

Darwin Plus: Overseas Territories Environment and Climate Fund Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the “Writing a Darwin/IWT Report” Information Note: (<https://dplus.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources/reporting-forms-change-request-forms-and-terms-and-conditions/>). It is expected that this report will be a **maximum** of 20 pages in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2021

Darwin Plus Project Information

Project reference	DPLUS111
Project title	Building resilient, participatory management of marine biodiversity in hurricane-prone BVI
Territory(ies)	British Virgin Islands (BVI)
Lead organisation	Marine Conservation Society (MCS), UK
Partner institutions	Association of Reef Keepers (ARK), BVI: Co-lead partner Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DOAF), Government of the Virgin Islands. Ministry of Natural Resources, Labour and Immigration (MNRLI), Government of the Virgin Islands University of Exeter (UoE), UK.
Grant value	£241,553
Start/end dates of project	April 1st 2020 - 31st March 2023
Reporting period and number	AR1 : Apr 2020 – March 2021
Project Leader name	Dr Peter Richardson
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.bviark.org/steel-project.html/ https://www.facebook.com/ARKBVI
Report author(s) and date	Amdeep Sanghera, Chris Tuckett, Shannon Gore, Mervin Hastings, Abbi E. Christopher, Brendan Godley – 30 th April 2021

1. Project summary

BVI’s turtle populations face various threats, compounded by 2017’s catastrophic hurricane impacts. Implemented across the archipelago, this project supports the recovery of BVI’s turtle populations and key habitats (reefs and seagrass meadows), while alleviating growing social conflict regarding the traditional turtle fishery. Through interdisciplinary partnerships, this project will deliver new, participatory approaches to marine biodiversity management; develop better local understanding of turtle conservation and fisher needs; foster and enable a culture of compliance; and deliver a revised Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan. Improved turtle fishery and habitat management is crucial for the livelihoods of licensed BVI fishers, BVI communities (increased marine conservation understanding, access to well-managed fishery, increased environmental resilience against climate change), BVI’s tourism industry and wider blue economy, and the Government of Virgin Islands (increased marine management capacity, updated legislation and action plan to guide species and habitat conservation, supporting targeting of domestic and multi-lateral environmental agreements).

BVI is situated in the north-eastern Caribbean region, and sits at the top of the crescent-shaped arc that characterises the Greater Antilles (See Fig. 1). BVI has approximately 60+ islands, with main islands being Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada and Jost Van Dyke; most of them are volcanic and cumulatively are 153 km² in area, with 420 km of coastline. The population was estimated at 30,386 in 2021. The economy consists of a very strong financial centre that is supported by a well-developed tourist sector.

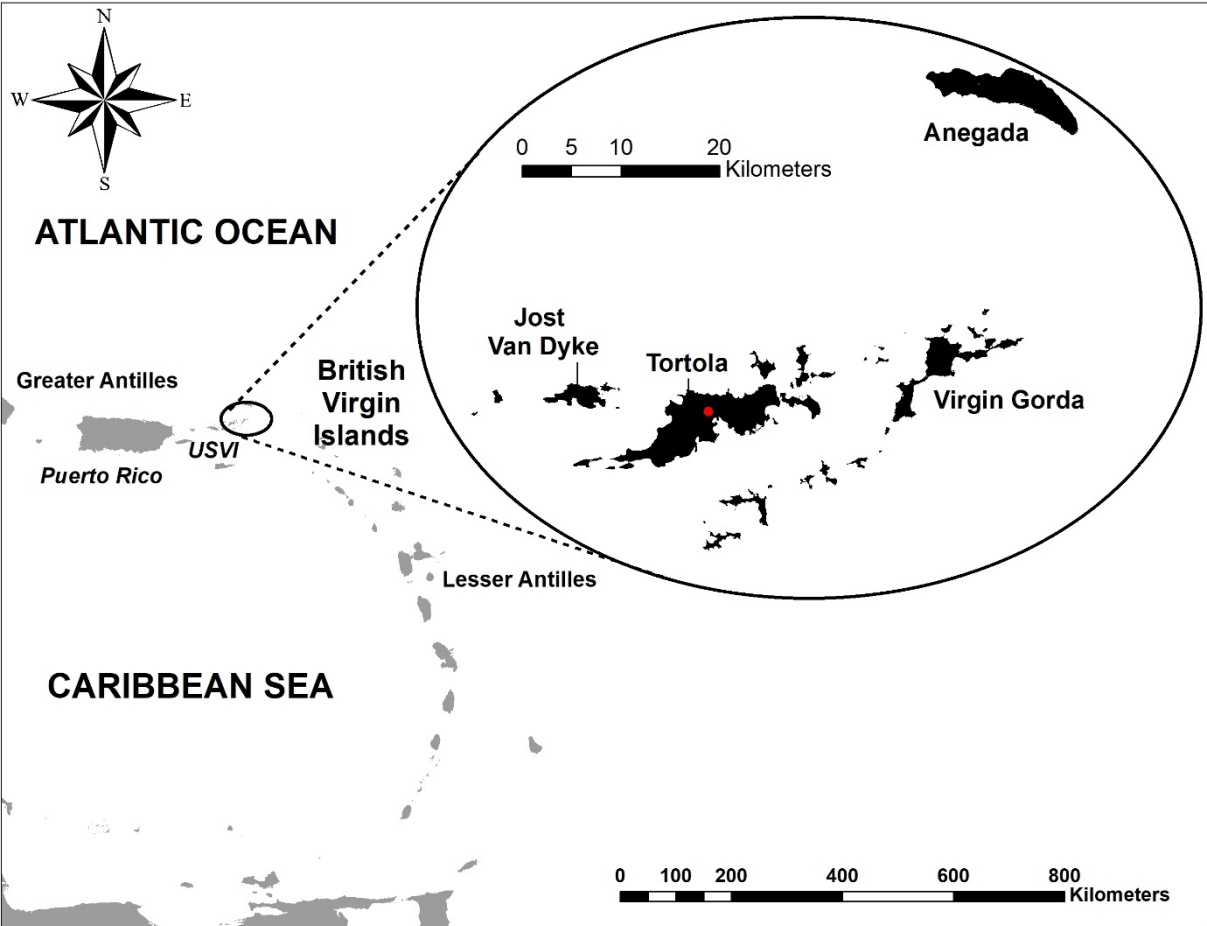


Figure 1 - Location of the British Virgin Islands, red dot marks the capital, Road Town.

2. Project stakeholders/partners

This project was initiated after extensive consultation with and invitation by the Government of the Virgin Islands (Gov VI). MCS’s UKOT Conservation Officer Amdeep Sanghera visited BVI in June 2019, meeting with Honourable Vincent Wheatley (Minister of Natural Resources, Labour and Immigration for MNRLI), the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DOAF), Association of Reef Keepers (ARK), local fishers and HM Governor’s Office. Discussions highlighted mutual concern for environmental resilience, turtles and their habitats, and community conflict around the fishery.

This interdisciplinary project is led by MCS with ARK as co-lead, with key support from DOAF, MNRLI, and the University of Exeter (UoE). This project was due to start in April 2020, but as a result of the understandable delay in receiving notice of the grant, partners initially met in June 2020. In this reporting period, there have been a total of three quarterly project Monitoring and Evaluation meetings chaired by MCS Director of Programmes Dr. Chris Tuckett. With the

complexities created by the Covid-19 pandemic to project planning, an additional five partner monthly meetings have also been implemented and chaired by project leader Dr. Peter Richardson (Head of Ocean Recovery, MCS) to monitor and guide the project in the uncertainty. Please see meeting minutes (Annex 3).

As the meeting minutes demonstrate, all five project partners have been fully represented at the quarterly project Monitoring and Evaluation meetings and integral to planning, M&E and decision-making aspects of the project. Project partners have routinely provided senior and directorial-level staff for these meetings (see Table 1).

MCS	DOAF (Gov VI)	MNRLI (Gov VI)
Dr. Peter Richardson (Head of Ocean Recovery)	Mr. Theodore James (Director)	Mr. Joseph Smith-Abbot (Deputy Secretary)
Dr. Chris Tuckett (Director of Programmes)	Ms. Abbi E. Christopher (Senior Fisheries and Environment Specialist)	Mr. Mervin Hastings (Marine Biologist)
Mr. Amdeep Sanghera (UKOT Conservation Officer)	Mr. Ken Pemberton (Fishery Assistant Officer)	Ms. Argel Horton (Marine Biologist)
UoE	ARK	
Prof. Brendan Godley (Prof. of Conservation Science)	Dr. Shannon Gore (Managing Director)	

Table 1 - Project partner staff dedicated to the project

The Covid-19 pandemic has created unprecedented disruption to our working lives, so a strength of this partnership has been the willingness of partners to meet and strategise through regular meetings. Another advantage has been the ability of partners to bring in wider expertise from their organisations to support project activities. DOAF sit under the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth Affairs, Fisheries and Agriculture (MECYAFA) within Gov VI, with MECYAFA having provided Tessa Smith Claxton (Assistant Secretary) and Nekita Turnbull (Information Officer) to support project delivery. While not originally written in as staff members, both persons have made significant contributions to legal, communication and recruitment aspects of the project while also actively attending project meetings. In addition to this, DOAF have recently recruited Mr. Lloyd Williams as Fisheries Officer, and he will be supporting fisher liaison and engagement when it's safe to do so. As part of her existing role, DOAF's Harella Wheatley has also been providing additional communications support to the project, with specific regard to the newly-recruited data collector (Anegada).

An additional strength of the partnership is the long-standing relationship between ARK, DOAF and MNRLI, developed through the collaborative BVI Sea Turtle Programme. With ARK's Dr. Shannon Gore also having a successful and lengthy track-record of spearheading innovative new marine programmes in the BVI, the partnership is agile, cost-effective and efficient with regards to planning and implementation.

In relation to the Covid-19 pandemic, BVI measures restricting social gatherings essentially delayed all in-person stakeholder-engagement aspects of the project. However, particular achievements of this partnership were in collectively devising and implementing virtual outputs to engage with BVI communities (see Section 9).

With long-term complex projects involving multiple partners across different countries, it is inevitable certain work components will take longer that anticipated to complete. With the project's Partnership Agreement, a few iterations had to be circulated in order for the agreement to be legally compatible with BVI and UK law. However, this agreement is in the final stages of being fully signed and endorsed by all project partners.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Output 1: Assessment of the status, nature and extent of the traditional turtle fishery

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic along with associated BVI and UK restrictions has meant certain activities in this Output have not been possible to implement and have been approved for transfer to Year 2.

