



Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects
Half Year Report
(due 31st October 2020)

Project reference	DPLUS067
Project title	Regional collaboration to achieve sustainable Caribbean fisheries management
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Anguilla, British Virgin Islands (BVI), Turks and Caicos (TCI)
Lead organisation	Cefas
Partner(s)	Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources (DFMR) in Anguilla; Conservation and Fisheries Department (CFD) in BVI; and Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR) in TCI.
Project leader	<i>Rosana Ourens</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)	<i>HYR4</i>
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.cefasc.org.uk/impact/case-studies/regional-collaboration-to-achieve-sustainable-fisheries-in-the-caribbean/

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed project implementation timetable (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).

The activities that should have been completed by the first half of the financial year 2020-2021 are the following:

OUTPUT 1. Data collection:

Design and test of a phone app for the fishermen to report catch data (in progress). The app has been designed. However, Anguilla and BVI have not yet engaged with the process of deploying the backend on their respective server, and this is preventing the app from going live. See section 2a for more details.

Design and test of Bluetooth callipers for data collection (in progress). The Bluetooth callipers and the tablets have been handed to the three UKOTs. Cefas has also created a database for the data collection, considering the needs and requirements previously discussed with the partners. The database will be shared with the UKOTs in November and a tutorial webinar will be delivered by December.

OUTPUT 2. Stock assessment:

Produce stock status reports for both species in all three UKOTs (in progress). The reports have been written and internally reviewed at Cefas. The comments from the reviewers are being addressed.

Produce stock assessment toolkits. It will be delivered during the workshop on stock assessment (output 4).

OUTPUT 3. Fisheries management:

Develop generic conch and spiny lobster fishery management plans and customised in depth plans for TCI (in progress). A draft of the generic conch and lobster fishery management plans has been written following the comments from the workshop held in BVI on fisheries management. TCI is currently updating their 2010 management plan. This updated plan has been recently shared with Cefas, who will review it and provide advice.

Assess the effectiveness of the management measures implemented by the Fisheries Management Council in BVI (not applicable). Cefas participated in a workshop with stakeholders in BVI in 2019 to discuss the implementation of a co-management in Anegada and potential management regulations. However, the Conservation and Fisheries Department has not been successful on the creation of the Fisheries Management Council yet, and therefore no additional management measures have been implemented.

OUTPUT 4. Capacity building:

Workshop on stock assessment. It has been delayed because of Covid-19 (section 2b)

UK-based knowledge exchange activities. It has been delayed because of Covid-19 (section 2b)

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months (for Covid-19 specific delays/problems, please use 2b). Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

It was agreed that a phone app would be designed for the fishers to report catch data in the three UKOTs. The app was especially relevant for BVI where many years of logbook data was lost during the Hurricane Irma in 2017 because the information was not digitalized. The app has been designed and it is ready to go live. However, Anguilla and BVI have not yet engaged with the process of deploying the backend on their respective server. It is not immediately clear what has caused this delay, and whether it is indeed just a delay or if BVI and Anguilla will decide not to go ahead with the app.

Cefas will be submitting a change request to deliver two different versions of the app: one in TCI and the other in BVI and Anguilla. By doing this, the app in TCI could go live now. In addition, beyond the project, TCI will be able to develop further their own app irrespectively of the other two UKOTs. A second change request might be required if Anguilla and BVI also decide to have independent apps.

2b. Please outline any specific issues which your project has encountered as a result of Covid-19. Where you have adapted your project activities in response to the pandemic, please briefly outline how you have done so here. Explain what residual impact there may be on your project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

Because of Covid-19, Cefas and some UKOT government staff are currently working remotely with no set date to go back to the offices. Cefas will not receive visitors during the 2020/21 financial year. Given these exceptional and uncertain times, we will submit a change request to extend the project. Only the activities that require travel will be postponed:

- UKOT member staff visit Cefas. The agenda included a course on R software, participation in market sampling, training on the database that Cefas created for the UKOTs data-collection, exchange of experience and knowledge with Cefas scientists, general discussion of the results of the project.
- Workshop on stock assessment. It was previously agreed with Darwin that it would take place during the visit to the UK.
- Cefas visits the three UKOTs towards the end of the project to support outcomes implementation and legacy.

Although we considered conducting these activities remotely, this alternative was discarded because it would greatly impact the quality of the training, implementation of project outcomes and legacy. Only a webinar on the database created by Cefas for data-collection will take place remotely.

2c. 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/ <u>No</u>
Formal change request submitted:	Yes/ <u>No</u> Change request in development
Received confirmation of change acceptance	Yes/ <u>No</u>

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. **Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.**

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

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 DO NOT send these in the same email.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk. The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 25-001 Darwin Half Year Report**