

Biodiversity Challenge Funds Projects Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and Darwin Plus Half Year Report

Note: If there is any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website, please ensure you clearly highlight this.

Submission Deadline: 31st October 2022

Project reference	DPLUS131
Project title	A “B-Line” to Re-Wilding: Anguilla’s Pollinator Project
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Anguilla
Lead partner	Anguilla National Trust
Partner(s)	Agriculture Unit-Department of Natural Resources (AU-DNaR), Gender Affairs Anguilla (GAA), Alderney Wildlife Trust (AWT)
Project leader	<i>Farah Mukhida</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	<i>HYR2</i>
Project website/blog/social media	<i>n/a</i>

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

Output 1. Ecosystem values of Anguilla’s pollinators and potential effects of climate change identified

During the last six months of the project, the baseline bat assessment was finalised (with bird and insect assessments having been completed in Year 1 of the project) (Activity 1.2). Results of baseline pollinator assessments were presented to over 100 members of the public during a series of public activities and 22 stakeholders during the national pollinator strategy development workshop, all of which were held in June 2022 (Activity 1.4).

Output 2. Evidence-based, climate change-informed national “B-Line” pollinator strategy produced through a collaborative process

In June 2022, a two-day stakeholder workshop, attended by 22 individuals, including representatives from the ANT, AU-DNaR, Environment Unit-DNaR, Department of Health Protection, GAA, hotel sector, beekeepers and the newly-established beekeeping collective (Queen Bees Collective), landscaping sector, and community-based organisations (Activity 2.1). The workshop was facilitated by Dr Jenny Daltry, Caribbean Alliance Director with Re:wild and Fauna & Flora International. Through small working group sessions, SMART goals, objectives and activities were identified for six priority areas. Roles and responsibilities and a timeframe for implementation were also identified by each working group. Actions for the six priority areas were compiled into a single strategy following the workshop and the document is now ready to be circulated to all stakeholders for final review (Activity 2.2).

Output 3. