

Darwin Initiative Annual Report

Important note: To be completed with reference to the Reporting Guidance Notes for Project Leaders: it is expected that this report will be about 10 pages in length, excluding annexes

Submission Deadline: 30 April

Darwin Project Information

Project Reference	20-004
Project Title	Enhancing economic development through improved natural resource management in Montserrat
Host Country/ies	Montserrat
Contract Holder Institution	Coral Cay Conservation
Partner institutions	Government of Montserrat & the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Darwin Grant Value	£90,200
Start/end dates of project	1 st April 2013 – 31 st March 2015
Reporting period (eg Apr 2013 – Mar 2014) and number (eg Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	April 2013 – March 2014 Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	Kate Longhurst
Project website	www.coralcay.org
Report author(s) and date	Alastair Cole and Kate Longhurst

1. **Project Rationale**

Sixty per-cent of Montserrat's 102 sq. km has been impacted by volcanic eruptions (see map, below). This has destroyed much of the island's ecosystems, including forests and rich coral reef systems and associated fishing grounds in the southern half of the island. Pressure on remaining resources has increased. Since the onset of volcanic activity, tourism, which was once a significant contributor to the island's economy, has been severely reduced. Emigration has also had a severe impact on the economy and the territory is ODA eligible. This project will address a number of associated problems:

- The fishing pressure on the accessible reefs is intense but no marine management measures are in place. Current fisheries practices are wasteful and there is very little capacity to establish marine managed areas.
- The management of the Centre Hills remains limited by scientific data, particularly the interaction of invasive alien species.
- Human capacity is very low for marine management and forest rangers report that the lack of young recruits to conservation/ecotourism is a concern, and most conservationists are reaching retirement.
- Ecotourism has been identified as a key activity for economic recovery, but numbers remain low and numbers accessing the marine environment very low.

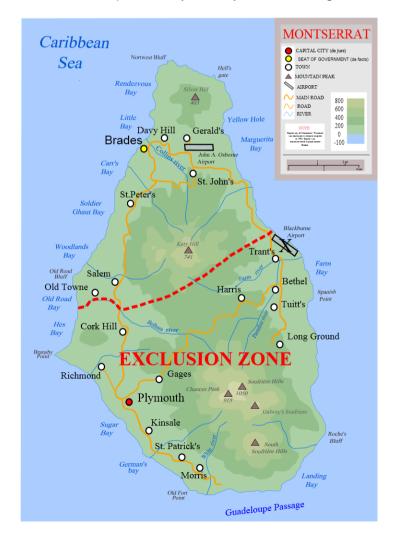
Prior to the onset of volcanic activity in 1995, tourism accounted for between 20 and 36% of the GDP of Montserrat. The tourism industry has declined severely and now accounts for only 5% of GDP. This substantial reduction has had a devastating impact on the economy of the country. The Government of Montserrat has identified tourism as a key area for growth and has developed a Tourism Development Plan in order to rebuild the tourism industry.

By improving the management of natural resources, providing training for local rangers and engaging the local community in conservation activities, as well as directly promoting the island as a destination, this project will directly contribute to the realisation of the Tourism Development Plan by contributing to a number of identified strategic initiatives, including:

- Expand and diversify tourism product
- Enhance tourism attractions and amenities
- Upgrade quality and service standards
- Focused and cost effective destination marketing

In addition to enhancing opportunities in the tourism sector in general, approximately 2% of the population will benefit directly either through increased income from fishing as a result of improved marine management, or through improved employment opportunities in the ecotourism or conservation management sectors as a result of training provided.

The research will provide data which will feed in to national policy on the sustainable use of natural resources and the conservation of biodiversity. It will inform decision making on environmental management, conservation of biodiversity and protected areas. In particular, it will provide much needed information on marine ecosystems which will enable the development of more effective policy on the protection of these areas. All of this will feed in to the sustainable development process outlined in Montserrat's Sustainable Development Plan (2008-2020) which seeks to develop a healthy country with a thriving modern economy.



2. **Project Partnerships**

The Government of Montserrat (GoM) has identified the development and implementation of strategies and plans to conserve biodiversity and other natural resources as a key goal for sustainable development. This project was initiated at the invitation of the GoM to contribute to this goal.

In Year 1 a project steering committee has been established which includes six representatives from the GoM (33%) including members of the Department of Environment, Department of Agriculture, Montserrat Tourist Board and Montserrat Secondary School. The steering committee has four main roles:

- I. Act in an advisory capacity to the CCC in-country team with regards to priorities for research and/or extension activities.
- II. Review the progress and outcomes of research.
- III. Suggest approaches to effectively and efficiently deliver project outcomes, aims and activities.
- IV. Assist with developing effective communication strategies for the project between stakeholders and also promote wider community understanding.

Every effort has been made to ensure strong personal working relationships with DoE staff and partners. However, a major challenge has been the difficulty of convening regular meetings with project partners due to conflicting schedules and time pressures. Project staff have met this challenge by ensuring that project updates, data supply and a presence within government departments are regularly maintained. Where committee meetings have not been possible, staff have ensured that regular one-on-one contact is maintained, facilitating communication between stakeholder groups.

