



## Darwin Initiative/D+ Project

### Half Year Report

(due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019)

Project reference	DPLUS081
Project title	Mapping for evidence-based policy, recovery and environmental resilience.
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	British Virgin Islands (BVI), Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI)
Lead organisation	Environment Systems Ltd.
Partner(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands</li> <li>• Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR), The Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands</li> <li>• JNCC</li> </ul>
Project leader	Dr Johanna Breyer
Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)	HYR2
Project website/blog/social media etc.	None

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).

#### **Output 1: Satellite imagery sourced and processed and supplied to BVI and TCI; mapping produced for multiple dates supported by existing and new data**

##### **1.3 Collect field work data for training and modelling**

Additional fieldwork data has been collected for the bathymetry modelling and benthic classification in BVI, overseen by the National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands.

Fieldwork data has been collected for the terrestrial habitat classification of TCI, conducted by JNCC and overseen by DECR, TCI.

##### **1.4 Produce maps for terrestrial and key shallow water marine features**

- Marine benthic and bathymetric baseline maps have been produced for BVI.
- Terrestrial habitat data has been produced by JNCC for TCI.

## **Output 2: Monitoring of mapping outputs and creation of a monitoring plan for TCI and BVI for future use**

### **2.3 Write monitoring plan**

During the project it has become apparent that it would be of greater value to the project partners to be able to independently create and adapt plans to flexibly respond to monitoring needs for a wide variety of features related to environmental and resource pressures, rather than to produce a static monitoring plan which would quickly be at risk of becoming out of date. This requires a set of tools, data and analysis workflows that can be adapted and applied to changing monitoring needs of relevant environmental features as required.

The UK-based training for key individuals from TCI & BVI (3.3) focused strongly on this key set of monitoring tools and on the transferability of techniques to a wide range of monitoring scenarios and how the islands can adapt and expand basic workflows to create bespoke monitoring plans going forward.

A list of current monitoring needs has been drawn up together with the project partners, including mangrove and dry forest condition, unplanned developments, illegal sand mining and quarrying. During the remaining six months of the project bespoke monitoring workflows are being created and executed by island staff to improve the evidence base for planning and policy decisions on the islands regarding these features. This process is being supported by Environment Systems Ltd. with regularly scheduled Skype surgeries as well as e-mail support and advice to reinforce and embed the required processes and firmly integrate them into planning and development activities.

### **2.4 Create ecosystem service and opportunity maps**

Delegates who attended the UK-based training (3.3), subsequently produced the following ecosystem service, risk and opportunity maps independently to support environmental decision-making processes on the islands:

BVI:

- Area of sargassum bloom washed up on Anegada to aid removal estimates
- Mangrove loss and recovery post after the 2017 hurricanes on Tortola

TCI:

- Urban expansion on Providenciales
- Mangrove loss and recovery after the 2017 hurricanes
- Habitat suitability map for indigenous orchids

A table of further mapping deliverables and outputs from the project has been drawn up to be completed over the remaining project time.

## **Output 3: Workshops and training held on remote sensing, monitoring and ecosystem service mapping techniques**

### **3.3 UK-based training for key individuals from TCI & BVI**

The third workshop was preceded by an additional CIEEM/ UKOTF one-day conference on 31<sup>st</sup> April 2019, held at Gibraltar Government House, London. The event was also set-up as a webinar so that delegates from around the world could join in.

The third workshop, held 3<sup>rd</sup>—7<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at Environment Systems offices in Aberystwyth, was an intense week on the practical application of remote sensing, GIS, and ecological knowledge. All six delegates (three each from BVI and TCI respectively) picked their own environmental issue and, using their own data and skills acquired during the previous two workshops, developed workflows to provide evidence of habitat extent, change, and/or condition. The workshop emphasized the transferability and applicability of the taught techniques to a wide range of scenarios.

Skype surgeries have been set up every two-months with the delegates, to help them with their individual projects, deepen the learning and to embed processes into every day working practices as well as for general EO and GIS assistance.

### 3.4 Workshop 3: Training in modelling and stakeholder awareness

This workshop is scheduled to take place on both BVI and TCI, with two days on each territory, during February 2020. Attendance, travel, accommodation, venue bookings and the agenda are in progress with the local partners.

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.

Following the feedback from Darwin and an internal re-evaluation of the original project log frame it has been acknowledged by the project partners that this would benefit from simplification and increased focus on the measurable indicators and means of verification.

Importantly, during the first year of the project it has become very clear that the project emphasis should be much more centred on giving the project partners the skills and tools to integrate spatial data into every-day decision making on an on-going, continuous basis and not just to provide a one-off set of data and maps and some training in how to use these. This is of course better on all accounts, as it means greater self-sufficiency for the islands and an improved legacy and long-term impact of the project.

We think it is important to reflect this in an improved logframe, to be able to demonstrate the greater ownership the partners on both TCI and BVI have taken of the project during its first year and the change is being proposed following consultation and agreement with all project partners and the independent M&E consultants.

We have received feedback on the revised logframe from Darwin, which we are currently addressing prior to submitting a final version.

These changes do not affect the budget and timetable of the project.

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: Yes

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.

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

Not applicable.

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](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: 25-035 Darwin Half Year Report**