



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office



Department  
for International  
Development



## Darwin Plus: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2015)

<b>Project Ref No</b>	DPLUS019
<b>Project Title</b>	Socioeconomic aspects of turtle conservation in the Cayman Islands
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Cayman Islands, UK
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Cayman Islands Department of Environment
<b>Partner(s)</b>	University of Exeter
<b>Project Leader</b>	Janice Blumenthal
<b>Report date and number (e.g., HYR2</b>	
<b>Project website</b>	<a href="http://www.doe.ky/marine/turtles/darwin">http://www.doe.ky/marine/turtles/darwin</a>

- Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up) (max 500 words).**

### Output 1

**1.1 Socioeconomic assessment of the cultural value and drivers of turtle meat consumption and the prevalence of illegal take (Key milestones: methods training workshop June 2014, >100 interviews completed by Nov 2014, analysis completed March 2015).** Social surveys have now been completed targeting 597 resident households to assess culture value and drivers of turtle meat consumption and prevalence of illegal take as well as surveys of 174 high school students (to further investigate age effects), 204 international tourists, and 39 restaurants (to better investigate demand). Sales information provided by Cayman Turtle Farm was also analysed. Milestones: Methods training workshops on the administration of socioeconomic surveys were organised in 2014 and over 1,000 interviews were conducted. We significantly overachieved on the initial deliverable of 100 surveys to allow a more rigorous quantitative analysis. Due to the increased sample size, analysis was completed by September 2015. This has not delayed the timeframe of the project except that workshops on illegal take will begin slightly later (see output 1.3).

**1.2 Presentation of socioeconomic results so that Government and the Cayman Turtle Farm have valid information on the role of turtle meat production in increasing or decreasing pressures on wild stocks (Key milestone: presentation of policy paper to CI Government September 2015).** A total of 10 meetings were held in order to best seek the feedback of each stakeholder group. Results were presented to: Cayman Turtle Farm management staff, Cayman Turtle Farm Scientific Advisory Board, Cayman Turtle Farm Board of Directors, Cayman Islands Governor's Office, Cayman Islands Department of Environment research and enforcement staff, and the World Animal Protection NGO (WAP). In order to provide information necessary for CI Government decision making, results were presented to Cayman Islands Department of Environment management staff, the Cayman Islands National Conservation Council, the Cayman Islands Government Minister responsible for Environment, and a Member of the Legislative Assembly representing the Tourism Ministry (which is responsible for the Turtle Farm). Other stakeholders, including the public and members of the Seafarers Association, the National Trust, and the hotel, tourism, and restaurant industries were invited to a public meeting. Additionally, a key results report and a leaflet overviewing

results were developed to present findings in a user-friendly format (available at <http://www.doe.ky/marine/turtles/darwin/>). These materials were distributed to all stakeholders and results were also disseminated through print, television, radio and social media following a press roundtable meeting.

**1.3 A collaborative approach is developed to protect nesting female turtles (Key milestones: Workshop for DoE, Police, Tourism, and Customs October 2015).** In 2015, press releases were issued highlighting the threat of illegal take (resulting in newspaper, radio, and television coverage) and more than 70 volunteers were recruited across the three islands. Presentation of socioeconomics results regarding turtle consumption and prevalence of illegal take also facilitated a discussion with stakeholders and the public. Workshops are being organised beginning in November (the timetable has been adjusted slightly so that these workshops will take place after the presentation of survey results on the prevalence of illegal take).

**1.4 Management and evaluation (Steering group meetings April, July, Oct, 2014; Jan, April, July, Oct 2015, Jan 2016).** In 2015, Skype meetings were organised in January, June, and September, the Annual Report was collaboratively developed via email in April, and in-person meeting between DoE and the University of Exeter Project Officer were organised in October.

## **Output 2**

**2.1 Quantification of marine turtle nesting population size and the farm contribution to assess vulnerability to illegal take (Key milestones: recruitment of interns for turtle nesting night survey fieldwork May 2014, May 2015, completion of two night survey field seasons 2014 and 2015).** Interns for nesting beach monitoring, tagging, and genetic sample collection were recruited in 2014 and 2015. The second field season is now near completion with almost 200 green turtle nests located and marked to allow collection of genetic samples and 19 turtles tagged, sampled, and photo documented to identify Cayman Turtle Farm “living tags.”

**2.2 Completion of genetic analysis of >500 samples (Jan 2016).** Genetic analysis using microsatellites has been completed for 157 samples and preliminary data analysis has shown the method to be effective in estimating relatedness between farm and wild stocks. Additional samples will be sent at the end of the 2015 nesting season for analysis before the completion of the project. We anticipate analysing significantly more than the initial deliverable of 500 samples in order to better estimate the contribution of the Cayman Turtle Farm to the wild turtle population.

**2.3 Management and evaluation (Steering group meetings April, July, Oct, 2014; Jan, April, July, Oct 2015, Jan 2016).** See above: in addition to maintaining frequent email contact, steering group meetings were held January, June, and September 2015 and in-person meetings were held in October.

**2a. 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 (max 300 words).**

N/A – no major changes to budget and timetable are anticipated.

**2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?**

Discussed with LTS:	N/A
Formal change request submitted:	N/A
Received confirmation of change acceptance:	N/A

**3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g., more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?**

Yes  No  Estimated underspend: N/A

**3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully as it is unlikely that any requests to carry forward funds will be approved this year.** 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 and would like to talk to someone about the options available this year, please indicate below when you think you might be in a position to do this and what the reasons might be:

N/A

**4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?**

No

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

**Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also** be raised with LTS International through a Change Request.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at [Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk](mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk). The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g., Subject: DPLUSXXX Darwin Half Year Report**