2 and within Evidence 2 and Evidence 3 .
Outcome indicator 0.2 Management plans formalised for Anguilla's marine parks and being implemented by the co-management entity by the end of the project	Following the GOA's endorsement of submitted/presented marine park legislative amendments, management plans were finalised, with ultimate responsibility for implementation (in partnership with identified stakeholders/partners) falling on FMRU. Aspects of the management plans are already being implemented, especially as it relates to the research, monitoring, and enforcement (currently being charged under the Royal Anguilla Police Force, with support from FMRU and ANT). Additional details are provided in Section 3.1 and Section 3.2 and within Evidence 1 and Evidence 2 .
Outcome indicator 0.3 Work plans and budgets of the co-management entity demonstrate intention to continue implementing action plans beyond the life of this project	FMRU and ANT workplans and budgets support marine park management-related work with 2025 operational budgets for both agencies having been submitted and approved by the GOA's Executive Council in February 2025; separate work plans and budgets for the co-management entity would not necessarily be required as it will operate as a technical advisory group.
Output 1 Marine park values (ecological, socio-economic) are established to inform sustainable management frameworks and to monitor and evaluate management impacts	

Output indicator 1.1 Biodiversity values of Anguilla's marine parks identified and compared to 2006 baseline (Wynne, 2007) and regional marine health index values by end of Q4Y1	<p>Benthic assessments for all marine parks (except Dog Island MP) completed in Year 1 and Year 3 (Prickly Pear MP).</p> <p>Terrestrial biodiversity assessments (seabirds, iguanas) completed.</p> <p>Underwater acoustic stations deployed (and re-deployed) within Little Bay MP, Shoal Bay-Island Harbour MP, Sandy Island MP, Prickly Pear MP, Dog Island MP, with data currently being analysed by ANT staff supported by the University of Exeter and the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology.</p> <p>See Section 3.1, Evidence 6 and Evidence 7</p>
Output indicator 1.2 Vessel and visitor carrying capacity study for Anguilla's marine parks completed by the end of Q1Y2	<p>Visitor and carrying capacity surveys drafted in Year 1 and completed in Year 2. The results of these surveys helped to inform a mooring buoy deployment plan.</p> <p>See Section 3.1, Evidence 9</p>
Output indicator 1.3 Conduct socio-economic assessment to inform management plans and the sustainable financing mechanism, including identification of stakeholder values, perceptions, and concerns as well as willingness to pay access to and activities within Anguilla's MPs	<p>Socio-economic assessments for all marine parks were completed between Years 1 and 3, with results informing the final management and action plans as well as stakeholder consultations.</p> <p>See Section 3.1, Evidence 8</p>
Output 2. Effective and sustainable co-management structures and tools are in place for the integrated management of Anguilla's marine parks	
Output indicator 2.1. Marine park management agreement finalised by end of Q2Y2	<p>Marine park management agreement finalised and integrated into marine park legislative amendments.</p> <p>See Section 3.1, Evidence 2</p>
Output indicator 2.2. Operational structure of the co-management entity developed by end of Q3Y2	<p>Operational structure to enable collaborative management (technical advisory group) outlined within the marine parks management plan</p> <p>See Section 3.1, Evidence 1 and Evidence 2</p>
Output indicator 2.3. Existing stakeholder-informed management plans for the Prickly Pear Marine Park and Little Bay Marine Park reviewed and updated by end of Q4Y2	<p>Management plans reviewed in Year 2, but finalised in Year 3</p> <p>See Section 3.1, Evidence 1</p>
Output indicator 2.4. Management plans Sandy Island Marine Park, Shoal Bay-Island Harbour Marine Park, Dog Island Marine Park, and Sombrero Island Marine Park and Nature Reserve including zoning plan, completed by end of Q2Y3	<p>Management plans drafted and finalised</p> <p>See Section 3.1, Evidence 1</p>

Output indicator 2.5. Sustainable marine park financing mechanism and performance indicators designed by end of Q2Y3	Sustainable financing mechanisms for the GOA and ANT identified and designed See Section 3.1, Evidence 4
Output 3. National capacity to plan, manage, and monitor marine parks is raised, supported by enhanced	
Output indicator 3.1. 1 At least five persons (represented by both males and females) (including ANT and DFMR staff) trained in Advanced Open Water Diving by the end of Q1Y2	Completed in Years 1 and 2 (7 young people trained in PADI Open Water Diving; 4 FMRU and ANT staff have PADI Advanced Open Water Diving certification) See Section 3.1, Evidence 13
Output indicator 3.2. At least 1 person trained as a licenced boat captain by end of Q1Y2	1 ANT staff member certified to operate small watercrafts (<15m) See Section 3.1, Evidence 13
Output indicator 3.3. 3 At least 3 people (including 1 female) identified, empowered, and trained as special marine park constables by the end of the project	8 FMRU-DNR staff, including 3 women, will be empowered to enforce MP regulations, facilitated by revised legislation See Section 3.1, Evidence 2
Output indicator 3.4. Marine parks communications and gender-inclusive public awareness plan reviewed, updated, and implemented throughout the project period	2 meetings with GOA Cabinet 2 meetings and site visits with UK Government Minister responsible for Overseas Territories and UK Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs 7 public consultations (no. participants/attendees = 114) 1 pop-up exhibit (no. participants/attendees = 125) 2 BLUE Week celebrations (no. participants/attendees = 175) 4 site visit (no. participants = 117) 4 summer camp (no. participants = 99) 9 short documentaries (no. views = >27300) 7 static social media posts (total reach = 6434) 1 sign/billboard at Little Bay MP See Section 3.1, Evidence 5
Output indicator 3.5. Project reported in at least four press releases, quarterly social media posts, and two public presentations by the end of the project	4 press releases (audience reach = >737 individuals) 7 static social media posts (total reach = 6434)