3. **Project Progress**

3.1 **Progress in carrying out project activities**

1.1 Carry out marine surveys

A survey methodology has been established and target species identified (Annex 4). Expanded Reef Check (<u>www.reefcheck.org</u>) surveys are being carried out to provide a synoptic view of the health and condition of selected survey sites. Reef Check methodology has been chosen for a number of reasons. Firstly, it complements existing work in the area and can therefore contribute to building a comprehensive data set for Montserrat. Secondly, it's simple design allows non-scientists to be trained to collect reliable data in a short time. Thirdly, since Reef Check is a global scheme, using this methodology will provide data that will be comparable at regional and global scales, giving a picture of the health of Montserrat's reefs in relation to others in the Caribbean and around the world. Surveys have been completed at 10 of 44 identified survey sites. This is acceptable progress, though operations have been hindered by mechanical issues with the project boat as a result of poor quality fuel on the island. A better quality source of fuel has been secured to prevent further issues in the future. Bad weather, continuing into March and April 2014 has also hampered survey efforts. Factors such as this have been incorporated into the survey plan and the target of 44 sites by the end of year 2 is still attainable, provided that the bad weather does not continue.

1.2 Establish and monitor two permanent transect sites

At the request of the GoM, permanent transect sites are to be established at Rendezvous Bay and Foxes Bay. CCC teams have conducted recces in both areas and identified suitable locations for the deployment of permanent transects. Both areas are among Montserrat's prime coral reefs and have been identified through consultation with local fishermen as ideal areas for protection within an LMMA. Transects will be established in year 2 Q1.

1.3 Implement fisheries surveys

Consultation with DoE officials established that fisheries monitoring data was available from the Government, so it was not necessary to conduct surveys. Data from 2002 to 2013 was received on 18th March 2014. The data summarises total fishing effort, weight of catch and estimated value. It will be used to evaluate the impact of the project in the longer term.

1.4 Produce an annual survey report

Due to be completed year 2, Q1.

1.5 DoE to appoint management committee

Communication with the DoE has been good and a management committee for the project has been established, with a list of members approved by the DoE, all members approached and all having agreed to participate.

1.6 Hold quarterly management committee meetings

The first committee meeting was held on the 30th October 2013. There were a number of key outcomes from the meeting;

- Invasive lionfish were identified as a key marine conservation issue and CCC is to explore options for control and education.
- CCC were requested to facilitate cross-sector stakeholder engagement through outreach activities.
- The DoE and MTD pledged to support the promotion of outreach events.
- Agreed that all data are the property of the Government of Montserrat and will be made freely available to all project partners upon request.
- DoE requested the placement of permanent transects at Rendezvous and Foxes Bay.
- DoE agreed to liaise with the Department of Education regarding the inclusion of environmental education to the school curriculum.

Whilst this first meeting was a success there have been a number of challenges in convening regular meetings thereafter. Several committee members have had other key activities over the months that the project has been running, as well as job commitments which have led to them being off-island for extended periods of time. Despite this regular contact has been maintained between CCC and committee members to ensure progress of the first meetings outcomes.

1.7 Run four stakeholder workshops

Following one-on-one interaction by project staff with members of the fishing community, in order to develop relationships, a stakeholder workshop was run in March 2014. This provided the opportunity to gain information on fishing activity, fishing grounds, types of fishing gear employed and fishing catches. Perceptions of conservation efforts were gauged and it was found that overall support for an LMMA is high.

The workshop has provided a valuable tool for gaining knowledge and building relationships with the local communities. Furthermore it provided an arena for stakeholder to voice concerns and engage with conservation issues. Further workshops will focus on developing the LMMA.

2.1. Conduct terrestrial surveys

After consultation with the DoE and other NGOs with experience on Montserrat (RSPB, Kew Gardens and Durrell Wildlife Trust), survey methodologies for key areas of management interest were developed. Surveys were developed to focus on three key areas: invasive plants,

birds (including migrant and breeding landbirds, and shorebirds), and reptiles and amphibians. Species lists were developed based on previous survey work, expert advice and existing knowledge gaps. Surveys have been conducted on a regular basis since June 2013, though faults with the project vehicles did limit the extent of surveys for several weeks during July and August 2013, and again in January 2014. At the end of March 2014 survey progress was as follows:

- Breeding and migrant landbirds 43 transects
- Herptiles 11 transects
- Invasive plants 4 transects
- Shorebirds 125 transects

So far no analysis has been carried out on the dataset, however a key finding has been the discovery of a species of lizard (*Gymnophthalmus underwoodi*) previously unrecorded on the island. This species has recently invaded a number of islands in the area and it's impacts are not well understood. The finding has been reported to the DoE and a report is currently in preparation.

2.4 Hold quarterly stakeholder engagement meetings

In July 2013, CCC's Project Scientist attended a workshop for the Mountain Chicken Recovery Programme. This three day event, organised by the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust provided a forum for leading international experts, including representatives from CCC, as well as the GoM and Montserrat National Trust to develop a long term plan for the recovery of the Mountain Chicken frog, a critically endangered species endemic to Montserrat and Dominica. It also provided an opportunity for CCC to engage with a range of stakeholders, including many who were involved in the initial development of the Centre Hills Protected Area management plan.

The project oversight committee met in October 2013. This committee, formed of representatives from a variety of stakeholder groups, provides a forum for stakeholders to input into the direction of the project work.

In November 2013 the National Alliouagana Festival of the Word provided a forum for an endemic species and conservation biology workshop. With a national audience of almost 40 people, the workshop addressed conservation issues on Montserrat, exploring the importance of endemic species such as the critically endangered Mountain Chicken frog, as well as highlighting threats that the island is facing. The workshop gave the attendees an opportunity to engage with local conservation issues and to ask questions of the project team.

In January 2014 a workshop was held with members of the Farmers' Association of Montserrat. Many of the attendees are also fishermen and so the meeting provided the platform to engage the community about conservation issues and the ridge to reef concept. The meeting helped identify conflicts between stakeholder groups including farmers, the government and housing developers. Furthermore, perceptions of threats to farming and conservation objectives were highlighted.

