



Darwin Fellowship - Interim Report

Due within one month of the half way point
of your Fellowship, *maximum 3 pages*)



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Darwin Fellowship Ref No.	DPLUS032
Name of Darwin Fellow	Luc Clerveaux
Host organisation	Marine Conservation Society
Fellow's organisation(s)	Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR, formerly Department of Environment and Maritime Affairs, DEMA)
Fellow's role within the organisation (prior to Fellowship)	Environmental Officer
Start/end date of Fellowship	01.04.2015 to 31.03.2017
Location of Fellowship	University of Portsmouth
Darwin Fellowship grant value (£)	£28,935
Type of work (e.g., research, training, if other please specify)	MSc degree in Coastal and Marine Resource Management
Main contact in Host organisation	Dr Peter Richardson
Author(s) and date	Dr Peter Richardson & Luc Clerveaux, 10.05.16

1. Background

Luc Clerveaux was not directly involved with any specific Darwin project, but worked with the Department of Environment (DECR) in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI), and was affiliated with and took part in various activities in projects such as the Caicos Pine recovery project managed by Kew Gardens, as well as the TCI Turtle Project managed by the Marine Conservation Society. As an Environmental Officer, Luc was directly involved in research and monitoring of wetlands and migratory birds, coral reef monitoring and fisheries. He served as secretary for the scientific authority committee for the management of all CITES related fauna and flora in the TCI, with the main focus on the queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) fishery which is the second most valuable fishery to the country. In addition, Luc was responsible for the preparation and delivery of ICCAT reports for the country.

This fellowship aims to provide a capacity building opportunity for Luc Clerveaux, a long-term technical DECR staff member, to attain an MSc in Coastal and Marine Resource Management at the University of Portsmouth. The fellowship will serve as a major step towards capacity building for the department, providing Luc with improved knowledge base, and additional technical skill sets necessary for sustainably managing the natural resources of the country. Luc is currently involved in numerous projects geared towards sustainable management of the TCI coastal and marine environment. He will develop a more interdisciplinary understanding of the resources in coastal and marine environments, policy development, research planning, implementation and communication.

In addition, on return to DECR, Luc will develop structured opportunities within his department to facilitate transfer of knowledge and skills gained from his training to appropriate colleagues within the department.

The MCS will administer the grant. Dr Richardson worked closely with Luc during the TCI Turtle Project research and will act as Luc's co-supervisor for his MSc thesis. This will involve regular remote and face to face liaison with Luc during 2015/2016, and one supervisory field trip during 2016 when Luc is in the field collecting data for his thesis.

DECR will provide the necessary guidance to Luc to ensure that his dissertation research has relevant practical application to conch management in TCI.

2. Progress

Activity	Duration	2015/16										2016
		J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	
Preparation of flight, accommodation, insurance and other necessities for travelling to UK, and successfully completing fellowship.	2 months											
Travel from Providenciales to Portsmouth University and settle in.	2 weeks											
1 st Semester completion of modules towards achieving the MSc Degree	4 months											
2 nd Semester completion of modules towards achieving the MSc Degree	4 months											

Progress is as planned – see above.

3. Achievements and Outcomes

To date Luc has completed the taught element of his course and is currently participating in the course field trip to Jersey to refine his fieldwork and research methods. The fieldtrip provides him with an opportunity to get a holistic view of integrated coastal zone management, highlighting some of the difficulties in successfully implementing ICZM. The course has already significantly developed Luc's understanding of Coastal and Marine Resource Management, including Coastal Physical Processes and Shoreline Management; Law of the Sea and Marine Spatial Planning.

4. Next Steps

Luc is currently planning his dissertation research, provisionally titled 'Stakeholder perceptions of conch fishery management in the Turks and Caicos Islands'. Luc will be travelling to TCI in early June to carry out a 6 week research programme interviewing a range of stakeholders to collect data for his dissertation. Dr Richardson will be joining Luc in his capacity as Supervisor for the week of the 13th June. Luc will return to Portsmouth in mid-July to analyse and write up his research in time for submission in September.