Activity 1.1 - Prepare project workplan and MoU, incorporating data sharing agreement, developed and facilitate sign-off by all partner organisations

The initial task for the project team was to identify implementable activities with respect to current restrictions as part of a project workplan. To facilitate this, a detailed *action* was developed by ARK in Y1Q2, with partners having been assigned tasks and associated deadlines for first year. This tool also supports monitoring efforts, with partners continuously updating progress on their activities. As discussed in Qn. 2, the project team is close to finalising a Partnership Agreement.

Activity 1.2 - Monthly face-to-face meetings between BVI partners led by ARK

See 1.3

Activity 1.3 - Quarterly team meetings with all partners either on-island or through Skype connection.

As highlighted in Section 2, there have been a total of three virtual quarterly project Monitoring and Evaluation meetings chaired by MCS Director of Programmes Dr. Chris Tuckett. An additional five partner monthly meetings have also been implemented and chaired by project leader Dr. Peter Richardson (Head of Ocean Recovery, MCS) via the Zoom platform. Please see meeting minutes (Annex 3). While all partners haven't been able to meet in-person due to Covid restrictions, a project WhatsApp group was set up in June 2020 to enable instant messaging and support agile management.

Activity 1.4 - Implement stakeholder engagement exercise in inhabited islands of Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada, and Jost Van Dyke

Unfortunately, due to the Covid-related restrictions on social gatherings and the UK travel ban, the project has been unable to implement stakeholder engagement exercises in target islands during this reporting period. With all UK partner field-work having been approved for transfer to the next financial year, this activity and associated sub-activities (1.4.1 – 1.4.3) have now been scheduled to take place in Year 2 (if Covid measures allow). The project team has implemented a virtual project presentation and an online turtle quiz to support engagement in the current circumstances (see Section 9).

Activity 1.5 - Develop socio-economic questionnaire survey

See 1.6

Activity 1.6 - Carry out socio-economic questionnaire survey with at least 50 fishers, vendors and consumers from the four inhabited islands

Due to the Covid-related restrictions on social gatherings and the UK travel ban, the project hasn't been able to carry out Activities 1.6. Project lead MCS, specifically Sue Ranger and Amdeep Sanghera, will draft the socio-economic questionnaire survey (Activity 1.5) for partner sign-off and anticipated implementation in Yr2 Q2 / Q3 (if Covid situation allow).

Activity 1.7 - Develop sampling protocol for biological monitoring of landed turtles

A sampling protocol and training manual for all data-collection components of the project was developed by ARK, factoring in turtle fishery landings (see Annex 4). The protocol includes a landings data sheet along with the key data fields required to provide robust evidence, and has been reviewed by the project's scientific adviser Prof. Brendan Godley.

Activity 1.8 - Training workshop for at least 3 DOAF staff members to be trained in sampling protocol to monitor landed turtles through bespoke workshop and in-situ.

Due to the pandemic restricting inter-island travel, training in the sampling protocols is currently scheduled to be facilitated by ARK in Y2Q1.

Activity 1.8.1 - Evaluate and reinforce DOAF monitoring capacity of landed turtles every 6 months in-situ

Please see 1.8.

Activity 1.9 - Commence biological monitoring of landed turtles in the four main fishing centres

Through DOAF, the project has recruited Rondell Smith as a turtle landings data-collector in the island of Anegada. Rondell is well equipped to perform the post, and has significant conservation experience gained with the National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands (NPTVI). Since the start of the turtle fishery open season (1st December), Rondell has routinely monitored the Anegada fish landing sites for captured turtles, following the sampling protocol. However, he reports landings have so far been relatively minimal, with fishers citing a lack of local interest in turtle meat driving down capture rates.

Unfortunately, with Covid restrictions preventing inter-island travel and extra workloads resulting from the pandemic, DOAF have not been able to carry out turtle landings fieldwork to the degree they had committed to in the other three main fishing centres. However, prospects for fishery monitoring at these sites look more promising in Year 2 with vaccine rollout.

Output 2: Development and management of national BVI Sea Turtle Database, including updated assessment of turtle populations and habitats at key index sites.

Activity 2.1 Organise initial project-partner meeting to develop and endorse overall work plan for Output 2 allocating tasks to key project personnel.

Completed with allocated tasks highlighted in the action tracker (see Section 3.1, Activity 1.1).

2.2 Review and collate all historical documents, existing data sets and identify feasible database format

The development and management of a national BVI Sea Turtle Database was originally created in the early days of the Sea Turtle Programme first established by the (former) Conservation and Fisheries Department. The data was limited to dates and locations of nesting leatherbacks with tagging data later added in the late 1990s. During the TCOT, a new database was established to include foraging data. With nearly 20 years of data collection, several databases had been created over the years and has therefore required extensive organising to develop a single database and ensure all data has been carefully reviewed for errors and missing data.

2.3 Review and updating of existing marine turtle flipper tag-recapture and nesting survey protocols

Complete. See Annex 4.

2.4. Identify appropriate benthic habitat monitoring protocol with MNRLI & DOAF

Complete. See Annex 4.

2.5 Collect baseline data on benthic habitat monitoring using established protocols and repeat on an annual basis.

Two habitat assessments have been completed in this reporting period with additional assessments planned for Y2Q1. Key concerns are (a) the spread of Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease since it first appeared in the Territory in May 2020 (b) recovery of the invasive seagrass which can outcompete native grasses, particularly in index foraging areas for green turtles.

2.6 Carry out monthly boat-based turtle flipper-tagging surveys at 6 index foraging sites – all visited at least twice in one year.

In-water tagging is on-going. A total of 28 days tagging over the past year has resulted in the capture, tag and release of 57 (53 green, 4 hawksbill) sea turtles, with an additional green held in captivity for rehabilitation due to Fibropapillomatosis with a mean size of 59.2cm. Please see Annex 5 for the tagging/recapture database, and Figs. 2 – 5 documenting implementation of this activity and 2.7.

2.7. Carry out quarterly aerial surveys with ground-truthing of 5 index nesting sites

Two aerial surveys have been completed in year 1 proving to be useful for identifying nests in remote locations. Anegada beaches were also ground-truthed following the aerial survey in November 2020. In addition, index beaches have been monitored over the past year with 4 leatherback nesting activities in 2020 and 1 leatherback activity up until the end of March 2021.

Output 3: Recommended amendments to Virgin Islands Fisheries Regulations and Endangered Animals and Plants Ordinance, and revised STRAP.

Activities under this output are scheduled in the logframe to commence in Year 2.

Output 4: Disseminate project findings to national, regional and international audiences

Activity 4.1 - Develop and finalise draft communication and outreach strategy

A project communication and outreach strategy was drafted by Nekita Turnbull (Information Officer) and finalised by project partners in Yr1Q3 (see Annex 6). With the turtle fishery a source of social conflict in the BVI, the communication and outreach strategy highlights sensitive and



Figures 2 – 5 Project staff implementing Activities 2.6 - 2.7

considered messaging to be used in a variety of media forms used by the BVI public. This strategy has so far guided the online launch of the project (see Section 9) along with associated press releases and project blogs. With the prospects looking more promising for project fieldwork in Yr2, we anticipate an increase in communication outputs led by this strategy.

Activity 4.2 - Create and disseminate outreach materials including broadcast, press releases and online media to introduce project

Outreach materials to introduce the project were created and disseminated to launch the project, and the [first BVI press release](#) was issued by Gov VI on the 30.06.20 with wide pick-up across local media outlets (See Section 10). In addition, partners including [MCS](#) and [UoE](#) also introduced the project across their social media channels, with UK-based press releases also created. Regional mechanisms including the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute also disseminated a bespoke [project press release](#) to their global subscribership of 1154 members. The online project launch and turtle quiz were also opportunities to further announce the project, through a suite of media outputs led by Nekita Turnbull (Information Officer) and subsequently shared by partners. Working with the BVI Governor's press officer also assisted in amplifying these project communications across the BVI.

Activity 4.3 - Create project-specific social media posts and promote via partner's digital channels.

Project partners have produced social media posts regarding the work and shared across their multiple digital channels. ARK's [Facebook page](#) is particularly active with weekly posts of in-water research activities that are also shared through project partners' accounts. Please see Section 10 for comprehensive evidence of the project's communication outputs.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1. Assessment of the status, nature and extent of the traditional turtle fishery.

Prior to this project, little was known about the status, nature and extent or current sustainability of the traditional turtle fishery albeit a brief [2004 assessment](#) as part of the UK government-funded [Turtles in the Caribbean Overseas Territories \(TCOT\) project](#).

At the beginning of the open turtle fishery season on Dec. 1 (2020), a video was widely distributed through social media that showed the capture of 16 sea turtles on Jost Van Dyke. Community outcry regarding the number of sea turtles taken prompted an investigation by DOAF and local police in which 6 live sea turtles were later released. Through social media channels and personal communication, the overall sentiment towards the capture of so many turtles at one given time was believed by most, including local turtle fishers to be unsustainable. This alone provides an indication that the community sees the levels of take requiring some sort of management.

With the in-person nature of Output 1, progress has been severely disrupted by the ongoing Covid pandemic and associated restrictions. Regarding **indicator 1.1** (Workplan and Partnership Agreement), the workplan has been completed and has been an important tool in guiding the project. As mentioned in Section 2, the Partnership Agreement is close to being finalised. While there has been one recently-recruited DOAF staff member (Anegada data-collector) trained in the sampling protocol to monitor landed turtles (**indicator 1.2**), it has not been possible to expand

the training to other DOAF officers due to additional work assigned to various government partner personnel during the COVID-19 pandemic in addition to inter-island travel restrictions. However, a sampling protocol training workshop run by ARK and focusing on DOAF officers will take place at the start of Year 2.

Covid restrictions have also severely hampered the efforts of DOAF. With the exception of Anegada, they have not been able to carry out turtle landings fieldwork to the degree they had committed to with travel restrictions preventing inter-island travel for significant parts of this reporting period (**indicator 1.4**). Ferries have only recently returned to regular operating schedules.

It has also not been possible to target **indicator 1.3** (Socio-economic questionnaire survey) due to UK restrictions preventing MCS staff travelling and conducting this on-island research with DOAF, with BVI only opening its borders in early December 2020. As mentioned in Section 3.1, MCS will develop this survey for anticipated implementation in Yr2 Q2/Q3 (if Covid measures allow).

This output has experienced significant disruption, with indicators 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 having received approved change requests to their timings. While the ongoing pandemic is still creating uncertainty, the improved hope for the easing of restrictions and implementable fieldwork suggests a likelihood this outcome can be completed by project close but this is still subject to change. The project team are communicating regularly, planning and keeping a watching brief as to when Output 1 activities will be safe to implement.