3.1 Promote the project and Montserrat at events

Since the start of the project, the CCC team has conducted promotional activities at a range of events including: the London International Dive Shows 2013 and 2014 at the Excel Centre, Docklands (http://www.diveshows.co.uk/); Birdfair 2013 at Rutland Water (http://www.birdfair.org.uk/); the Birmingham Dive Show 2013 at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham (attracting 16,457 visitors in two days) and over 40 gap year and careers fairs at schools and universities across the country. An advert for the project was placed in two issues of the RSPB's members magazine *Nature's Home* (formerly *Birds*). In addition, the project has been featured on the website of the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum. Over the course of the reporting period CCC (including the Montserrat project) was also promoted

through Google Adwords to an equivalent value of \$30,644.63, resulting in 2,043,940 adverts and 18,153 clicks through to the CCC website.

3.2 RSPB marketing

The RSPB magazine *Birds* featured an article about the project encouraging readers to get involved with a link to the project's website. The magazine has a readership of 2.5 million. The project was also featured on the RSPB's intranet site, accessible to all RSPB personnel.

3.3 On-going recruitment of volunteers

International volunteers have been recruited on an on-going basis since the start of the project. The project was launched to volunteers in June 2013 and since this time fourteen individuals have participated as citizen scientists, alongside eight voluntary staff members.

3.4 Press coverage

Various CCC personnel have been involved in promoting the project on a local radio station; ZJB. These have included four live interviews regarding the aims, survey methodologies and establishment of the project, updates on project progress and promotion of scholarships and events. In addition three 'Community Diary' Broadcasts and one collaborative interview with the GoM and the Montserrat Mountain Chicken Project have been conducted to promote project activities. To promote educational open days held at the National Library an announcement was composed in partnership with the National Library staff to encourage attendance. This is currently broadcast regularly during the week.

The MRRCP featured prominently in the promotional material (distributed nationally) and *Souvenir Booklet and Business Directory* for the National Alliouagana Festival of the Word 2013. This annual national celebration of Montserrat's cultural heritage, held between 15th and 17th November 2013 and organised by the University of the West Indies on Montserrat, seeks to engage both local and international interest through cultural tourism. Over the course of the weekend over 100 people attended the festival with the majority purchasing the promotional brochure. A 'Community Diary' broadcast was also aired on national radio over this weekend detailing the project work.

In November 2013 the Montserrat Reporter published an article detailing a successful beach clean-up event hosted by CCC at Bankum, Bay. In the Summer 2014 two volunteers who had recently worked on the project had an article printed in an edition of the RSPB newsletter for the Lincoln regional group. The volunteers had heard about the project after reading about it in the RSPB magazine; *Birds*. Their article detailed their experiences on site and the enjoyment of conducting field work.

3.5 Develop training resources

Comprehensive training resources for both marine and terrestrial work have been produced with support and advice from local Rangers. These include lectures with PowerPoint presentations and summary notes and learning aids for species identification.

3.6 On-going recruitment of scholars

Scholarships have been advertised on-island through radio interviews (see 3.4 above), community engagement meetings (e.g. Farmers Association meetings and a presentation the National Police and Fire Services) and posters which have been distributed across the island at

the local grocery store, shops the library, cultural centre, post office and banks. Promotion has also taken place in schools on the island

In February 2014 the project welcomed its first scholar Keanu Barnwell who is currently working on a part-time basis to complete the training course. Keanu is seventeen and has developed a passion for conservation through his school interests and a project working with the Montserrat National Trust. He has completed his dive training including the PADI Open Water and Advanced Open Water qualifications and is currently working towards completing his Reef Check EcoDiver Certification.

An increased recruitment drive accompanied by community consultation aims to overcome barriers to recruitment. There has been a concerted effort in the first year aimed at school leavers on the island. This is in part due to the fact that there is currently limited uptake of environmental jobs by young people on the island and the current group of rangers are towards the latter ends of their careers. Targeted school assemblies and meetings with teaching staff have been employed to engage with school leavers, with the aim of recruiting participants during the school holidays in summer 2014. In order to broaden the scope of the advertisement of the programme scholarship packs have also been distributed to the wider island community. In addition further community day broadcasts are planned for the coming year. They will be played on local radio every morning and evening.

4.1 Conduct community perception survey

Community perception surveys have been conducted with 216 individuals, representing 5% of the island's population. Analysis of the collected data is underway and will be presented in the annual project report for stakeholders.

4.2 Host ten open days for schools

A series of workshops for school children have been developed and held regularly at the Montserrat National Library in Brades. So far, seven workshops have been delivered covering the topics of general coral reef ecology, turtles, sharks, the exploration vessel *Nautilus*, invasive species, wildlife trafficking and whales. These event engage a regular audience of around 20 children and their parents. As agreed with the National Library team, these workshops will continue for the remainder of the project.

An additional open day was held at Brades Primary School in February 2014 to showcase scuba diving and marine creatures to the children. In total 25 children aged between 10 and 12 attended the presentation, accompanied by two teachers. Further open days are planned for year 2 of the project.

4.3 Develop educational puppet show

An educational puppet show has been developed and the script has been finalised. CCC presented the show for the first time at Montserrat's Alliouagana Festival of the World in November 2013. The show was seen by a national audience of over 40 people and was such a success that a repeat showing has been requested at the festival next year.

4.4 Deliver two teacher training events

This is due to be delivered in year two.

4.5 Develop and screen two educational films showcasing Montserrat's natural environment

Footage is currently being collected to produce the two films. An example of the type of marine footage being collect is available to view at: <u>www.coralcay.org/volunteer/montserrat</u>.

