



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



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

Project reference	DPLUS091
Project title	Improving coastal ecosystem resilience to climate change in Anguilla
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Anguilla
Lead organisation	Department of Disaster Management
Partner(s)	Anguilla National Trust (ANT), Department of Environment (DOE), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Project leader	<i>Calvin Samuel /Damian Barker</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)	<i>HYR1</i>
Project website/blog/social media etc.	<i>N/A</i>

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).

The following activities have taken place over the first six months of the project:

- 1) **Output 1.1 Collate existing and any new coastal ecological and vulnerability data to inform coastal ecosystem vulnerability models.** The following datasets were requested and supplied to the consultancy firm; Environment Systems: (1) the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) bathymetry data for Anguilla following the passage of Hurricane Irma in 2017; (2) field data describing the benthic substrates around Anguilla's coastline – particularly areas affected by cloud cover in the last set of LiDar satellite images obtained; (3) field data describing the current status of mangroves and wetlands including soil properties, and the presence of artificial structures or any new infrastructure. These datasets will be used in the ecosystems modelling work.
- 2) **Update coastal ecosystem vulnerability models and develop scenario and opportunities maps to identify coastal priority sites for mitigation and restoration action.** This work has begun but is on-going. Following discussions with the consultancy firm; Environment Systems, this output is expected to be delivered by December 2019.
- 3) **Output 3.1: Public awareness plan developed.** This output has been **achieved**.
- 4) **Output 3.2 Implement public awareness plan and monitor its effectiveness.** A survey monkey questionnaire has been drafted by project partners and will be circulated in early November 2019. This questionnaire will serve at a pre-project assessment of the community's knowledge and perception of coastal resiliency issues, and will be repeated in year three to measure any change in attitudes and perceptions.
- 5) **Output 3.6: Publicise and report on project progress and results through the Darwin platform, stakeholders' engagements, radio programmes and the newspaper.** This is on-going and is detailed in our public awareness plan. To date, two press releases have been published (Annexes 3 & 4). In addition, the project coordinator: Louise Soanes co-facilitated a coastal resilience symposium at the regional

Commented [SCF1]: Given that this output was achieved, it will be necessary to append a copy of the plan to the report.

Caribbean Initiative conference held in Dominican Republic, May 2019, where she presented on this project; and the DOE focused their outreach activities on coastal resiliency at Anguilla's Risk Assessment and Safety Fair held on the 29th June 2019. The project was also introduced by Louise Soanes at the Inter-Island Environment Meeting's Wilder Islands Conference held in Alderney (Channel Islands) in September 2019. Over 100 detailed coastal resiliency surveys have been undertaken and will be used to guide further public awareness activities.

In summary, all activities detailed in the first part of the workplan have been initiated and/or achieved. In addition, project partners held a project inception meeting in April 2019 and a steering group meeting on the 6th September 2019.

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.

Four months into this project, Ms Melissa Meade, designated project lead and Director of Disaster Management was transferred to another entity. Mr Calvin A. Samuel was transferred to the Department of Disaster Management and now holds the designation of project lead and Director; Department of Disaster Management. This change in project's lead slightly slowed the contract process with project partners and the consultancy firm Environment Systems, and amongst other factors caused the modelling work to start later than scheduled. However, the project partners have worked assiduously to ensure that all project activities are kept on track and the coastal ecosystems vulnerability and scenario mapping work is completed as scheduled.

Commented [SCF2]: This statement should be reconsidered. The change in project lead did not delay the start of the modelling work by several months. The discrepancy with the Contract, people on annual leave, the lengthy process for obtaining the UKHO bathymetry data for Anguilla are some of the factors which led to the delay experienced.

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
Formal change request submitted:	Yes
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?

N/A

--

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**