Darwin Plus Main & Strategic: 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

Scheme (Main or Strategic)	DPLUS Main
Project reference	DPLUS158
Project title	Piloting a new solution for invasive species in the UKOTs
Territory(ies)	Anguilla
Lead Organisation	Fauna & Flora
Project partner(s)	Anguilla National Trust (ANT), Government of Anguilla (GOA), Wildlife Management International Ltd. (WMIL)
Darwin Plus Grant value	£499,982.00
Start/end date of project	1 Mar 2022-30 Apr 2025
Project Leader name	Julio Bernal
Project website/Twitter/blog etc.	
Report author(s) and date	Julio Bernal, Arica Hill, Farah Mukhida, Louise Soanes

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 and 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 was 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 International, 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 transferred this experience to mainland Anguilla, creating the UK's first "mainland island". This project involved the construction of a high-tech, pest-resistant, storm-proof barrier around FNP, removed multiple harmful IAS, and managed the site as a biosecure wildlife sanctuary and visitor attraction to ensure long-term sustained benefits for Anguilla's biodiversity and people.

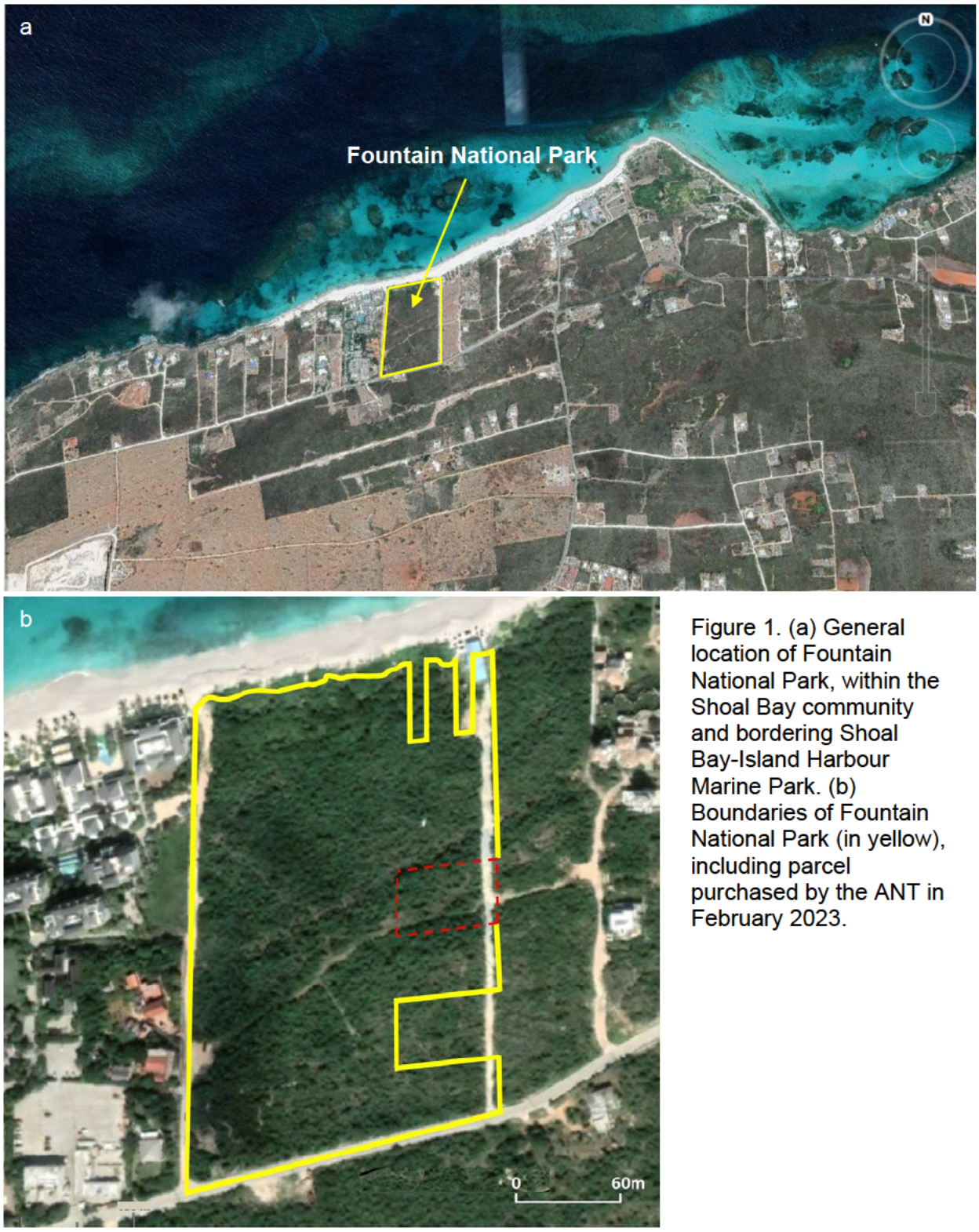


Figure 1. (a) General location of Fountain National Park, within the Shoal Bay community and bordering Shoal Bay-Island Harbour Marine Park. (b) Boundaries of Fountain National Park (in yellow), including parcel purchased by the ANT in February 2023.

2 Project Partnerships

This project is a collaborative initiative amongst **Fauna & Flora**, the **Anguilla National Trust**, the **Government of Anguilla**, and New Zealand-based **Wildlife Management International**. These four agencies comprised the Project Steering Committee (PSC) which oversaw the implementation of the project. With project partners based in four different countries, PSC meetings more often than not were held virtually although we also took advantage of times when most members were on-site. These meetings complemented additional partner meetings, focusing on technical aspects of project implementation.

Fauna & Flora, with our extensive experience in island restoration throughout the Caribbean and our support of two other mainland island initiatives in the region (Barbados, St. Lucia), were the project lead, providing project oversight both in terms of implementation and high-level project

management. Our involvement, however, was at the request of our local partners: the Anguilla National Trust and the Government of Anguilla, with the former serving as the local lead agency.

Fountain National Park is a crown-owned protected area. The Government of Anguilla, as a project partner, was directly involved in project implementation, providing high-level support and oversight. The Department of Lands and Surveys worked with the Anguilla National Trust to delineate bounds of Fountain National Park, physically and visually demarcating boundary lines on-the-ground 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. Government Ministries and Departments (Youth and Culture, Education, Physical Planning, Infrastructure) assisted with the development of a 10-year management plan for the protected area (Evidence 1), while the Department of Environment provided on-the-ground assistance with IAS removals. During Year 3, with the project coming to a close, Cabinet, through the Premier, facilitated discussions between the Anguilla National Trust and Dart Group of Companies, one of Anguilla's major resort owners/developers, to support the design and construction of a Welcome and Interpretation Centre for Anguilla's protected area system, including Fountain National Park, which would be located on Crown lands across from Fountain National Park mainland island (Evidence 2).

The Anguilla National Trust (ANT) has been the main on-the-ground implementing partner, working with project partners and especially Wildlife Management International Ltd. (WMIL) to construct the mainland island fence and remove target IAS, as per WMIL's fencing and IAS operational plans (Evidence 3, Evidence 4). Since the successful removal of target IAS, completed in May 2024 (see Section 3), the ANT has maintained Fountain National Park as IAS-free through a comprehensive biosecurity monitoring programme. In addition, with advice and support from Re:Wild and **Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust**, the ANT has been operationalising endangered species reintroduction feasibility plans (Evidence 5) and the Fountain National Park (FNP) management plan, the latter of which was developed through a participatory management planning workshop facilitated by Fauna & Flora/Re:wild.

We also worked closely with **FNP neighbouring property owners and renters**, particularly ÀNI Private Resorts which purchased undeveloped land just east of FNP in March 2022. While neighbouring resort and property owners assisted with the development of a the FNP management plan, ÀNI Private Resorts also generously donated c.£80,500 to help the ANT secure an additional parcel of land that was integrated into the mainland island (see Figure 1b). This contribution was in addition to £150,000 that the ANT secured from the John Ellerman Fountain in March 2022 to purchase that parcel. The total cost of the parcel was c.£241,000, with the ANT raising additional funds to make up the difference and with the land purchase formally closing in February 2023.