The indicators are however still robust, and provision of the protocol training workshop report and the socio-economic assessment report will act as necessary evidence to ensure Output 1 is completed for this reporting period.

Output 2. Development and management of national BVI Sea Turtle Database, including updated assessment of turtle populations and habitats at key index sites.

A total of 57 sea turtles have been captured and released during the first year of the project with one additional turtle held in captivity due to extensive Fibropapillomatosis. Although research to identify the causes, primary care and rehabilitation of this turtle's condition are not a part of the STEEL project, several other cases (total of 6) have been discovered within the Territory since the commencement of this project. This has prompted an opportunity, along with regular data collection for the STEEL project, to begin the collection of additional data needed to better understand the spread of this disease both locally and regionally through support from veterinarians from the Dept. of Agriculture, a local practice as well as Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute in Florida and St. Georges University in Grenada.

The number of hawksbills caught totalled 3 with 54 greens tagged and released, a significant decline in previous years when the majority of turtles captured were hawksbills. Additionally, the mean size of greens captured and tagged is currently 59.7 cm, possibly an increase from previous years indicating a shift in size classes present in the BVI.

With ongoing habitat assessments, two key changes compared with previous years is the prevalence of coral disease and the spread of invasive seagrasses.

Nesting leatherback populations have dramatically declined from the previous TCOT project. Last year (2020) only 4 nesting activities occurred but with lockdown restrictions, several activities may have been missed. Only one nesting activity occurred in March 2021, with an additional 6 activities in April 2021.

Output 4. Disseminate project findings to national, regional and international audiences

The project has satisfied **indicator 4.1** by issuing a press release in Yr1 to announce the initiative, reaching BVI, regional Caribbean and UK audiences (see 3.1 - Activities). **Indicator 4.2** has also been met with at least one project social media post per month (see 3.1 – Activities). While not specified in the logframe, in enabling engagement during the pandemic an online project launch and turtle quiz was also implemented (see Section 9).

Indicator 4.7 has received approved change requests to its timings with regards to school presentations.

With components of this output relying on the implementation of preceding outputs, there is a likelihood this outcome can be completed by project close, however this may still be subject to change due to uncertainty around the pandemic still lingering.

However, the indicators are still robust and relevant for this output.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

The project outcome as stated in the Stage 2 application is:

“Agreed recommendations for amendments to Virgin Islands Fisheries Regulations and Endangered Animals and Plants Ordinance, and revised and published Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan (STRAP).”

The baseline is that Gov VI has an existing BVI Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan that requires significant update (0.1), and outdated legislation in the BVI Fisheries Act and Endangered Animals and Plants Ordinance that offers inadequate marine turtle protection (0.2).

The project has had an unavoidably disruptive first year with the unprecedented global pandemic, resulting in significant shortage of progress towards the outcome when compared to the logframe. Although we still have a substantial amount of work to do, the project team has been able to make progress in trying circumstances.

Outcome indicator 0.1 - Revised STRAP endorsed by DOAF and MNRLI by March 2023

Nesting beaches in the BVI were updated in 2019 as part of the Nesting Sea Turtle Atlas (Eckert & Eckert, 2019). However, with awareness of the project, aerial surveys and ground truthing have provided additional data on nesting numbers and locations will improve the accuracy of data to be fed into the STRAP.

Additionally, the STRAP did not include information about the foraging populations or the condition of each of the nesting beaches and foraging sites. Data collected in this Project will provide the baseline information needed for future reference about the overall health of index sites.

Outcome indicator 0.2 - Final recommendations for legislative amends signed off by DOAF and MNRLI by March 2023.

With raising awareness about the project and knowledge collected about the use of sea turtles in the Territory, several activities have been observed that are not currently recognised in the Legislation. For example, turtle by-catch is not specifically recognised in legislation or maximum size nets used to catch turtles, both of which could have an adverse impact on turtle populations.

Other observations that may also require legislative reform include greater protection of nesting and foraging habitats. As development continues, the need for lighting requirements on index

beaches is clearly becoming an urgent matter along with key foraging areas needing protection such as no anchoring zones.

These indicators are regarded as being adequate as their attainment will together drive the legislative amendments and the revised STRAP.

With uncertainty caused by the ongoing pandemic, it's difficult to know whether this project is likely to achieve the Outcome by end of funding. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and plan accordingly, and will seek to finish the project within the funding timescale. We may also consider modifying timescales for certain activities and determine whether activities can be implemented as clusters to improve overall efficiency, while also considering whether certain components can be implemented remotely. As has been the case, we will continue to communicate regularly with LTS and Darwin Initiative regarding any unavoidable delays in activities.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption 0.1: BVI Government have confirmed their desire to amend the Virgin Islands Fisheries Regulations, the Endangered Animals and Plants Ordinance, and update the STRAP, and have committed dedicated staff to aid in targeting this outcome.

Comments:

There has been continued support from Gov VI towards the project with a view to amending the relevant legislation and updating the STRAP. This has been demonstrated by regular and active engagement of Gov VI staff in project meetings. MNRLI staff have regularly been supporting ARK in implementing turtle tagging activities (Output 2). Gov VI have also provided additional human resources towards the project, namely Tessa Smith Claxton (Assistant Secretary, MECYAFA), Nekita Turnbull (Information Officer, MECYAFA), Lloyd Williams (DOAF), and Harella Wheatley (DOAF). Therefore, this assumption currently holds true for the project.

Assumption 0.2: Extreme weather events, particularly hurricanes and tropical storms, will not impact project partners to the extent that they cannot complete the project.

Comments: Fortunately, there were no extreme weather events affecting BVI in Year 1. However, as in 2020, this year's Atlantic Basin hurricane forecast is predicted to be [more active than normal](#). Our BVI project partners were operating within three weeks of two catastrophic category 5 hurricanes that hit in 2017, highlighting a capacity to rebound from shocks. This risk still holds true.

Assumption 1.1: Project partners are able to collectively finalise workplan and MoU.

Comments: The workplan has been finalised. As mentioned in Section 2, while there have been delays in getting the partnership agreement completed, it is now in the final stages of being signed by all partners. On this understanding, this assumption still holds true.

Assumption 1.2: DOAF are willing to provide staff for workshop on monitoring of landed turtles.

Comments: This workshop was unable to be carried out in the reporting period (see Section 3.1). However, ARK and at least three DOAF fishery officers are arranging for this workshop to take place in Yr2Q2. This assumption currently holds true.

Assumption 1.3: Fishers, vendors and consumers are willing to participate in the socio-economic study.

Comments: As this activity has had a change request approved to move to Year 2, its not been possible to test this assumption. However, on the back of the online project launch and turtle quiz engagement exercises, the project team will use DOAF's strong ties with fishers (bolstered with the addition of Lloyd Williams) to ensure meaningful fisher and wider stakeholder participation. This assumption currently holds true.

Assumption 1.4: DOAF staff are willing to collect turtle landings data.

Comments: DOAF have recruited a data-collector in Anegada who has been monitoring landings since the start of the 2019 turtle open season. DOAF officers have also committed to participate in a training workshop focusing on collect turtle landings data in Year 2.

Assumption 1.4a: Turtle fishers will allow their landings to be sampled.

Comments: Turtle fishers in Anegada have been allowing the newly-recruited data collector to monitor their landings. DOAF fishery officer Ken Pemberton has also documented turtle landings, including in Jost Van Dyke. While Covid restrictions have limited the ability of DOAF to liaise with turtle fishers to monitor their catches, we anticipate through DOAF's close linkages with fisher communities and MCS/UoE's experience of working with turtle fishers in the Turks and Caicos Islands, this assumption currently holds true.

Assumption 1.5: Data will be properly managed and analysed for peer-reviewed publication.

Comments: Data is being managed by DOAF, with analysis taking place in Year 3.

Assumption 2.1: Data holders submit turtle data.

Comments: As the Project continues, the awareness raised to provide data, particularly nesting data from the general public has increased. Additionally, a WhatsApp group was created with homeowners along key nesting beaches to easily notify the Project team about any nesting activity.

Assumption 2.2: Project partners are committed to collect field data.

Comments: ARK now organises a dedicated weekly tagging day on Wednesdays in order for Partners to schedule their workload in order to participate when available. Several local boat charter businesses support the Project which allows several choices to ensure a vessel is always available to charter on a weekly basis. Additionally, several private boat owners have offered the use of their vessels when needed. ARK also uses the WhatsApp application as a reminder for Project partners.

Assumption 2.3: Habitat survey methodology is suitable.

Comments: Habitat surveys are based on a modified Atlantic Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment combined with an Overseas Territories Environmental Project (OTEP) titled "Assessment & Improved Management of New and Existing Marine Protected Areas in the British Virgin Islands". Additionally, mapping initiatives in the BVI (e.g. Darwin Plus project DP\100052) are being used to ensure sharing of methodologies and data to maximise overall efforts.

Assumption 2.4: Aerial survey methodology is appropriate for this purpose.

Comments: Aerial surveys proved successful during a previous project and ARK has identified a local pilot with a helicopter that is highly supportive of the project.

Assumption 2.5: DOAF and MNRLI staff will participate in flipper tag-recapture/nesting surveys.

Comments: Staff from both the MNRLI and DOAF have been participating in tagging activities.

Assumption 3.1: Stakeholders have agreed to participate in the CVM project.

Comments: As the CVM project activity is scheduled for Year 2, it's not been possible to test this assumption. However, with DOAF's strong ties with fishing communities and MCS's extensive experience of conducting the CVM methodology with Caribbean and UK fishing communities, this assumption currently holds true.

Assumption 3.2: Government accepts legislative amendments for formal consultation and endorses revised STRAP

Comments: As the activity relating to this assumption is scheduled for Year 3, it's not been possible to test this assumption. However, with government departments integral to this project and providing extra human resources towards the work, it's safe to say this assumption currently holds true.

Assumption 4.1: Press channels will publish the story; peer-reviewed journals will accept the article; and project team speaker's abstract will be accepted for presentation.

Comments: The first year has involved multiple BVI media outlets publishing our press release and associated updates. With the project team having extensive experience of publishing journals and presenting at international conferences, its logical that this assumption currently holds true.

New Risk – Disruption caused by Covid-19

The original application form and logframe submitted in November 2019 did not predict a global pandemic risking project implementation; however Covid-19 has caused significant disruption to elements of our work. The BVI closed its international borders on 23rd March 2020, and went into a full one-month lockdown. Additional lockdowns have followed, and restrictions and entry protocols for international visitors remain in place. This new risk has been factored in to our risk register and monitoring and evaluation processes (see section 6). The project has submitted two change request forms that have been gratefully approved, however the prospects for UK staff to conduct fieldwork in Year 2 look improved. We will continue to closely monitor the situation as a team, updating our risk register as we progress. If Covid 19 disruptions do continue, we will assess the feasibility of implementing certain activities remotely (e.g. Community Voice Method).