4.6 Produce and distribute two poster designs

A poster about the terrestrial environment of Montserrat has been produced and will shortly be circulated on island, pending approval by the GoM. A marine poster has been designed and is currently being developed for design work and artwork production.

3.2 **Progress towards project outputs**

Output 1 - A stakeholder supported Locally Managed Marine Area based on accurate and comprehensive scientific information is agreed and implemented through a participatory approach.

As Section 2 above hopefully shows, the first year of the project saw good progress towards this output, although much remains to be done in year 2. The first year of the project has focused on establishing a scientific and technical groundwork upon which to build, as well as developing relationships with stakeholders. This has been highly successful with several significant achievements in year 1. A survey methodology has been developed and ecological surveys are underway to support the creation of a scientific report which details the current health and status of Montserrat's coral reefs by the end of year 2. Stakeholder workshops have established that there is strong local support for an LMMA, though conflicts and concerns have been highlighted (e.g. between fishermen and recreational divers). Consultation with government representatives, including the Chief Fisheries Officer, has also highlighted strong government support for an LMMA. Over the course of the first year there have been some challenges in engaging stakeholders as whole groups. This is largely due to scheduling constraints as a result of individual's work commitments. To maintain momentum with the project alternative approaches were employed to engage stakeholders and other parties through individual communication. This has proved effective in maintaining relationships between project partners and local stakeholders. Fisheries data from 2002 to 2013 was obtained from the GoM. This data will be used as a baseline to enable comparisons of fishing catch over a temporal scale. In the longer terms this will provide the evidence to assess the success of the LMMA upon its establishment.

Output 2 - Improved knowledge of the biodiversity and function of the Centre Hills and other Key Biodiversity Areas supports management planning and implementation.

Since the creation of the ecological survey methodologies, terrestrial surveys within the CHNP and other key biodiversity hotspots have been conducted. The terrestrial datasets will be used to inform a review of the CHNP management plan. The data will be presented in reports to stakeholder groups over the coming year, to support the creation of management plans.

To further facilitate this process the project has engaged with key stakeholders including the Farmers' Association in order to involve community members in the review process and provide an arena to voice opinions. Furthermore, the project has engaged with key international groups who were involved in the development of the initial management plan for the CHNP, such as Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and the Zoological Society London. The scientific evidence will be used to stimulate discussion of the management plan and between involved parties over the duration of Year 2. Support for the review of the management plan is high from the GoM.

Output 3 - Ecotourism in Montserrat is enhanced through an increased international profile, improved capacity, enhanced experience and greater livelihood opportunities.

Promotion of the project is on-going in with articles in both national and international press. Articles relating to the project have been included in RSBP's magazine, *Birds*, with a readership of over 2.5 million, and an advert has been included in *Natures Home* magazine. As a direct result of this promotional material the project has welcomed volunteers from the UK who had read the articles. In addition a total of 14 volunteers have participated on the project over the last year.

The development and inception of the scholarship programme is another major contributing element to this output. The training our first scholar has received will enhance ecotourism and environmental management capacity on Montserrat and increase livelihood opportunities in the environmental sector. There have been challenges in recruiting suitable candidates for the scholarship over the last year stemming from economic and social barriers to participation. In response to this, we have adapted the scheme to accommodate people in full time employment through modular options, as well as target school students during holiday periods. Through increased awareness of the scheme within the community and through specifically targeting schools and the community sixth form college, the project aims to welcome more participants over the next year. Furthermore the project has directly employed local rangers for assistance with both terrestrial and marine surveys

The groundwork in implementing the management plans and LMMA that has been conducted over the last year will enhance the environmental resources that are marketable for ecotourism in the future.

Output 4 - Awareness, support for and the implementation of sustainable natural resource management is increased within local communities.

The project has made good progress towards this output over the first year. Community perception surveys have been conducted with a diverse cross-section of the population. Over the coming year further surveys will be conducted to monitor the change in perceptions as a result of the project and will be used to assess the overall impact at its culmination. Education and community engagement activities such as open days and beach cleans have led to increased knowledge of the importance of conserving biodiversity and the motivation to sustainably manage natural resources. The production of resources (movies and posters) have ensured knowledge transfer into the future.

3.3 **Progress towards the project Purpose/Outcome**

In this first year of the project, the approach has been to establish a strong presence on island, building excellent relationships with stakeholders and establishing scientific monitoring programmes. While it is too early to observe project outcomes it is fair to say that, by implementing the framework for management of both marine and terrestrial resources on Montserrat, the project has made good progress. The establishment of the management committee for the LMMA, is a major step in increasing the sustainable use of marine resources and the on-going terrestrial surveys will directly relate to the review of the CHNP management plan. Through greater monitoring and stakeholder involvement there will be increased scope for improving livelihoods. Purpose level assumptions still hold true and indicators remain appropriate and achievable measures of project output.

3.4 Goal/ Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty alleviation

Livelihoods are enhanced and food security is improved in Montserrat by the locally driven and sustainable management of marine and terrestrial natural resources.

After the first year the process of enhancing livelihoods and food security has begun through the implementation of the management committees and the starting of ecological surveys. These processes will ultimately lead to the development of areas of protection that will provide on-going benefits including increased fish stocks, improved overall coral reef health and improved livelihoods for local fishermen. Similarly improved management of forest resources as a result of this year's groundwork will lead to on-going conservation benefits, improved ecosystem services and enhanced capacity for income from eco-tourism activities. Furthermore, the training and community outreach activities have started the process of raising awareness and support for conservation issues and increasing the skill sets of local individuals to earn a living in the environmental sector.

