

Darwin Plus Main: Annual 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: 30th April 2024

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

Darwin Plus Project Information

Project reference	DPLUS158
Project title	Piloting a new solution for invasive species in the UKOTs
Territory(ies)	Anguilla
Lead Partner	Fauna & Flora
Project partner(s)	Anguilla National Trust (ANT), Government of Anguilla (GOA), Wildlife Management International (WMIL)
Darwin Plus grant value	£499,982.00
Start/end dates of project	1 May 2022-30 Apr 2025
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2023-Mar 2024) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2)	1 May 2023-31 Mar 2024 (Annual Report 2)
Project Leader name	Julio Bernal
Project website/blog/social media	
Report author(s) and date	Julio Bernal, Farah Mukhida

1. Project summary

Fountain National Park (FNP) is Anguilla’s largest terrestrial and protected area at c. 5 hectares, representing 70% of undeveloped Crown land and forming an essential part of the Anguilla Key Biodiversity Area. Together with Shoal Bay-Island Harbour Marine Park, FNP constitutes an important part of the ridge-to-reef protected karst landscape including caves, dry forests, scrubland and coastal ecosystems supporting diverse endemic and globally threatened species. However, FNP is severely degraded by invasive alien species (IAS), including rodents, green iguanas, feral cats, and free-ranging livestock, endangering native flora and fauna such as the Lesser Antillean iguana *Iguana delicatissima* and the Anguilla bush *Rondeletia anguillensis* (CR).

Since 2012, Fauna & Flora, Anguilla National Trust, and Wildlife Management International Ltd. have been restoring Anguilla’s offshore cays, including eradicating invasive mammals from Dog Island, Prickly Pear Cays (DPLUS060) and Sombrero, and reintroducing native species (DPLUS086). These actions have measurably improved ecosystem quality and boosted wildlife populations. This innovative project will transfer this experience to mainland Anguilla, creating the UK’s first “mainland island”. This project involves the construction of a high-tech, pest-resistant, storm-proof barrier around FNP, remove multiple harmful IAS, and manage the site as a biosecure wildlife sanctuary and visitor attraction to ensure long-term sustained benefits for Anguilla’s biodiversity and people.

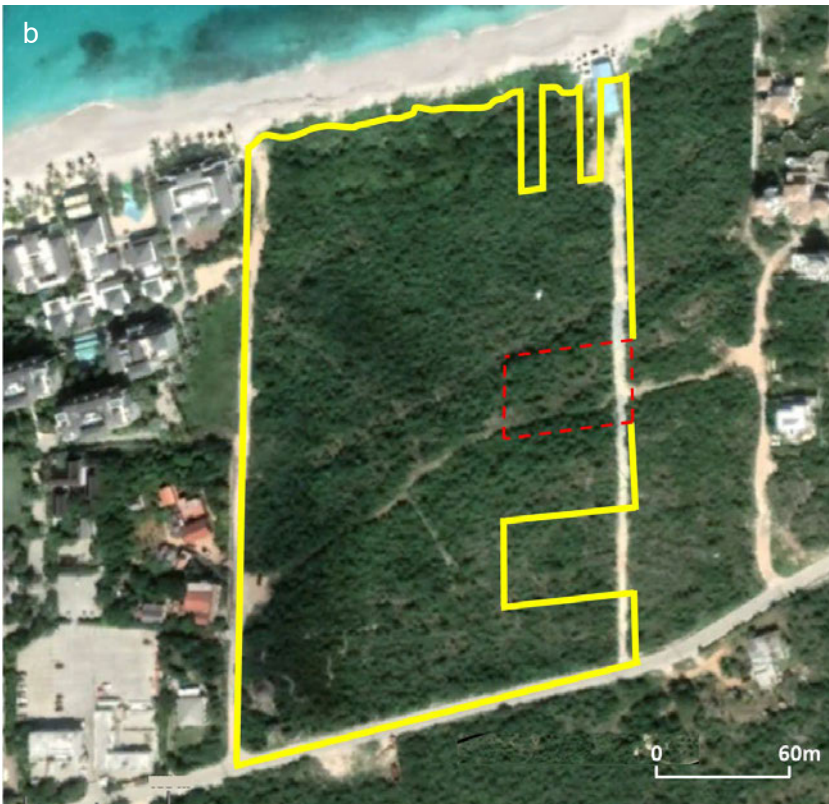


Figure 1. (a) General location of Fountain National Park, within the Shoal Bay community and bordering Shoal Bay-Island Harbour Marine Park. (b) Boundaries of Fountain National Park (in yellow), including parcel purchased by the ANT In February 2023.

2. Project stakeholders/partners

This project is a collaborative initiative amongst **Fauna & Flora**, the **Anguilla National Trust**, the **Government of Anguilla**, and New Zealand-based **Wildlife Management International**. We have also been receiving assistance from United States-based **Re:wild**. These four agencies comprise the Project Steering Committee (PSC) which oversees the implementation of the project. With project partners based in four different countries, PSC meetings more often than not are held virtually, but we have taken advantage of times when most members have been on-site. These meetings are complemented by more additional partner meetings focusing on the technical aspects of project implementation. During the second year of the project, all four project partners have been actively engaged in on-the-ground project implementation, particularly

regarding the construction of the fence which now encircles c.5 hectares of Fountain National Park. Working with ANT as the local lead partner, Fauna & Flora and Re:wild facilitated the development of a ten-year management plan for the protected area, while Fauna & Flora and WMIL have provided technical assistance with the construction of the mainland island fence. WMIL has also been advising on the implementation of the operational plan for the removal of invasive alien species while ANT has been leading on the on-the-ground restoration work. The Government of Anguilla has also been actively involved in the project, assisting ANT with identifying land bounds and liaising with stakeholders regarding the placement and construction of the fence, including **Gwen's Reggae Bar and Grill** which operates on a Crown-owned parcel of land on the northeast corner of FNP and **Zemi Beach Hotel** which is located to the northwest of the Park (please see Section 3).

We have also been working closely with **ANI Private Resorts** which is currently constructing a low-density luxury tourism development on the parcel directly east of FNP. In addition to coordinating work schedules to limit disruption due to construction, ANI has also assisted us in identifying companies that could help with preparing the land (clearing the Park's perimeter) to enable fence construction while we have provided them with landscaping/rewilding advice.

During Year 2 of the project, we undertook a participatory management planning meeting, attended by 21 individuals representing 12 stakeholder groups representing **environmental and land management government agencies**, the **tourism sector**, **civil society organisations**, and **youth groups**. By the end of the management planning workshop, we identified the vision, goals and management strategies as well as a proposed governance structure. The plan is currently being internally reviewed prior to being presented to the Government of Anguilla Cabinet (planned for May 2024) (please see Section 3).

Over the course of the project's second year, we have directly engaged the general public and policy makers (including GOA elected officials) through field visits, valuable one-on-one discussions, and follow-up correspondences. Through these engagements, we have continued to raise the profile of FNP as well as this project (please see Section 3).

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Activities being conducted through this DPLUS158 project fall within four main Outputs: 1. Monitoring system established to inform and evaluate conservation actions on the ecology and globally threatened biodiversity of Fountain National Park; 2. The biodiversity of Fountain National Park is recovering following permanent eradication of multiple harmful invasive aliens and reintroduction of native species; 3. Effective and sustainable structures and tools for management of FNP in place; and 4. National capacity to plan, manage, implement, and monitor national parks is raised, supported by enhanced technical skills and increased public awareness.

Output 1. Monitoring system established to inform and evaluate conservation actions on the ecology and globally threatened biodiversity of Fountain National Park.

Activities under Output 1 for the second year of the project included conducting additional terrestrial biodiversity surveys to establish a baseline, with all other activities completed in Year 1 of the project.

Biodiversity monitoring protocols (Activity 1.1) were developed and implemented (Activity 1.2) during the first year of the project, including for terrestrial resident and migratory birds, ground and tree lizards, bats, insects, and plants. Insect monitoring (Activity 1.2), however, has been ongoing into Year 2 of the project and will continue into Year 3 as we try to establish a comprehensive baseline covering all seasons and months of year (Evidence 1). We have been applying the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology's (UKCEH) Flower-Insect-Timed survey protocols and as of March 2024 and working with the Centre, Anguilla has been now included in their "FIT Count" open access mobile app which ANT will be using to record their data.