4. Project support to environmental and/or climate outcomes in the UKOTs

Through DOAF and MNRLI, the Government of the Virgin Islands are key partners in this initiative. Currently, the BVI Fisheries Act offers inadequate protection regarding turtles; it encourages take of sub-adult and adult individuals, and doesn't protect adult turtles during the

North Caribbean hawksbill nesting season. The Endangered Animals and Plants Ordinance directly contravenes BVI and UK obligations under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). An existing BVI Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan (STRAP) requires significant update.

To date, the project progress includes the task of organising and validating almost 20 years of data (over 5000 entries) that required more time than planned as spreadsheets were replicated numerous times across different locations. However, that is near completion and will be finished by Y2Q2. An additional 58 turtles have been tagged since the commencement of this project and entered into the database. Data collected previously compared to the newly captured, tagged and released turtles, trends are showing a significant decrease in the number of hawksbill turtles in the Territory. Two habitat assessments have also been completed and have also shown the increase in the presence of coral disease and invasive seagrass.

Therefore, the project is working towards providing Gov VI an improved evidence base that will support the fulfilment of key domestic priorities including the Biodiversity Action Plan for Anegada and the British Virgin Islands Environment Charter (Guiding Principles 1 - To recognise that all people need a healthy environment for their well-being and livelihoods and that all can help to conserve and sustain it; 2 - To use our natural resources wisely, being fair to present and future generations; 3 - To identify environmental opportunities, costs and risks in all policies and strategies; 4 - To seek expert advice and consult openly with interested parties on decisions affecting the environment; 7 - To safeguard and restore native species, habitats and landscape features, and control or eradicate invasive species; 10 - To study and celebrate our environmental heritage as a treasure to share with our children).

We are also gathering evidence that will support the revision of the 27-year-old BVI STRAP, prioritising key turtle and their carbon-rich habitats for conservation interventions to foster recovery of BVI marine biodiversity and improve the territory's overall resilience to climate change. The project is also working towards improving turtle fishery legislation within the BVI Fisheries Act, and will combine biological and social science data along with outputs from the Community Voice Method to develop draft legislative recommendations.

This project is also supporting BVI's obligations to multi-lateral environmental agreements including the Convention of Migratory Species (CMS) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

5. OPTIONAL: Consideration of gender equality issues

We have considered gender equality issues with our project and its wider context, however the disruptions caused by Covid-19 have delayed key activities including as 1.4 (Stakeholder engagement exercises) and 1.6 (socio-economic questionnaire survey) which have gendered aspects.

With the assumption that we can implement our social science and engagement activities (including CVM) in the next reporting period, we are still committed to strictly adhere to 50:50 gender-balanced sampling. We will still seek to identify women involved in the turtle-product supply chain, including immigrant labour, and initially engage them through the socio-economic survey. We will ensure schedules are flexible to accommodate times, locations, meeting structures, language and facilitation-styles, as well as group composition appropriate for gender-representative participation. We will test project methodologies with female staff within BVI partner organisations to ensure appropriateness, and adjust according to feedback.

Additionally, the project-team is mixed-gender (47% female, 53% male) with a female co-lead.

6. Monitoring and evaluation

Regular meetings of the project partners been held throughout the year. Monitoring and evaluation has been a particular focus at the quarterly meetings, but is also incorporated routinely as part of monthly meetings.

An action tracker and risk register were established early in the project to enable monitoring and evaluation of progress and to highlight and manage risks to delivery. This has been particularly helpful in structuring our approach to managing the implications of the Covid pandemic. The action tracker lists the actions in the project plan. Each action is assigned to an owner, has target dates, indicators of progress and a description of how each links to project outcomes.

Partner meetings are minuted and a shared drive enables all project documentation to be accessed by the partners, and jointly edited as needed.

Monitoring and evaluation is led by MCS but the partners, particularly ARK, have been active in establishing the approach to M&E and all partners feed in on a regular basis.

7. Lessons learnt

The project has benefitted from having on-territory partners who themselves have a long-standing history of working together on marine turtle conservation. Having the well-established and respected ARK co-lead with support from MNRLI has meant the project capitalised on already-existing infrastructure (including a wide-network of volunteers) that was able to hit the ground running and gather biological evidence (Output 2) in challenging circumstances. This was particularly important, given that Covid restrictions prevented the project's scientific adviser Prof. Brendan Godley from visiting BVI in the reporting period.

With the project having to adapt to the pandemic and re-think aspects of stakeholder engagement, Gov VI's capacity to provide extra human resources in the form of Nekita Turnbull (Information Officer) meant we were able to maximise our online project launch and turtle quiz activities in reaching BVI public across multiple digital channels.

In the initial stages of this reporting period, a project communication output unintentionally left out a partner logo. This was promptly discussed at a partner meeting, with all entities affirming the need to include all organisation logos, with MECYAFAs Assistant Secretary Tessa Smith Claxton agreeing to be the project focal point for future communications and ensuring full project representation.

With the re-adjustments the pandemic has brought to ways of working and increases in virtual meetings, the project team quickly learnt an instant-messaging channel was required to enhance communications. A WhatsApp group chat for the project was set-up and has been a successful way of alerting partners to key communications and promoting decision-making in real time. This would be a recommendation to other large-scale multi-partner teams in managing projects.

As part of project planning and budgeting, another recommendation for others would be to prioritise investment in territory organisations to implement work packages. With uncertainty surrounding Covid likely to be present for some time, this would increase the likelihood of activities being implemented while improving rebalancing of funding between UKOT and international partners.

8. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

N/A

9. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

In relation to the Covid-19 pandemic, BVI measures restricting social gatherings essentially delayed all in-person stakeholder-engagement aspects of the project. However, significant achievements of this partnership were in collectively redesigning programmatic aspects and implementing virtual outputs to engage with BVI communities. Firstly, in October 2020 we arranged an [online project launch](#) organised and run by our partners in Gov VI, namely Nekita Turnbull (Information Officer). To improve local traction with the project, partners elected to name this initiative as *Sustaining Turtles, Environments, Economies & Livelihoods* (The STEEL Project). The online presentation involved ARK's Dr. Shannon Gore presented the aims and scope of the project in addition to what it would achieve in the next three years (see Annex 7 for PowerPoint presentation). As part of a panel also including Mervin Hastings (MNRLI), Brendan Godley (UoE), Peter Richardson (MCS) and Amdeep Sanghera (MCS), the project team addressed community questions and concerns regarding the work to improve management of the turtle fishery, along with the stakeholder engagement techniques that will be used to engage BVI communities (see Fig. 6). The online project launch can be viewed [here](#) in its entirety.

Another significant achievement was the implementation of a '[BVI turtle quiz](#)', using learning from a successful UK Jellyfish ID quiz previously employed by MCS. The structure of this quiz was developed by Sue Ranger (CVM Coordinator and MCS's Social Science Lead) with support from MCS's communications team, University of Exeter Research Fellow Anna Nuno and project partners (see Fig. 7). It was designed to support the virtual launch of the project as well as wider community engagement aspects of the project during the pandemic, while also understanding BVI community views and knowledges towards turtles and their conservation. This quiz was promoted widely across Gov VI media channels and BVI online community groups, with a total of 248 people undertaking the quiz. This information will help the project in understanding any knowledge gaps that may exist, helping to influence our outreach efforts. By implementing a similar quiz at the end of the project, we'll be able to measure impact with regards to shifts in perceptions and knowledge of BVI communities towards turtles.

10. Sustainability and legacy

Regular project communications across a range of BVI-specific media means the project has developed a strong profile. The initial Gov VI press release announcing the project was well received in the BVI. Communications promoting the online project launch were again disseminated through government channels, with significant pick-up from local media outlets (e.g. BVI News; 284 Media). The promotion of the project launch was also an opportunity to encourage BVI society to engage in the turtle quiz, with Gov VI's Nekita Turnbull also coordinating the development of a bespoke Facebook promotional video and flyer (see Fig. 4). The BVI Governor's office, specifically their process officer, has also supported project promotion through amplifying project communications through their channels. ARK's Facebook page has also featured regular biological monitoring updates, including live feeds from the field, while using the hashtag #BVISTEEL. An in-depth article following the project team's in-field activities was also well received.



Figure 6 – Screenshot of the online project launch and panel discussion hosted by Government of the Virgin Islands