4. Project support to the Conventions (CBD, CMS and/or CITES)

This project focuses on three thematic areas of the CBD: island biodiversity, forest biodiversity, and marine and coastal biodiversity. It addresses the major cross cutting issues of protected areas, sustainable use of biodiversity, tourism and biodiversity, and communication, education and public awareness. Key Aichi Targets that this project is contributing to include 1: awareness raising, 2: integrating biodiversity into strategies, 4: sustainable plans for natural resources, 6: sustainable marine resource management, 11: protection of marine areas and 19: increase in scientific knowledge.

The project will support the sustainable use of biodiversity through improved fishing practices and ecotourism, and help to integrate biodiversity considerations into national decision making (Article 10:a,b,d&e). Scientific surveying will identify and monitor components of biodiversity important for conservation and sustainable use (Article 7:a,b,c&d). The development of an LMMA and the strengthening of terrestrial management will contribute to in-situ conservation efforts for key biodiversity areas (Article 8:a,c,d,f,h,i,j&l) and contribute to national strategies for sustainable use of biodiversity (Article 6:a&b). By providing resources and training to Montserratians, the project will enhance research and training opportunities (Article 12:a,b&c) and promote public awareness of biodiversity issues (Article 13:a&b). A collaborative approach will ensure that scientific data is freely available (Article 17:a&b).

5. Project support to poverty alleviation

Prior to the onset of volcanic activity in 1995, tourism accounted for between 20 and 36% of the GDP of Montserrat. The tourism industry has declined severely and now accounts for only 5% of GDP. This substantial reduction has had a devastating impact on the economy of the country. The Government of Montserrat has identified tourism as a key area for growth and has developed a Tourism Development Plan in order to rebuild the tourism industry.

By improving the management of natural resources, providing training for local rangers and engaging the local community in conservation activities, as well as directly promoting the island as a destination, this project will directly contribute to the realisation of the Tourism Development Plan by contributing to a number of identified strategic initiatives, including:

- Expand and diversify tourism product
- Enhance tourism attractions and amenities
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In addition to enhancing opportunities in the tourism sector in general, approximately 2% of the population will benefit directly either through increased income from fishing as a result of improved marine management, or through improved employment opportunities in the ecotourism or conservation management sectors as a result of training provided.

The research will provide data which will feed in to national policy on the sustainable use of natural resources and the conservation of biodiversity. It will inform decision making on environmental management, conservation of biodiversity and protected areas. In particular, it

will provide much needed information on marine ecosystems which will enable the development of more effective policy on the protection of these areas. All of this will feed in to the sustainable development process outlined in Montserrat's Sustainable Development Plan (2008-2020) which seeks to develop a healthy country with a thriving modern economy.

6. Monitoring, evaluation and lessons

CCC in-country staff report on the project to UK Head Office through formal internal reports each week, allowing progress to be monitored and reviewed internally. A key step in the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the project was the establishment of the project steering committee in year 1. This committee has approved the proposed plan for the work to be carried out and regular feedback is given to committee members on progress towards targets. A key lesson this year has been that frequent meetings of the steering committee are not possible, due to scheduling conflicts and individual commitments. In order to work around this, monthly project updates are distributed to all committee members via email and face-to-face meetings are held on a regular basis to ensure active input. Baseline data has been obtained on both fisheries and community perceptions to allow assessment of project impact.

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

N/A

8. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Over the course of year one, the project has faced two key challenges. The first of these is the unexpected faults developed by both the project boat and car which resulted in them becoming unusable for extended periods. This has impacted on both terrestrial and marine surveying, however we do expect unforeseen difficulties to occur during expeditions this nature and allow leeway in the survey timetables for such eventualities. At this stage the mechanical problems are not insurmountable and we do not foresee any problems with completing the survey programmes as designed. However, should these problems reoccur they could impact on the scientific outputs of the project or require the purchase of new vehicles which would have budgetary implications.

The second key challenge has been the difficulty with convening committee meetings with local stakeholders. Despite having established good relationships with several key stakeholders during the project development stage and having built on these during year 1, it has been a challenge to convene groups of stakeholders for meetings. This is due simply to time pressures on the individuals involved, scheduling conflicts and personal commitments. Project staff have been able to work around this by maintaining excellent one-on-one communication with individual committee members and circulating project material for comment to groups via email.

At this stage we do not envisage that the delays caused by these problems will have a significant impact on the delivery of the project. Great effort has been undertaken to build good relationships and regular contact with individual stakeholders and committee members to provide a firm basis for future interactions and consultation to maximise future support and participation in the project.

9. Sustainability

During this first year, the project has built a strong national profile on-island. Regular attendance of students at educational workshops, recruitment of a local scholar, engagement of stakeholders through outreach activities and the recruitment of a local radio host as Community Liaison Officer all demonstrate a strong level of interest in biodiversity and conservation work.

Community perception surveys will demonstrate changes in attitudes towards biodiversity conservation by the end of year 2.

By end of the project, an LMMA will be established and the management plan for the Centre Hills revised. By developing plans in collaboration with local stakeholders in order to ensure that they meet local needs and having the GoM sign off on the plans, this project will guarantee that the impetus to carry out this management is present in-country. The training of local scholars will provide a core group of enthusiastic individuals in Montserrat who are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively manage natural resources. This will allow marine and terrestrial monitoring work to continue and adaptive management to be practiced long-term. Outreach activities will have generated a supportive attitude towards biodiversity conservation among local communities.

