



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

Project reference	DPLUS066
Project title	Climate change adaptation in the fisheries of Anguilla and Montserrat
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Anguilla and Montserrat
Lead organisation	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)
Partner(s)	Fisheries and Ocean Governance Unit, Ministry of Agriculture, Trade, Lands, Housing and the Environment (MATLHE) – Montserrat Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources (DFMR), Ministry of Infrastructure Communication, Utilities, Housing, Fisheries and Agriculture – Anguilla The University of the West Indies - Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (UWI-CERMES)
Project leader	<i>Ainka Granderson</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)	<i>October 31, 2019, HYR3</i>
Project website/blog/social media etc.	http://www.canari.org/climate-change-adaptation-in-the-fisheries-of-anguilla-and-montserrat

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).

Project management, monitoring and evaluation and reporting

The fifth bi-annual meeting of the Project Steering Committee was organised and convened on October 4, 2019 with the project partners. The Steering Committee was chaired by the Chief Fisheries Officer of the Fisheries and Ocean Governance Unit - MATLHE in Montserrat and focused on:

- reviewing actions implemented during the first half of Year 3 (1 April 2019 – 30 September 2019), including key outputs, lessons and implementation challenges;
- refining the actions planned for the second half of Year 3 (1 October 2019 – 31 March 2020) and project wrap up; and
- identifying opportunities for synergies and engagement with relevant regional projects during the second half of Year 3, including the four-year Global Environment Facility (GEF) project *Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector (CC4FISH)*.

In terms of project delivery, the Steering Committee discussed the status of deliverables and activities being implemented under the following outputs:

- Output 2:
 - Develop and disseminate awareness and advocacy products and other events on the need to mainstream climate change adaptation (CCA) into fisheries-related policies and plans in Anguilla and Montserrat.

- Develop and disseminate awareness and advocacy products and hold workshops/meetings on ecosystem stewardship in Anguilla and Montserrat.
- Facilitate peer exchanges between key stakeholders in Anguilla and Montserrat.
- Output 3:
 - Update selected fisheries management plans in Anguilla and Montserrat to integrate an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) and facilitate mainstreaming CCA and disaster risk management.
- Output 4:
 - Provide small grants and mentoring to support fisherfolk organisations in Anguilla and Montserrat to develop, implement, monitor and report on four CCA projects (two per island).

Under Output 2, the Steering Committee discussed development of a policy brief that would highlight best practices and key lessons under the project on how to build coastal and marine resilience, including lessons on how to engage fisherfolk in these efforts, targeted at policy makers and practitioners in Anguilla, Montserrat and the wider Caribbean. An online “story map”¹ was also proposed to document and share all the key project outputs, including maps, participatory videos, reports and other communication products, in a way that is interactive and easily accessible for fisherfolk and other coastal and marine resource users and managers.

Under Output 3, UWI-CERMES noted that revisions to selected fisheries management plans for Anguilla and Montserrat were almost completed; they were taking longer than expected as they are doing a more detailed update than what had been initially proposed as they felt this would be of greater use and benefit to the territories. The updated draft plans would be sent to DFMR and Fisheries and Ocean Governance Unit - MATLHE for review by early November and then final drafts produced based on their inputs. These final drafts will need to go through further stakeholder review, and additional data sourced to inform management planning based on EAF, before finalisation by the DFMR and Fisheries and Ocean Governance Unit post-project.

Under Output 4, they discussed progress with the small grants of US\$12,000 each for climate change adaptation and stewardship projects led by the Anguilla Fisher Folk Association (AFFA) and Montserrat Fishers & Boaters Association (MFBA), and discussed the role and technical support that the DFMR and Fisheries and Ocean Governance Unit - MATLHE could provide to ensure effective implementation of the projects. It was suggested that it would be best to assign a fisheries extension officer in each territory to work with the fisherfolk organisations on their small grant activities, and CANARI would follow up specifically with DFMR and Fisheries and Ocean Governance Unit - MATLHE to confirm.

A copy of the minutes of the Project Steering Committee meeting is included as Appendix 1.

Output 2: Knowledge mobilisation and exchange to catalyse change in policy and practice for enhanced stewardship strengthened among key policy makers, resource managers and resource users in Anguilla and Montserrat based on assessed vulnerabilities and institutional readiness for CCA in fisheries

Awareness and advocacy products and other events on mainstreaming CCA

CANARI finalised and graphically designed the case study of the institutional assessments to assess readiness for climate change adaptation in the fisheries sectors of Anguilla and Montserrat, which were shared as a PDF via email listservs and on CANARI’s and partners’ websites and as hard copies. CANARI will send 50-100 hard copies of the case study, via registered mail, to both the DFMR and Fisheries and Ocean Governance Unit for local dissemination in Anguilla and Montserrat in October 2019. A copy of the case study is included as Appendix 2.

