



## Darwin Initiative/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019)

<b>Project reference</b>	DPLUS061
<b>Project title</b>	Protecting herbivorous fish to conserve Cayman Island coral reef biodiversity
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Cayman Islands
<b>Lead organisation</b>	CCMI
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Cayman Islands Department of Environment, Smithsonian Institution, The Rare Organisation
<b>Project leader</b>	Carrie Manfrino PhD, Claire Dell PhD
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)</b>	Oct 2019 3 <sup>rd</sup> and final Half Year Report
<b>Project website/blog/social media etc.</b>	<a href="http://www.reefresearch.org">www.reefresearch.org</a>

**1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) 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 to end September).**

As we near the end of the grant, we are completing the final deliverables and are reaching the various milestones on schedule.

The report on the visual census of herbivores across the three islands is finished and now published (Annex 1). Continuing what we reported in the annual report in 2019, over the past 6 months we have now completed sample collection for genetic analyses and have sent the samples to our project partners at the Smithsonian for processing (output 2.2). Proof of postage is included as Annex 2.

We have also finished tracking the herbivores and have built a dataset on their movement patterns (output 2.2). An example of the tracking data is included in Annex 3. Data collection on fish catch at landing sites (output 3.1) is also now complete (proof of data collection was included in the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual report) and the education module has been created and posted to the website (output 4.3). The education module can be viewed here:  
<https://reefresearch.org/what-we-do/education/teacher-resources/>

The first scientific publication is submitted (output 4.2, Annex 4). Writing of the Biodiversity Action Plan and the final scientific publication is underway and will be completed by the end of the grant. This completes all of outputs 1,2 & 3 and half of output 4.

Additionally, we ran a second Reefs Go Live broadcast on this grant so have reached double our intended audience. This second broadcast occurred on the 15<sup>th</sup> May and was streamed by 30 concurrent viewers which includes 11 classes from schools in the Cayman Islands. 28 questions were asked throughout the broadcast and by the 6<sup>th</sup> August it had received 209 views on YouTube. We estimated about 900 people had seen it by then.

The broadcast can be viewed here:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v\\_BwwmtqRwI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v_BwwmtqRwI)

Finally, the focus groups have all been held. In total I held 11 different meetings with various stakeholder groups were let: two to staff and guests at the dive resorts; one to resort managers; two with different government representatives; three with fishermen and three to the general community across two islands. In total over 80 people were involved and a written report on the knowledge they gained throughout the project was completed (output 1.2). The report is included as Annex 5 and proof of some of the meetings are Annexes 6-10.

**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.**

The notable drop in exchange rate has been a serious cause for concern. Funds from Darwin are worth far less in USD now than when the budget was calculated at the time the grant was submitted.

**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	No
Formal change request submitted:	Yes/No	No
Received confirmation of change acceptance	Yes/No	NA

**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.** 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, please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary.

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

None