Throughout the fence construction process, ANT maintained open communication lines with the properties directly bordering the Park, including ÀNI Private Resorts as well as **Zemi Beach Resort** (just west of FNP) and **Gwen's Reggae Bar and Grill** (just northeast of FNP) to discuss and coordinate work schedules to limit disruption during fence construction. ÀNI Private Resorts also assisted us in identifying companies that could help with preparing the land (clearing the Park's perimeter) to enable fence construction while we provided them with landscaping/rewilding advice for their property/resort development.

Other key stakeholders included the **tourism sector**, **civil society organisations**, and **youth groups** which also participated in site management planning, including identification of the FNP governance structure.

Throughout the project, we directly engaged the general public and policy makers (including GOA elected officials and the Governor's Office) through volunteer and training opportunities, field visits, valuable one-on-one discussions, and follow-up correspondence. Supported by a marketing/business plan, developed by Fauna & Flora's marketing and engagement specialist in collaboration with the ANT (Evidence 6), the ANT has also been conducting formal tours to the site, generating revenue while also raising awareness about and the profile of FNP and this project (see Section 3).

From project start, adopting a collaborative and participatory approach to project implementation was critical. Fountain National Park is considered one of Anguilla's natural and cultural heritage gems. Being open and inclusive was a critical factor to success.

3 Project Achievements

3.1 Outputs

This project included four 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 Fountain National Park are in place; and 4. National capacity to plan, manage, implement, and monitor national parks is increased, 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. *Output achieved.*

Prior to this project, we had completed limited biodiversity assessments, including bat surveys within Fountain Cavern (supported by DPLUS131), and Flower-Insect Timed surveys within the Park's boundaries (DPLUS131), and recorded the locations of a stand of Critically Endangered Anguilla bush *Rondeletia anguillensis* (supported by DPLUS086). Just prior to the launch of the project, we also conducted terrestrial bird and ground and tree lizard surveys using already-established monitoring protocols (Evidence 7) to provide a baseline before any project-related work was conducted.

New to this project, we undertook comprehensive flora surveys, establishing a plant list which identified native, non-native, and invasive non-native plant species, mapped particularly important plant species (e.g. Anguilla bush, orchids, cacti), and large tree species. At project end (March 2025), we also replicated bird and lizard surveys (Evidence 8), while noting that changes in diversity and abundance were not necessarily expected within such a short timeframe, given that the removal of invasive species (see below) was completed only less than a year prior. At the same time though, these survey results provide undeniably important information, allowing us to track and determine change over time, especially post-project. We did, however, record an interesting find in March 2025: for the first time in Anguilla in at least two decades, Johnston whistling frogs *Eleutherodactylus johnstonei* (three individuals) were recorded (visually and acoustically) inside Fountain Cavern. This is an exciting find for a species that we thought no longer existed on Anguilla.

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

Before submitting our application to Darwin Plus, we confirmed the presence of invasive alien species within FNP boundaries. Using a range of tools, including trail cameras, wax monitoring blocks and ink cards, we confirmed the presence of rodents. Through visual observations we also confirmed that green iguanas, cats, and livestock roamed freely through the Park. This Output therefore focused on removing those invasives, maintaining FNP as a biosecure area, and transforming it into a sanctuary for some of Anguilla's most at-risk species.

Adopting a logical but iterative approach, we completed operational plans focusing on how a pest-proof, storm-resistant fence could and would be constructed around FNP and how IAS would be best targeted and removed. Feasibility studies were drafted by WMIL and peer reviewed by all project partners as well as outside experts, after which both plans were operationalized (Evidence 3, Evidence 4).

Over a period of approximately four months (July through October 2023), a local construction team was trained by WMIL to construct an almost exclusively stainless steel 925m fence around 5ha of FNP, following specifications outlined within the operational plan. At the end of October 2023, following the fence's construction, the fence was put to its test: Hurricane Tammy, a

Category 1 hurricane, hit Anguilla. The fence withstood the 140km/hour winds with absolutely no damage. There was, however, some erosion at the base of the fence which the ANT and the fence construction team addressed immediately, refilling and packing all compromised areas with substrate, resecuring the fence.

The completion of the fence coincided with the period of time that Anguilla is at its most lush, and following consultation amongst all project partners, we decided that it would be best to postpone the rodent eradication to the start of the dry season (around March 2024) when alternative food sources would be less available and rodents would be more inclined to take the bait. Between October 2023 and March 2024, local partners instead focused efforts on searching for other IAS, including common green iguanas, cats, dogs, and livestock. Only one common green iguana was observed in March 2024, just as we launched our rodent eradication initiative. Though ANT staff and volunteers were unable to capture the iguana (which was seen next to the fence on the northern side of the park, the animal has not been observed since – either by staff or volunteers or on any of the trail cameras that were positioned along the perimeter soon after the sighting. We strongly believe that the iguana climbed the fence and escaped, as the fence is currently designed to keep animals out but larger animals, like iguanas, can escape by climbing up the fence's mesh and over a hood that overhangs to the outside of the fence.

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 meters. At 20 metres along each track, a bait point (no. bait points = 83) was created, with bait secured to each point using tying wire. Additional bait points (every 20 metres) were also created around the inside of the fence's perimeter (no. bait points = 45) as well as within the cave itself (no. bait points = 6). Monitoring points (=193) were also established along the fence's perimeter, the 20 metre x 20 metre interior grid, and within Fountain Cavern. We conducted a total of 22 bait checks and 15 monitoring checks throughout the eradication. Our last sign of bait take by a rodent was observed on 26 April – a mouse at a single bait point, but we continued to monitor the site until 21 May to ensure that all rodents had actually been removed, as per best practice. Since the end of the eradication initiative, ANT staff and volunteers have continued to monitor the site as part of a comprehensive and ongoing biosecurity programme (no. checks = 9) (Evidence 9). The site has remained free of target IAS.

As part of our restoration programme, local project staff have also been removing invasive plant species from the within the National Park mainland island, focusing our efforts on the widely-spread Kalanchoe (also called chandelier plant or mother of millions) *Kalanchoe delagoensis*. We have also received invaluable advice from Indigena Biosecurity International, a New Zealand-based agency with particular expertise in invasive plant management, on how to address some of the most pervasive IA plant species, including wild moses *Leucaena leucocephala*, with local partners establishing a plan for control post-project (cutting individual trees using chainsaws and applying glyphosate to stumps – a targeted and controlled approach to invasive plant removal).

With the eradication complete, we were able to move onto the next phase of the FNP mainland island initiative: the reintroduction of native and endangered species. Following peer-reviewed endangered species reintroduction plans (Evidence 5), we reintroduced Endangered lignum vitae *Guiacum officanale* (no. seedlings = 6, with 66% survival rate), culturally-important and nationally at-risk cocoplums *Chyrysobalanus icaco* (no. seedlings = 7), and Endangered Anguilla Bank racers *Alsophis rijgersmaei* (no. snakes = 13, including three reintroduced post-project) (Evidence 10).

One of our target species for reintroduction is the Critically Endangered Anguilla Bank skink *Spondylurus powelli*, a small reptile (Evidence 5) that ANT, Fauna & Flora, and Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust staff have only consistently recorded in one area on Anguilla: a rock wall dating back to the 1700s that lies just east of Anguilla's airstrip. Before we can reintroduce skinks to FNP, we will need to replicate the wall within the Park. We had initially started laying the foundation for the wall on the southwest corner of the Park, but following a site visit by Durrell's Director of Herpetology Mr. Matt Goetz, we decided that a different location, more to the Park's interior, may be a better site. We also understand that the Government of Anguilla will be expanding the airport runway, a project that will unfortunately require removing the rock wall. We have been in discussion with both the current land owner and the Air and Sea Ports Authority about the potential for removing at least a portion of the wall and reconstructing it within FNP.

Both parties are supportive and the ANT was able to secure additional funds through Fauna & Flora to support this work (Evidence 10). ANT has also had preliminary discussions with the contractor responsible for the airport redevelopment project and they have indicated interest in providing in-kind support to support this reconstruction and species translocation effort, offering to assist with the moving of rocks and manpower to rebuild the wall. Durrell has also provided advice on how best to prepare the relocation site (ensuring that there is an insect food source for the skinks before they are translocated), how best to take apart the existing wall, establish a drift net around the wall as its being de-constructed (to keep skinks from escaping), and how to reconstruct it within FNP, and how to secure it to make it predator-proof against racers, at least until the skink population becomes established. This work is currently on-going and is expected to be completed by the end of the 2025/2026 financial year.