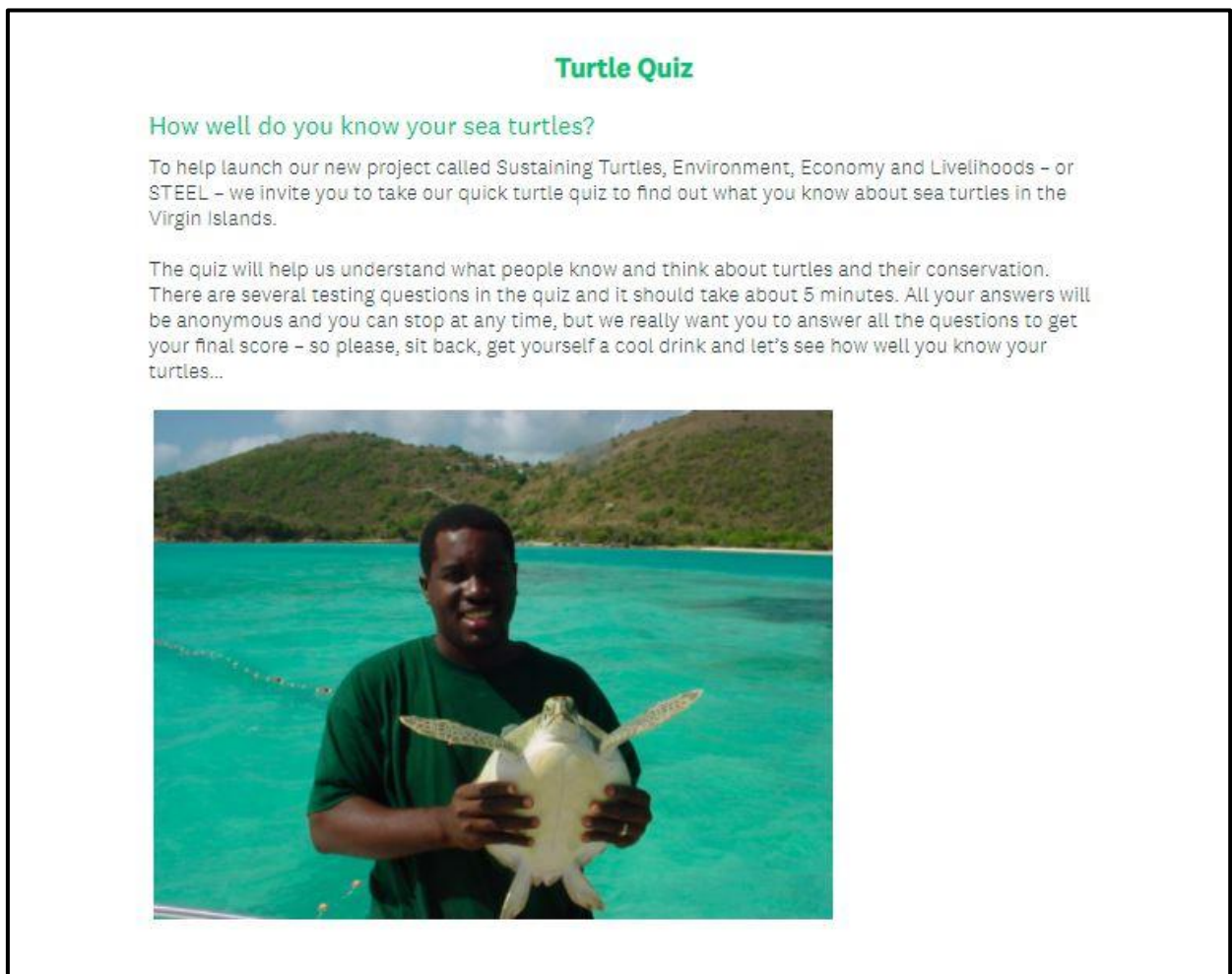


Figure 7 – Screenshot of the online BVI Turtle Quiz opening page



Figure 8 - Promotion flyer for turtle quiz

In spite of project disruptions caused by the pandemic, our planned exit strategy remains the same. ARK and MNRLI have collaborated extensively on turtle flipper tagging and habitat monitoring, undertaken on a regular, albeit infrequent, basis. Post-project, DOAF, MNRLI and ARK will continue this work using the project equipment, with project-trained DOAF officers continuing the monitoring of turtle landings and contributing to the national database. DOAF will still be responsible for overall database maintenance and management.

Dr Gore is BVI Coordinator for WIDECAS, thus responsible for advocating the STRAP guidance and recommendations, while BVI is within the North-Eastern Caribbean Sea Turtle Recovery Zone, which opens up more potential to secure additional resource for regional conservation commitments.

MCS has a strong track record for securing additional resources for priority work, and are still committed to continue approaching funders to support project partners in the BVI. For example, after the reformed legislation was enacted in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI), MCS worked

with local partners to ensure research and outreach continued through additional funding. For example, MCS has secured support from the People’s Trust for Endangered Species to evaluate fisher compliance with TCI regulations.

11. Darwin identity

All project-specific communications within the public domain have publicised the Darwin Initiative as being the sole funder for this distinct project (see Section 10). The Darwin Initiative logo and fund is highlighted on the project’s main webpage and on MCS’s recently launched website through a bespoke project page. As part of the online project launch, the presentation given by Dr. Gore also highlighted the initiative and associated logo (see Fig 8). Project documents including the sampling protocol also highlight these features.

As highlighted in Section 10, most efforts to publicise the project has been through social media, particularly Facebook due to its high rate of use in the BVI. For example, the BVI Community Board has almost 23k members.



Figure 8 - Project PowerPoint presentation

With the BVI having had multiple projects funded by the Darwin Initiative, including three distinct Darwin Plus projects from Round 8, there is a healthy understanding and appreciation of the scheme especially within government and NGO circles.

12. Impact of COVID-19 on project delivery

The project field activities and stakeholder engagement activities of Output 1 and 2 were delayed due to Covid-19 restrictions, including initial restrictions on boat traffic, restrictions on gatherings and ongoing restrictions at the borders. This impacted all work involving the UK partners, and delayed the in-water work and the protocol training sessions. Two Change Request applications

have been gratefully accepted by the Darwin Initiative in moving affected project activities to Year 2.

In responding to this, the project team developed and implemented virtual events to support stakeholder engagement (see Section 9).

ARK's project co-lead will be fully vaccinated in the coming weeks along with all regular volunteers assisting with tagging. ARK is also ensuring strict health and safety adherence during field trips, requesting vaccinated chartered boat captains and associated staff

With new ways of learning and online communications having served the project well so far, we are open to exploring further virtual means if further disruptions prevent UK partners from travelling to collectively implement activities. For example, MCS are trialling an online CVM stakeholder engagement methodology in the UK and documenting learning for possible use in other initiatives.

While in-water work started after lifting of restrictions, other work was unavoidably delayed. We anticipate starting some of the UK partner work in Year 2, being cognisant of other risks including extreme weather events. We are keeping a watching brief on Covid-19 developments, communicating regularly as a project team, and will notify Darwin if we anticipate further delays that impact the timing of forecasted spending.

13. Safeguarding

Please tick this box if any safeguarding violations have occurred during this financial year.

If you have ticked the box, please ensure these are reported to ODA.safeguarding@defra.gov.uk as indicated in the T&Cs.

MCS, as lead organisation, has comprehensive policies committed to safeguarding, including zero-tolerance on bullying, harassment, sexual exploitation and abuse, and protection of whistle-blowers, as well as codes of conduct that clearly establish expectations of staff behaviour.

While there have been no safeguarding violations with regards to the project, any issues arising from this project going forward will be handled initially by MCS's Dr Chris Tuckett, and MCS Senior Management Team (SMT) supported by the MCS HR department following MCS procedure. Where necessary, MCS SMT will liaise with the governing bodies of partner organisation to address and resolve any concerns. In addition, MCS online safeguarding and E&D training modules will also be made available to partner organisations.

14. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021)

Project spend (indicative) in this financial year	2020/21 D+ Grant (£)	2020/21 Total actual D+ Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				

Operating Costs				
Capital items				
Others (Please specify)				
TOTAL				

● **Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2020-2021 – if applicable**

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</p> <p>BVI's marine turtles and their habitats are actively managed and monitored with conservation interventions underpinned by sound science, appropriate and effective legislation, which is valued by local communities and visitors.</p>			
<p>Outcome</p> <p>Agreed recommendations for amendments to Virgin Islands Fisheries Regulations and Endangered Animals and Plants Ordinance, and revised and published Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan (STRAP).</p>	<p>0.1 Revised STRAP endorsed by DoAF and MNRLI by March 2023</p> <p>0.2 Final recommendations for legislative amends signed off by DoAF and MNRLI by March 2023</p>	<p>28 days of in-water tagging trips (resulting in capture, tag and release of 57 (53 green, 4 hawksbill) sea turtles), two aerial surveys combined with index beach monitoring (resulting in 5 leatherback nesting activities) are gradually developing an evidence base that can inform indicators 0.1 and 0.2</p>	<p>0.1 Continued in-water and nesting beach monitoring; continued identification of legislative/management gaps</p> <p>0.2 Implementation of socio-economic questionnaire survey on extent, nature and value of turtle fishery (will inform 0.3 CVM) – Targeting Indicator 0.2</p> <p>0.3 Implementation of CVM process to support development of final recommendations for legislative amends – Targeting Indicator 0.2</p>
<p>Output 1. Assessment of the status, nature and extent of the traditional turtle fishery.</p>	<p>1.1 Y1Q2 – Detailed final project workplan and MoU, incorporating data sharing agreement, developed and signed off by all partner organisations.</p> <p>1.2 Y1Q3 - At least 3 DoAF staff members trained in sampling protocol to monitor landed turtles through bespoke workshop and in-situ, and (between Y1 – Y3) a show at least</p>	<p>1.1 Workplan complete. Partnership Agreement in final stages of being signed by all partners (see Section 2)</p> <p>1.2 Only 1 DOAF officer trained in sampling protocol to monitor landed turtles</p> <p>1.3 In progress. Approved change request for this indicator's activity to move to Yr2. MCS are drafting socio-economic questionnaire in preparation.</p> <p>1.4 Ark is providing training in Y2Q1 for DOAF to facilitate this monitoring.</p> <p>1.5 Scheduled for Yr3</p>	

	<p>40% improvement in capacity to effectively monitor landed turtles using approved scoring assessment method.</p> <p>1.3 Y1Q3 - Socio-economic questionnaire survey carried out with at least 50 fishers, vendors and consumers across the four main inhabited islands ensuring gender balance.</p> <p>1.4 Y1Q3-Y3Q4 – Daily biological monitoring (e.g. biometric measuring, species ID, sexing, location data) of landed turtles by DoAF officers in the 4 main inhabited islands.</p> <p>1.5 Y3Q3-Q4 – Analyses, reporting and amalgamation of results from socio-economic questionnaire survey and biological monitoring of landed turtles into project report for Output 1.</p>	<p>Indicators are still appropriate however with Covid risk timings may be subject to change</p>	
Activities for Output 1			
<p>1.1 Prepare project workplan and MoU, incorporating data sharing agreement, developed and facilitate sign-off by all partner organisations</p>	<p>Workplan complete. Partnership Agreement in final stages of being signed by all partners</p>	<p>Finalise signing of Partnership Agreement by all partners</p>	
<p>1.2 Monthly face to face meetings between BVI partners led by ARK with Skype connection to MCS.</p>	<p>Complete for reporting period (see Annex 3)</p>	<p>Monthly face to face meetings between BVI partners led by ARK with Skype connection to MCS.</p>	
<p>1.3 Quarterly team meetings with all partners either on-island or through Skype connection.</p>	<p>Complete for reporting period (see Annex 3)</p>	<p>Quarterly team meetings with all partners either on-island or through Skype connection.</p>	