Although the project will have achieved goals by the end of year 2, the project will be selffinanced by volunteer contributions and will continue for at least a further three years. This model has been used extensively by CCC on projects around the world and will enable staff and volunteers to remain in-country to provide on-going support to natural resource managers, train additional scholars, carry out on-going community engagement work and contribute to continued scientific monitoring activities.

10. Darwin Identity

The Darwin Initiative logo has been used on all official documents, including monthly project updates and project outlines, disseminated to steering committee members and other stakeholders. All key outputs, such as posters and videos will also feature the DI logo. Darwin financial support in recognised in project outlines submitted to key partners and an understanding of the role of the DI is high within these groups. The broader population of the island will be familiar with the logo, but will not necessarily be aware of the scope and context of the initiative.

11. **Project Expenditure**

Table 1	project expenditur	e durina the re	porting period (1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014)
		e aanng mere	porting period (1 April 2013 = 31 March 2014

Project spend since last annual report	2013/14 Grant (£)	2013/14 Total actual Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL	55,800	55,881		

12. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

I agree for the Darwin Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here)

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2013 - March 2014	Actions required/planned for next period				
<i>Goal/Impact</i> Livelihoods are enhanced and food s		Framework developed for effective sustainable management of natural					
the locally driven and sustainable ma natural resources.	nagement of marine and terrestrial	resources through the implementation of a stakeholder agreed LMMA and revision of the Centre Hills Management Plan. Management plans not due to be developed until the end of year 2.					
Purpose/Outcome							
The sustainable use of marine and	1 - By the end of year 2 an effective	Good progress has been made towards the project purpose in year 1, despite	Continue to engage with committee members and stakeholder groups				
terrestrial resources in Montserrat is increased, resulting in increased	Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) has been created. Within	some difficulties with convening committee meetings. A management	On-going scientific data collection				
livelihood opportunities through sustainable fisheries and	two years of establishment, 50 individuals linked to artisanal	committee has been established for the LMMA, marine and terrestrial surveys	Drafting of LMMA management plan				
ecotourism.	fisheries report improved livelihoods.	are under way. Strong relationships have been built with various	Revision of Centre Hills Management Plan				
	2 - Two stakeholder agreed key	stakeholder groups and community engagement has been initiated.	On-going recruitment and training of scholars				
	biodiversity area management	The original assumptions still hold true,	Continued promotion of project				
	plans are agreed and being implemented by the end of year 2.	particularly relating to support for the project from the GoM.	On-going community engagement and awareness raising activities				
	3 - Expenditure by tourists on nature based tourism is increased by 20% by the end of year 2.						
Output 1.	1 By the end of year 2 a scientific	Scientific surveys are underway to suppo	at the development of the LMMA and				
A stakeholder supported Locally Managed Marine Area based on accurate and comprehensive scientific information is agreed and implemented through a participatory approach.	1 - By the end of year 2 a scientific report which details the current health and status of Montserrat's coral reefs is available to government and other stakeholders for management planning and to	permanent transect sites have been identified. Fisheries data have been obtained to provide a baseline for monitoring the impact of the LMMA. A management committee has been established. Stakeholder engagement and					

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2013-2014

Annual Report template with notes 2014

	 guide the establishment of an LMMA. 2 - By the end of year 2 a government approved, stakeholder agreed Locally Managed Marine Area, including a management plan, is established. 3 - Recorded fish catch size is increased by 10% within two years of the establishment of the Locally Managed Marine Area. 	These indicators are believed to be appropriate measures of project success, although it should be borne in mind that the success of the LMMA itself (indicator 3) will not be measurable until at least two years after the end of the project. This will be made possible by CCC's commitment to remain on Montserrat for at least three years after the end of the project.					
Activity 1.1 - Carry out marine survey modified Reef Check methodology. (fish species, invertebrate species and and disease.	Collect data on benthic composition,	Survey method established and surveys underway. Data collection will be on- going for the remainder of the project.					
Activity 1.2 - Establish and monitor tw going coral reef monitoring, incorpora assess ecological changes over time trapping.	ting modified Reef Check surveys to	At the request of the GoM, permanent transect sites are to be established at Rendezvous Bay and Foxes Bay. CCC teams have conducted recces in both areas and identified suitable locations for the deployment of permanent transects. Both areas are among Montserrat's prime coral reefs and have been identified through consultation with local fishermen as ideal areas for protection within an LMMA. Transects will be established in year 2 Q1.					
Activity 1.3 - Implement fisheries survival and catches and allow for changes to		Fisheries data obtained from GoM. Data from subsequent years to be obtained as and when available.					
Activity 1.4 - Produce annual survey fisheries data collected, to be presen stakeholders, as well as made public website.	ted to government and other	Due year 2 Q1. Data available through on-going surveys. Data analysis in progress.					
Activity 1.5 - DoE to appoint manager representatives of all stakeholder gro Department of Agriculture (Fisheries) National Trust of Montserrat, CCC, R fishermen.	ups: the Department of Environment, , Montserrat Department of Tourism,	Department of Environment, Department of Agriculture, Montserrat Secondary					

