



Darwin and Darwin Plus Fellowships Reporting Guidelines



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Darwin Fellows are expected to submit two reports to the Darwin Initiative in which they have the opportunity to report on their experiences gained during the Fellowship, and on any other issues they would like to raise. Please look at the formats for both reports provided overleaf and contact me if you have any questions.

Darwin Fellows are expected to prepare the reports in conjunction with the Host Organisation who are responsible for ensuring their submission and that reporting deadlines are adhered to.

You are required to provide:

- A brief Interim Report at the half way point (maximum 3 pages) submitted within one month of the half way point.
- A Final Report within 1 month of completion of the Fellowship (maximum 6 pages excluding annexes).

LTS will read all reports submitted, but will only provide a written review of the Final report – please do not expect feedback from the Interim Report unless there are specific concerns about the progress of the Fellowship. LTS will provide a written review of the Final report within 2 months of receipt – if you have not heard from us within that timescale, please feel free to contact me for an update.

Please send your report by email to me at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk and include the name of the Darwin Fellow in the subject line.

If you have any additional queries about reporting, please feel free to email or call on 0131 440 5181.

Eilidh Young
Darwin Projects

Darwin Fellowship - Final Report

Due within one month of the end date of the Fellowship - maximum 6 pages)

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

1. Background

Luc Clerveaux was not directly involved with any specific Darwin project, but worked with the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (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 aimed to provide a capacity building opportunity for Luc Clerveaux, a long-term technical DECR staff member, and to enable him to read for an MSc in Coastal and Marine Resource Management at the University of Portsmouth. The fellowship served 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. Through the fellowship, he has developed 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 administered the grant. Dr Richardson acted as Luc's co-supervisor for his MSc thesis, which involved regular remote and face to face liaison with Luc during 2015/2016, and one supervisory field trip in Summer 2016 when Luc was in the field collecting data for his thesis. DECR provided the necessary guidance to Luc to ensure that his dissertation research had relevant practical application to conch management in TCI.

[□ If you have undertaken a formal course of training, please provide a brief explanation of the course and a link to the course website if available.](#)

The course undertaken was a MSc in Coastal and Marine Resource Management at the University of Portsmouth. The course was based on four (4) core themes:

1. Coastal physical processes and shoreline management- focused on the biophysical aspects of coastal systems and their management.
2. Law of the Sea and Marine Spatial Planning- dealt with the principles and steps for developing policies for coastal and marine space.
3. Coastal and marine resource management- this module covers the theory, basis and concepts of coastal and marine management.
4. Fieldwork and research methods, which emphasised the importance of research and guidance on how to conduct research. This unit provided some core principles used in carrying out research for dissertation.

Upon completing all related assessments for the four units, I was then able to commence the research aspect of the dissertation.

The course can be accessed via the following link
<http://www.port.ac.uk/courses/geographyearth-and-environmental-sciences/msc-coastal-and-marine-resource-management/>

2. Achievements

- Summarise the work undertaken during your Fellowship. What were the main activities undertaken?

During the fellowship, I actively participated in lectures, workshops, fieldtrips as well oral and poster presentations on a variety of coastal and marine resource management subjects. The course was assessed on essays, field research and reports, oral and poster presentations. As such, I was afforded the opportunity to research. The course also consisted of several field trips, with a focus on analysing coastal management practices around the coasts of the UK, including the Isle of Wight and the States of Jersey - a UK Crown Dependency.

- Highlight any work undertaken but not originally planned and explain why this happened.

There were a few key initiatives taken that were not originally planned, which include participation in the first Overseas Territories Student Conference held at the University College London, on November 29th 2015, where I delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the use of GIS in coastal resource management in the TCI. I also attended the Coastal Futures 2016 Conference held at the Brunei Gallery, SOAS, University of London, on January 20th and 21st 2016. This activity took place because it was recommended by the Course Tutor, as it provides a unique networking opportunity with a host of organisations from the various sectors of coastal resource management, such as CEFAS, MMO, MCSUK, ABPMER, Dialogue Matters among others. This was useful, as I was able to listen to presentations on major topics including, but not limited to bycatch discard management, quota management, marine protected areas, tourism and recreation, underwater acoustics, marine planning and climate change. I developed some useful contacts, whilst also communicating directly with experts, on their roles, challenges faced, tools, mechanisms and best practices in achieving their goals and objectives.

