



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office



Department
for International
Development



Darwin Plus: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2015)

Project Ref No: DPLUS022

Project Title: Anguilla National Ecosystem Assessment: Towards a Green Economy

Country(ies): Anguilla, B W I

Lead Organisation: The Department of Environment

Partner(s): The Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Project Leader: Mr Karim V D Hodge

Report date and number (e.g., HYR3): Half Year Report 2

Project website:

1. 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: Create evidence base of status and trends in ecosystems and associated services.

Activity 1.8

A weblink (<http://www.gov.ai/doe/anea/>) was created for public access via the DOE's website. This website is updated regularly. It allows access to the reports and maps produced.

Output 2: Capacity strengthened across agencies (multi-sectoral) e.g no of people participating techniques learned.

Activity 2.5.

This is an on-going activity. During this phase of the project, the Anguilla General Election was held and there was a change in administration. The new administration has been synthesised on the project and the intended outcomes. This was done collectively with all the political candidates, hence the newly appointed opposition members are also informed on the project. Focus sessions have continued with local NGO's and Statutory bodies (**ANNEX A**). Through the website, updates were made readily available to all entities. This has been complemented by talk shows.

Output 3: Scenarios developed through participatory/approach and conducted national ecosystem assessment.

Activity 3.1

Stakeholder sessions have continued. Approximately 15 sessions (**ANNEX B**) were conducted. The methodology used in the previous year was modified. Stakeholders were no longer invited to a specified location, but were asked to incorporate the ANEA's team in their scheduled meetings. This was done to ensure a representative sample of the population is captured.

Activity 3.2

A variety of media forms (posters and press releases) have been developed and used to keep the community informed on the ANEA project (**ANNEX C**). The website developed has formed the basis for regular updates. By participating in radio talk shows, conducting focus group sessions and press releases (**ANNEX C**) have built visibility on the project's progress and development.

Activity 3.3

The infrastructural, developmental and statistical data and empirical evidence to commence the storyline development has been collected. The social data is still being collected and has not been made usable. This data will complement the already collected infrastructural, developmental and statistical data.

Activity 3.4

This activity is on-going. It involves focus group sessions with all community groups to allow equal buy-in on where they envision Anguilla in the future. The approach used has enabled a wider spectrum of the island to be engaged.

Activity 3.6

This initiative was deferred to Quarter One of this financial year. A report was developed detailing the most suitable options for deploying information to the targeted audiences (**ANNEX D**).

Activity 4.1

An initial discussion seminar was held with the Ministry of Finance to initiate the works for the Integrated Framework for the National Development Plan. The retreat aspect of this has been moved to the first month of quarter four.

Activities 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.6 & 4.7

As a consequence of the change in the retreat date, this activity will commence in the first month of quarter four.

Activity 4.5

The commission to execute the development of the NDFR has been established. It comprises of the key staff members (Permanent Secretary, Chief Project's Officer, Director, Economic Planning, Tourism Planner, Department of Environment, Ministry of Home Affairs, Permanent Secretary) of the Chief Minister's Office and Ministry of Finance Economic Development Investment Commerce, Lands and Planning, Ministry of Home Affairs and the Department of Environment.

Activity 4.9

This activity is on-going. Some of the possible funding agencies have already been highlighted.

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).

The timetable of the project will be affected but the budget will remain on point. Presently, we do not foresee any need to request additional funds to finalise the project. However, the funds saved in year one, will be requested for to complement the funds allocated for year two. This will be required to fulfil the remaining objectives.

The Department of Environment's relocation during the project has caused a significant delay in meeting the project's outcomes as scheduled and in the manner as planned. Prior to relocating, the workspace was inadequate to fully execute the project's activities. This was compounded by an extreme delay in the administration processes.

Activity 1.8

The Government's system was recently bugged and this has impacted all departmental websites. With the Department of Environment's website being non-operational, the regular updates on the ANEA project has been affected. Nonetheless, through talk shows, updates on the ANEA have continued.

Activity 3.4

The traditional method of inviting the community members to meetings turned out to be not effective. The methodology was changed in that the team made arrangements to be a part of group sessions- Church Night Services, Community Clubs Meetings etc.

Activity 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.6 & 4.7

The Ministry retreat has been rescheduled. This has happened because the Ministry of Finance who holds the portfolio for the national development plan had to prioritise their focus on the indigenous banking issue. This issue was given national priority for the first six months of this project period.

Lessons Learnt

The traditional methods used for collecting social data, such as town hall meetings, or inviting the public to specified locations are no longer effective. The methodology was modified in order to obtain a representative sample of the population. We have learnt to use a mixture of methodologies versus defining only one.

The need to have the website established on a domain separate from the Government's own to allow for business continuity.

Although the Department's relocation was factored into the project, it was not foreseen to have an impact since the administrative component was largely completed before the project's start date. However, due to some major administrative delays in the final stages, the relocation only occurred within the last month of quarter two. We have learnt to ensure that there is a backup established in the future.

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: Yes/No

Formal change request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance: Yes/No

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: £

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:

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

As a result of the issues raised Section 2a, the Department of Environment will be formally request through a Change of Request Form, an extension on the project's deadline and acquisition of funds saved in year one of the project.

Please note that the claim forms for Quarter 2 and 3 of year two will accompany the Change of Request Form.

A revised schedule and budget will also be submitted.

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 . 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**