Activity 1.6 - Hold quarterly manage	ment committee meetings.	One meeting held so far. Some challenges in convening regular meetings as a result of scheduling conflicts and individual commitments. Regular face-to-face contact maintained with individual members, input and suggestions requested on an ad hoc basis, group emails used to support decision making.
LMMA management targets and	workshops covering topics including threats, assessment of biodiversity lder engagement and identification of	One workshop held with members of the fishing community was successful in identifying the nature of fishing activities on the island, establishing that support for the LMMA is high and identifying potential conflicts (e.g. with local dive operators). Further workshops in year 2will focus on developing the LMMA.
Activity 1.8 - Produce management stakeholders.	t plan for LMMA in collaboration with	Due in year 2.
Activity 1.9 - LMMA declared and fo	rmalised by GoM.	Due in year 2.
Output 2. Improved knowledge of the biodiversity and function of the Centre Hills and other Key Biodiversity Areas supports management planning and implementation.	 1 - Improved information on the biodiversity of Montserrat is available for management planning and to guide resource use on terrestrial key biodiversity areas by the end of year 2. 2 - The management plan for the Centre Hills protected area is revised and updated by the end of year 2. 	Terrestrial surveys methodologies have been developed in collaboration with the GoM and international NGOs with experience on Montserrat. Data collection is on-going and an annual report is in preparation. Strong connections have been made with local stakeholders through regular meetings. Links have been made with international NGOs originally involved in establishing the Centre Hills management plan to initiate the revision process. These indicators are believed to be appropriate measures of project success.
including bird surveys (monthly spec	ations), herpetofaunal surveys (lizards including surveys for the Critically invertebrate surveys (incorporating to determine species compositions	Survey methodologies established in collaboration with the GoM and international experts. Three key areas of data deficiency have been identified: invasive plants, regular bird surveys (resident and migrant species of landbirds and shorebirds) and herptiles. Other areas have been determined as low priority. Data collection is on-going throughout the year though has been impacted by some mechanical problems with the project vehicle. Shorebird and landbird surveys have progressed well. Herptile and invasive plant surveys are priorities for year 2.
Activity 2.2 - Produce annual survey findings, to be presented to governme		Data from surveys is currently being compiled for production of an annual report in year 2 Q1.

as made publicly available through the	ne CCC website.	
Activity 2.3 - Host a stakeholder enga scientific findings.	agement event to disseminate	Due year 2 Q1.
Activity 2.4 - Hold quarterly stakehold management targets and plans.		Regular stakeholder meetings have been held. These include a meeting of the project management committee during which project targets and outputs were agreed upon; an endemic species and conservation biology workshop with a national audience at the National Alliouagana Festival of the Word; and a workshop for members of the Montserrat Farmers' Association, providing a forum for these stakeholder to share the knowledge and opinions on Montserrat's forest ecosystems. CCC staff also attended a workshop run by the Mountain Chicken Recovery Programme, providing input into the development of a species action plan for this endangered species and engaging with both local stakeholders and international NGOs involved in conservation work on Montserrat.
Activity 2.5 - Revise Centre Hills mar stakeholders.	nagement plan in collaboration with	Due year 2.
Output 3. Ecotourism in Montserrat is enhanced through an increased international profile, improved capacity, enhanced experience and greater livelihood opportunities.	 Ecotourism numbers to the island will have increased by 20% by the end of year 2. Livelihood prospects of at least ten Montserratians are improved in the environmental and ecotourism sectors by the end of year 2 through training on the scholarship programme and/or direct employment on the project. 	Project promotion is ongoing and has reached a diverse audience in year 1. Direct recruitment of volunteers to the project has seen an increase in visitors to the island. A scholarship programme has been developed and promoted and training has been provided to one individual so far. Recruitment of additional local staff, including rangers and a Community Liaison Officer has occurred. These indicators are believed to be appropriate measures of project success.
Activity 3.1 - Promote the project and schools, universities, careers fairs an		The project has been promoted at three international dive shows in the last year, as well as the RSPB Birdfair (attracting over 20,000 visitors). CCC staff have also attended over 40 school and university events to promote the project. An advert for the work was featured in the RSPB's members' magazine <i>Natures Home</i> , with a readership of 2.5 million.
Activity 3.2 - RSPB marketing of the work on the project, through project to based media and targeted communic		The RSPB magazine <i>Birds</i> featured an article about the project encouraging readers to get involved with a link to the project's website. The magazine has a readership of 2.5 million. The project was also featured on the RSPB's intranet site, accessible to all RSPB personnel.

Activity 3.3 - On-going recruitment of	volunteers.	International volunteers have been recruited on an on-going basis since the start of the project. The project was launched to volunteers in June 2013 and since this time fourteen individuals have participated as citizen scientists, alongside eight voluntary staff members.			
Activity 3.4 - Project is profiled in Car Montserrat (Paper and radio) Caribbe media (eg Birdlife International).	ean regional media and web based	The project has regularly featured on Montserrat national radio station ZJB, with regular broadcasts by team members. It also featured prominently in the annual National Alliouagana Festival of the Word. Print media coverage in Montserrat includes an article in the Montserrat Reporter and an article in the RSPB Lincoln Group newsletter.			
Activity 3.5 - Develop training resource partners, scientific advisors and local		Training resources have been developed in collaboration with local rangers and international experts. These include lectures with PowerPoint presentations and summary notes and learning aids for species identification.			
Activity 3.6 - On-going recruitment of during project period)	scholars (at least 10 to be recruited	Scholarships have been advertised widely on-island. To-date, one scholar has been recruited and is progressing through the training programme. Targeted advertising to school students is being employed to increase uptake in year 2.			
Activity 3.7 - Run training progr representatives and students on a mo	amme for GoM staff, community onthly basis.	Training is being provided to CCC's scholar. To date this includes PADI Open Water and Advanced Open Water courses, as well as scientific training in marin ecology and species identification.			
Output 4. Awareness, support for and the implementation of sustainable natural resource management is increased within local communities.	1 - Community perception surveys show an increase in awareness and support for sustainable natural resource management within the project period.	Community perception surveys have been conducted at the outset of the project to provide a baseline for assessing changes in awareness and support for sustainable natural resource management. Education and community outreach activities have been ongoing throughout year 1 and permanent resources (e.g. posters) have been developed to ensure long-term knowledge transfer. These indicators are believed to be appropriate measures of project success.			
	2 - By the end of year 2 fishing efficiency is increased through a 20% reduction in use of wasteful and damaging fishing methods using traps.				
Activity 4.1 - Conduct community perception surveys to determine the knowledge, attitude and perception of local communities on natural resources and their management (pre- and post- project).		Community perception surveys have been conducted with 216 individuals, representing 5% of the island's population. Analysis of the collected data is underway and will be presented in the annual project report for stakeholders.			
Activity 4.2 - Host ten environmental incorporating educational activities ar awareness of conservation issues.		Environmental education workshops are regularly held for local children through a collaborative agreement with the Montserrat National Library. To date seven workshops have been delivered for a regular audience of around 20 children. An additional workshop was held at Brades Primary School for another audience of			