- Highlight any problems encountered and how they were overcome.

One noteworthy challenge encountered, was that I needed to quickly readjust to a more robust academic style of writing, as opposed to that which was accustomed at my workplace. This was overcome by attending free classes offered by University of Portsmouth, for students needing to improve their writing and language skills, recommended by the course tutor.

- What have been the main achievements of your Fellowship? How do they relate to the overall objectives of this Darwin Initiative funding scheme? Key documents should be annexed to this report.

The main achievements of the fellowship was the knowledge gained and networks created through completing the MSc in Coastal and Marine Resource Management course. I have completed the MSc degree, and will graduate in July 2017. This is perfectly in line with the overall objectives of the fellowship, to increase technical capacity within the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR) by attaining an MSc in Coastal and Marine Resources.

3. Outcomes, lessons and impact

- Do you feel that the work undertaken during your Fellowship has improved skills that are relevant and important for your work in your organisation? How are you planning to apply those skills in future work?

Yes I can state that the work undertaken during my fellowship has greatly improved my skills, in regards to understanding and appreciating the importance and value of coastal and natural resources. My research, writing, policy and presentation skills have greatly improved, as a

result of embarking on this course, which deals specifically with the many aspects of coastal and marine resource management. Although there were many learning experiences both inside and outside the classroom, what stood out for me while on the course include;

1. The importance of effective stakeholder engagement and participation, in implementing integrated coastal management initiatives.
2. Understanding and implementing the various steps of the policy cycle,
3. Consideration for the difficulties as well as advantages in achieving integrated rather than sectoral coastal management.
4. The effectiveness of using marine spatial planning and marine conservation as tools, in sustainable management and mitigating conflicts.

Although I had some experience in coastal resource management issues in the TCI prior to the course, I did not have an appreciation for the impact that effective stakeholder management could have on possible success of initiatives. Having been exposed to some of the stakeholder management practices of organisations like Chichester Harbour or the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership, which plays a vital role in their success stories. I have become more appreciative for stakeholder engagement and participation, rather than simply consultation.

With the right opportunities and resources, I am planning to apply more emphasis on having greater stakeholder participation in all stages of research and policy development and implementation. My Thesis results revealed that there is a serious lack of engagement and participation even within the DECR itself. Hence I plan to effect change from within the Department by developing mechanisms that would encourage unity and information sharing, which should then effect the change in the various branches of the department.

- [What arrangements have been made for your future involvement? What discussions have taken place with your original employer to ensure that your new skills are utilised?](#)

There have been emails as well as meetings with relevant authorities within DECR, and Ministry of Environment who is my original and current employer, to discuss how my skills may best be utilised within the DECR.

- [Has the Fellowship helped to improve your capacity to solve practical problems related to the sustainable use and/or conservation of biodiversity in your country?](#)

Yes, the fellowship has really helped to improve my capacity to solve practical problems in sustainably managing and conserving biodiversity in TCI. The fellowship has provided me with a greater understanding of how to assess and monitor the underlying issues and policies in coastal and marine management, and how to develop effective solutions. The TCI is a biodiversity hotspot, and is home to a host of endemic as well as endangered species. The TCI also boasts of a maritime area that is substantially larger than its landmass, providing great opportunities to apply the knowledge gained during the fellowship.

- [Have you had the opportunity to make contacts with other UK biodiversity institutions, intergovernmental organisations, NGOs or the private sector during your Fellowship? Will these contacts be useful for your future work, and how are you planning to maintain them?](#)

Yes, during the fellowship, I was able to make contact with key organisations such as the National Oceanography Centre (NOC) in Southampton and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), to gain insights on how mutual benefits can be had for the TCI and UK interests. In addition, many of the lectures for the course were presented by personnel who are active in the field of Coastal and Marine Resource Management, from CEFAS, MMO, Solent Partnership, ABPMER, Chichester Harbour, among others, whom have provided their contact information during lectures. It is anticipated that these contacts will be useful in the future, and I have already made introductory communications between my employer (DECR) and the NOC, seeking pathways in which marine data management within TCI can be improved.

- [Any other issues emerging from your experience as Darwin Fellow that you would like to raise, or suggestions for improvements to the Darwin Initiative Fellowship scheme.](#)

No specific recommendations at this time, but I would like to thank the Marine Conservation Society and the Darwin Initiative for this rewarding and enjoyable opportunity to further my career in my chosen field.