Through another DPLUS-funded project (DPLUS210), local project partners are now working with Re:wild to further strengthen biosecurity at the site. AI-trained cameras, able to detect ten different types of invasive species and connected to mobile and satellite systems to enable the transmission of images of any detected IAS directly to our local team's cell phones will be installed later this year, adding yet another layer of protection to this incredibly important site. Furthermore, in preparation of a reintroduction of Lesser Antillean iguanas *Iguana delicatissima* back to the mainland, the FNP fence is currently being retrofitted with electrical wiring. As noted previously, with an outward facing hood, the fence prevents IAS from climbing over the fence from the outside, but with no similar structure to the inside, animals could technically climb out. The electrical wire will transmit a low voltage current whenever touched, causing the animal to jump away from/off of the fence when they come into contact with it. This low-cost, easy-to-maintain option does not add any significant weight to the fence and does not compromise it's integrity, making it an ideal retrofit.

By the end of this project, we have achieved our expected output: Fountain National Park is the Caribbean's first mainland island, free of target invasive species, and providing sanctuary to some of Anguilla's most endangered species.

Output 3. Effective and sustainable structures and tools for management in place. *Output achieved.*

Fountain National Park represents Anguilla's first protected area ever to be established, created and designated in the early 1980s. At the same time, however, a management body was never designated and the ANT has assumed the role, to a degree, due to the nature of its work. As part of this project, formalising the governance structure was considered critical to the management of the site both in terms of ensuring its long-term protection as well as to support visitor engagement experiences, revenue generation, and (re)investment of funds into sustainable and meaningful conservation action.

Through this project, we have developed two key documents to support management/operation: a ten-year site-based management plan (Evidence 1) and a supporting marketing/business plan (Evidence 6) which identifies and defines current and potential revenue sources especially as it relates to visitor/entrance fees. Both plans are currently being implemented, with some cost adjustments being made to the proposed entrance fee, at least until other infrastructure is available. The ANT, facilitated by the GOA, entered into discussions with Dart Group of Companies, the owners of one of Anguilla's main hotels (Four Seasons) who also recently purchased one of the hotels neighbouring FNP (Zemi Beach Hotel). Discussions have centred on Dart Group of Companies constructing a welcome and interpretation centre for Anguilla's protected areas (terrestrial and marine), to be located across from FNP (Evidence 2). The facility would be used a central location for education and outreach as well as merchandise sales. As part of the 2025 budget review, GOA requested ANT to submit a preliminary operational budget for the centre.

For the duration of the project, ANT has been engaging closely with the Government of Anguilla on the plans for FNP and its future. Plans were in place for ANT to present these detailed plans to the Cabinet, along with the ideas around tourism study. This was not realised because there was a general election in Anguilla and in February 2025, a new government administration was elected. An inception meeting between the newly elected Minister responsible for environment and the ANT was held during which project updates were provided followed by a more in-depth conversation regarding management responsibility and the ANT's role, with a recognition by the

Minister that the ANT is best positioned to be the lead management agency. The Minister indicated that he would discuss with Cabinet and continue the conversation with the ANT.

Noting the provisional support from the present administration, ANT also hosted a visit from the Director of Biodiversity Ecosystems and Ecosystems Services from the OECS Commission (Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States) in March 2025. This was used as an opportunity to not only showcase the work being done in Anguilla, but also to highlight the importance of rewilding and finding solutions for managing endangered species at the OECS Council of Ministers for Environmental Sustainability (COMES) meeting held in June 2025.

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

Raising capacity and awareness have been integral components of this project. Over the course of the three years, over 930 individuals participated in guided tours of the national park during which the value and impact of habitat restoration and species protection were showcased. We also engaged young people through summer camps (no. individuals = 31) and our afterschool programme where 45 children not only visited FNP but also assisted with on-the-ground conservation activities, including rewilding the site with native seedlings, assisting with biodiversity surveys, and establishing our IAS monitoring grid. Press releases circulated via social media reached at least 4574 individuals/accounts (Facebook/Instagram) (but potentially as many as 10,793 individuals/accounts) (Evidence 11). We also took advantage of national and international workshops and seminars to raise the profile of this project and were contacted by colleagues in St. Eustatius regarding fencing procurement and lessons learned as they explore options for constructing a similar fence the Dutch Overseas Territory. In June 2025, ten colleagues from across the region (and world), including Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, The Bahamas, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Jersey will be conducting a three-day exchange to learn more about the FNP mainland island and the island restoration work that project partners and supporting agencies (including Durrell) have been undertaking in Anguilla. It will also provide an opportunity for ANT staff to learn more about conservation priorities and actions of other leading environmental agencies and to learn by sharing.

We also took advantage of national and international workshops and seminars to raise the profile of this project, presenting our work to 183 small luxury cruise ship passengers (through nine presentations conducted over a period of four months) as part of a bespoke, curated experience, as well as to the Government of Anguilla Cabinet and Executive Council (annually between 2023 and 2025), ANT members at the 2022, 2023, and 2024 ANT Annual General Meetings (reaching a total of 181 individuals). Three hundred individuals were reached through 11 other national and international meetings and conferences. In total, 641 individuals were reached through 25 presentations. All of our outreach activities were guided by a public awareness and outreach strategy that continues to be relevant (and followed) post-project (Evidence 11).

Beyond outreach, raising national capacity of our lead in-country partner as well as ANT members, supports, and the general public was essential (Evidence 12). The fence construction team (no. individuals = 5 males) was a local company, with fencers initially trained by WMIL. The construction of the fence, which was completed over a period of four months, required on-the-ground problem solving and trouble-shooting, weighing and considering options and essentially learning by doing: this type of fence, made almost entirely of stainless steel has never been constructed before; this is a world-first. This team is now fully capable and has transitioned from a fence construction team to a fence maintenance team, assisting the ANT with on-going monitoring and maintenance. In addition, by end of the project, 23 individuals (15 female, 8 male) were trained and actively engaged in biodiversity, biosecurity, and IAS removal protocols.

3.2 Outcome

The intended Outcome of this project was the establishment of the UKOTs first “mainland island” through government and civil society partnership, delivering sustainable benefits to critically threatened biodiversity and providing a source of inspiration to Anguillians and internationally. We identified four main indicators to help us measure success, including creating a space of at least 5 hectares – the mainland island, permanently free from harmful IAS as evidenced by the monitoring of the site and its biodiversity (Outcome indicator 0.1), an improvement in FNP

management effectiveness (Outcome indicator 0.2), future-proofing endangered and endemic species through translocations or at least the development of reintroduction plans to support population protection and growth (Outcome indicator 0.3), and the endorsement of management plans by key stakeholders to ensure long-term delivery and impact (Outcome 0.4).

We are pleased to report that we have achieved our intended Outcome. Through this project, we created the Caribbean's and the UKOT's first mainland island. FNP is now a 5-hectare secure space, surrounded by a pest-proof, storm-resistant stainless steel fence, from which target IAS have been successfully removed (Evidence 9). A comprehensive biosecurity monitoring programme, led by local lead partner and implemented by ANT staff and volunteers have prevented IAS reincursion. A carefully implemented fence monitoring and maintenance programme is on-going, with any potential fence and/or site weaknesses identified and immediately addressed by a well-trained and competent fencing team. Native biodiversity already found on-site, including a range of terrestrial resident and migratory birds, ground and tree lizards, a frog that we thought was no longer present on Anguilla, a healthy and extensive stand of ground orchids, and over one hundred Critically Endangered Anguilla bush *Rondeletia anguillensis* shrubs. With the site secure from IAS, we not only developed peer-reviewed reintroduction plans for the Anguilla Bank racer and Anguilla Bank skink (Evidence 5), we have translocated 11 racers into the site and outplanted six lignum vitae seedlings (66% survival rate) and seven cocoplum seedlings (100% survival rate) (Evidence 10). We are working with the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew (Kew) to determine whether we could also secure a recently (re)discovered endemic plant *Eugenia walkerae* to FNP, in preparation the ANT currently is holding and caring for six seedlings in their nursery. Additional funds have been secured and new partnerships have been established to support the reintroduction of Critically Endangered skinks to the site, with Durrell providing invaluable advice and assistance to ensure habitat is constructed and individuals are collected and translocated following best practice. This work has been guided by a ten-year stakeholder-informed, evidence-based management plan (Evidence 1).

