



Darwin Fellowship - Final Report

Due within one month of the end date of the Fellowship (maximum 6 pages)

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| Darwin Fellowship reference | DPLUS199 |
| Name of Darwin Fellow | Jason Daniel |
| Lead organisation | Department of Natural Resources: Fisheries Unit |
| Fellow's organisation(s) | Department of Natural Resources: Fisheries Unit |
| Fellow's role within their organisation | Student |
| Start/end date of Fellowship | 01/04/2023 - 01/10/2023 |
| Location | Anguilla, B.W.I |
| Darwin Fellowship grant value (£) | £15,225.00 |
| Type of work (e.g. research, training, if other please specify) | Education and Research (MSc Biodiversity and Conservation) |
| Main contact in UK organisation | |
| Author(s) and date | |

1. Background

Having served as the Fisheries Management Officer in Anguilla, I have been involved in several Darwin projects such as the Transforming Anguilla's Marine Park project, Shark Conservation Project, as well as other projects led by the Department of Natural Resources: Environmental Unit, and projects led by the Anguilla National Trust looking at rewilding, conservation and protection and invasive species also funded by Darwin.

The aims and objectives of this fellowship is to further equip the fellow with knowledge to further assist in both internal and external projects in and around Anguilla, through the acquisition of a MSc in Island Biodiversity and Conservation. This will lead to further collaborations between departments such as the Agricultural and Environmental Unit on the island, as well as between other OTs. The main objective is to have a well-rounded individual specializing in biodiversity and conservation to assist in future projects on the island and raise public awareness of environmental issues. This degree can directly impact the decision-making process between multiple sectors such as tourism and education in order to ensure sustainable development and ensure that our resources are efficiently being utilized.

Roles of the Institution include:

Implement climate adaptation and resilience measures.

Achieve food security.

Improve health of coastal resources.

Development of the fishing industry through new technology and education.

Diversification of the economy through the introduction of sustainable commercial/industrial fishing.

Increase stewardship and community-based management.

Introduce updated and effective legislation.

Increasing revenue generation through sustainable usage of natural resources.

The MSc in Island Biodiversity and Conservation which is the target of this project was done under a collaborative course by Jersey International Centre of Advanced Studies and The University of Exeter. The course is unique, as is the first of its kind in English to focus specifically on Island biodiversity conservation and facilitates the development of post-graduate students in multi-disciplinary modules as related to islands: biogeography, ecology, biodiversity, evolution, invasion, extinction, conservation strategies and legislation, conservation in action and conservation tools, including genetics and statistics.

2. Achievements

During this Fellowship an MSc Island Biodiversity and Conservation was successfully completed and a thesis on the current conditions on some of Anguilla's coral reef ecosystems was produced. The 8 modules completed for this MSc were: Field Work Statistics, Island Biogeography, Island Ecology, Biodiversity and Evolution on Islands, Invasion and Extinction on Islands, Global Conservation Strategies and Legislation, Islands and Climate Change, Conservation in Action. Within the course outline, a scheduled trip to Gurnsey was originally planned, but was later changed to the Spanish Island of Tenerife where we were fortunate enough to study under Dr. José María Fernández-Palacios, Head of La Laguna University Master's Degree in Terrestrial Biodiversity and Conservation on Islands.

The main achievements of this Fellowship were the completion of the MSc which directly contribute to the themes of Darwin through the modules completed, networking and information sharing with students of other countries and Islands.

3. Outcome, lessons and impact

The work undertaken during this fellowship has certainly improved skills relevant to the Department of Natural Resources Anguilla on a whole. All units completed during this fellowship will assist in future decision making for sustainable resource use, legislation, project and grant writing, and data collection and analysis. These skills will be applied through continued work within the department, future collaborations with other islands, as well as encouraging persons both you and old to assist in goals towards a sustainable future.

The fellow will continue to assist the Department of Natural Resources in any ways possible to promote sustainability and conservation of the Islands resources and serve as a source of encouragement to persons both young and old to take part in this initiative. The skills obtained from the field work statistics module, and the thesis will surely be used to ensure that data collected will be used for future projects and decision making through proper analysis and dissemination.

Every module completed within this Fellowship will be applicable towards the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity of Anguilla, from renewable energy use to invasive species control and many other target areas. Since this MSc aims directly towards islands, everything learned throughout the fellowship period will serve as a valuable source.

Due to the nature and duration of this Fellowship, no such contact was made with other UK institutions or organizations.

4. Impact of COVID-19 on Fellowship

Please summarise the impact of COVID-19 on your Fellowship as well as providing an overview of how you have responded.

COVID-19 has had no considerable impacts on this Fellowship.