	25 children. So far educational activities have reached 6.7% of Montserrat's 5-14 year olds. Library workshops and school visits will continue in year 2.
Activity 4.3 - Develop and deliver an educational puppet show for young children.	An educational puppet show has been developed and the script has been finalised. CCC presented the show for the first time at Montserrat's Alliouagana Festival of the World in November 2013. The show was seen by a national audience of over 40 people and was such a success that a repeat showing has been requested at the festival next year.
Activity 4.4 - Deliver two teacher training events to provide knowledge and resources for environmental education activities.	
Activity 4.5 - Develop and screen two educational films showcasing Montserrat's natural environment.	Footage is currently being collected to produce the two films. An example of the type of marine footage being collect is available to view at: www.coralcay.org/volunteer/montserrat.
Activity 4.6 - Produce and distribute two poster designs highlighting the importance of sustainable natural resource management on Montserrat.	A poster about the terrestrial environment of Montserrat has been produced and will shortly be circulated on island, pending approval by the GoM. A marine poster has been designed and is currently being developed for design work and artwork production.

Annex 2 Project's full current logframe

	Activity			Yea	ar 1			Yea	ar 2		Year 3			
		Months	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 1	A stakeholder supported Locally Managed Marine Area based on accurate and comprehensive scientific data is agreed and implemented through a participatory approach.													
1.1	Carry out marine surveys	18												
1.2	Establish and monitor two permanent transect sites	12												
1.3	Implement fisheries surveys	4												
1.4	Produce annual survey reports	2												
1.5	DoE to appoint management committee	3												
1.6	Hold quarterly management committee meetings	8												
1.7	Run four stakeholder workshops	4												
1.8	Produce management plan for LMMA in collaboration with stakeholders	3												
1.9	LMMA declared and formalised by GoM	1												
Output 2	Improved knowledge of the biodiversity and function of the Centre Hills and other key biodiversity areas supports management planning and implementation.													
2.1	Conduct terrestrial surveys	24												
2.2	Produce annual survey reports	2												
2.3	Host stakeholder engagement event to disseminate scientific findings	1												
2.4	Hold quarterly stakeholder engagement meetings	8												
2.5	Revise Centre Hills management plan in collaboration with stakeholders	3												
Output 3	Ecotourism in Montserrat is enhanced through an increased international profile, improved capacity, enhanced experience and greater livelihood opportunities													
3.1	Promote the project and Montserrat at events	24												

3.2	RSPB marketing	24			[
3.3	On-going recruitment of volunteers	24					
3.4	Press coverage	24					
3.5	Develop training resources	3					
3.6	On-going recruitment of scholars	21					
3.7	Run training programme	21					
Output 4	Awareness, support for and implementation of sustainable natural resource management is increased within local communities.						
4.1	Conduct community perception survey	4					
4.2	Host ten open days for schools	10					
4.3	Develop and deliver educational puppet show	5					
4.4	Deliver two teacher training events	6					
4.5	Develop and screen two educational films showcasing Montserrat's natural environment	6					
4.6	Produce and distribute two poster designs	6					

Annex 3 Standard Measures

Code No.	Description	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Year 4 Total	Total to date	Number planned for reporting period	Total planned during the project
3	PADI Open Water training to local scholars	1					2	5
3	PADI Advanced Open Water training to local scholars	1					2	5
6A	Scientific and ecological training to local scholars	1					5	10
7	Terrestrial training resources and marine training resources, educational posters x 2, educational videos x 2	3					4	6
8	Full time staff to include: Field Base Manager, Project Scientist, Science Officer (x2), Scuba Instructor and Education Officer (figures show total number of weeks for all staff)	300					300	600
9	LMMA management plan and Centre Hills revised management plan	0					0	2
12A	Coral reef survey database and terrestrial survey database	0					0	2
14A	Public engagement meeting to disseminate scientific findings	0					0	1
15A	Press coverage on Montserrat	2					2	4
16A	Monthly project updates and CCC newsletters	20					20	43
16B	Distributed to project partners and local stakeholders	50					50	50
16C	Distributed TO CCC mailing lists	12,000					12,000	12,000

Table 1Project Standard Output Measures

19A	Appearances by CCC staff on ZJB, Montserrat National Radio	3			3	6
22	Permanent marine survey sites	0			1	2

Table 2Publications

Туре	Detail	Publishers	Available from	Cost £
(eg journals, manual, CDs)	(title, author, year)	(name, city)	(eg contact address, website)	
Newsletter	MRRCP Monthly Project Updates, Gemma Galbraith, 2013 & 2014 x 9	Coral Cay Conservation, Surrey, UK	http://www.coralcay.org/latest- news/updates-from-the-field/	