	6 presentations to international audiences (no. attendees = 430) 5 presentations to national audiences (no. attendees = 182) See Section 3.1, Evidence 5
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Annex 2 Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: The protection and sustainable use of Anguilla's coastal and marine habitats and biodiversity through an integrated, collaborative management approach			
Outcome: Transformation of Anguilla's marine park system from paper park status to an effective, financially-sustainable network based on already-tested collaborative management approaches	<p>0.1 Marine Park governance agreement signed by Government of Anguilla Executive Council and the co-management entity by end of Q3Y2</p> <p>0.2 Management plans formalised for Anguilla's marine parks and being implemented by the co-management entity by the end of the project</p> <p>0.3 Work plans and budgets of the co-management entity demonstrate intention to continue implementing action plans beyond the life of this project</p>	<p>0.1 Governance agreement; Government of Anguilla Executive Council minutes</p> <p>0.2 Management plan action reports</p> <p>0.3 Institutional work plans and budgets</p>	<p>Executive Council continues to support the co-management of Anguilla's marine parks</p> <p>Marine park stakeholders continue to be willing to cooperate on improved management of marine parks</p>
Outputs: Output 1. Marine park values (ecological, socio-economic) are established to inform sustainable management frameworks and to monitor and evaluate management impacts	<p>1.1 Biodiversity values of Anguilla's marine parks identified and compared to 2006 baseline (Wynne, 2007) and regional marine health index values by end of Q4Y1</p> <p>1.2 Vessel and visitor carrying capacity study for Anguilla's marine parks completed by the end of Q1Y2</p> <p>1.3 Socioeconomic assessments (including willingness to pay study) completed for Anguilla's marine parks by end of Q1Y2</p>	<p>1.1 Marine Park ecological database; marine park biodiversity report</p> <p>1.2 Carrying capacity study; mooring buoy numbers within marine park reflect park's carrying capacity</p> <p>1.3 Interview notes; questionnaire and database; socio-economic assessment report</p>	<p>Field activities can be rescheduled if extreme weather events affect Anguilla during the project period</p> <p>Carrying capacity studies are not impacted by COVID-19 and natural resources managers ability to interact with visitors (as part of the carrying capacity and willingness to pay studies)</p>

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Output 2. Effective and sustainable co-management structures and tools are in place for the integrated management of Anguilla's marine parks	<p>2.1 Marine park management agreement finalised by end of Q2Y2</p> <p>2.2 Operational structure of the co-management entity developed by end of Q3Y2</p> <p>2.3 Existing stakeholder-informed management plans for the Prickly Pear Marine Park and Little Bay Marine Park reviewed and updated by end of Q4Y2</p> <p>2.4 Management plans Sandy Island Marine Park, Shoal Bay-Island Harbour Marine Park, Dog Island Marine Park, and Sombrero Island Marine Park and Nature Reserve including zoning plan, completed by end of Q2Y3</p> <p>2.5 Sustainable marine park financing mechanism and performance indicators designed by end of Q2Y3</p>	<p>2.1 Marine park budgets; design model report; work plan; legal management lease; sustainable financing plan</p> <p>2.2 Marine park revenue strategies; Marketing plan; preliminary compliance plan; revenue collection mechanism design; finalised management lease</p> <p>2.3 Prickly Pear Marine Park management plan and implementation schedule; Little Bay Marine Park management plan and implementation schedule; management planning meeting attendance sheets</p> <p>2.4 Marine Park management plans and implementation schedules; management planning meeting attendance sheets</p> <p>2.5 Finalised business plan; co-management entity performance indicators</p>	<p>Government of Anguilla upholds its commitment to improved management of marine parks</p> <p>Marine park stakeholders continue to be willing to cooperate on improved management of marine parks</p> <p>International travel is not prevented by restrictions on movement due to COVID-19</p>
Output 3 National capacity to plan, manage, and monitor marine parks is raised, supported by enhanced technical skills and greater public awareness and cooperation	<p>3.1 At least five persons (represented by both males and females) (including ANT and DFMR staff) trained in Advanced Open Water Diving by the end of Q1Y2</p> <p>3.2 At least 1 person trained as a licenced boat captain by end of Q1Y2</p> <p>3.3 At least 3 people (including 1 female) identified, empowered, and trained as special marine park constables by the end of the project</p>	<p>3.1 Advanced Open Water Diving certificates</p> <p>3.2 Boat captain's licence</p> <p>3.3 Special Constable certification</p> <p>3.4 Communications and gender inclusive public awareness plan; press releases; social media posts; PowerPoint presentations; billboards; signs</p>	<p>Trained expertise remains in Anguilla.</p> <p>Improved knowledge leads to improved behaviours to conserve marine and coastal biodiversity.</p>