How the ANT collects biodiversity data, including within FNP, has been supported by the Biodiversity Challenge Funds Darwin Local Initiative. In 2023, the ANT secured funding for their project **Establishing digital data tools for enhanced conservation management and policy-making (DPL00021)**. Again, working with the UKCEH, a bespoke mobile app (iRecord AXATrust) and supporting on-line, cloud-based data storage platform was created. The app (and data storage platform), with access limited to ANT staff, allows ANT to collect almost all of their biodiversity (and biosecurity) monitoring data on their devices (mobile phones, tablets), with data automatically uploaded to the data storage platform when connected to WiFi, thereby streamlining their data collection with data maintenance, analysis, and reporting processes.

A biodiversity monitoring plan (Activity 1.4) was completed in Year 1 of the project, but has also been integrated into the (draft) FNP management plan to enable assessment of restoration impact over the long-term (Evidence 2).

Output 2. The biodiversity of Fountain National Park is recovering following permanent eradication of multiple harmful invasive aliens and reintroduction of native species.

Activities under Output 2 for the second year of the project included constructing a pest-resistant fence around the perimeter of FNP, removing multiple invasive alien species from FNP using methods outlined in the operational plan (completed in Year 1), removing/controlling established invasive plants species, developing detailed reintroduction plans for native/endangered species, and designing and implementing a fence maintenance programme to ensure its integrity and effectiveness in preventing reinvasions of IAS.

Following the operational plan for the construction of the pest-resistant fence around the perimeter of FNP (operation plan completed in Year 1 of the project), we hired a local fence construction team to work with the ANT and WMIL. Prior to the construction of the fence, however, the area where the fence was to be built was cleared of vegetation and prepared for fence installation (digging of fencing post holes).

Due to supply chain issues, even though the materials were ordered in February 2023, they were not shipped until April 2023 and did not arrive into Anguilla until June 2023. Fence construction, therefore began in July 2023. This fence was the first of its kind to be constructed entirely of stainless steel and while there was a bit of a learning curve and we had to experiment with some fence construction components (e.g., rivets vs screws, bracing bands vs post connectors, angles of bracing posts to provide the most strength while maneuvering the limestone terrain), the fence was completed by the end of October 2023 (Evidence 3). Soon after construction, the fence was put to its first test: Hurricane Tammy passed over Anguilla on 22 October 2023. While the winds were not especially strong (Category 1 with maximum sustained winds of 120 km/h), the rainfall was significant, causing localized flooding as well as erosion, including along the outside perimeter of the mainland island fence. Directly following the passage of the Hurricane, the ANT and the fence construction team assessed damage and addressed all points of erosion by refilling and packing all compromised areas with substrate, thereby re-securing the fence. Since then, erosion has been minimal, but ANT has been vigilant to ensure that any points of weakness are quickly identified and resolved.

With the completion of the fence coinciding with the period of time that Anguilla is at its most lush and after consulting with project partners, we decided that it would be prudent to postpone the rodent eradication to the start of the dry season (around March 2024) when alternative food availability would be far lower and rodents would be more inclined to take bait. Instead, Anguilla National Trust staff and volunteers focused efforts on searching for other IAS, including common green iguanas, cats, dogs, and livestock. No signs of any of these species were recorded and while we are relatively confident that there are no cats, dogs, or livestock within the enclosed space, green iguanas may be present but difficult to detect. Monitoring of these species will be on-going into Year 3 of the project, with removal of all individuals that are found and captured. Chickens, which are able to fly over the fence, have also been recorded but their numbers have declined, indicating that they are moving out of the fenced area on their own.

On 15 March 2024, ANT and Fauna & Flora staff launched the rodent eradication. Following the IAS removal operational plan, tracks running east-west were cut across FNP, every 20 metres. At 20 metres along each track, a bait point (no. bait points = 83) was created, with bait secured to each point using tying wire. Again, every 20 metres, additional bait points were created around the inside of the fence's perimeter (no. bait points = 45) as well as within the cave itself (no. bait points = 2, later increased to 6). By end of March, five rounds of baiting had taken place with signs of bait take by rats, mice, and to a lesser degree crabs. The iRecord AXATrust app and portal have also been used to record data (Evidence 4) and a heat map will be generated after a few more rounds of baiting have occurred.

Invasive plant species have been recorded within Fountain National Park mainland island, as confirmed by our comprehensive plant surveys that we conducted during the first year of the project. We know that eradication of plants will be highly unlikely (due to the seed bank and the movement of seeds by wind as well as by birds). Instead, we are now focusing our efforts on control and have started to remove plants from within the fenced area as we encounter them. They are removed off-site and burned in a controlled way.

Although the reintroduction of native biodiversity into FNP is scheduled for Year 3 of the project, we have completed reintroduction feasibility studies for the Anguilla Bank skink *Spondylurus powelli* (peer-reviewed and finalised) and the Anguilla Bank racer *Alsophis rijgersmaei* (currently under peer-review) which will be used to guide the reintroduction of species into FNP (Evidence 5).

Output 3. Effective and sustainable structures and tools for management of FNP in place.

Activities under Output 3 for second year of the project included holding FNP management planning meetings to complete an FNP 10-year management plan (Evidence 3), presenting the management plan to GOA Executive Council, and establishing and implementing an FNP visitor fee schedule and collection system.

In April 2024, facilitated by Dr Jenny Daltry and Dr Mike Appleton (Re:wild) and supported by Mr Olivier Raynaud (Fauna & Flora), a two-day management planning meeting was held, attended by 21 stakeholders representing 12 stakeholder groups (Evidence 6). The meeting included presentations and discussions regarding management planning, an introduction to FNP and its ecological and cultural significance, stakeholder analysis, value and threat identification, a visioning exercise, priority target identification, and conservation action planning. FNP governance options were also examined, including management capacity and opportunities for co-management. The management planning workshop was designed to be participatory with the end goal being the creation of a skeleton management plan document that would then be further developed.

The 10-year management plan was drafted by ANT is currently under internal review. We expect the plan to be submitted and presented to the GOA Cabinet in May 2024. While this is slightly behind schedule, the delay has not impeded on-going project work/management of the site as the ANT, due to their position as the primary (only) protected areas management authority on Anguilla, has been authorised to continue to undertake work at FNP through this project.

As the restoration of FNP was postponed to 2024 (from 2023), the development of a visitor fee schedule was similarly postponed, as the site is not quite ready for guided tours. While this too has been delayed from our initial proposed schedule, there have been benefits. We are still in the midst of FNP's restoration and with fence maintenance and over the last few months, we have been able to monitor (and record) the extent of site-based maintenance required and the accompanying costs to conduct this work. These details (along with the results of the willingness to pay survey conducted in Year 1 [Evidence 7]) will help inform overall site management budget and the ideal level of revenue generation that would be required to at least break-even. Fauna & Flora's tourism and visitor specialist Mr. James Hall is using this information as well as the draft management plan and is currently preparing a working document for consideration by project partners.

Output 4. National capacity to plan, manage, implement, and monitor national parks is raised, supported by enhanced technical skills and increased public awareness.

Activities under Output 4 for the second year of the project include training and mentoring Anguilla nationals and residents in applied biosecurity monitoring, IAS removal, and facilitating tours, developing and implementing an advocacy and public awareness campaign, partnering with the Anguilla Tourist Board to market FNP to visitors, and sharing project progress nationally and internationally.

During the second year of the project, five ANT staff and a local fence construction team comprising five individuals were trained in pest-resistant fence construction, monitoring and maintenance. The fence construction team has been retained by the ANT to assist with on-going maintenance, including keeping the fence clear of vegetation and ensuring that the fence is not compromised by erosion following heavy rains. Thirteen individuals (10 female, 3 male) have also been trained in IAS removal and biosecurity monitoring, including individuals from the Department of Natural Resources (1 male) and Albena Lake Hodge Comprehensive School 6th Form Biology Class (9 female). Additional training, especially in rodent removal and IAS biosecurity will continue into Year 3 of the project (Evidence 8).