The mainland island, however, is not just a place for biodiversity. It is also a space for people to visit, enjoy, and appreciate. A marketing and business plan (Evidence 6), informed by knowledge, awareness, perceptions and willingness to pay study (Evidence 6), has identified potential revenue generation streams and new partnership with tour marketing and booking company, Roverd, which is working with the ANT to establish an on-line tour booking system to streamline visitor-related operations, linking their on-line booking platform to the ANT's webpage.

The success of our mainland island is of interest to range of government and non-government agencies around the region. In June the ANT will be hosting individuals from six different countries, where the FNP mainland island will be front-and-centre of discussions and site visits. St. Eustatius National Parks is using the FNP mainland island framework to support their own fundraising efforts to replicate the fence at their main port of entry. Nationally, the Sandy Ground community in Anguilla has similarly requested whether the Road Bay Port could be fenced with a pest-proof, storm-resistant fence to further enhance a biosecurity programme that they are currently implementing with the ANT and WMIL (DPLUS212).

3.3 Monitoring of assumptions

Outcome and Output level assumptions for this project were monitored throughout this three-year project.

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) was a full project partner and was directly engaged in project implementation. Although the primary role of the Government was higher level, issuing approval, conserving recommendations, and facilitating the implementation of the project on crown land, government departments (including the Department of Lands and Surveys) worked directly with the ANT to clearly delineate legal boundaries of the Park to ensure that the fence would not encroach on private parcels, facilitated additional dialogue with neighbouring stakeholders regarding the construction of the fence and its purpose, and established networks and partnerships with an investor to explore and support additional investment into the National Park through the form of an interpretation and welcome centre. The Government of Anguilla also requested the ANT to

submit a budget to support the on-going operations of such a centre once constructed (Evidence 2).

Assumptions 2. Stakeholders continue to be interested and willing to be involved in FNP management. As part of this project, we developed 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 government, nongovernment and private sector stakeholder planning meeting during which the framework (including priority targets, strategies, proposed governance structure, and implementing partners) were developed (Evidence 1). In February 2025, following national elections, a new Government administration was elected and inception meetings with the Minister responsible for environment were promising, with the Minister sharing the management plan with the rest of his Cabinet and recommending ANT as the lead implementing/site management agency.

Since project start, we have tried to be as inclusive as possible, creating opportunities for direct engagement in project implementation with a range of stakeholders. In terms of on-the-ground involvement in FNP, 25 individuals (in addition to ANT staff) actively assisted with IAS removals, biosecurity monitoring, and endangered species reintroductions (Evidence 12). With on-the-ground conservation management being required long-term (and in perpetuity), stakeholder participation is not project bound, but rather reflects the ANT's approach to management.

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, involving 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 listened to and integrated the values and perspectives of young people. The management planning process, including approaches to fence construction, IAS removals, and native species reintroductions, was evidence-based, considering biodiversity and climate data to future-proof conservation actions (Evidence 3, Evidence 4, Evidence 5).

Assumption 4. Field activities can be rescheduled if extreme weather events affect Anguilla during the project period. Anguilla was not affected by any major hurricanes during the course of project. The island, however, was affected by Category 1 Hurricane Tammy in October 2023, shortly after the fence was erected. Although the base of the fence experienced some erosion, all compromised areas were fixed by the fence construction team.

As noted previously, the fence was not completed until October 2023 which corresponds to the Anguilla wet season. During this season, seed and fruit production by plants leads to an abundant alternative food source for some IAS but especially rodents. To maximise potential for success, we postponed the rodent eradication to the first quarter of 2024 (March), when the island was drier and rodents were more inclined to eat bait as their primary food source. The IAS eradication was successfully completed despite the five-month delay.

Assumption 5. Field activities can be rescheduled if COVID-19 continues to affect international travel. COVID-19 was not 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 indicated that visitors were willing to pay to access FNP. This survey informed a more comprehensive business and marketing plan which has been implemented by local partners, although with some adjustments in proposed pricing with an expectation that the visitor fee will increase as additional amenities (including a welcome and interpretation centre) are provided. The ANT has made a conscious decision to currently not charge residents to access the site, especially school children, instead recommending donations be made to assist with on-going site maintenance costs. This decision was made to ensure accessibility and to promote awareness and connection.

Assumption 7. Trained expertise remains in Anguilla. All ANT staff have benefitted from training through this project. Training opportunities were extended to members of the public with 23 individuals (15 female, 8 male) trained and actively engaged in biodiversity, biosecurity, and IAS removal protocols. The fence construction team, which started as three individuals grew to five over the course of the construction period. The fence construction team has now transitioned

into the fence maintenance team and they are contracted by the ANT to maintain FNP's grounds in addition to the fence. While we cannot prevent key persons from leaving Anguilla, we have increased overall national capacity to engage in this type of restoration and species conservation work by training as many interested individuals as possible and to be as inclusive as possible (Evidence 12).

Assumption 8. Improved knowledge leads to improved behaviours to conserve biodiversity. Our outreach efforts have focused on increasing awareness about the project, the site, and habitat restoration in general, as well as on providing experiential learning opportunities, directly engaging individuals on site and within our conservation interventions, creating connections with nature, and building vested interest in FNP (Evidence 11). This information and awareness had tangible impacts, with a number of individuals reporting sightings of non-native green iguanas in the area surrounding FNP and others reporting sightings of endangered Anguilla Bank racers so that they can be translocated into FNP. Conversations instigated by members of the public surrounding the negative impacts of invasive vervet monkeys led to a feasibility study to permanently remove the species across the island (supported by ANT's DPLUS212). The construction company responsible for the airport redevelopment project reached out to ANT to explore how a closer partnership could be forged to support species and habitat conservation within and outside of protected spaces. These are just a few examples of how conversations about IAS management and native biodiversity conservation are becoming more mainstream as on-the-ground conservation action and successes become more visible.

4 Contribution to Darwin Plus Programme Objectives

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

This project directly supported Anguilla's ability to achieve long-term outcomes for terrestrial environmental 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.

Over the course of three years, our project contributed to:

- Implementing the *National Environmental Management Strategy* by identifying and addressing the impacts of IAS through the permanent removal of target animal species and the control of target plant species from within FNP.
- Implementing the *Anguilla Environment Charter* by restoring FNP and protecting native, endemic, and endangered species by addressing IAS threats, creating a physically protected space for these species to survive and thrive and into which they have been translocated.
- Implementing the *Anguilla Invasive Species Strategy* by developing and implementing operational plans to support the control and removal of target invasive plant and animal species from within FNP and maintaining the National Park as a biosecure space post-invasive animal eradication.
- Implementing the *Convention on Biological Diversity* by promoting and supporting the planning and implementation of ecosystem restoration activities and by increasing public awareness, support, and involvement in habitat restoration and species protection.
- 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 Fountain National Park, reducing the impact of IAS within this area, and reducing natural habitat degradation, loss of biodiversity, and the immediate protection of threatened species, including nationally-important and sub-regional endemic species (cocoplum, lignum vitae, Anguilla bush, and Anguilla Bank racer).

4.2 Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

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	

Day-to-day management of this collaborative project was the responsibility of a mixed gender team (75% female, 25% male) comprising Fauna & Flora Lead Mr Julio Bernal (assisted by Ms Arica Hill), ANT Project Lead Ms Farah Mukhida, Project Coordinator, Dr Louise Soanes, and Steering Committee Members Ms Anthea Ipinson (Government of Anguilla) Dr Jenny Daltry (Fauna & Flora, Re:wild), Ms Elizabeth Bell (WMIL), and Mr Matt Goetz (Durrell).

Over the course of the project, the project team directly engaged 95 individuals (55% female, 45% male) through surveys, management planning exercises, training, and volunteer opportunities. In addition, 8 ANT staff (62% female, 48% male) benefitted from project-related training opportunities. We believe that both genders were well-represented in this project, as decision-makers and beneficiaries of training and learning opportunities. Ethnicity and age were equally well-represented, based on Anguilla's population demographics.

Although the project may have come to an end, our work continues, and we will endeavor to work towards equal and inclusive representation as we implement management and species conservation action plans.

