



## Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects Half Year Report (due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021)

<b>Project reference</b>	DPLUS067
<b>Project title</b>	Regional collaboration to achieve sustainable Caribbean fisheries management
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Anguilla, British Virgin Islands (BVI), Turks and Caicos (TCI)
<b>Lead organisation</b>	Cefas
<b>Partner(s)</b>	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.
<b>Project leader</b>	<i>PI: Rosana Ourens / Project Manager: Kerry I'Anson</i>
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	<i>HYR5</i>
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	<a href="https://www.cefas.co.uk/impact/case-studies/regional-collaboration-to-achieve-sustainable-fisheries-in-the-caribbean/">https://www.cefas.co.uk/impact/case-studies/regional-collaboration-to-achieve-sustainable-fisheries-in-the-caribbean/</a>

**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 2021-2022 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 updated to work with the latest software of Android and iOS. However, the UKOTs have not yet engaged with the process of deploying the backend on their respective servers, and this is preventing the app from going live. See section 2a for more details.

OUTPUT 2. Stock assessment:

**Produce stock status reports for both species in all three UKOTs (completed).** The reports were sent to the UKOTs and the results were presented in online meetings.

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

OUTPUT 3. Fisheries management:

**Assess the strengths and weaknesses of existing fisheries management approaches in each UKOT (in progress)**

Cefas ran a 3-day workshop on fisheries management in 2019, and a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis of fisheries governance was conducted for the 3 UKOTs. This was followed by discussions on the specific goals of each UKOT, covering aspects such as sustainable fishing practices, and on their respective options for the

development and implementation of management plans. The information collected during this workshop is being summarised in the report 'UKOT Fisheries Management Review', which will be available in 2021/2022.

**Using the outcomes of the wider project, the relevant government fisheries departments will collaborate to develop a generic conch and spiny lobster fishery management plan, which can be built upon and refined to meet local management needs (not applicable).**

The management framework is different between UKOTs, which makes difficult to create a general management plan. Anguilla is not implementing a management plan at the moment, and BVI is interested in implementing a co-management plan in Anegada although the co-management framework has not been designed yet. Cefas will provide BVI with some guidance to implement a fisheries co-management, but the co-management plan should be developed with the collaboration of the fishing industry.

**Draft TCI species management plans and recommendations presented to Government (completed).** TCI is updating their management plan for all their fisheries, and Cefas sent them suggestions for the lobster and conch sections.

#### OUTPUT 4. Capacity building:

Workshop on stock assessment, combined with 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, but it seems that BVI and Anguilla have decided not to go ahead with the app.

The Fisheries Department of the TCI has shown their interest in the app in many occasions. The IT department of the government of TCI was actively collaborating with QuyTech (the developers of the app) in transferring the app to their cloud, but we have not been able to contact them in the last few months.

**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. 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 and stock assessment methods, participation in market sampling, exchange of experience and knowledge with Cefas scientists, general discussion of the results of the project.
- It was expected that Cefas would visit the three UKOTs towards the end of the project to support outcomes implementation and legacy. The meetings will be held online instead.

Although we considered conducting these activities remotely, this alternative was discarded because it would greatly impact the quality of the training.

<b>2c. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?</b>	
Discussed with LTS:	<u>Yes</u> /No
Formal change request submitted:	Yes/ <u>No</u>
Received confirmation of change acceptance	Yes/ <u>No</u>
<b>3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?</b>	
<b>Yes</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Estimated underspend: £      To be determined – change request in preparation	
<b>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.</b>	
<p>We had hoped that the in-country visits would have been able to take place this FY. However, this is now looking increasingly unlikely that Cefas will be able to host the Project Partners at this time as there are still Covid19 restrictions in place within the Cefas buildings with the majority of staff still working from home. With this in mind, the intention is to submit a change request to Darwin asap (before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021) with a plan for hosting the planned visit to Cefas during Q1 next FY. The budget required for this needs to be calculated as part of the change request.</p> <p><b>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.</b></p>	
<b>4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?</b>	

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](mailto: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**