As part of our outreach efforts during Year 2, we disseminated one press release on radio, newspaper and social media, announcing the establishment of the FNP mainland island with the completion of the fence (reaching almost 2200 accounts on Facebook and over 340 accounts on Instagram) (Evidence 9). Two hundred and seventy-four people (including residents and visitors) were taken on visits to FNP during which the site's heritage (ecological, cultural) value as well as work being undertaken to transform the park into a wildlife sanctuary were discussed. In August 2023, the ANT held a summer camp for young people between the ages of 8 and 16 (no. of participants = 12) which focused on Anguilla's protected areas and included a site visit to Fountain National Park where ANT discussed the impacts of IAS on Anguilla's biodiversity and the value of FNP as a soon-to-be haven for species that are especially at-risk (Evidence 10).

Fountain National Park has also been integrated into the ANT's two after school programmes (on targeting children between the ages of 3 and 7 and the other targeting those between the ages of 8 and 14). As part of these after school programmes, the importance of experiential learning is highlighted as an integral component of the learning process. FNP learning experiences have therefore focused on exploring the park as well as discovering and discussing the site's biodiversity and the various interactions between plant and animal species.

In addition, the work at FNP has been shared through national, regional, and international audiences, reaching 162 individuals, including through: the International National Trust Organisation's Celebrate Islands webinar (May 2023: no. individuals =36), the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology's and the Department of Natural Resources' Enhancing Monitoring and Prevention of Invasive Non-Native Species across the UK Overseas Territories workshop (May 2023: no. of individuals = 20), the Anguilla Enhancement Project's monthly meeting (July 2023: no. of individuals =10), the ANT's Annual General Meeting (December 2023: no. individuals = 70), the Department of Natural Resources' invasive plant biosecurity meeting (March 2024: no. individuals = 15), and the ANT's presentation of its work programmes and budget to the Government of Anguilla (March 2024: no. individuals = 11) (Evidence 11).

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

DPLUS158 has four main Outputs: 1. Monitoring system established to inform and evaluate conservation actions on the ecology and globally threatened biodiversity of Fountain National Park; 2. The biodiversity of Fountain National Park is recovering following permanent eradication of multiple harmful invasive aliens and reintroduction of native species; 3. Effective and sustainable structures and tools for management of FNP in place; and 4. National capacity to plan, manage, implement, and monitor national parks is raised, supported by enhanced technical skills and increased public awareness.

Output 1. Monitoring system established to inform and evaluate conservation actions on the ecology and globally threatened biodiversity of Fountain National Park.

We established our baseline monitoring system in Year 1 of the project, using already-established protocols that have been successfully applied to other restored (and un-restored sites) across Anguilla and its offshore islands. On-going insect studies, using the UKCEH's Flower-Insect Timed survey methodology, we've established a quarterly monitoring programme for insects, which complements surveys conducted elsewhere on the island (as a part of the **DPLUS131 A "B-Line" to Re-wilding: Anguilla's Pollinator Project** that the ANT is currently implementing in partnership with the Agriculture Unit-Department of Natural Resources and Gender Affairs Anguilla). With biodiversity surveys scheduled to be repeated in Year 3 of the project as well as post-project, we will be in a position to assess change over time, and especially change due to the removal of IAS and other applied management interventions (Evidence 1).

Output 2. The biodiversity of Fountain National Park is recovering following permanent eradication of multiple harmful invasive aliens and reintroduction of native species.

With the fence having been completed at the end of October 2023 and with the IAS removal only just having been launched, it is still too early to assess the extent of FNP's recovery post-eradication (target mammals) and control (plants). Based on all of our previous experiences both in Anguilla (Dog Island, Prickly Pear cays, Sombrero Island) and the Wider Caribbean, we expect recovery of some species to happen relatively quickly, including lizards. Other restoration interventions include the reintroduction of endangered species to the restored site, which are planned for Year 3. Reintroduction feasibility studies have been drafted, with the Anguilla Bank racer feasibility study finalised and ready for implementation as soon as rodents are confirmed to have been successfully removed. The project remains on track to achieve this output by end of project (Evidence 3-5).

Output 3. Effective and sustainable structures and tools for management of FNP in place.

Over the course of the last year, a management plan, following IUCN protected area management planning guidelines/framework, has been drafted for Fountain National Park. The management plan is direct output of a participatory planning process during which a shared vision for the site was developed and clear actions with measurable targets were identified.

Although Fountain National Park was Anguilla's first protected area (terrestrial or marine), a management body was never designated and the ANT has assumed the role, to a large degree, due to the nature of its work. Formalising the governance structure is critical to the management of the site both in terms of ensuring its long-term protection but also to support visitor engagement and experiences, revenue generation, and (re)investment of funds into sustainable and meaningful conservation action. The ANT is the most well-positioned agency to manage FNP and the governance structure proposed within the draft management plan reflects this. At the same time, there are clearly multiple interests in the site and to ensure that sector positions and values are also considered/integrated (in accordance with the values outlined within the management plan), we recommend the establishment of a multi-stakeholder advisory committee, comprising of representatives from education, culture, environment, tourism, and the private sector (Evidence 2, 6-7).

Output 4. National capacity to plan, manage, implement, and monitor national parks is raised, supported by enhanced technical skills and increased public awareness.

During Year 2 of the project, we continued to build on the progress made in Year 1. Since start of project, almost 750 people have been taken on guided tours of the national park, where the work that we are currently collaboratively undertaking is explained and discussed within the larger context of habitat restoration and species protection. Press releases circulated via social media have reached over 11000 individuals/accounts (Facebook and Instagram). We have also taken advantage of national and international workshops and seminars to raise the profile of this project and have been contacted by colleagues in St. Eustatius about fencing procurement and lessons

thus far learned as they explore options for constructing a similar fence on the Dutch Overseas Territory. Beyond outreach, we have also been working to raise national capacity both through our lead country partner, but also amongst ANT members, supporters, and the general public. Integral to this project was training on-island nationals in pest-resistant fence construction. While there are numerous fencing construction teams on Anguilla, the methods and materials required for this type of fence was entirely new. We drew on the experience of WMIL with the first phase of construction but the vast majority of the fence was completed by the local team. The construction of the fence required on-the-ground problem solving and trouble-shooting, weighing and considering options and essentially learning by doing. This team is now fully capable of assisting ANT with on-going monitoring and maintenance of the fence. They are also in a position of sharing lessons learned with others who are either currently embarking on a similar initiative (Barbados, St. Lucia) or considering it (St. Eustatius). As we close Year 2 of the project (and over the course of the project) we have trained and actively engaged 14 individuals in biodiversity, biosecurity, and IAS removal protocols – almost reaching our identified target. With the rodent eradication just being launched and with species reintroductions planned, there will be ample opportunity to train even more people, bolstering capacity both within the National Trust (via training members) as well as on Anguilla (by engaging any interested members of the public, and especially young people) (Evidence 8-11).

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

The intended Outcome of this project is the establishment of the UKOT's first "mainland island" through government and civil society partnership, delivering substantive and sustainable benefits for people and critically threatened biodiversity.

The project team is well on the way to achieving this outcome, beginning with the construction of the mainland island fence and the launch of the IAS eradication initiative. Our local partners have over 12 years' experience in island restoration, having removed rats and mice from seven offshore islands and islets. They also have extensive experience in capturing and controlling green iguanas. No cats, dogs, livestock or monkeys have been recorded within the fenced area which has made the IAS removal effort less complicated.

Assessments guiding the reintroduction of native and endangered species to FNP also suggest that reintroductions are feasible and we draw on our combined knowledge and expertise as well as previous experiences in successfully translocating species (e.g., Antigua Bank racers from the Antigua mainland to offshore cays, Lesser Antillean iguanas from mainland Anguilla to Prickly Pear East to inform translocation actions as well as post-translocation monitoring.