5 Monitoring and evaluation

Over the course of three-year project, we did not make any major changes to the project design or the logframe. Monitoring and evaluation followed the plan prescribed in our proposal with FFI (Mr Julio Bernal) and ANT (Ms Farah Mukhida) taking the lead on ensuring that the project was on schedule and monitored. The project was overseen by a PSC, comprising principals from each project partner (Fauna & Flora, ANT, GOA, WMIL). Continuous M&E was undertaken on at least a quarterly basis, but often more frequently, through regular email and WhatsApp correspondences, and more formally on a bi-annual basis when formal project reports were being developed and finalised. Both Fauna & Flora and ANT shared responsibility for keeping records of activities, outputs, and indicators as presented in the project logframe.

The Fauna & Flora Project Lead reviewed quarterly financial reports with the ANT Project Co-Lead. ANT included project indicators into their quarterly and annual financial and performance reports to the Government of Anguilla. This M&E system was practical, straightforward, and easy to implement, allowing for consistent and timely tracking of project progress and outcomes. The system's streamlined nature also facilitated adaptive management, allowing the team to identify and address minor deviations or challenges (e.g., timing of the rodent eradication) efficiently without necessitating major structural changes to project design or the logframe.

In addition to M&E of project administration, we also monitored biodiversity indicators, including insects, birds, and lizards to establish baselines and to create the framework to assess change (recovery) over time (see Section 3, Evidence 8). The ten-year FNP management plan created another level for M&E, with short-, medium-, and long-term targets and indicators as well as roles and responsibilities of lead and supporting partners identified.

A mid-term review of the project was undertaken as required by Defra/Darwin Plus (Evidence 13), but an external review at end of project was not commissioned.

6 Lessons learnt

This collaborative project marked a significant milestone as the first of its kind in a UKOT and the wider region. It aimed to replicate successful conservation strategies used by many small island developing states on their offshore islands: the removal of IAS to secure long-term benefits for native biodiversity, including within Anguilla where rodents have been successfully removed from seven of its offshore islands. As with Anguilla's previous efforts, we drew on our longstanding relationships with all project partners – we have been working together for more than a decade to restore habitat, protect species, and build local capacity. These existing relationships meant that partners were already aware of each other's interests, strengths, and needs which allowed for streamlined and efficient project workflow.

While all project partners have had extensive experience in IAS removal, biosecurity, and site-based management planning, establishing a mainland island constructed entirely of stainless steel (another first) comes with its own set challenges that could not have been predicted. The entire fence construction process was a learning experience for ANT, WMIL, and our local fence construction team. As noted in our Year 2 report, fence construction took longer than expected for a range of reasons, including the difficulty in sourcing stainless steel fencing fasteners, the incredibly and surprisingly dense limestone substrate which was far more difficult to drill into than expected (to allow for fence post installation), and the fact that this has actually never been done before which meant that the local fencing team had no choice but to learn by doing and to creatively troubleshoot when necessary. The mainland island was also more expensive to construct than we first envisioned, and we were fortunate to secure additional funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Re:wild, and Fauna & Flora to offset overspend.

We have learned from this experience though 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 also have a better idea of the amount of materials that are needed to put the fence together (especially rivets, self-tapping screws).

Post-construction, we are also much more cognizant of the amount of maintenance required to ensure that the fence and surrounding grounds are biosecure, including maintaining two-metres to either side of the fence clear of vegetation. Although Anguilla is a relatively dry island, vegetation sprouts, grows, and spreads rapidly when it does rain. Clearing of vegetation needs to be conducted far more often than expected and while the fence is stainless steel, the harsh sea spray still affects the fencing, requiring rivets and screws to be changed often. ANT has kept the fence construction team on standby and they now help with FNP site and grounds maintenance. These costs are being absorbed within the ANT's operational budget (with revenue generated from tours being reinvested into site maintenance), but they have noted that it is far more expensive than they had expected. ANT has also been advising any agency considering constructing this type of fence to carefully assess and embed these operational costs in their budgets beforehand.

We are already sharing these lessons learned, with cost estimates (construction and post-construction) and construction methods being shared with colleagues in Barbados where the construction of a similar (but smaller) fence is scheduled to be constructed on similar terrain, as well as with colleagues in St. Eustatius where they are considering options to create a biosecure fence around their port facilities. Post-project, in June 2025, the ANT hosted representatives from six countries from the region (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent

and the Grenadines, The Bahamas), linking island restoration efforts on the offshore cays to the Anguilla mainland and showcasing the value of FNP for protecting habitats and species and promoting conservation efforts to the wider public. Closer to home, the Sandy Ground community has asked project partners if a similar fence could also be installed around the port facility in their own community as they work with ANT and WMIL to transform Road Salt Pond and their village into Anguilla's first biosecure community (DPLUS212).

As with many other Anguilla-based projects that have required management planning, adopting an inclusive, open, and transparent process to develop a management framework for FNP was essential to securing stakeholder buy-in as well as to creating a management plan that reflected the unique historical, cultural, and ecological contexts of Fountain Cavern and Fountain National Park. The importance of stakeholder involvement was highlighted earlier this year when there was a change in government administration following national elections. With established consensus on management focal themes, objectives, and actions as well as the proposed governance structure, including formally vesting FNP to the ANT, conversations with the new administration did not require any major or intensive lobbying efforts; the new Minister responsible for environment recognised the value and inclusive nature of the management plan as well as ANT's track record in site-based management, and agreed to submit the management plan and governance framework to Cabinet as presented.

7 Actions taken in response to Annual Report reviews

Based on comments received on our Annual Report for Year 1 of the project, we suitably responded to the Reviewers' comments (related to possible non-native green vervet monkey invasion, point counts of terrestrial birds, willingness to pay options for park entrance fees, Fauna & Flora's Learning Management System).

We received five additional comments to address based on Year 2 Annual report including:

Review Comment 1. FIT survey data is included, but insects are not identified beyond broad species groups such as 'other flies', 'butterflies' and 'small insects'. Is it possible to undertake more detailed surveys that re more species specific, and hence more informative? The ANT is a partner on two other insect-specific DPLUS project (DPLUS203, DPLUS216), with the former (led by UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology) focusing on moths and the latter (led by BugLife) focusing more widely on all insects species.

An automated monitoring of insects systems has been established within Fountain National Park as part of the DPLUS203 project, with moth data being collected since October 2024 and through a monitoring system using AI to help identify moth species. Over 300,000 images have so far been uploaded to a central database, with AI-trained software now processing the data. Results of this monitoring system will help ANT to better understand moth diversity and abundance within restored areas, including Fountain National Park. An iNaturalist project has also been established to facilitate a citizen science approach to data collection.

As part of the DPLUS216 project, ANT and the Environment Unit-Department of Natural Resources have been using a variety of methods to collect insect samples which are analysed by the BugLife team. Insect samples have been collected from within Fountain National Park using pit fall traps and well as nets. Though not an insect, through these surveys an Underwood spectacled tegu *Squamata gymnophthalmidae* was collected and while the species has been known to occur on Anguilla, its presence was not formally recorded/confirmed. A short paper on this finding (with ANT staff being lead authors) was published in Natura Somogyiensis. Analysis of samples is currently on-going with results to be shared through DPLUS216.

Review Comment 2. The fence does not continue along the shoreline; is there a risk that invasive species might enter the reserve along this boundary? And if so, how will the project mitigate against this? The mainland island fence completely surrounds 5 hectares of Fountain National Park. The fence, however was not constructed along the shoreline, rather it is setback from the shoreline, protected by approximately 20 metres of vegetation; there is no break in the fence – it is continuous and fully encloses the 5 hectares. This therefore means that there

is no associated/additional risk of IAS entering the park from this side (north side) of the fence. Setting back the fence from the northern shoreline was intentional as the vegetation helps to protect the fence from salt spray. While the fence is stainless steel, with consistent salty sea spray it would still be vulnerable to rusting and corrosion. Setting the fence back, limits the rust risk and should prolong the life of the fence.

