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

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, Environment Unit-Department of Natural Resources, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Project leader	Calvin Samuel /Damian Barker
Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)	HYR2
Project website/blog/social media	N/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).

Output 1: Prioritisation of coastal ecosystems (coral reefs, sand dunes, beaches, mangrove forests, and coastal hillsides) that are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change (including extreme weather events) and that have the greatest restoration capacity through the application of a robust modelling procedure

Activity update:

- *Activity 1.2*: **Update coastal ecosystem vulnerability models and develop scenario and opportunity maps to identify coastal priority sites for mitigation and restoration action** This activity has been completed: coastal flood risk maps for Anguilla have been produced. Opportunity and vulnerability maps focusing on the restoration of red mangroves, buttonwoods, sand dunes, reefs and inland dry forests have been created by the consultant Environment Systems Ltd. All data in the form of GIS shapefiles have been supplied to project partners.
- *Activity 1.3*: **Use scenario models to identify the extent of mitigation and restoration action required to ascertain the desired ecosystem resiliency levels.** This activity has been completed. Areas for restoration have been defined and the restoration activities identified.

Output 2. Implementation of climate change models and stakeholder-informed conservation action plans

Activity update:

- *Activity 2.2:* **Hold stakeholder meetings to review and verify the results of vulnerability models** Project partners and stakeholders - Department of Physical Planning, Fisheries & Marine Resources Unit-Department of Natural Resources, and Department of Lands and Surveys - met to examine maps produced in 1.2 and 1.3 above in order to prioritise sites for restoration. The resulting top seven sites identified were: (1)

Meads Bay Pond, (2) Cove Bay Pond, (3) Cove Bay sand dunes, (4) the Forest Pond, (5) Forest Bay beach, (6) Long Salt Pond and (7) Long Pond Bay.

- *Activity 2.3:* **Develop stakeholder-informed site-specific mitigation and restoration action plans.** Conservation action plans have been drafted for the priority sites listed above.

- *Activity 2.4:* **Establish nursery for native coastal vegetation seedlings.** A nursery has been established at the Agriculture Unit-Department of Natural Resources grounds where coastal vegetation including red, white and black mangroves, buttonwood, sea grape, sea bean, coco-plum, bay cedar is being grown to allow implementation of restoration efforts. Air layering of wild buttonwood and seagrape trees is also ongoing.

- *Activity 2.5:* **Review and implement best practice methodologies to increase resilience of coastal ecosystems.** A best practice guide for both mangrove and sand dune restoration has been produced.
- *Activity 2.6:* **Develop and implement monitoring protocols for restored coastal ecosystems.** Monitoring protocols have been developed and baseline vegetation surveys of the seven priority sites have been completed.
- *Activity 3.4:* **Provide in-field training to coastal community members in coastal ecosystem mitigation and restoration protocols and methods by natural resource members.** In this reporting period, one activity has taken place at one priority site; Cove Pond, that involved/trained the local community in re-planting/restoration activities. Two females and two males community members were involved in these activities.
- *Activity 3.6:* **Publicise and report on project progress and results through the Darwin platform, stakeholders' engagements, radio programmes and the newspaper.** On 22nd August a presentation on the results of the vulnerability and opportunity modelling results to the Toastmasters' Club (25 attendees, in person and remotely) was made. On September 17th details of this project were presented as part of the RSPB's Shovel-ready Nature-based Solutions in the UK Overseas Territories Webinar. Eighty-seven people joined the Webinar including representatives from other UKOTs, the UK House of Lords, UK House of Commons, Government of Anguilla, JNCC, and International NGO's (RSPB, FFI, WWF). On September 10th, project staff met with the newly elected Minister for Natural Resources, Mr. Kyle Hodge, during which this project, its purpose, value, and expected results were discussed.

Output 3. Enhancement of national and regional capacity to understand small island vulnerability to climate change and to undertake actions to increase resiliency

Activity update:

- *Activity 3.7:* **Advocate for climate change informed policies, legislation and decision making.** Using data created by and drawing on the training provided by Environment Systems Ltd. flood risk maps were created for Sandy Ground, Anguilla. This information was requested by the Ministry responsible for Natural Resources and used to inform the discussion related to the development of a mega-yacht marina in Sandy Ground.

All activities that were scheduled to have taken place by this stage of the project (as detailed in the implementation schedule) have been completed.

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.

We have not experienced any notable problems or unexpected developments.

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.
Anguilla has been fortunate in the number of cases of Covid-19 reported and its containment. As a result, we have been able to proceed with this project as expected and have not experienced any specific issues as a result of Covid-19.

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:	N/A
Formal change request submitted	N/A
Received confirmation of change acceptance	N/A

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.

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?
No, not at this time.