The management plan that we have collaboratively developed with a wide range of stakeholders, all with different areas interest, shows high level of support for the protection of habitat and species and sustainable use, with revenue being reinvested into the management plan implementation. Furthermore, as project partners, the Government of Anguilla is keen on enhancing management and developing FNP as an added heritage tourism feature for the island, as indicated in recent discussions with the ANT when our local partner presented on their work and budget to the Government of Anguilla Executive Council at the end of March 2024.

The four identified Outcome indicators remain valid and we are on track to achieving all by project end.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Outcome and Output level assumptions for this project still hold true although one is no longer relevant.

Assumption 1. Executive Council continues to support the effective management of FNP and Anguilla's terrestrial biodiversity.

The Government of Anguilla (at the Ministerial level) is a full partner and continues to be engaged in project implementation. While the primary role of the Government has been higher level, that is, issuing approval, considering recommendations, and facilitating the implementation of the project on crown land, government departments worked with the ANT to clearly legal boundaries of the Park (to ensure that the fence would not encroach on private parcels) and facilitated

additional dialogue with neighbouring stakeholders regarding the construction of the fence and its purpose. At the end of March, the ANT met with Executive Council and this project was highlighted as one of the major initiatives being undertaken by the Trust, in collaboration with and the support of the Government of Anguilla.

Assumption 2. Stakeholders continue to be interested and willing to be involved in FNP management.

Year 2 of this project focused developing the necessary plans to support the restoration and management of FNP, including a management plan and two species reintroduction feasibility studies, as well as the actual construction of the mainland island fence. The management plan was developed through a well-attended, two-day stakeholder planning meeting during which the framework (including priority targets, strategies, proposed governance structure, and implementing partners) was developed. The comprehensive management plan was drafted following these meetings, integrating the decisions made by stakeholders.

We have encountered some difficulties in communication with the neighbouring Gwen's Bar and Grill, a restaurant that has encroached on both National Park (beyond what was permitted by the Government of Anguilla) and private land. The Department of Lands and Surveys intervened on our behalf and facilitated discussions with the restaurant owners to clearly present the boundary markers of the parcel of land on which they are situated. We have tried to accommodate the restaurant owners as best we can and we have arrived at a mutual understanding regarding boundaries and purpose.

In terms of on-the-ground involvement in FNP management, 13 individuals have actively assisted with IAS/biosecurity monitoring since the fence has been constructed, assisting the ANT team in their efforts to detect (and capture, if detected) invasive iguanas, monkeys, cats, dogs, and livestock. Based on conversations with members of the public, we expect this number to increase substantially as we progress into the rodent eradication phase and the endangered species reintroduction phases of the project.

Assumption 3. FNP management plan correctly identifies and addresses main threats, capacity needs, and resources to conserve and protect terrestrial biodiversity.

The FNP management planning process followed the IUCN prescribed approach and was highly participatory and involved the full range of relevant stakeholders. We drew on the knowledge and expertise of natural resources managers, protected area management planners, tourism and marketing specialists, cultural heritage practitioners, and were sure to listen to and integrate the values and perspectives of young people (who will be the next generation of national park managers). The management planning process was highly interacting, incorporating short presentations and small group exercises during which participants drew on their knowledge and skillsets as well as scientific data to ensure that the plan was based on the best available scientific and cultural knowledge.

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

Fortunately, Anguilla was not affected by any major hurricanes during the course of fence construction. Hurricane Tammy, however, did pass over the island shortly after the fence was completed, causing some erosion around the base of the fence due to heavy rainfall. The fence construction team was dispatched to fix all compromised areas.

Due to a delay in the shipment of fence materials, the fence was not completed until close to the end of October, rather early summer. Ideally, we would have launched the rodent eradication campaign as soon as the fence was completed, but rainfall in October through January/February can be (and was) quite heavy, leading to seed and fruit production by plants and the creation of an abundant alternative food source for the rodents. To maximise potential for success, we decided to postpone the rodent eradication to the first quarter of 2024 (March), when the island is drier and rodents would be more inclined to eat bait as one of their primary food sources. Despite the delay, and with the rodent eradication currently underway, we remain confident in our abilities to complete the project as projected.

Assumption 5. Field activities can be rescheduled if COVID-19 continues to affect international travel.

COVID-19 is no longer a threat to this project.

Assumption 6. Visitors willing to pay to access FNP.

Results of the willingness to pay survey that was conducted in Year 1 indicate that visitors are willing to pay to access FNP. We are currently completing a business and marketing plan for the site which integrates the findings of the survey but also draws on other national and regional experiences and information about Anguilla's tourism market. The ANT is already conducting paid tours to the site and also offers island-wide heritage tours. Another company, Quest, is similarly engaged in heritage tourism; there is clearly an appetite amongst visitors to experience something other than Anguilla's beaches and restaurants.

Assumption 7. Trained expertise remains in Anguilla.

All ANT staff have benefitted from training since the start of this project. The fence construction team, which started as three individuals grew to five over the course of the construction period. Training opportunities have been also been extended to members of the public and 13 volunteers have so far been trained in biosecurity monitoring and rodent eradication; we expect this number to increase in Year 3. While we cannot prevent key persons from leaving Anguilla, we can increase overall national capacity to engage in this type of restoration and species conservation work by opening up training opportunities to all interested individuals and to be as inclusive as possible. Using a local fencing team was also identified as critically important as this new skillset has been developed (and is now available) in Anguilla.

Assumption 8. Improved knowledge leads to improved behaviours to conserve biodiversity.

Over the course of the last year, we have focused our outreach activities on experiential learning opportunities, directly engaging individuals on site and within our conservation interventions, creating connections with nature, and building vesting interest in FNP. We'll continue with these engagement initiatives as well as continue to raise the profile of the work and its national importance through Year 3 of the project.

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

This project directly supports Anguilla's ability to achieve long-term outcomes for the terrestrial environment and at-risk species, including delivering on commitments made by the Government of Anguilla under national strategies and plans as well as by contributing towards international agendas and conventions.

During Year 1, this project has contributed to:

- *Implementing National Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS)*, by identifying and addressing the impacts of invasive alien species through a comprehensive removal and control programme.
- *Implementing the Anguilla Environment Charter*, by taking steps to protect and restore key habitats and species through appropriate management structures and mechanisms, including the development of management and conservation action plans and the creation of the FNP mainland island which will provide sanctuary to endangered species.
- *Implementing the Anguilla Invasive Species Strategy*, by implementing operational plans to support the control and removal of invasive plant and animal species from within FNP.
- *Implementing the Convention on Biodiversity*, by promoting and supporting the planning of ecosystem restoration activities and by identifying and communicating the benefits of ecosystems restoration to generate public awareness, support, and involvement.
- *Furthering the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, by supporting access to safe, inclusive and accessible green and public spaces, by ensuring the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, reducing the impact of invasive alien species (rodents, cats, dogs, green iguanas, monkeys, free-roaming livestock), and taking action to reduce natural habitat degradation, loss of biodiversity, and protection of threatened species and especially endemic species (e.g. Anguilla bush).

5. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board ¹ .	80%
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 .	75%

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	

The PSC is predominantly (80%) women and day-to-day management of the project is also handled by a predominantly women-led team, including the Project Leader Mr. Olivier Raynaud (and later, Mr. Julio Bernal), Project Co-Coordinator and ANT Executive Director Ms Farah Mukhida, ANT Administrative Manager Ms Kimberly Gumbs, ANT Project Coordinator Dr Louise Soanes, GOA Liaison Ms Anthea Ipinson, IAS Management Leader Ms Biz Bell, and Species Conservation Advisor Dr Jenny Daltry.

To date, the project has trained 14 individuals in biodiversity and biosecurity monitoring (79% of whom have been women) and 38% of FNP management planning participants were women.

Women are very well represented in this project, decision makers, trainers, and beneficiaries of new training and learning opportunities.

