



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

Project reference	DPLUS078
Project title	The Montserrat Recycling and Waste Reduction Initiative
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	MONTSERRAT
Lead organisation	Scuba Montserrat
Partner(s)	Island Solutions
Project leader	Andrew Myers
Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)	HYR2
Project website/blog/social media etc.	www.ecomontserrat.org ; www.facebook.com/ecomontserrat

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).

From 1 April to 30 September a total of 44 glass collection points were set up across the island. This number includes 4 community drop points and 40 private businesses/residences (such as bars, restaurants, hotels and villas). The project has provided one-off glass collection services for several seasonal business and public festivals and events, as well.

Over the last two quarters, a total of 27,857 kg of material has been collected in the various wheeled bins and collection bags used by the project across the island. Of this number, only 25,616 kg have been crushed using the project's glass pulverising machine – the deficit is accounted for by a combination of trash/general waste being in bins and larger bottles which were set aside to be cut using the project's wet saw. Measurement and analysis of the glass contents in collection bins has shown that a "typical" bottle collected weighs 224 g on average. As such, an estimated 114,359 "typical" bottles have been crushed in the last six months.

As outlined above, most of the glass being collected has been crushed mechanically and the resulting product has been given away for free to anyone on island who is interested in its use and applications (primarily for masonry and construction projects, although a smaller proportion has been used for artistic and decorative purposes). Towards the second half of this phase, the project has also begun selling cut bottles which have been repurposed into glasses, ash trays, soap dishes, vases, candle holders and lamp shades. All revenue generated from these sales is being funnelled back into the EcoMNI project to fund various project activities and expenses. The primary purpose of these sales, however, is to spread awareness about the project and its activities, and initial feedback and results have been very positive, with several bars and restaurants expressing an interest in ordering glass products in bulk for their businesses.

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.

Of the 44 collection points set up on the island, four of these points were discontinued during the course of the last half year. Two were removed due to exceptionally low activity and use and two others were discontinued as the collection bin was being used primarily as a disposal for general refuse, not glass collection receptacles. The decision to discontinue collection at these points was made in order to more efficiently reallocate project resources to other areas of the island.

The majority of glass collection points, however, have been used well and although there continues to be an issue of general trash and refuse being disposed of in the glass collection containers, the rate of this contamination has diminished considerably since the previous phase of the project.

Progress has been slowed at times by numerous mechanical issues and breakdowns of project equipment such as the glass pulverising machine, electronic weighing scale and the project vehicle. Due to the logistical difficulties of obtaining replacement parts and shipping them to the island in a timely manner, this has on occasion caused delays to the project activities.

There has also been a significant delay in establishing the permanent processing site for the project. This has been due to delays in permission from the relevant government departments and personnel, personnel changes in aforementioned departments, and subsequent issues with availability of heavy machinery to clear and grade the approved plot of land. Despite these issues, progress has continued at a steady rate with regular collection and processing of glass waste being maintained. At the time of writing of this report land has been graded and the processing facility will be constructed in Q3 of year 2.

The greatest continued issue remains the dispute with the company contracted to ship project materials. Despite well documented evidence that our shipping container arrived only about half full and independent shipment charges were added the company refuses to credit the project the full amount of these overcharges. This dispute will likely require legal action, though we are trying to avoid that process greatly.

Issues at the start up of Year 1 have created a slight change in the schedule but the project is close to returning to the original planned schedule. Our expected quarterly expenses are back in line with the original forecast.

If future projects are conducted through the Darwin programs (or any other programs) more stringent agreements will be made with the local government(s) and our belief in business integrity will not be so accepting.

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

Formal change request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/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.

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. Additionally, if you were funded under R25 and asked to provide further information by your first half year report, please attach your response as a separate 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: 25-035 Darwin Half Year Report**