



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

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| Project reference | DPLUS119 |
| Project title | Technical assistance programme for effective coastal-marine management in the TCI |
| Country(ies)/territory(ies) | Turks & Caicos Islands (TCI) |
| Lead organisation | Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) |
| Partner(s) | Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR), Turks & Caicos Islands Government (TCIG) South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI) |
| Project leader | Dr Megan Tierney |
| Report date and number (e.g. HYR3) | HYR1 |
| Project website/blog/social media | N/A – these will be developed this FY. |

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed project implementation timetable (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).

DPLUS119 is a 3-year project which was to commence in Q1 2020-21, however due to announcement of awards not being made until May 2020 as well as impacts from the global Covid-19 (C19) outbreak, it was not possible to start the project by the original proposed date (April 2020). A Change Request (CR1) was submitted to LTS International, requesting a new start date of August 2020 (i.e. Y1Q2) together with a rescheduling of activities and deliverables outlined in the project log-frame. This Change Request was subsequently approved.

This half-yearly report therefore outlines progress made to date on activities that were (re-)scheduled for Y1Q2 (August-September). Note, apart from Work Package 5, none of the other Work Packages (1-4) had deliverables in these first two months.

Output 1. Natural Capital evidence base and tools are developed through a capacity building process with TCIG staff (WP1).

There were no deliverables due for this output during the first two months, however work on some activities did begin:

- Data mining (via searches on internal JNCC data-sets, global data-sets, and discussions with the Project Manager and Project Officer of DPLUS94 – Developing Marine Spatial Planning Tools for the Turks & Caicos Islands) commenced for any additional data from beyond the shelf-edge to inform gaps in The Nature Conservancy habitat map for the territorial waters of the TCI (Activity 1.1). This activity is on-going, although it is becoming evident that there is unlikely to be any further available or better data to improve upon The Nature Conservancy Map.
- Data mining and collation (via discussions with DPLUS94 project staff and utilisation of the data portal being developed under DPLUS94) for data required to develop and populate a Natural Capital Asset Register for the TCI marine and coastal environment commenced (Activity 1.2). A draft Asset Register has been completed (Figure 1). All processed GIS data that underpins the Asset Register has been archived in a standardised format, and documented processing steps and guidelines for creating and updating the Asset Register – including caveats, limitations and future improvements – have also been drafted (Activities 1.3, 1.4, 1.7). These will be shared with Project Partners for review over the coming months. It is further anticipated that the Asset Register could be updated/re-run in Y3 once data on asset condition/sensitivity generated under WP2 is available. This process could be undertaken with DECR staff as part of the detailed knowledge exchange activities scheduled for later in the project.

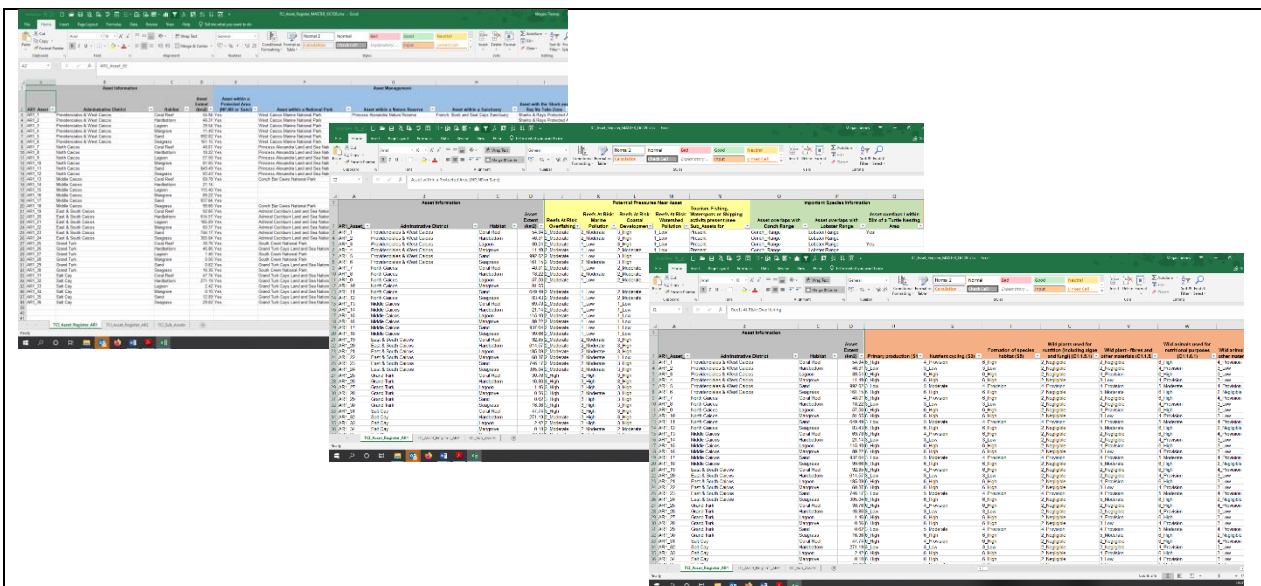


Figure 1. Screen grab of elements of the draft Natural Capital Asset Register that has been created and populated for TCI marine and coastal resources.

Output 2. Completed status assessments for marine/coastal habitats within TCI territorial waters based on best available evidence through a capacity building process with TCIG staff (WP2).

- There were no deliverables due for this output during the first two months, however JNCC project staff have begun the process of more detailed planning of the activities that will be carried out under this WP in Y2.