6. Monitoring and evaluation

Project monitoring and evaluation has followed the plan prescribed in our proposal. FAUNA & FLORA (Mr. Olivier Raynaud, Project Leader and later Mr. Julio Bernal) and ANT (Ms Farah Mukhida, Project Co-Leader) have been responsible for ensuring that the project is on schedule and monitored. The project is also overseen by a PSC, comprising principals from each project

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.

partner (Fauna & Flora, ANT, GOA, WMIL) and Dr Jenny Daltry (Caribbean Alliance Director, Fauna & Flora and Re: wild). Fauna & Flora Project Leader/s met with ANT, GOA, and WMIL numerous times in person and by Zoom, with additional formal and informal correspondence via email and WhatsApp, allowing for frequent collaborative reviews of project activities and outputs. We have maintained and followed a detailed monthly work plan and financial plan, which is reviewed and updated at least once a quarter. Both Fauna & Flora and ANT share responsibility for keeping records of activities, outputs, and indicators in the project logframe.

In mid-March, the project was externally reviewed by a Darwin Plus-selected reviewer, Mr. Simon Harding. During this external review process, Mr. Harding met with a project partners and beneficiaries to assess project progress and impact to date.

7. Lessons learnt

During the second year of the project, we made significant progress in terms of the moving the establishment of the mainland island from being a concept into a reality. While we had initially hoped to have begun construction of the fence in the first quarter of the financial year, shipping delays meant that construction actually began in July, after approximately three weeks of prepping the grounds, including clearing vegetation along the perimeter to provide a four meter clearance as required for a mainland island fence and drilling of fencing post holes. While we had expected the actual fence construction to take some time, the drilling of fencing post holes was also an arduous task. Fountain National Park's substrate is limestone, which is common across the island. Drilling as deep into the substrate as is necessary for mainland island fencing security and stability, however, was far more difficult than first expected, and also took longer than expected. While, at first, we were planning on having all fencing post holes dug prior to fence construction, the holes and the construction of the fence ended up being completed concurrently, which actually worked out better than expected as it meant that there was less time for the dug holes to re-fill with fallen debris/substrate.

Fencing construction also took longer than expected. The entire fence is stainless steel except for the bracing bands that connect bracing posts to the fence posts. Stainless steel is an incredibly hard metal and drilling into the posts took its toll on equipment and drill bits. In addition, to prevent corrosion, all fasteners (screws, rivets) also had to be stainless steel. As most construction companies do not use stainless steel, we worked with a local construction supply company to special order the necessary material. We could not, however, find stainless steel bracing bands and after considering our options, we decided that the next best option would be to create a neoprene barrier between the bands and the posts.

in an effort to prevent weathering from sea spray and to maximise longevity of the fence, this this is the first time an entirely stainless steel fence has been constructed - instead of a combination of wood and stainless steel as found in other countries. The entire fence construction process has therefore been a learning experience where our local fence construction team has had to consider and work with the terrain and available materials. It was also more than expensive than we first envisioned though we have been fortunate to secure additional funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Re:wild to offset overspend.

Having learned from this experience, and if we were to do it all again, we would be in far better position in terms of understanding how long the actual construction of the fence would take (from land preparation to fence construction), how expensive it would be, and the difficulties we would encounter in terms of sourcing fence construction materials (not including the posts, hoods, fence mesh). We would also have a better idea of the amount of materials we would actually need to put the fence together (especially rivets, self tapping screws). Furthermore, while we had an idea that the process would not be easy, we were not quite as prepared for how expensive, difficult and labour intensive it would be, especially with the fence being constructed at the hottest time of the year. The late start also meant that fence construction took place in the middle of peak hurricane season and we were fortunate that the only storm (Category 1 Hurricane Tammy) that passed over Anguilla occurred after the fence was constructed – and to which it stood up well with only some erosion occurring at the base of the fence which was immediately addressed post-storm.

Since fence completion, we have noted that despite the fence being stainless steel, there has still been some corrosion. We sourced a rust-proof spray after consulting with the fence material provider which has been (and will continue to be) applied. As we were able to purchase some replacement materials, we have been able to fix parts that have been affected (primarily rivets and fencing brackets).

We have already shared lessons learned regarding fence construction process and expense (including fencing materials list and quantities) with counterparts in Barbados where a similar (though smaller) fence is being constructed on similar terrain.

Regarding the extent of the mainland island compared to the actual bounds of Fountain National Park, we decided to not to fence the entire area as we wanted to maintain a buffer between the northern boundary (which a beach) and the fence itself – better protecting the fence from sea/salt spray – as well as to not impede sea turtle nesting activity on the beach and dune system, even though we had permission from the Government of Anguilla. Since work on the fence began, however, an application by a private developer was shared with the ANT for review by the Government of Anguilla’s Physical Planning Department. The application was for the construction of a beach bar and parking lot on Fountain National Park’s government-owned parcels of land. The ANT submitted a response strongly discouraging such development and after the fact realised that some fencing or barrier – even if was not a stainless steel fence – should have been erected to discourage development. We are now considering our options, including roping off the northern unfenced bounds, which would clearly delineate the protected area’s boundaries while still enabling sea turtle nesting activity.

We note that we have also had to make some changes to our project implementation schedule, particularly as it relates to the eradication of IAS. We postponed the rodent removal to March 2024 as there was a significant amount of rainfall from November through February, making the space lush with vegetation and alternative food sources for the target species.

We are back on track for project activity implementation and we do not plan on submitting a Change Request.

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

We received some feedback from the review of our Year 1 Annual Report. The following review comments required responses:

1. If non-native green vervet monkey are present in Anguilla, can they be prevented from entering the park in the future?

The fence has been constructed in such a way that an angled stainless steel, slippery hood extends over the outside part of the fence. Should a monkey be able to climb the fence, they would find it difficult/awkward to manoeuvre over the hood. In addition, we have been exploring options for running an electric fence on top of the fence (attached to the fencing posts which extend above the top of the mesh and hood) as an additional biosecurity measure. We will also maintain the required two metre area clear of vegetation to the outside of the fence to limit the possibility of IAS from climbing trees/vegetation and then jumping over (or dropping into) the mainland island.

At the same time, we recognise that while we can try to make the fence (and its surrounding area) as IAS-proof as possible, (re)incursions are possible; strong biosecurity systems are therefore absolutely essential. With regular checks of the fence (to ensure integrity) along with regular checks of the park itself, we will also install AI-trained trail cameras which will be placed strategically around the perimeter of the fence and within the mainland island. These cameras, programmed to identify a range of IAS including monkeys and supported through a newly-funded Darwin Plus project (DPLUSR12S21016), will send photos immediately to the ANT team should there be a breach. The ANT will then be able to respond immediately. We would also like to note that the ANT is seeking to address the vervet monkey issue at the national scale, with plans to complete a feasibility study this year for their removal, and, hopefully, the launch of removal campaign soon after if funds can be secured.

2. The point count method used for bird counts was undertaken over a period of 7 days. Could the counts have been undertaken on a single day to reduce the chance of recording the same individuals in different point on different days?

The project team agrees that point counts should be conducted in a single day. A one-day count is actually what the ANT usually conducts and this approach will be applied for the end-of-project survey.

3. The project is developing a public awareness campaign. It is also conducting a willingness-to-pay survey; and in two questions related to an entry fee, it presents a range of payment options from less than [REDACTED]. Would it be possible to consider free entry or a nominal sum for local people (perhaps from poorer households), and concessions for certain groups of people, such as the elderly and those with special needs or disabilities?

Fauna & Flora's tourism and marketing specialist is currently completely a business/marketing plan for Fountain National Park. Having a two-tiered payment system will be presented – something that the ANT already has in place for its other tours and outdoor visitor experiences. Concessions for certain groups (elderly, individuals with special needs, etc.) will also be considered and proposed, as suggested. In addition, the ANT already has a policy to not charge school children for any tours or experiences (if organised as part of school or club experiences).

4. Fauna & Flora has an internal Learning Management System, enabling online training in policies and procedures, for example its social safeguards and vulnerable adults policy (which are compulsory for FFI staff), but the project does not state whether any training has been conducted and/or whether there are any developments or activities planned around safeguarding in the coming year. It also does not comment on the safeguarding policies of other partners involved in the project, or whether these partners have access to the Fauna & Flora system.

