



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

Project reference	DPLUS140
Project title	Assessment and conservation of Cayman Islands' deep-water reefs and fishes
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Cayman Islands
Lead organisation	Heriot-Watt University
Partner(s)	Cayman Islands Dept. of Environment, Marine Conservation International, Beneath the Waves
Project leaders	Mauvis Gore and Austin Gallagher
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	31/10/2021 HYR1
Project website/blog/social media	

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

The project was due to begin on 01/10/2021 and not in the first half year. Confirmation of the grant was in late August and agreements with the partners were drafted in late September. The work of the project has been on hold awaiting funding agreements. Further, the quarantine time required by the Cayman government is effectively nine days if a vaccination certificate is accepted and 15 days if not. Flights are only available on specific carriers with limited times and dates now until the new year. Flights are only approved one month in advance by the Cayman Islands government. A request to change the start and end dates of the project has been made to Defra to ensure that the full programme can be achieved.

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

We have requested that the start date of the fieldwork be moved to January-February 2021.

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

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused prices to increase significantly, staff working part-time at home has slowed correspondence and response time for some issues. We have been working to find solutions to these issues.

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

Discussed with LTS: Yes/No

Formal change request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/No

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

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project, please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.

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

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any **planned** modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also** be raised with LTS International through a Change Request. **Please DO NOT send these in the same email.**

Please send your **completed report by email to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk**. The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 25-001 Darwin Half Year Report**