Review Comment 3. In the Application, the project team comment on maintaining four offshore cays free from green iguanas. The current report comments that "green iguanas may be present [in FNP] but difficult to detect". The project does not discuss how it will determine definitely whether these reptiles are present, and if so, it is not clear when they will be removed. As mentioned in Section 3, a single invasive green iguana was observed within the fenced perimeter, along the northern fence line, at the very start of the rodent eradication programme. The fence, however, is created to keep animals out, rather than in, and we are very confident that the animal has climbed out of the fenced area. To date, over 30 monitoring visits have been undertaken and there have been no signs of iguanas (no signs of individuals, scats, foot/tail marks, or foraging activity). As part of another Re:wild/ANT-led Darwin Plus project (DPLUS210), AI-trained biosecurity cameras will be strategically installed within the fenced perimeter. These cameras will be trained to detect IAS, including green iguanas. In the unlikely event that a green iguana remains on site, the ANT team will search the entire area and physically remove the animal. The ANT team is skilled at iguana capture, with almost 10 years' experience in undertaking this type of work.

Review Comment 4. The project mentions that 274 people visited FNP and 34 visited as part of camp and after-school experiences – does the project have any feedback from visitors on their experience? By end of project, the number of visitors to FNP has increased to over 1000 individuals (including 76 of the ANT's after school programme and camp participants). At the end of each tour, ANT staff verbally check with guests about their thoughts on their experience; no negative experiences have been reported. At the same time, we note that formal exit/experience surveys were not conducted as part of this project or tours, although we note that a simple feedback form, perhaps linked to a QR code, could help us better capture visitor's thoughts and perceptions and this is planned for when the welcome and interpretation centre is constructed and where WiFi will be widely available.

Review Comment 5. More detail on the project's invasive plant control programme and ongoing control after the project ends would be helpful. The invasive plant control programme is relatively simple at the moment, focusing on one of the more pervasive plants, Kalanchoe, which is removed from the site whenever it is seen and destroyed through a controlled burn. ANT is currently in discussion with Indigena regarding the formal development of invasive plant removal protocols, building on (and learning from) the Environment Unit's experiences through their DPLUS125 invasive plant project which initially proposed invasive plant eradications but later scaled down to control programme. The ANT is committed to continued management and monitoring of FNP and to the implementation of the ten-year management plan that was developed in 2024, including on-going control of invasive plant species. In reality, this represents a commitment in perpetuity given the nature of invasive plant management and biosecurity monitoring and response.

8 Risk Management

No new risks specific to this project arose and we did not need to make any significant adaptations to project design.

9 Scalability and Durability

Through this project we were able to establish the UKOT's and the region's first mainland island, successfully removing target invasive animals, controlling priority invasive plants species, protecting stands of critically endangered Anguilla bush, and reintroducing three species to the protected area (lignum vitae, cocoplums, Anguilla Bank racers). This work, however, marks only the beginning. As evidenced within Anguilla's other restored offshore islands, maintaining these

restored sites as sanctuaries for native biodiversity requires management and monitoring in perpetuity: the threat of IAS reinvasion remains and vigilance is essential to prevent – or address – re-incursions. Fortunately, this is not new to any of the project team members and the ANT has over a dozen years' experience in maintaining restored sites as IAS-free through intensive and comprehensive biosecurity monitoring, following best practice guidelines established by WMIL.

The ANT team has been involved in (and has been the in-country lead for) all of Anguilla's island restoration initiatives. This project, however, represents the first time that the organisation has led on eradication work, applying the operational frameworks developed by WMIL and with WMIL providing assistance and advice remotely. Through this project, ANT has transitioned from supporting and assisting with IAS eradications and habitat restoration to leading on this work, with critical capacity and in-depth knowledge having been developed and positioning ANT to adopt a more leadership-based role both nationally and regionally. The same can also be said for the locally-based fence construction team: they are now the experts in pest-proof, storm-resistant fence construction in Anguilla and the region, with regional counterparts reaching out for advice and assistance. This is exactly what we wish to accomplish through these collaborative projects: while Fauna & Flora has formally been the lead agency, one of our goals is to increase in-country capacity, confidence, and agency; we believe that we have succeeded. At the same time, we also recognise the value of partnerships, networks, and collaboration and will continue to support our partners in whichever way we can as they work to achieve their conservation goals and objectives.

Our work has also been guided by evidence-based, climate-informed management and species conservation action plans (including those previously developed through DPLUS158). 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, establishes a governance structure, and identifies partner implementers. The plan is supported by a tourism/business marketing plan which recognises that long-term success requires financial investment and sustainability post-project.

As this project comes to an end, Fauna & Flora transitions its role from lead to supporting partner, along with WMIL, Re:wild, and Durrell, allowing ANT, GOA, and other national stakeholders to implement plans, assess impact, and make necessary management decisions. Our relationship with national agencies, however, does not end with the project: our partnership transcends projects and we will continue to work with and support ANT and GOA in their conservation efforts. As the on-island lead agency in on-the-ground habitat restoration and species conservation, ANT is committed to the management of FNP. Protected area management is a formal work programme of the ANT and associated costs (including staffing) are embedded in their operational budget which, for 2025, has been approved by the GOA. With the GOA (through the Department of Natural Resources-Environment Unit) currently reviewing and updating their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, protected area management and IAS prevention, eradication, and control have been included as priority targets and themes, creating a centralised framework under which work started and undertaken through this project can be clearly justified and continued.

10 Darwin Plus Identity

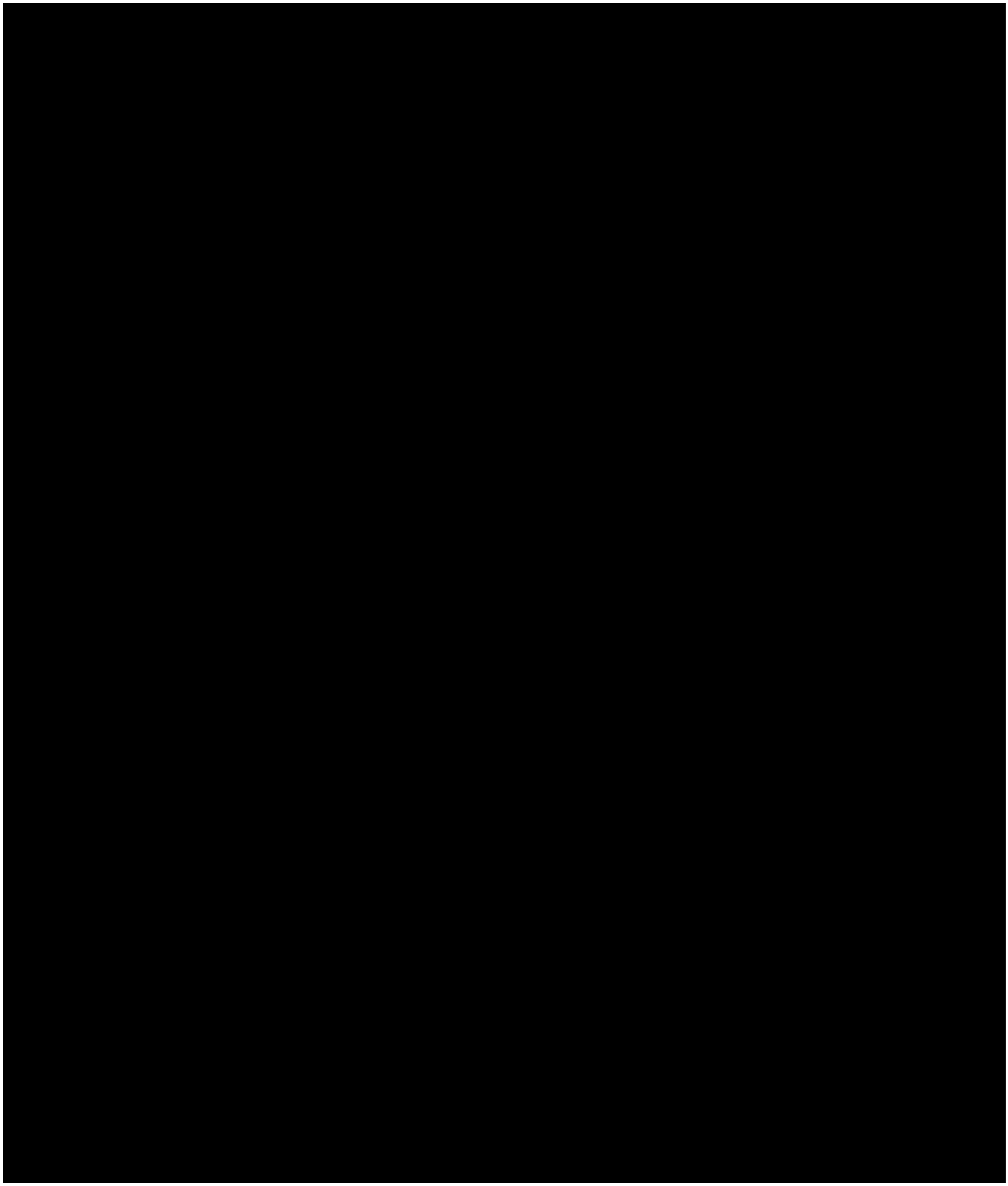
The Darwin Plus Initiative has been recognised on all materials produced through this project including press releases, social media posts, presentations, and reports (Evidence 11) and has been recognised as a distinct project being conducted by Fauna & Flora and our partners.