Fauna & Flora has shared its safeguarding policies and procedures with project partners but has not undertaken any training. We note, however, that both the Government of Anguilla and the ANT have relevant safeguarding policies and staff from both agencies have received national training. The ANT, as a statutory body, while having its own internal policies, also follows Government of Anguilla policies, with staff attending GOA-organised trainings.

9. Risk Management

No new risks have arisen specific to this project and we have not needed to make any significant adaptations to the project design.

10. Sustainability and legacy

Post-project sustainability has been built directly into the project and project actions to date reflect this. Year 2 has primarily focuses on four aspects of work: protected area management planning, species reintroduction planning, mainland island fence construction, and the launch of IAS removals and biosecurity.

The FNP management plan considers the national park as a whole, rather than just the mainland island. It is a ten-year plan that outlines short-, medium-, and long-term management strategies, proposes a governance structure, and identifies partner implementers. The plan will also be supported by a tourism/business marketing plan which will create the framework for long-term financial sustainability of the park post-project.

Native/Endangered species reintroduction plans consider the long-term feasibility of those reintroductions and identifies requirements for long-term success and population recovery/growth.

ANT staff and volunteers have been trained in identifying potential ways the mainland island fence could be compromised and both ANT staff and especially the local fencing company are

well-positioned – after having learned how to construct such a specialised fence from scratch – are well-positioned to continue with post-construction maintenance; the fence construction team (no. individuals trained = 5) has agreed to continue to assist with fence maintenance post-construction and post-project. The ANT team, however, is also positioned to undertake maintenance should they be required.

National capacity to undertake IAS removals is currently being built, with 13 volunteers and 1 ANT staff member trained (in addition to four other ANT staff who are already well-versed in IAS removals). We expect this number to increase as we move from IAS removal to long-term biosecurity monitoring.

11. Darwin Plus identity

The Darwin Plus Initiative has been recognised on all materials produced through this project, including press releases, social media posts, presentations, and reports and has been recognised as a distinct project being conducted by Fauna & Flora and our partners.

Having linked this project directly to the Darwin Plus Initiative in all of our public awareness activities, we believe that there is some understanding of the Initiative within Anguilla, although the level of awareness has not been formally measured. The Darwin Plus Initiative, however, is very well known to the GOA and this project is one of several high-profile DPLUS projects underway in Anguilla.

All project partners have Facebook pages, while Fauna & Flora and ANT have Instagram accounts. All Instagram posts include the tags “dplus #darwinplus and are linked to Defra’s Biodiversity Challenge Funds handle (@biodiversitychallengefunds). Facebook posts and press releases circulated to media houses and on the ANT listserv mention Darwin Plus as the project funder and include the DPLUS logo. We also circulate information, especially announcement regarding project-events, via WhatsApp. These announcements (usually infographics) also include the DPLUS logo.

12. Safeguarding

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	No
Have any concerns been reported in the past 12 months	No
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	No. Safeguarding issues will be raised with the project leader or through the project’s grievances mechanism to enable identification and remediation of unintended negative impacts. Any issue grievance raised will be resolved, where possible, by Fauna & Flora and project partners. Cases will be escalated internally or to the relevant authorities if required/
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	Yes. Social safeguards and safeguarding are part of a broader set of Fauna & Flora policies and commitments focused on protecting and respecting recognised human rights. As part of internal professional development and training activities, all Fauna & Flora staff are required to attend compulsory safeguarding training which is underpinned by internal policies and procedures.
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	Past: 39% [5] Planned: 68% [8]

<p>Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses.</p> <p>No.</p>
<p>Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so please specify.</p> <p>No.</p>
<p>Please describe any community sensitisation that has taken place over the past 12 months; include topics covered and number of participants.</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>Have there been any concerns around Health, Safety and Security of your project over the past year? If yes, please outline how this was resolved.</p> <p>There were some health and safety concerns as it related to the fence construction team. The Fence construction team applied best practice regarding safety (protected eyewear, gloves, protective clothing). Heat exhaustion and heat stroke were also concerns. In order to limit stress, the fence construction team worked early morning and late afternoons/evenings, avoiding the hottest time of the day. Ensuring that the team was well-hydrated was also a high priority.</p>

13. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)

Project spend (indicative) in this financial year	2023/24 D+ Grant (£)	2024/25 Total actual D+ Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				Extra refreshments needed for the development of the management plan – Fountain Cavern National Park
Capital items				
Others (Please specify)				
TOTAL	£ 171,881	£ 171,881		

Table 2: Project mobilised or matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)

	Secured to date	Expected by end of project	Sources
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£)			
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)			John Ellerman Foundation ÀNI Private Resorts US Fish and Wildlife Foundation Re:wild

14. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

No further comments.

15. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes.

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds to edit and use the following for various promotional purposes (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)	File Name or File Location	Caption including description, country and credit	Social media accounts and websites to be tagged (leave blank if none)	Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2023-2024

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</p> <p>Sustainable recovery of threatened biodiversity in Fountain National Park is a source of national pride and informs and inspires other UKOTs to establish financially viable “mainland islands”</p>	<p>Fountain National Park is considered one of Anguilla’s most important natural and cultural treasures. Despite its importance, management has been limited. Over the last year, we have developed a draft management plan for the site through an inclusive, participatory process, established the infrastructure required for the mainland island (fencing), and have developed reintroduction feasibility studies for the reintroduction of two of Anguilla’s at-risk species. Through outreach efforts, including meetings, presentations, press releases, and one-on-one conversations, residents of and visitors to Anguilla as well as GOA Ministers and policy makers are encouraged and supportive of the progress so far made to transform FNP into a sanctuary for biodiversity and a space that can be enjoyed by people.</p>	
<p>Outcome The UKOTs’ first “mainland island” is established through government and civil society partnership, delivering sustainable benefits to critically threatened biodiversity and providing a source of inspiration to Anguillans and internationally</p>		
<p>Outcome indicator 0.1 c.70% (5 hectares) of crown-owned land on the Anguilla mainland is permanently free from harmful invasive alien species evidenced by the monitoring of the site and its biodiversity</p>	<p>During the second year of the project, we constructed the mainland island fence and have begun the removal of targeted IAS.</p>	<p>Continue removal of targeted IAS (rodents, iguanas as no cats, dogs, monkeys, or livestock have been recorded within the fenced area.</p> <p>Continue biosecurity to prevent IAS (re)incursion.</p>
<p>Outcome indicator 0.2 There is an improvement in management effectiveness across 5 hectares of land within Fountain National Park between project start and end (baseline = 0 as no management currently in place)</p>	<p>Management actions have thus far included the establishment of the mainland island (through the construction of the pest-proof, storm-resistant fence), the development and implementation of a biodiversity monitoring programme, and the launch of a restoration (IAS removal) campaign.</p> <p>Management actions also supported by a draft management plan has been developed for FNP, the first for the site. The management plan identifies FNP values,</p>	<p>Continue with already-initiated management interventions (see Outcomes 0.1, 0.3).</p> <p>Develop trail system for visitor enjoyment and guided experiences.</p> <p>Finalise and implement FNP business and marketing strategy.</p>

	threats, priority action areas, as well as management strategies and indicators of success.	
Outcome indicator 0.3 ≥ 2 endangered and endemic species are translocated and/or have detailed reintroduction plans under implementation to boost populations, by end of project	Feasibility studies for the reintroduction of Endangered Anguilla Bank skinks <i>Spondylurus powelli</i> completed/finalised and Endangered Anguilla Bank racers <i>Alsophis rijgersmaei</i> under peer review.	Reintroduce priority species, including Endangered <i>lignum vitae</i> (no feasibility assessment required) and at least one Endangered reptile to FNP mainland island.
Outcome Indicator 0.4 FNP management authority plans are endorsed by key stakeholders with demonstrated commitment to future delivery of actions plans by end of the project	The draft management plan includes a proposed governance structure which suggests the ANT be the lead management authority, supported by a multi-stakeholder technical advisory committee.	Present management plan to GOA Cabinet/Executive Council for endorsement.
Output 1 Monitoring system established to inform and evaluate conservation actions on the ecology and globally threatened biodiversity of Fountain National Park		
Output indicator 1.1 Long-term biodiversity and biosecurity monitoring plan established by end of Q2Y1	Completed in Year 1	N/A
Output indicator 1. Comparative key biodiversity assessments of FNP completed by end of Q3Y1 and Q3Y3	Scheduled for Year 3, but on-going for insects See Section 3.1, Evidence 1	Conduct end of project/post-IAS eradication biodiversity monitoring
Output 2. The biodiversity of Fountain National Park is recovering following permanent eradication of multiple harmful invasive aliens and reintroduction of native species		
Output indicator 2.1. Operational plans for the construction of the pest-resistant fence and removal of invasive alien species completed by end of Q2 Y1	Completed in Year 1.	N/A
Output indicator 2.2. Pest-resistant and storm-resistant mesh fence constructed around FNP by end of Q2Y2	Mainland island pest-resistant, storm-resistant mesh fence constructed around c.5 hectares of FNP. Construction was slight delayed due to issues surrounding shipment of fencing materials, but was completed just before the end of October 2023 (Q3Y2) See Section 3.1, Evidence 3	Conduct on-going monitoring of fence integrity and security as well as maintenance as required