1.4 Implement stakeholder engagement exercise in inhabited islands of Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada, and Jost Van Dyke, introducing project need, aims and participatory mechanisms to turtle fishers, vendors, consumers and other relevant stakeholders	Disrupted by Covid-19, change request approved for this activity to move to Yr2	Project team to implement stakeholder engagement exercises
1.4.1 Organise and implement at least 1 community meeting in each inhabited island	See 1.4	See 1.4
1.4.2 Gather, assess and incorporate (where possible) stakeholder feedback on project design	See 1.4	See 1.4
1.4.3 Identify and approach key stakeholders for activity 1.6	See 1.4	See 1.4
1.5 Develop socio-economic questionnaire survey	In progress. Disrupted by Covid-19. Approved change request for this indicator's activity to move to Yr2. MCS are drafting socio-economic questionnaire survey in preparation.	Finalise draft questionnaire survey and implement prior to hurricane season in August (Covid-dependent)
1.5.1 Pilot survey with community members to ensure locally appropriate	See 1.5	See 1.5
1.6 Carry out socio-economic questionnaire survey with at least 50 fishers, vendors and consumers from the four inhabited islands ensuring fair gender representation	See 1.5	See 1.5
1.6.1 Analyse data and write report	See 1.5	Analysis of data from 1.5 and develop report
1.7 Develop sampling protocol for biological monitoring of landed turtles	Complete (see Annex 5)	
1.8 Training workshop for at least 3 DOAF staff members to be trained in sampling protocol to monitor landed turtles through bespoke workshop and in-situ.	Only 1 DOAF officer trained in sampling protocol to monitor landed turtles (see Section 3.1)	Training workshop for at least 3 DOAF staff members to be trained in sampling protocol to monitor landed turtles through bespoke workshop and in-situ.
1.8.1 Evaluate and reinforce DOAF monitoring capacity of landed turtles every 6 months in-situ	Not implemented. See Section 3.1	Evaluate and reinforce DOAF monitoring capacity of landed turtles every 6 months in-situ

1.9 Commence biological monitoring of landed turtles in the four main fishing centres	Biological monitoring of landed turtles commenced in Anegada.	With implementation of Activity 1.8, DOAF in better position to monitor landed turtles in the three remaining fishing centres
1.9.1 Analyse data (24 months) and write report	Planned for Yr3	Continue data entry and management of database
1.10 Write overall assessment report for Output 1 factoring in analyses from Activities 1.6.1 & 1.9.1	Planned for Yr3	For Yr3
<p>2. Development and management of national BVI Sea Turtle Database, including updated assessment of turtle populations and habitats at key index sites.</p>	<p>2.1 Y1Q2 - Collate all historical and existing data into functioning national database and review to inform monitoring and turtle flipper tagging programme.</p> <p>2.2 Y1Q2-Y3Q4 - Monthly boat-based turtle flipper-tagging surveys at 6 index foraging sites – all visited at least twice in one year.</p> <p>2.3 Y1Q2-Y3Q1 Collect baseline data on benthic habitat monitoring using established protocols and repeat on an annual basis.</p> <p>2.4 Y1Q2-Y3Q1 - Quarterly aerial surveys and ground-truthing of 5 index nesting sites.</p> <p>2.5 Y1Q3 - At least 2 DOAF and 3 MNRLI staff members trained in marine turtle flipper tag-recapture and nesting survey protocols through workshop and ARK mentoring. Between Y1 – Y3, at least 3 MNRLI staff members show at least 30% improvement in capacity to</p>	<p>2.1 Collation of historical data is ongoing due finding numerous spreadsheets with replicated and in some cases missing data. It has been more time consuming than expected but will be completed by Y2Q2.</p> <p>2.2 Surveys continue, on average, 4 times a month. Locations include Deadman’s Bay (Peter Island); Manchioneel Bay (Cooper Island); Little Harbour (Peter Island); Little Dix Bay (Virgin Gorda); Oil Nut Bay (Virgin Gorda); Anegada (South Side & Windless Bight); East Harbour (Jost Van Dyke).</p> <p>2.3 Benthic habitat monitoring has been completed in Peter Island (Little Harbour) and Oil Nut Bay (Virgin Gorda). Due to high wind and wave activity, particularly during the winter months, most locations are difficult to visit for surveys. The remaining locations will be completed in Y2Q1 during the early summer when conditions will be calmer.</p> <p>2.4 Two aerial surveys have been completed. Pilot is currently awaiting to take an aviation medical exam that cannot be completed on island and waiting for travel quarantine to be lifted for day travel which is expected to be 15 May 2021. Aerial surveys will then commence once the pilot is clear to fly.</p> <p>2.5 2 MNRLI staff trained in marine turtle flipper tag-recapture protocols. Weekly in-water tagging trips continuing through Year 2 will provide opportunity for 3 DOAF staff to be trained in this aspect. Year 2 to also include nesting monitoring training, with Covid-related barriers preventing this training in Year 1.</p> <p>2.6 – Planned for Year 3.</p>

	effectively monitor foraging turtles and nesting activity using approved scoring assessment method. 2.6 Y3Q4 – At least one manuscript prepared for peer-reviewed publication, and at least one presentation at an international conference.		
Activity 2.1. Organise initial project-partner meeting to develop and endorse overall work plan for Output 2 allocating tasks to key project personnel.		Completed with allocated tasks highlighted in the action tracker (see Section 3.1, Activity 1.1).	Regular monitoring of action tracker to ensure Year 2 tasks on track
Activity 2.2. Review and collate all historical documents, existing data sets and identify feasible database format		Through extensive organising, a single database has been developed and all data has been carefully reviewed for errors and missing data.	
Activity 2.3 Review and updating of existing marine turtle flipper tag-recapture and nesting survey protocols		Complete. See Annex 4.	
Activity 2.4 Identify appropriate benthic habitat monitoring protocol with MNRLI & DOAF		Complete. See Annex 4.	
Activity 2.5 Collect baseline data on benthic habitat monitoring using established protocols and repeat on an annual basis.		Two habitat assessments completed in Year 1	Carry out additional habitat assessments for Year 2
Activity 2.6 Carry out monthly boat-based turtle flipper-tagging surveys at 6 index foraging sites – all visited at least twice in one year.		A total of 28 days tagging over the past year has resulted in the capture, tag and release of 57 (53 green, 4 hawksbill) sea turtles.	Carry out monthly boat-based turtle flipper-tagging surveys for Year 2
Activity 2.7 Carry out quarterly aerial surveys with ground-truthing of 5 index nesting sites		Two aerial surveys completed in year 1	Carry out quarterly aerial surveys for Year 2

Activity 2.8 Analysis and presentation of national turtle database		Planned for Year 3	
Activity 2.9 Ongoing maintenance and stewardship of national database by DOAF		In Progress	
Output 3. Recommended amendments to Virgin Islands Fisheries Regulations and Endangered Animals and Plants Ordinance, and revised STRAP.	3.1 Y2Q1 - At least 30 filmed CVM stakeholder interviews across four inhabited islands with representative gender sampling. 3.2 Y2Q2 - Analysis of filmed interviews and one CVM documentary film output. 3.3 Y2Q3 - At least 20 CVM film screenings across four inhabited islands involving at least 100 participants, including at least 5 mixed-gender workshops in Tortola and Virgin Gorda. 3.4 Y2Q4 – Completed report on workshops discussions and draft legislative recommendations. 3.5 Y3Q1 - Face to face consultation with at least 30 selected stakeholders across four inhabited islands on recommended draft legislation amendments. 3.6 Y3Q4 - Final recommended draft amendments presented to Government for formal consultation process. 3.7 Y3Q3-Q4 – Revisions to STRAP completed, based on project findings and presented to Government for endorsement.	3.1 – 3.4 Planned for completion in next reporting period 3.5 – 3.7 Planned for completion for Year 3 reporting period Indicators are still appropriate however with Covid risk timings may be subject to change	
	Activities for Output 3		

3.1 Develop interviewee list of stakeholders for CVM filmed interviews (aided by Activity 1.6)	Planned for completion in next reporting period	Develop interviewee list of stakeholders for CVM filmed interviews
3.2 Develop interview questionnaire and consent form (aided by Activity 1.6.1)	Planned for completion in next reporting period	Develop interview questionnaire and consent form
3.2.1 Pilot interview questionnaire with community members, including women, to ensure gender-appropriate.	Planned for completion in next reporting period	Work with local partners to pilot interview questionnaire with community members, including women, to ensure gender-appropriate.
3.3 Finalise list of participants for filming and arrange filmed interviews	Planned for completion in next reporting period	Finalise list of participants for filming and arrange filmed interviews
3.4 Carry out filmed interviews across Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada, and Jost Van Dyke ensuring gender balance	Planned for completion in next reporting period	Carry out filmed interviews across Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada, and Jost Van Dyke ensuring gender balance
3.5 Transcribe and analyse filmed interview data and write analysis summary report.	Planned for completion in next reporting period	Transcribe and analyse filmed interview data and write analysis summary report.
3.6 Produce CVM film output	Planned for completion in next reporting period	Produce CVM film output
3.7 Arrange and promote CVM film screening/workshops via outreach strategy across four inhabited islands (see Activity 4.5)	Planned for completion in next reporting period	Arrange and promote CVM film screening/workshops via outreach strategy across four inhabited islands (see Activity 4.5)
3.8 Hold CVM screenings/workshops across the four inhabited islands	Planned for completion in next reporting period	Hold CVM screenings/workshops across the four inhabited islands
3.9 Input and analyse CVM workshop proceedings to produce report and recommended draft turtle fishery legislation amendments	Planned for completion in next reporting period	Input and analyse CVM workshop proceedings to produce report and recommended draft turtle fishery legislation amendments

3.10 Carry out consultations with selected stakeholders to gain feedback on recommended draft turtle fishery legislation amendments	Planned for completion in Year 3 reporting period	Planned for completion in Year 3 reporting period
3.11 Draft STRAP revisions based on project findings.	Planned for completion in Year 3 reporting period	Planned for completion in Year 3 reporting period
3.12 Finalise recommended draft turtle fishery amendments and revised STRAP and secure full endorsement from project partners	Planned for completion in Year 3 reporting period	Planned for completion in Year 3 reporting period
3.13 Present finalised recommended amendments for formal consultation process, and revised STRAP for Government endorsement.	Planned for completion in Year 3 reporting period	Planned for completion in Year 3 reporting period
Output 4. Disseminate project findings to national, regional and international audiences	<p>4.1 Y1Q1-Y3Q4 - At least three press releases issued strategically in years 1, 2 and 3 to announce the project and solicit participation; encourage participation in the CVM; and announce the results.</p> <p>4.2 Y1Q1-Y3Q4 - Creation of posts for partners social media accounts, producing at least 1 post per month.</p> <p>4.3 Y2Q3 - Posting of CVM film and short extracts online.</p> <p>4.4 Y3Q4 – CVM report for presentation.</p> <p>4.5 Y3Q4 - Presentation of project findings to at least one international conference.</p> <p>4.6 Y3Q4 - Production and dissemination of a fisheries consultation best-practice guide to at least 30 people at end-of-project workshop in Tortola.</p> <p>4.7 Y1-Y3 – At least 20 Project presentations in 10 local mixed gender schools targeting at least 300 school children.</p>	<p>4.1 - In progress and on track (see Section 10)</p> <p>4.2 - In progress and on track (see Section 3.1)</p> <p>4.3 - Planned for completion in next reporting period</p> <p>4.4 – 4.6 - Planned for completion in Year 3 reporting period</p> <p>4.7 – Disrupted by Covid-19. Approved change request for this indicator's activity to move to Yr2.</p> <p>Indicators are still appropriate however with Covid risk timings may be subject to change</p>