Having linked this project direct to Darwin Plus in all of our public awareness activities, we believe that there is some understanding of the Initiative 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 was one of several high-profile DPLUS project in Anguilla.

All 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, on the ANT listserv (over 150 subscribers mention Darwin Plus as the project

funder and include the DPLUS logo. ANT also circulates information, especially announcements regarding project events via WhatsApp (widely as status updates and more directly through their group chat, with 98 members). These announcements (usually infographics) also include the DPLUS logo.

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	[redacted]			
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items				
Others				
TOTAL	£58,936.00	£57,363.74		

Staff employed (Name and position)	Cost (£)
Julio Bernal - Project Manager	[redacted]
James Crockett - Sustainable Tourism	
Marisa Victor - Programme Finance Officer	
Farah Mukhida - ANT Project Co-Leader	
Louise Soanes - ANT Project Coordinator	
Devon Carter - ANT Research Assistant	
Giovanni Hughes - ANT Biosecurity Officer	
Kimberly Gumbs - ANT Administrative Manager	
TOTAL	

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

Capital items – description	Capital items – cost (£)
TOTAL	[redacted]

Other items – description	Other items – cost (£)

Audit costs Consumables for IAS eradication and biosecurity Public awareness materials Office supplies	[redacted]
TOTAL	

12.2 Additional funds or in-kind contributions secured

Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project	Total Yr3
Anguilla National Trust	[redacted]
Private Individual Donation to FFI	
Re:wild	
Government of Anguilla	
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

This project represented excellent value for money. This project brought together a group of individuals and stakeholders including international conservation organisations (Fauna & Flora, Re:wild, Durrell), the ANT, GOA, the Anguilla private sector and civil society organisations, drawing on local and institutional knowledge and expertise. In addition to enhancing existing relationship (for example amongst Fauna & Flora, Re:wild, WMIL, Durrell, and ANT), we also built stronger partnerships with the private sector.

With just under £500,000, we established the very first mainland island in the Caribbean (and the UKOTs) and the first ever constructed entirely of stainless steel. We created and are applying a comprehensive site-based management plan, completed and have begun implementation of species reintroduction plans, have opened Fountain National Park as a visitor attraction showcasing Anguilla's rich cultural and ecological heritage.

We were able to leverage DPLUS158 funding to secure an additional c.£299,000 which allowed us to secure an additional half acre of land which was integrated into the mainland island and offset fencing material costs. Fountain National Park has also been identified by the GOA as a priority site for additional investment by corporations interested in investing Anguilla: Dart Group of Companies was directed to Fountain National Park as a site of interest with the Company now working directly with GOA and ANT to develop a protected areas interpretation and welcome centre, across from the FNP mainland island.

All capital equipment purchased through this project (laptop, mainland island fencing) have remained on Anguilla with our national lead partner.

13 Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

No other comments.

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

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

Project summary	Progress and achievements
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"	Fountain National Park is considered one of Anguilla's most important natural and cultural treasures. Despite its importance, prior to this project, management was limited. Through this project, we developed a management plan for the site through an inclusive, participatory process, transformed 5 hectares of the Park into a mainland island, and developed and began implementing 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, Fountain National Park is being recognised by residents of and visitors to Anguilla as well as GOA Ministers and policy makers as an important area for biodiversity and people. There is also a clear desire to replicate this work – both in Anguilla and across the region, with calls being made by the Sandy Ground community to establish a pest-proof fence around one of Anguilla's busiest ports and with other Caribbean islands looking to FNP as a successful example of a mainland island.
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	
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	Target IAS species were successfully removed from five hectares of FNP, following the construction of a pest-proof, storm-resistant fence. The site has been maintained IAS-free (rodents, iguanas, livestock, cats, dogs) since their eradication, as evidenced through routine checks of the site, and invasive plants are being controlled through an on-going monitoring and removal programme.
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)	Adopting a participatory approach a ten-year evidence-based, climate-informed management plan was developed for FNP, which is now being implemented with ANT leading. The management plan identifies FNP values, threats, priority action areas, management strategies, and indicators of success. Management actions have included the establishment of FNP as a mainland island (through the construction of the pest-proof, storm-resistant fence), the development and implementation of a biodiversity monitoring programme, the removal of target invasive animal species (rodents, iguanas, livestock, cats, dogs), the control of target invasive plant species (mother of millions), the establishment, implementation of a biosecurity programme, the reintroduction of three target native and at-risk species (lignum vitae, cocoplum, Anguilla Bank racers), and the establishment of a

	trail system for visitors. Preparatory work is also being undertaken to enable the reintroduction of Critically Endangered Anguilla Bank skinks, with financial and in-kind support secured from an Arcadia-sponsored Conservation Leadership Programme grant and the private sector.
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 *Spondylurus powelli* and Endangered Anguilla Bank racers *Alsophis rijgersmaei* were completed with the latter being implemented. Twelve Anguilla Bank racers have so far been re-introduced to the site (including two post-project). In addition, six lignum vitae *Guaiacum officinale* (survival rate: 66%) and seven cocoplum *Chrysobalanus icaco* (survival rate: 100%) have been outplanted within the national park. Funding has been secured to support the translocation of Anguilla Bank skinks, which require the construction of habitat (a stone wall) prior to (re)introduction of the animal.
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 FNP management plan includes a governance structure for the protected area: the ANT is identified as the lead management authority, supported by a multi-stakeholder technical advisory committee. The management plan was presented to Cabinet by the Minister responsible for environment, with the Minister supporting/endorsing the proposed management framework.
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	Biodiversity and biosecurity monitoring plans established in Year 1. See Section 3.1, Evidence 7
Output indicator 1.2 Comparative key biodiversity assessments of FNP completed by end of Q3Y1 and Q3Y3	Baseline biodiversity assessments (terrestrial birds, lizards, bats, insects, plants) were conducted in Year 1. Insect assessments were undertaken quarterly while terrestrial bird and bat surveys were replicated in Year 3. Bat numbers were noted to have declined substantially since 2015 (coinciding with the placement of a grate over Fountain Cavern's opening that prevented bats from easily entering and leaving the cave). An informal count conducted just post-project recorded only 6 individuals (Antillean fruit eating bat *Brachyphylla cavernum*). Plant surveys were not repeated as the IAS eradication (animals) was completed less than a year ago. See Section 3.1, Evidence 8
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	Operational plans completed in Year 1, with results informing the construction of the fence and the removal of IAS. See Section 3.1, Evidence 3, Evidence 4
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 took place from July through October 2023. See Section 3.1, Evidence 11
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 directly after the installation of the fence indicated that there were no cats, dogs, or livestock. A single green iguana was recorded in mid-March 2024, but we believe the individual climbed over the fence (as the fence currently does not prevent climbing animals from escaping). Monitoring systems (trail cameras) have not recorded the individual since. A rodent eradication programme was launched in mid-March 2024, with no signs of rodents by the end of May 2024. Biosecurity measures have prevented reincursion. See Section 3.1, Evidence 9
Output indicator 2.4. Reintroduction of at least two globally threatened native species to FNP by end of the project	Feasibility studies for the reintroduction of the Endangered Anguilla Bank skink *Spondylurus powelli* and Endangered Anguilla Bank racer *Alsophis rijgersmaei* were completed with the latter being implemented. Twelve Anguilla Bank racers have so far been re-introduced to the site (including two post-project). In addition, six lignum vitae *Guaiacum officinale* (survival rate: 66%) and seven cocoplum *Chrysobalanus icaco* (survival rate: 100%) have been outplanted within the national park. See Section 3.1, Evidence 5, Evidence 10
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 6
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 1