Output 3. Marine indicators to monitor changes to coastal/marine natural capital enabling progressive adoption of a monitoring programme developed through a capacity building process with TCIG staff (WP3).

There were no deliverables due for this output during the first two months, however work on some activities did begin:

- A meeting was held between JNCC and DECR to start exploring the most effective way to scope priorities and plan for the development of selected indicators (Activity 3.1). A mini workshop is being planned for early November 2020 for JNCC, DECR and SAERI to discuss and prioritise the indicators, and which will guide the literature review to be undertaken to identify possible metrics (Activity 3.2). Development of the indicators is not due to commence until Y2.

Output 4. Building TCIG staff capacity in natural capital approaches and raising awareness through community engagement and communications (WP4).

There were no deliverables due for this output during the first two months, however work on some activities did begin:

- Planning for the programme of Knowledge Exchange visits (Activity 4.1). Due to the ongoing C19 pandemic and associated travel restrictions, consideration is being given to if and when these may be possible, and alternative options for remote delivery of knowledge exchange. This will be discussed further with Project Partners at the first Project Partners meeting in Q3.
- Stakeholder engagement and communication strategy planning (Activity 4.3). The first step – Stakeholder Mapping – has begun. This will help identify, group and prioritise stakeholders, as well as identify the most effective way(s) to engage with each. To date 16 stakeholder groups and over 50 individual stakeholders have been identified, ranging from TCIG Departments, local

NGOs/research institutes/consultancies, private sector bodies, TCI press, local communities, international institutions, Darwin Plus Initiative, and local education and religious institutes. A draft Influence/Interest Grid for Stakeholder Prioritisation has been developed – see Figure 2 – but still needs refining and discussion with Project Partners.

- The initial stakeholder mapping exercise is also being used to develop the foundations of the Communications Plan.

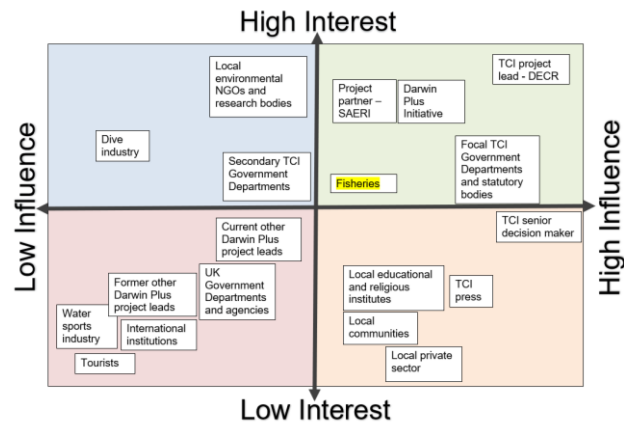


Figure 2. Draft Influence/Interest Grid for stakeholder prioritisation.

- The first communications activity (Activity 4.4) – a press release announcing the start and aims of the project – was prepared by Project Partners. See: <https://jncc.gov.uk/news/coastal-and-marine-management-in-tci/>.
- The start of the project was also announced on the JNCC twitter account (see: https://twitter.com/JNCC_UK/status/1318560270185279491). This was retweeted by numerous users, including the TCI Governor’s Office, UKOTA and TCI News.
- An image library to support communication products is also being created and is currently being archived on the JNCC servers. A process so these can be accessed by all Project Partners will be devised.

Output 5. Project management, reporting and IT (WP5).

There was one deliverable due under this outcome and several other activities commenced.

- The MoU between project partners was to be developed and agreed between Project Partners by the end of Y1Q2 (Activity 5.1); however, this has not yet been achieved. Drafting of the MoU is underway and will be completed before the end of Y1Q3.
- Drafting of proposed Project Steering and Advisory Groups, Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, JNCC Equality Assurance and Project Audit Document (Activities 5.2-5.4) has also commenced. These will be shared with and discussed/agreed by Project Partners at the first Project Partners meeting in Q3.
- Meetings between JNCC and DECR, JNCC and SAERI, and JNCC and eftc (project leaders of DPLUS108) have taken place to discuss project planning, activities and linkages.

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months (for Covid-19 specific delays/problems, please use 2b). Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

No significant non-C19 problems/delays have been encountered in the first two months of the project.

2b. Please outline any specific issues which your project has encountered as a result of Covid-19. Where you have adapted your project activities in response to the pandemic, please briefly outline how you have done so here. Explain what residual impact there may be on your project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

As outlined in Section 1, the Covid-19 (C19) pandemic impacted on the start date of this project, and subsequently the timing of some activities and deliverables. These were detailed in a Change Request (CR1) submitted to LTS in June 2020, which was approved. Since then the project has been operating against these agreed changes (and have been reported on here).

The C19 pandemic has not had a further impact on the project in its first two months, but due to the ongoing nature of the pandemic, it is anticipated that there will be new and further impacts which will need to be considered and managed for – particularly in respect to the planned Knowledge Exchange visits of JNCC technical staff to the TCIs. This will also impact on allocation of budget in each Financial Year of the project. It is highly likely that a new Change Request will be submitted to LTS for consideration before the end of Y1Q3.

2c. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

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|--|------------------------|
| Discussed with LTS: | Yes/No |
| Formal change request submitted: | Yes/No CR1 (June 2020) |
| Received confirmation of change acceptance | Yes/No CR1 (July 2020) |

3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project, please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.

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

N/A

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also be raised with LTS International through a Change Request. **Please DO NOT send these in the same email.****

Please send your **completed report by email** to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk. The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 25-001 Darwin Half Year Report**