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>3.4 Marine parks communications and gender-inclusive public awareness plan reviewed, updated, and implemented throughout the project period</p> <p>3.5 Project reported in at least four press releases, quarterly social media posts, and two public presentations by the end of the project</p>	3.5 Press releases; social media posts; PowerPoint presentations	
<p>Activities</p> <p>Output 1. Marine park values (ecological, socio-economic) are established to inform sustainable management frameworks and to monitor and evaluate management impacts</p> <p>1.1 Conduct marine ecosystem assessments (species and habitat) within Anguilla's six marine parks using FMRU-DNR's Anguilla Marine Monitoring Programme protocols and compare to 2006 baseline assessments</p> <p>1.2 Conduct vessel and visitor carrying capacity study using visitor questionnaires, monitoring visitor boat numbers, and assessing critical factors (size of boats, available space, fragility of the ecosystem, potential and actual damage caused by visitors, and climate/weather/wind, acoustics)</p> <p>1.3 Conduct socio-economic assessment to inform management plans and the sustainable financing mechanism, including identification of stakeholder values, perceptions, and concerns as well as willingness to pay access to and activities within Anguilla's MPs</p> <p>Output 2. Effective and sustainable co-management structures and tools are in place for the integrated management of Anguilla's marine parks</p> <p>2.1 Design the strategy for the management agreement, including aspects of governance of the co-management body; the strategy will involve a consultation process with local stakeholders from Government, the tourism industry, fishing sector, local communities, and other institutions</p> <p>2.2 Draft the legal agreements for the Government of Anguilla and the co-management body, including a description of the management mechanism, regulatory bodies, financial terms, activities, duration, economic incentives, obligations, and asset ownership</p> <p>2.3 Prepare a Gender Action Plan, with measurable targets, for stakeholder engagement (workshops, trainings, policy and plan development, conservation intervention implementation, and monitoring and evaluation)</p> <p>2.4 Review management plans for Prickly Pear MP, Little Bay MP, Sombrero Island MP and Nature Reserve to include costings for identified management interventions</p> <p>2.5 Prepare management plans for Sandy Island MP, Shoal Bay-Island Harbour MP, and Dog Island MP, including zoning plans, compliance and enforcement plans, and budgets</p> <p>2.6 Develop a business plan for the co-management entity, including the marketing approach, business model, financial strategy, and de-risking strategies</p> <p>2.7 Design and develop a revenue collection mechanism for Anguilla's MPs</p> <p>2.8 Complete feasibility study for the construction/establishment of a MPs visitors centre, including siting, revenue forecasting, and net-warranted investment</p> <p>2.9 Enforce MP legislation and regulations</p> <p>Output 3. National capacity to plan, manage, and monitor marine parks is raised, supported by enhanced technical skills and greater public awareness and cooperation</p>			

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>3.1 FMRU-DNR and ANT staff and other participating nationals complete self-assessment competencies questionnaire to identify training needs (repeated at project end to measure impact on capacity)</p> <p>3.2 Plan and undertake formal training and on-the-job mentoring of FMRU-DNR, ANT staff and other nationals in open water diving, boat captain certification, and marine park enforcement (as special constables)</p> <p>3.3 Develop and implement an advocacy and public awareness campaign guided by the findings of Activity 1.3, including but not limited to newspaper articles, press releases, social media, billboards, signs, meetings, and social media docu-series</p> <p>3.4 Publicise and report on project progress and results through national and international media and directly to national groups, cross-territory stakeholders, international scientific community, and the Government of Anguilla Executive Council</p> <p>3.5 Share and discuss project methods, results, lessons learned, and opportunities for replication through regional and international forums (including, for example, Caribbean Conservation Network, Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management)</p> <p>Other project management activities:</p> <p>X.1 Establish Project Steering Committee and meet biannually (remote members to participate by Zoom)</p> <p>X.2 Project inception meeting</p> <p>X.3 Marine Parks co-management entity meet at least biannually and more frequently to review and draft marine park management plans</p> <p>X.4 Project biannual reports/donor technical and financial reports</p> <p>X.5 Monthly financial accounts</p> <p>X.6 End of project audit</p>			

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

DPLUS Indicator number	Name of indicator	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DPLUS-A01	Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	People	Men		9	5	14	15
DPLUS-A01	Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	People	Women		1	2	3	4
DPLUS-B01	Number of new habitat management plans available and endorsed	Number	New			4	4	4
DPLUS-B01	Number of improved habitat management plans available and endorsed	Number	Improved			2	2	2
DPLUS-DO!	Km ² of habitat under sustainable management practices	km ²	Marine Parks					c.78.5

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)

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 BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	X
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line. All supporting material should be submitted in a way that can be accessed and downloaded as one complete package.	
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 14)?	
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
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.	