Output indicator 3.3. FNP management plan disseminated to all stakeholders by end of Q2Y2	Management plan drafted and circulated to stakeholders, with final version shared with the Government of Anguilla (including the newly-elected Minister responsible for environment). See Section 3.1, Evidence 1
Output indicator 3.4 FNP tourism strategy and business plan prepared by end of Q4Y2	FNP tourism strategy and business plan prepared using the results of the willingness to pay survey and the multi-stakeholder management planning working, including a proposed visitor fee schedule and collection system. The strategy and business plan has adopted, with some adjustments to the fee schedule (until additional amenities can be provided). See Section 3.1, Evidence 6
Output 4. National capacity to plan, manage, implement, and monitor national parks is increased, supported by enhanced technical skills and increased public awareness	
Output indicator 4.1. 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	7 static social media posts (total reach = 4574, but potentially up to 10,793) 6 presentations to international audiences (no. attendees = 430) 5 presentations to national audiences (no. attendees = 182) 1 radio programme (total reach = 755 listeners) 1 expo, hosted by HE The Governor (no. attendees = 100) See Section 3.1, Evidence 11
Output indicator 4.3. At least 500 individuals visit FNP annually, by end of project	955 people (Year 1: 412; Year 2: 265; Year 3: 278), including residents of Anguilla, taken on site visits to Fountain National Park (as part of a tour experience). 88 young people taken on visits to Fountain National Park (as part of camp and after school programme experiences). A total of 1043 individuals visited Fountain National Park over the course of the project. See Section 3.1, Evidence 11
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	23 individuals (15 female, 8 male) were trained and actively engaged in biodiversity, biosecurity, and IAS removal protocols. See Section 3.1, Evidence 12

Output indicator 4.5. 4.5 At least 4 persons trained in predator-proof monitoring and maintenance techniques by end of Q4Y2	10 individuals (5 fence construction team members, 5 ANT staff) trained in fence construction and maintenance (supporting mainland island biosecurity campaign) See Section 3.1
4.6 Project methods and lessons learned presented to relevant natural resource managers within the Caribbean UKOTs by the end of the project	300 individuals were reached through 11 national and international meetings and conferences. See Section 3.1, Evidence 11

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"			
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	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 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) 0.3 ≥ 2 endangered and endemic species are translocated and/or have detailed reintroduction plans under implementation to boost populations, by end of project 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 0.4 FNP management authority plans are endorsed by key stakeholders with demonstrated commitment to future	0.1 FNP restoration report; FNP management plan 0.2 FNP management reports; METT report 0.3 Biodiversity monitoring and reintroduction reports 0.4 Institutional work plans, budgets, and annual reports	Executive Council continues to support the effective management of FNP and Anguilla's terrestrial biodiversity Stakeholders continue to be interested and willing to be involved in FNP management FNP management plan correctly identifies and addresses main threats, capacity needs, and resources to conserve and protect terrestrial biodiversity

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	delivery of actions plans by end of the project		
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
Output 3 Effective and sustainable structures and tools for management of Fountain National Park are in place	3.1 Visitor willingness to pay surveys conducted by Q4Y1 3.2 FNP management planning and business planning workshops conducted with at least 20 stakeholders in Q1Y2 (50:50 men and women) 3.3 FNP management plan disseminated to all stakeholders by end of Q2Y2 3.4 FNP tourism strategy and business plan prepared by end of Q4Y2	3.1 Willingness to pay survey; willing to pay report (with results disaggregated by, among other things, gender and age) 3.2 Workshop agenda; workshop participants attendance sheets; PowerPoint presentations; FNP biodiversity conservation strategies and site management strategies 3.3 FNP management plan 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	High level Government of Anguilla support continues for enhanced management of FNP High level stakeholder support continues for increased management of FNP Stakeholders have time and ability to be involved in management plan development Covid-19 and other events do not disrupt industry to the extent that there are no viable income streams for FNP management
Output 4 National capacity to plan, manage, implement, and monitor national parks is increased, supported by enhanced technical skills and increased public awareness	4.1 Communications and public awareness plan developed by end of Q2Y1 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 4.3 At least 500 individuals visit FNP annually, by end of project	4.1 Communications and public awareness plan 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) 4.3 FNP visitor logbook	Trained expertise remains in Anguilla Improved knowledge leads to improved behaviours to conserve biodiversity

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	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 4.5 At least 4 persons trained in predator-proof monitoring and maintenance techniques by end of Q4Y2 4.6 Project methods and lessons learned presented to relevant natural resource managers within the Caribbean UKOTs by the end of the project	4.4 Biodiversity monitoring protocol training record; Invasive species eradication procedures and reports datasheets 4.5 Predator-proof fence maintenance protocols; monitoring and maintenance reports 4.6 Case studies; presentation abstracts; PowerPoint presentations; minutes of meetings	

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)

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

1.1 Finalise FNP biodiversity monitoring protocols
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)
1.3 Complete and disseminate FNP biodiversity (pre- and post-eradication) report to stakeholders
1.4 Develop FNP biodiversity monitoring plan, to be integrated in the Protected Area management plan

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

2.1 Complete operational plan for the construction of a pest-resistant fence around the perimeter of FNP
2.2 Complete operational plan for the removal of invasive alien species within FNP (rats, mice, green iguanas, goats, cats)
2.3 Construct pest-resistant fence around the perimeter of FNP
2.4 Remove multiple invasive alien species from FNP using methods as specified in Q12
2.5 Remove established invasive plants species within FNP and remove seedlings on a regular basis
2.6 Develop detailed reintroduction plans based on results from 1.2 with expert input
2.7 Reintroduce native biodiversity into FNP (likely including, but not limited to, lignum vitae, Anguilla Bank racers and Anguilla Bank skinks)
2.8 Design and implement fence maintenance programme to ensure its integrity and effectiveness in preventing reinvasions of IAS

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

3.1 Establish FNP management planning committee
3.2 Conduct willingness to pay surveys amongst residents of and visitors to Anguilla
3.3 Research and evaluate tourist strategy and additional potential sources of revenue to contribute to FNP management

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
3.4 Hold FNP management planning meetings to complete FNP 10-year management plan, including governance framework, financial plan, and priority management actions 3.5 Present FNP management plan to GOA Executive Council 3.6 Establish and implement FNP visitor fee schedule and collection system **4. National capacity to plan, manage, implement, and monitor national parks is raised, supported by enhanced technical skills and increased public awareness** 4.1 Conduct rapid public survey to evaluate knowledge and attitudes to Anguilla's terrestrial protected areas, particularly FNP 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 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 4.4 Partner with the Anguilla Tourist Board and run publicity campaign to market FNP to visitors 4.5 Publicise and report on project progress and results through (inter)national media 4.6 Repeat survey from 4.1 to enable evaluation of project success 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 **Other project management activities** X.1 Establish Project Steering Committee and meet biannually (remote members to participate by Zoom) X.2 Project inception meeting X.3 Project biannual reports/donor technical and financial reports X.4 Monthly financial accounts X.5 End of project audit			

Annex 3 Standard Indicators

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

Please see the Standard Indicator Guidance for more information on how to report in this section, including appropriate disaggregation. N.B. The annual total is not cumulative. For each year, only include the results achieved in that year. The total achieved should be the sum of the annual totals.

DPLUS Indicator number	Name of indicator	If this links directly to a project indicator(s), please note the indicator number here	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total achieved	Total planned
DPLUS-A01	Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	4.4	People	Men	0	14	9	23	20
DPLUS-B01	Number of new or improved habitat management plans available (and endorsed)	3.3	Number	New	0	1	0	1	1
DPLUS-B02	Number of new or improved species management plans available (and endorsed)	2.4	Number	New	0	2	0	2	2
DPLUS-D01	Hectares of habitat under sustainable management practices	0.2	Hectares	Protected area	0	5	5	5	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, scheme 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 consider the best way to submit. One zipped file, or a download option, is recommended. We can work with most online options and will be in touch if we have a problem accessing material. If unsure, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
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 provided an updated risk register? If you have an existing risk register you should provide an updated version alongside your report. If your project was funded prior to this being a requirement, you are encouraged to develop a risk register.	
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.	