Activities for Output 4		
4.1 Develop and finalise draft communication and outreach strategy for project and get endorsement from all partners	Complete (see Annex 6)	
4.2 Create and disseminate outreach materials including broadcast, press releases and online media to introduce project	In progress and on track (see Section 10)	Develop outreach materials for Year 2 of project including review of Year 1
4.3 Create project-specific social media posts and promote via partner's digital channels.	In progress and on track (see Section 3.1)	Continue creating project-specific social media posts for Year 2.
4.4 Develop and implement project presentations in 10 mixed-gender schools across the four inhabited islands (repeat annually)	Disrupted by Covid-19. Approved change request for this activity to move to Yr2	Adapt existing Project PowerPoint presentation and contact schools to arrange
4.5 Create bespoke outreach strategy to promote and encourage participation in CVM film screening/workshops (with Activity 3.7)	Planned for completion in next reporting period	Create bespoke outreach strategy with Nekita Turnbull (Information Officer) to promote and encourage participation in CVM film screening/workshops
4.6 Post CVM film and short extracts on partners' web platforms and social media channels	Planned for completion in next reporting period	In liaison with Nekita Turnbull, post CVM film and short extracts on partners' web platforms and social media channels
4.7 Write CVM report including film analysis and summary of workshop discussions.	Planned for completion in Year 3 reporting period	Planned for completion in Year 3 reporting period
4.8 Presentation of project findings at international conference	Planned for completion in Year 3 reporting period	Planned for completion in Year 3 reporting period
4.9 Create outreach materials including broadcast, press releases and online media to disseminate results of the project	Planned for completion in Year 3 reporting period	Planned for completion in Year 3 reporting period

4.10 Develop and finalise a fisheries consultation best-practice guide (using M&E/outputs from Activities 1.10 and 3.9)	Planned for completion in Year 3 reporting period	Planned for completion in Year 3 reporting period
4.11 Deliver end-of-project partners and stakeholders workshop highlighting project learning, presenting revised STRAP and legislation recommendations, with future planning for BVI partners.	Planned for completion in Year 3 reporting period	Planned for completion in Year 3 reporting period

- **Annex 2: Project’s full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed) - if applicable**

N.B. if your application’s logframe is presented in a different format in your application, please transpose into the below template. Please feel free to contact Darwin-Projects@itsi.co.uk if you have any questions regarding this.

Agreed and approved changes to logframe in track changes.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: BVI’s marine turtles and their habitats are actively managed and monitored with conservation interventions underpinned by sound science, appropriate and effective legislation, which is valued by local communities and visitors.</p>			
<p>Outcome: Agreed recommendations for amendments to Virgin Islands Fisheries Regulations and Endangered Animals and Plants Ordinance, and revised and published Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan (STRAP).</p>	<p>0.1 Revised STRAP endorsed by DoAF and MNRLI by March 2023</p> <p>0.2 Final recommendations for legislative amends signed off by DoAF and MNRLI by March 2023.</p>	<p>0.1 Published STRAP.</p> <p>0.2 Project report detailing recommended legislative amends signed off by DoAF and MNRLI.</p>	<p>0.1 – 0.4 BVI Government have confirmed their desire to amend the Virgin Islands Fisheries Regulations, the Endangered Animals and Plants Ordinance, and update the STRAP, and have committed dedicated staff to aid in targeting this outcome. <i>In June 2019, MCS’s UKOT Conservation Officer Amdeep Sanghera visited BVI to meet with the Minister and Deputy Secretary of MNRLI, along with senior DoAF staff. All expressed a keen willingness to update the legislation through this project.</i></p> <p>Extreme weather events, particularly hurricanes and tropical storms, will not impact project partners to the extent that they cannot complete the project. <i>ARK was operating within three weeks of two catastrophic category 5</i></p>

			<p><i>hurricanes that hit BVI in 2017. We will have a carefully planned a mitigation strategy to minimise disruption to project progress in the event of extreme weather impacts. We are also in contact with the Department of Disaster Management (GoBVI) on preparedness best practice.</i></p>
<p>Outputs:</p> <p>1. Assessment of the status, nature and extent of the traditional turtle fishery.</p>	<p>1.1 Y1Q2 – Detailed final project workplan and MoU, incorporating data sharing agreement, developed and signed off by all partner organisations.</p> <p>1.2 Y1Q34 - At least 3 DoAF staff members trained in sampling protocol to monitor landed turtles through bespoke workshop and in-situ, and (between Y1 – Y3) a show at least 40% improvement in capacity to effectively monitor landed turtles using approved scoring assessment method.</p> <p>1.3 Y42Q31 - Socio-economic questionnaire survey carried out with at least 50 fishers, vendors and consumers across the four main inhabited islands ensuring gender balance.</p>	<p>1.1 Endorsed project workplan and MoU.</p> <p>1.2 Sampling protocol, Protocol training workshop report, creation of BVI Turtle landings database. Scoring assessment sheets used via bi-annual reinforcement /evaluation exercises; training reports; field notes; evaluation interviews with DoAF staff.</p> <p>1.3 Audio transcriptions, socio-economic assessment report, signed informed consent forms,</p> <p>1.4 Sampling protocol, photos of landed turtles, creation and management of BVI Turtle landings database,</p>	<p>1.1 Project partners are able to collectively finalise workplan and MoU. <i>This proposal has had extensive collaborative input and endorsement from all partners, including on respective roles and responsibilities, so detailed workplan and MoU will be achieved.</i></p> <p>1.2 DoAF are willing to provide staff for monitoring of landed turtles. <i>DoAF have expressed keen interest in leading the turtle fishery monitoring aspect of the project and have dedicated two capable staff members for this. The project will benefit from MCS/UoE's extensive expertise of training Caribbean UKOT governments to effectively monitor turtle landings.</i></p> <p>1.3 Fishers, vendors and consumers are willing to participate in the socio-economic study. <i>During his June visit, MCS's UKOT</i></p>

	<p>1.4 Y1Q34-Y3Q4 – Daily biological monitoring (e.g. biometric measuring, species ID, sexing, location data) of landed turtles by DoAF officers in the 4 main inhabited islands.</p> <p>1.5 Y3Q3-Q4 – Analyses, reporting and amalgamation of results from socio-economic questionnaire survey and biological monitoring of landed turtles into project report for Output 1.</p>	<p>1.5 Project report (see Output 1). At least one manuscript prepared for peer-reviewed publication and at least one presentation at an international conference.</p>	<p><i>Conservation Officer Amdeep Sanghera met with 15 turtle fishers in Tortola and Anegada who confirmed their support for this study and willingness to engage. DoAF's strong ties with fishers will also be utilised here to ensure meaningful fisher and wider stakeholder participation.</i></p> <p>1.4a DoAF staff are willing to collect turtle landings data. <i>DoAF fishery officers have committed to use their strong connection with fishing communities to facilitate this data collection.</i></p> <p>1.4 Turtle fishers will allow their landings to be sampled. <i>UoE and MCS have extensive experience of working with fishers to monitor the turtle fishery in the Turks and Caicos Islands. This experience, combined with DoAF's close linkage and communication with fisher communities, will help to facilitate greater participation through this project.</i></p> <p>1.5 Data will be properly managed and analysed for peer reviewed publication. <i>Prof. Godley is a world-renowned expert on turtle species, with hundreds of publications to his name. In addition, Dr Shannon Gore</i></p>
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<p>2. Development and management of national BVI Sea Turtle Database, including updated assessment of turtle populations and habitats at key index sites.</p>	<p>2.1 Y1Q2 - Collate all historical and existing data into functioning national database and review to inform monitoring and turtle flipper tagging programme.</p> <p>2.2 Y1Q2-Y3Q4 - Monthly boat-based turtle flipper-tagging surveys at 6 index foraging sites – all visited at least twice in one year.</p> <p>2.3 Y1Q2-Y3Q1 Collect baseline data on benthic habitat monitoring using established protocols and repeat on an annual basis.</p> <p>2.4 Y1Q2-Y3Q1 - Quarterly aerial surveys and ground-truthing of 5 index nesting sites.</p> <p>2.5 Y1Q3 - At least 2 DoAF and 3 MNRLI staff members trained in marine turtle flipper tag-recapture and nesting survey protocols</p>	<p>2.1 Functioning national database and monitoring plan.</p> <p>2.2 Collected data, monitoring and sampling protocols, flipper-tag recapture database set-up and populated, social media posts of sampling trips.</p> <p>2.3 Habitat database, survey sheets, habitat imagery, agreed protocols.</p> <p>2.4 See 2.1. Turtle nesting database set-up and populated. Completed flight logs, data sheets and survey photography.</p> <p>2.5 Workshop registration and report, social media posts. See 1.2, plus ARK training and evaluation reports.</p>	<p>2.1 Data holders submit turtle data. <i>ARK has been at the centre of BVI turtle research for several decades and holds strong and progressive relationships with the stakeholders we are targeting.</i></p> <p>2.2 Project partners are committed to collect field data. <i>ARK, in collaboration with MNRLI, were running an ongoing turtle-tagging project collecting scientific data before hurricanes Irma and Maria destroyed the research vessels. This component will also benefit from UoE's expert advice and experience.</i></p> <p>2.3 Habitat survey methodology is suitable. <i>Dr Shannon Gore has been undertaking monitoring surveys of BVI habitats through established protocols. Liaison with existing habitat mapping initiatives in the BVI (e.g. Darwin Plus project DP\100052) will ensure sharing of</i></p>

	<p>through workshop and ARK mentoring. Between Y1 – Y3, at least 3 MNRLI staff members show at least 30% improvement in capacity to effectively monitor foraging turtles and nesting activity using approved scoring assessment method.</p> <p>2.6 Y3Q4 – At least one manuscript prepared for peer-reviewed publication, and at least one presentation at an international conference.</p>	<p>2.6 Finalised manuscript, PowerPoint presentation, social media posts, conference proceedings.</p>	<p><i>methodologies and data to maximise overall efforts.</i></p> <p>2.4 Aerial survey methodology is appropriate for this purpose. <i>Aerial surveys proved successful during a previous project. ARK has been engaging with local airlines to use the same method while also establishing a sustainable financing mechanism to continue nesting monitoring beyond the life of the project.</i></p> <p>2.5 DoAF and MNRLI staff will participate in flipper tag-recapture/nesting surveys. MNRLI have been working with ARK for several years in collecting flipper-tag recapture data before hurricanes Irma and Maria destroyed vessels used by ARK. MNRLI committed to provide staff for this research.</p> <p>2.6 – see 1.5</p>
<p>3. Recommended amendments to Virgin Islands Fisheries Regulations and Endangered Animals and Plants Ordinance, and revised STRAP.</p>	<p>3.1 Y2Q1 - At least 30 filmed CVM stakeholder interviews across four inhabited islands with representative gender sampling.</p>	<p>3.1 Digital footage of all interviews, consent forms</p> <p>3.2 Interview transcriptions, qualitative database, analysis document and completed CVM documentary film.</p>	<p>3.1 Stakeholders have agreed to participate in the CVM project. Amdeep Sanghera consulted with a range of fishers and other stakeholders about the project in June 2019, explaining CVM methodology and showing our</p>