Awareness and advocacy products and workshops/meetings on ecosystem stewardship

¹ Story maps use Geographic Information System (GIS) tools to combine geospatial data with photos, video, audio, and text to visualise a theme or sequential events. Story maps are designed for non-technical audiences with access to the internet. Users do not need experience with GIS software to read or use story maps.

CANARI has delayed project activities for these outputs until Quarters 3 and 4 of Year 3, and will seek to coordinate efforts with those under the small grants led by AFFA and MFBA in Anguilla and Montserrat.

Peer exchanges

No activities were planned for this period. CANARI has, however, identified specific opportunities for peer exchange in Quarter 4 of Year 3, which will be combined with the lessons learned workshops for project evaluation. Other opportunities for peer exchange are currently being identified with the project partners.

Output 3: Actions taken to mainstream adaptation to climate change and variability in fisheries-related policies and plans of Anguilla and Montserrat, using EAF.

UWI-CERMES finalised in April 2019 the reports on technical inputs on updating Anguilla's and Montserrat's fisheries management plans using EAF developed in Year 2 and shared with DFMR and Fisheries and Ocean Governance Unit - MATLHE (see Appendix 3). UWI-CERMES has since been working to revise fisheries management plans for Anguilla and Montserrat, focusing on the small coastal pelagics management plan for Anguilla and the draft National Fisheries Plan for Montserrat, to integrate CCA and disaster risk management using EAF. These revisions were guided by initial inputs from the DFMR and Fisheries and Ocean Governance Unit - MATLHE as well as recommendations from the reports on technical inputs on updating Anguilla's and Montserrat's fisheries management plans using EAF. The updated draft plans are expected to be sent to DFMR and Fisheries and Ocean Governance Unit - MATLHE for review in October 2019 and then final drafts produced based on their inputs by December 2019.

Additionally, CANARI presented at the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States' 6th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Environmental Sustainability (COMES 6) in Martinique from May 15-17, 2019, on the theme "Towards a Sustainable Caribbean Society". CANARI shared lessons from the project with ministers and key OECS Commission staff to promote CCA and ecosystem stewardship to ensure sustainable fisheries and marine resources and resilient fisheries-related livelihoods and to contribute towards a blue-green economy in the region. At the meeting, the critical challenge of sargassum seaweed influxes and impacts on the fisheries and tourism sector was also highlighted, and an OECS discussion paper disseminated to delegates. The ministers and OECS Commission committed to developing a coordinated strategy to support research, technologies and solutions on sargassum in the Eastern Caribbean, including in the French, Dutch and UK Overseas Territories.

Output 4: Capacity of fisherfolk and their organisations in coastal communities strengthened to undertake practical actions for ecosystem stewardship, incorporating CCA actions to improve livelihoods in Anguilla and Montserrat.

Small grants of US\$ each were approved for CCA and stewardship projects in Anguilla and Montserrat. In each territory, the small grants are being jointly implemented by two active FFOs. AFFA is partnering with the Anguilla Fishing Cooperative (AFC) to implement their project on "Increasing safety at sea and stewardship among Anguillan fisherfolk to build climate change resilience". MFBA is partnering with the Montserrat Fishing Cooperative (MFC) to implement their project on "Building resilience to climate change in Montserrat's fisheries through climate-smart practices and stewardship". The first small grant disbursements were made in mid-August 2019, and both small grant projects are expected to be completed by mid-February 2020. CANARI has assigned two staff members to mentor the FFOs in each territory and support implementation of their projects, and UWI-CERMES is providing technical expertise to support specific activities. DFMR and the Fisheries and Ocean Governance Unit - MATLHE will also be engaged to provide further oversight and technical support for implementation of the projects.

Copies of the final approved grant proposals are attached as Appendix 4.

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.

There were delays in drafting and finalising the small grant proposals with the AFFA/AFC in Anguilla and MFBA/MFC in Montserrat due to time and capacity constraints within the fisherfolk organisations in proposal writing and project design. The fisherfolk leaders found it difficult to mobilise other fisherfolk and to find time to meet and come to consensus on activities given their other livelihood concerns and commitments. While the fisherfolk organisations and leaders in Montserrat did have prior experience in developing a grant proposal, those in Anguilla had little to no experience and relied heavily on the support of a local volunteer and the CANARI mentor to complete their proposal. Consequently, the small grant agreements were signed in mid-August 2019 rather than in early July 2019 as planned and the projects will run until mid-February 2020. This leaves little room for further delays during implementation before the project end date of March 2020. CANARI will therefore work closely with the DFMR and Fisheries and Ocean Governance Unit - MATLHE to provide additional on-the-ground support to enable timely and effective implementation of the small grants in Anguilla and Montserrat in Q3 and Q4 of Year 3.

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: No

Formal change request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance 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. 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.

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?