



**BIODIVERSITY
CHALLENGE FUNDS**



Biodiversity Challenge Funds Projects Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and Darwin Plus

Half Year Report

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 2-3 pages** in length.

If there is any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website, please ensure you clearly highlight this.

Submission Deadline: 31st October 2025

Please note all projects that were active before 1st October 2025 are required to complete a Half Year Report.

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

Project reference	DPLUS203
Project title	Shining a light on Anguilla's moths using Artificial Intelligence
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Anguilla
Lead Organisation	UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
Partner(s)	Anguilla National Trust
Project Leader	David Roy
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	HYR2
Project website/blog/social media	

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

Although we are not looking for specific reporting against your indicators, please use this opportunity to consider the appropriateness of your monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) systems (are your indicators still relevant, can you report against any Standard Indicators, do your assumptions still hold true?). The guidance can be found on the resources page of the relevant fund website.

Output 1. Automated camera (AMI) systems operating in four locations across Anguilla, at sites with active conservation management by the Anguilla National Trust

As of April 2025, all four AMI systems have been in operation across Anguilla, with systems deployed in locations that benefitted from restoration interventions and continue to be managed and monitored by the ANT team, including Prickly Pear East, Dog Island, Sombrero Island, and Fountain National Park (FNP). All four systems are now consistently capturing data, taking photographs every 10 seconds over an 11-hour period nightly, between 6pm and 5am. We have collected just over 1.67 million images (733,825 from FNP, 241,228 from Prickly Pear East, 272,065 from Dog Island, 427,203 from Sombrero), all of which have been uploaded to the UKCEH-hosted server.

Recognising that the current version of the AMI system is bulky and difficult to move once deployed, our team has been developing a smaller, lighter weight, and more mobile system, still powered by solar energy that should also still be capable of collecting the same quality and quantity of data, although this will be verified later this year when we continue our training of local partners and stakeholders and trial these systems on Anguilla.

Output 2. Image classification model for Anguilla moths published online

Over the last six months, the UK-based UKCEH team have developed a bespoke image classification model using publicly available images (from GBIF) available for 79 moths that have been recorded from Anguilla. This model has been used to process the data collected from the AMI systems deployed on Anguilla for this project.

We aim to improve the species classifier by working with taxon experts to label images collected by the AMI system, and rebuild a more robust species classifier for the moths of Anguilla. Once the model is complete, images will be processed, with results leading to a comprehensive species list and integrated into a lepidoptera biodiversity report card for Anguilla's restored habitats.

Supplementing the images captured by the AMI systems, our iNaturalist project page [Shining a Light on Anguilla's moths](#) has engaged 50 observers and 110 identifiers, with more than 500 uploaded observations of more than 110 moth (and butterfly) species.

Output 3. Knowledge exchange and engagement with a range of stakeholders interested in insect monitoring and new technologies.

We have continued to showcase and highlight the value of our AMI systems to biodiversity and habitat recovery monitoring and to raise awareness about the importance of insects to people and nature, directly reaching 130 residents and visitors to Anguilla through site visits where the AMI systems have been deployed.

In June 2025, the ANT hosted 11 colleagues representing five Caribbean countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines) for a workshop focused on building capacity to support biodiversity conservation in the Caribbean, funded by the Caribbean Environment Programme Fund and organised by international environmental NGO Re:wild. With site visits to Fountain National Park and Prickly Pear East, the AMI system and its role in informing habitat management and indicating habitat recovery trends was shown and explained in the field.

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

None

3. Have any of these issues been discussed with NIRAS and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with NIRAS:

No

Formal Change Request submitted:

Yes

Received confirmation of change acceptance:

Yes

Change Request reference if known: *If you submitted a financial Change Request, you can find the reference in the email from NIRAS confirming the outcome*

Guidance for Section 4: The information you provide in this section will be used by Defra to review the financial status of projects. This review will identify projects at random for spot checks on financial management and will include requests for evidence of the actual spend information provided below. Please ensure the figures you provide are as accurate as possible and that you have the evidence to support it. You do not need to provide it now.

4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2025 – 30 September 2025)

Actual spend: [REDACTED]

4b. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this financial year (ending 31 March 2026)?

Yes ☐ No ☒ Estimated underspend: £

4c. If you expect an underspend, then you should consider your project budget needs carefully. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project, please submit a re-budget Change Request as soon as possible, and not later than 31st December. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a re-budget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes to your project if necessary. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.

NB: if you expect an underspend, do not claim anything more than you expect to spend this financial year.

5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCFs management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

Suspensions or allegations related to fraud and error concerns should be reported to fraudanderror@Defra.gov.uk

None

6. Project risk management

6a. If your project has an Overseas Security and Justice assessment, please provide an update on any related risks, and any special conditions in your award paperwork if relevant for your project.

6b. Have any concerns or allegations relating to sexual exploitation, abuse or harassment been reported in the past 6 months?

Yes No ☒

If yes, please provide further information, ensuring no sensitive data is included within responses.

Suspensions or allegations related to safeguarding concerns should be reported to ODA.Safeguarding@defra.gov.uk

7. Please use this section to respond to any feedback provided when your project was confirmed, or from your most recent Annual Report. As a reminder, all projects that were scored as 'Not Yet Sensitive' in the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) assessment of their latest Annual Report should demonstrate how they are meeting the minimum GESI-Sensitive standard.

Checklist for submission

Have you responded to feedback from your latest Annual Report Review ? You should respond in section 6, and annexe other requested materials as appropriate.	
Have you reported against the most up to date information for your project ?	
Have you clearly highlighted any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website?	
Include your project reference in the subject line of submission email.	
Submit to BCF-Reports@niras.com	
Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report.	