Output indicator 2.3. Multiple harmful invasive species (rats, mice, green iguanas, goats, cats) removed and excluded from FNP by end of Q4Y2	Following protocols established in Year 1 of the project, monitoring of the fenced area has so far indicated that there are no cats, dogs, or livestock. We believe that green iguanas are present, but no there have been no signs of them thus far. The rodent eradication was launched mid-March 2024. See Section 3.1, Evidence 4	Continue with rodent eradication campaign Continue to monitor for green iguanas Continue to implement biosecurity protocols to prevent IAS (re)incursion
Output indicator 2.4. Reintroduction of at least two globally threatened native species to FNP by end of the project	Reintroduction feasibility studies completed/drafted for Anguilla Bank skinks and Anguilla racers. See Section 3.1, Evidence 5	Reintroduce Endangered lignum vitae and at least 1 Endangered reptile to FNP mainland island, following best practice protocols (lignum vitae) and methods prescribed within the feasibility study/ies (reptile)
Output 3. Effective and sustainable structures and tools for management of Fountain National Park are in place		
Output indicator 3.1. Visitor willingness to pay surveys conducted by Q4Y1	Visitor willingness to pay surveys conducted in Year 1 and results were analysed in Year 2. See Section 3.1, Evidence 7	N/A
Output indicator 3.2. FNP management planning and business planning workshops conducted with at least 20 stakeholders in Q1Y2 (50:50 men and women)	Two-day multi-stakeholder management planning workshop held in April 2024, attended by 21 stakeholders (13 men: 8 women) See Section 3.1, Evidence 6	N/A
Output indicator 3.3. FNP management plan disseminated to all stakeholders by end of Q2Y2	Management plan drafted and currently under internal review. See Section 3.1, Evidence 2	Circulate management plan to relevant stakeholders for review and comment in May 2024 Present management plan to GOA Cabinet/Executive Council in May/June 2024 for endorsement
Output indicator 3.4 FNP tourism strategy and business plan prepared by end of Q4Y2	FNP tourism and business plan currently being prepared, using results of the willingness to pay survey and the multi-	Finalise tourism strategy and business plan and share with

	<p>stakeholder management planning workshop, including proposed visitor fee schedule and collection system.</p> <p>In progress, evidence not prepared</p>	<p>Anguilla Tourism Board for comment</p> <p>Establish/Implement FNP visitor fee schedule and collection system</p>
<p>Output 4. National capacity to plan, manage, implement, and monitor national parks is increased, supported by enhanced technical skills and increased public awareness</p>		
<p>Output indicator 4.1. Communications and public awareness plan developed by end of Q2Y1</p>	<p>Completed in Year 1.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Output indicator 4.2. At least 70% of Anguillan adults (c.5,000 people, of whom 50% are women) know about the project and can articulate the importance of FNP by the end of the project, based on a representative survey sample</p>	<p>One press release circulated in the local newspaper, radio, Facebook, Instagram (reaching c.2200 Facebook accounts, 340 Instagram accounts).</p> <p>See Section 3.1, Evidence 9</p>	<p>Continue, but expand, communications and outreach efforts</p>
<p>Output indicator 4.3. At least 500 individuals visit FNP annually, by end of project</p>	<p>274 people (including residents of Anguilla) taken on site visits to Fountain National Park (as part of a tour experience).</p> <p>34 young people taken on visits to Fountain National Park (as part of camp and after school programme experiences)</p> <p>A total of 308 individuals visited Fountain National Park in Year 2 of the project</p> <p>See Section 3.1, Evidence 10</p>	<p>Continue, but expand, visitor experience opportunities</p>
<p>Output indicator 4.4. At least 20 individuals (50:50 men and women) trained and involved in terrestrial biodiversity and biosecurity monitoring by end of the project</p>	<p>14 individuals (11 women: 3 men) trained in IAS removal and biosecurity monitoring</p> <p>See Section 3.1, Evidence 8</p>	<p>Continue to provide training opportunities related to biodiversity and biosecurity monitoring as well as IAS removals</p>
<p>Output indicator 4.5. 4.5 At least 4 persons trained in predator-proof monitoring and maintenance techniques by end of Q4Y2</p>	<p>10 individuals (5 fence construction team members, 5 ANT staff) trained in fence construction and maintenance (supporting mainland island biosecurity campaign)</p> <p>See Section 3.1</p>	<p>Continue to implement fence maintenance protocols and train additional volunteers, as necessary</p>
<p>4.6 Project methods and lessons learned presented to relevant natural resource managers within the Caribbean UKOTs by the end of the project</p>	<p>167 individuals reached through 6 national, regional, and international webinars, workshops, and seminars.</p>	<p>Continue to share lessons learned through national,</p>

	See Section 3.1, Evidence 11	regional, and international platforms/forums.
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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: Sustainable recovery of threatened biodiversity in Fountain National Park is a source of national pride and informs and inspires other UKOTs to establish financially viable “mainland islands”			
<p>Outcome:</p> <p>The UKOTs’ first “mainland island” is established through government and civil society partnership, delivering sustainable benefits to critically threatened biodiversity and providing a source of inspiration</p>	<p>0.1 c.70% (5 hectares) of crown-owned land on the Anguilla mainland is permanently free from harmful invasive alien species evidenced by the monitoring of the site and its biodiversity</p> <p>0.2 There is an improvement in management effectiveness across 5 hectares of land within Fountain National Park between project start and end (baseline = 0 as no management currently in place)</p> <p>0.3 ≥ 2 endangered and endemic species are translocated and/or have detailed reintroduction plans under implementation to boost populations, by end of project</p> <p>Estimate baselines in FNP: 1 Anguillan Bank racer; unknown Anguillan Bank skink; 0 lignum vitae; 0 Anguillan Bush Baseline data tbc in Y1, activity 1.2</p>	<p>0.1 FNP restoration report; FNP management plan</p> <p>0.2 FNP management reports; METT report</p> <p>0.3 Biodiversity monitoring and reintroduction reports</p>	<p>Executive Council continues to support the effective management of FNP and Anguilla’s terrestrial biodiversity</p> <p>Stakeholders continue to be interested and willing to be involved in FNP management</p> <p>FNP management plan correctly identifies and addresses main threats, capacity needs, and resources to conserve and protect terrestrial biodiversity</p>