	<p>3.2 Y2Q2 - Analysis of filmed interviews and one CVM documentary film output.</p> <p>3.3 Y2Q3 - At least 20 CVM film screenings across four inhabited islands involving at least 100 participants, including at least 5 mixed-gender workshops in Tortola and Virgin Gorda.</p> <p>3.4 Y2Q4 – Completed report on workshops discussions and draft legislative recommendations.</p> <p>3.5 Y3Q1 - Face to face consultation with at least 30 selected stakeholders across four inhabited islands on recommended draft legislation amendments.</p> <p>3.6 Y3Q4 - Final recommended draft amendments presented to Government for formal consultation process.</p> <p>3.7 Y3Q3-Q4 – Revisions to STRAP completed, based on project findings and presented to Government for endorsement.</p>	<p>3.3 Audio, photographic and written recordings of each workshop, participant registration sheet, social media posts.</p> <p>3.4 CVM film and workshops report.</p> <p>3.5 Audio record of consultation interviews, completed consultation questionnaire forms.</p> <p>3.6 Project report, with appendix detailing recommended legislative amends prepared for presentation to Government.</p> <p>3.7 Revised and endorsed STRAP.</p>	<p>documentary film output on CVM from the Turks and Caicos Islands. All individuals expressed their support for this inclusive form of engagement. Our experience in the Turks and Caicos Islands also underpins the effectiveness of this method.</p> <p>3.7 Government accepts legislative amendments for formal consultation and endorses revised STRAP – this is expected given the involvement of the key Government partners.</p>
<p>4. Disseminate project findings to national, regional and international audiences</p>	<p>4.1 Y1Q1-Y3Q4 - At least three press releases issued strategically in years 1, 2 and 3 to announce the project and solicit participation;</p>	<p>4.1 Press releases and resulting articles in BVI print, broadcast and online media channels.</p>	<p>4.1 Press channels will publish the story; peer-reviewed journals will accept the article; and project team speaker’s abstract will be accepted for presentation. MCS, ARK and UoE have ample experience in</p>

	<p>encourage participation in the CVM; and announce the results.</p> <p>4.2 Y1Q1-Y3Q4 - Creation of posts for partners social media accounts, producing at least 1 post per month.</p> <p>4.3 Y2Q3 - Posting of CVM film and short extracts online.</p> <p>4.4 Y3Q4 – CVM report for presentation.</p> <p>4.5 Y3Q4 - Presentation of project findings to at least one international conference.</p> <p>4.6 Y3Q4 - Production and dissemination of a fisheries consultation best-practice guide to at least 30 people at end-of-project workshop in Tortola.</p> <p>4.7 Y42-Y3 – At least 20 Project presentations in 10 local mixed gender schools targeting at least 300 school children.</p> <p>4.8 Y1-Y3 – Monthly calls to enable shared learning and support on turtle conservation, CVM and policy development aspects between this project and DPLUS106 via MCS and UoE staff. Incorporated into community and CVM screening presentations.</p>	<p>4.2 Online record of posts on partner organisations' channels, as well as public response.</p> <p>4.3 CVM film and short extracts embedded on partners' websites, social media posts.</p> <p>4.4 CVM report, PowerPoint presentation.</p> <p>4.5 PowerPoint presentation and conference proceedings.</p> <p>4.6 Fisheries consultation best-practice guide document, end-of-project workshop proceedings, participant register.</p> <p>4.7 Teacher and student feedback forms on project presentations to schools, social media posts,</p> <p>4.8 Meeting notes, Whatsapp chat transcriptions, photographs. CVM screening presentations.</p>	<p>writing press releases for take-up by local, national and international media. The team have a strong history of their research paper publication, including those focused on turtle conservation, and have presented compelling abstracts and presentations at many scientific conferences. Project partners from both this and DPLUS106 are already in touch with each other, further facilitated through Amdeep Sanghera's current role at MCS. A bespoke Whatsapp group has been created between both project staff to encourage live-learning during project cycle and beyond.</p>
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Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)

Output 1: Assessment of the status, nature and extent of the traditional turtle fishery

- 1.11 Prepare project workplan and MoU, incorporating data sharing agreement, developed and facilitate sign-off by all partner organisations
- 1.12 Monthly face to face meetings between BVI partners led by ARK with Skype connection to MCS.
- 1.13 Quarterly team meetings with all partners either on-island or through Skype connection.
- 1.14 Implement stakeholder engagement exercise in inhabited islands of Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada, and Jost Van Dyke, introducing project need, aims and participatory mechanisms to turtle fishers, vendors, consumers and other relevant stakeholders
 - 1.14.1 Organise and implement at least 1 community meeting in each inhabited island
 - 1.14.2 Gather, assess and incorporate (where possible) stakeholder feedback on project design
 - 1.14.3 Identify and approach key stakeholders for activity 1.6
- 1.15 Develop socio-economic questionnaire survey
 - 1.15.1 Pilot survey with community members to ensure locally appropriate
- 1.16 Carry out socio-economic questionnaire survey with at least 50 fishers, vendors and consumers from the four inhabited islands ensuring fair gender representation
 - 1.16.1 Analyse data and write report
- 1.17 Develop sampling protocol for biological monitoring of landed turtles
- 1.18 Training workshop for at least 3 DoAF staff members to be trained in sampling protocol to monitor landed turtles through bespoke workshop and in-situ.
 - 1.18.1 Evaluate and reinforce DoAF monitoring capacity of landed turtles every 6 months in-situ
- 1.19 Commence biological monitoring of landed turtles in the four main fishing centres
 - 1.19.1 Analyse data (24 months) and write report
- 1.20 Write overall assessment report for Output 1 factoring in analyses from Activities 1.6.1 & 1.9.1

Output 2: Development and management of national BVI Sea Turtle Database, including updated assessment of turtle populations and habitats at key index sites

- 2.1 Organise initial project-partner meeting to develop and endorse overall work plan for Output 2 allocating tasks to key project personnel.
- 2.2 Review and collate all historical documents, existing data sets and identify feasible database format
 - 2.2.1. Enter all datasets into the new database
 - 2.2.2. Development of a user guide for the new database

- 2.3 Review and updating of existing marine turtle flipper tag-recapture and nesting survey protocols
 - 2.3.1. Monitoring Protocol Training Session with DoAF & MNRLI
 - 2.3.2. Produce report on Training Session
- 2.4. Identify appropriate benthic habitat monitoring protocol with MNRLI & DoAF
- 2.5 Collect baseline data on benthic habitat monitoring using established protocols and repeat on an annual basis.
- 2.6 Carry out monthly boat-based turtle flipper-tagging surveys at 6 index foraging sites – all visited at least twice in one year.
 - 2.6.1. Entry of tagging/recapture data into database
- 2.7. Carry out quarterly aerial surveys with ground-truthing of 5 index nesting sites
 - 2.7.1. Enter nesting data into database
- 2.8. Analysis and presentation of national turtle database
 - 2.8.1 Write draft manuscript for submission and peer-review
 - 2.8.2. Present project results at one international conference
- 2.9. Ongoing maintenance and stewardship of national database by DoAF

Output 3. Proposed turtle fishery amendments to Virgin Islands Fisheries Regulations and Endangered Animals and Plants Act

- 3.1 Develop interviewee list of stakeholders for CVM filmed interviews (aided by Activity 1.6)
- 3.2 Develop interview questionnaire and consent form (aided by Activity 1.6.1)
 - 3.2.1 Pilot interview questionnaire with community members, including women, to ensure gender-appropriate.
- 3.3 Finalise list of participants for filming and arrange filmed interviews
- 3.4 Carry out filmed interviews across Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada, and Jost Van Dyke ensuring gender balance
- 3.5 Transcribe and analyse filmed interview data and write analysis summary report.
- 3.6 Produce CVM film output
- 3.7 Arrange and promote CVM film screening/workshops via outreach strategy across four inhabited islands (see Activity 4.5)

- 3.8 Hold CVM screenings/workshops across the four inhabited islands
- 3.9 Input and analyse CVM workshop proceedings to produce report and recommended draft turtle fishery legislation amendments
- 3.10 Carry out consultations with selected stakeholders to gain feedback on recommended draft turtle fishery legislation amendments
- 3.11 Draft STRAP revisions based on project findings.
- 3.12 Finalise recommended draft turtle fishery amendments and revised STRAP and secure full endorsement from project partners
- 3.13 Present finalised recommended amendments for formal consultation process, and revised STRAP for Government endorsement.

Output 4. Disseminate project findings to national, regional and international audiences

- 4.1 Develop and finalise draft communication and outreach strategy for project and get endorsement from all partners
- 4.2 Create and disseminate outreach materials including broadcast, press releases and online media to introduce project
- 4.3 Create project-specific social media posts and promote via partner's digital channels.
- 4.4 Develop and implement project presentations in 10 mixed-gender schools across the four inhabited islands (repeat annually)
- 4.5 Create bespoke outreach strategy to promote and encourage participation in CVM film screening/workshops (with Activity 3.7)
- 4.6 Post CVM film and short extracts on partners' web platforms and social media channels
- 4.7 Write CVM report including film analysis and summary of workshop discussions.
- 4.8 Presentation of project findings at international conference
- 4.9 Create outreach materials including broadcast, press releases and online media to disseminate results of the project
- 4.10 Develop and finalise a fisheries consultation best-practice guide (using M&E/outputs from Activities 1.10 and 3.9)
- 4.11 Deliver end-of-project partners and stakeholders workshop highlighting project learning, presenting revised STRAP and legislation recommendations, with future planning for BVI partners.

- **Checklist for submission**

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@itsi.co.uk putting the project number in the Subject line.	YES
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with Darwin-Projects@itsi.co.uk about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	YES
Do you have hard copies of material you need to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	NO
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	YES
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	YES
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	