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	0.4 FNP management authority plans are endorsed by key stakeholders with demonstrated commitment to future delivery of actions plans by end of the project	0.4 Institutional work plans, budgets, and annual reports	
Output 1 Monitoring system established to inform and evaluate conservation actions on the ecology and globally threatened biodiver	1.1 Long-term biodiversity and biosecurity monitoring plan established by end of Q2Y1 1.2 Comparative key biodiversity assessments of FNP completed by end of Q3Y1 and Q3Y3	1.1 Biodiversity monitoring protocols for birds, reptiles, invertebrates, and plants 1.2 Biodiversity assessment sheets; biosecurity monitoring sheets; FNP habitats/ecosystems map; comparative (pre- and postintervention) FNP terrestrial biodiversity report	Field activities can be rescheduled if extreme weather events affect Anguilla during the project period
Output 2 The biodiversity of Fountain National Park is recovering following permanent eradication of multiple harmful invasive aliens and reintroduction of native species	2.1 Operational plans for the construction of the pest-resistant fence and removal of invasive alien species completed by end of Q2 Y1 2.2 Pest-resistant and storm-resistant mesh fence constructed around FNP by end of Q2Y2 2.3 Multiple harmful invasive species (rats, mice, green iguanas, goats, cats) removed and excluded from FNP by end of Q4Y2 2.4 Reintroduction of at least two globally threatened native species to FNP by end of the project	2.1 Pest-resistant fence construction plan 2.2 Sub-contract with construction company; construction reports; photographs 2.3 Invasive species removal operational plan; invasive species removal progress reports; invasive species final report; biosecurity protocols 2.4 Species reintroduction plans; species reintroduction reports; species monitoring data sheets and database	Field activities can be rescheduled if extreme weather events affect Anguilla during the project period Field activities can be rescheduled if COVID-19 continues to affect international travel National and regional stakeholders continue to be willing to cooperate on FNP conservation initiatives

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Output 3 Effective and sustainable structures and tools for management of Fountain National Park are in place</p>	<p>3.1 Visitor willingness to pay surveys conducted by Q4Y1</p> <p>3.2 FNP management planning and business planning workshops conducted with at least 20 stakeholders in Q1Y2 (50:50 men and women)</p> <p>3.3 FNP management plan disseminated to all stakeholders by end of Q2Y2</p> <p>3.4 FNP tourism strategy and business plan prepared by end of Q4Y2</p>	<p>3.1 Willingness to pay survey; willing to pay report (with results disaggregated by, among other things, gender and age)</p> <p>3.2 Workshop agenda; workshop participants attendance sheets; PowerPoint presentations; FNP biodiversity conservation strategies and site management strategies</p> <p>3.3 FNP management plan</p> <p>3.4 FNP tourism strategy and business plan; desk-top review, situation and market analysis report, risk assessment report; FNP visitor fee schedule; visitor logbooks; revenue reports</p>	<p>High level Government of Anguilla support continues for enhanced management of FNP</p> <p>High level stakeholder support continues for increased management of FNP Stakeholders have time and ability to be involved in management plan development</p> <p>Covid-19 and other events do not disrupt industry to the extent that there are no viable income streams for FNP management</p>
<p>Output 4 National capacity to plan, manage, implement, and monitor national parks is increased, supported by enhanced technical skills and increased public awareness</p>	<p>4.1 Communications and public awareness plan developed by end of Q2Y1</p> <p>4.2 At least 70% of Anguillan adults (c.5,000 people, of whom 50% are women) know about the project and can articulate the importance of FNP by the end of the project, based on a representative survey sample</p> <p>4.3 At least 500 individuals visit FNP annually, by end of project</p>	<p>4.1 Communications and public awareness plan</p> <p>4.2 Knowledge-Attitudes-Performance (KAP) surveys at start and end of the project; newspaper distribution data; radio press releases; data from social media pages (ANT, Radio Anguilla); social media analytics; PowerPoint presentations (results of outreach efforts disaggregated by gender)</p> <p>4.3 FNP visitor logbook</p>	<p>Trained expertise remains in Anguilla Improved knowledge leads to improved behaviours to conserve biodiversity</p>

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>4.4 At least 20 individuals (50:50 men and women) trained and involved in terrestrial biodiversity and biosecurity monitoring by end of the project</p> <p>4.5 At least 4 persons trained in predator-proof monitoring and maintenance techniques by end of Q4Y2</p> <p>4.6 Project methods and lessons learned presented to relevant natural resource managers within the Caribbean UKOTs by the end of the project</p>	<p>4.4 Biodiversity monitoring protocol training record; Invasive species eradication procedures and reports datasheets</p> <p>4.5 Predator-proof fence maintenance protocols; monitoring and maintenance reports</p> <p>4.6 Case studies; presentation abstracts; PowerPoint presentations; minutes of meetings</p>	
<p>Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)</p> <p>1. Monitoring system established to inform and evaluate conservation actions on the ecology and globally threatened biodiversity of Fountain National Park</p> <p>1.1 Finalise FNP biodiversity monitoring protocols</p> <p>1.2 Conduct terrestrial biodiversity surveys at beginning and end of project to evaluate impact of the project on FNP biodiversity (including natural recolonization successes)</p> <p>1.3 Complete and disseminate FNP biodiversity (pre- and post-eradication) report to stakeholders</p> <p>1.4 Develop FNP biodiversity monitoring plan, to be integrated in the Protected Area management plan</p> <p>2. The biodiversity of Fountain National Park is recovering following permanent eradication of multiple harmful invasive aliens and reintroduction of native species</p> <p>2.1 Complete operational plan for the construction of a pest-resistant fence around the perimeter of FNP</p> <p>2.2 Complete operational plan for the removal of invasive alien species within FNP (rats, mice, green iguanas, goats, cats)</p> <p>2.3 Construct pest-resistant fence around the perimeter of FNP</p> <p>2.4 Remove multiple invasive alien species from FNP using methods as specified in Q12</p> <p>2.5 Remove established invasive plants species within FNP and remove seedlings on a regular basis</p> <p>2.6 Develop detailed reintroduction plans based on results from 1.2 with expert input</p> <p>2.7 Reintroduce native biodiversity into FNP (likely including, but not limited to, lignum vitae, Anguilla Bank racers and Anguilla Bank skinks)</p> <p>2.8 Design and implement fence maintenance programme to ensure its integrity and effectiveness in preventing reinvasions of IAS</p> <p>3. Effective and sustainable structures and tools for management of FNP in place</p> <p>3.1 Establish FNP management planning committee</p> <p>3.2 Conduct willingness to pay surveys amongst residents of and visitors to Anguilla</p> <p>3.3 Research and evaluate tourist strategy and additional potential sources of revenue to contribute to FNP management</p>			

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>3.4 Hold FNP management planning meetings to complete FNP 10-year management plan, including governance framework, financial plan, and priority management actions</p> <p>3.5 Present FNP management plan to GOA Executive Council</p> <p>3.6 Establish and implement FNP visitor fee schedule and collection system</p> <p>4. National capacity to plan, manage, implement, and monitor national parks is raised, supported by enhanced technical skills and increased public awareness</p> <p>4.1 Conduct rapid public survey to evaluate knowledge and attitudes to Anguilla’s terrestrial protected areas, particularly FNP</p> <p>4.2 Train and mentor ANT staff, Anguilla Community College students, and other nationals in applied biodiversity and biosecurity monitoring, IAS removal, and facilitating tours</p> <p>4.3 Develop and implement an advocacy and public awareness campaign, including but not limited to newspaper articles, press releases, social media, and guided nature trail tours</p> <p>4.4 Partner with the Anguilla Tourist Board and run publicity campaign to market FNP to visitors</p> <p>4.5 Publicise and report on project progress and results through (inter)national media</p> <p>4.6 Repeat survey from 4.1 to enable evaluation of project success</p> <p>4.7 Share project results with CSOs (e.g. church groups, secondary schools) cross-territory stakeholders (e.g. UKOT Caribbean Conservation Network), international scientific community, and GOA Executive Council</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 Project biannual reports/donor technical and financial reports</p> <p>X.4 Monthly financial accounts</p> <p>X.5 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	IAS removal	0	14		14	20
DPLUS-B01	Number of new or improved habitat management plans available (and endorsed)	Number	New	0	1		1	1
DPLUS-B02	Number of new or improved species management plans available (and endorsed)	Number	New	0	2		2	2
DPLUS-D01	Hectares of habitat under sustainable management practices	Hectares	Protected area	0	c.5		c.5	c.5

In addition to reporting any information on publications under relevant standard indicators, in Table 2, provide full details of all publications and material produced over the last year that can be publicly accessed, e.g. title, name of publisher, contact details, cost. You should include publications as supporting materials with your report. Mark with an asterisk (*) all publications and other material that you have included with this report.

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, 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.	x
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
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 15)?	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.	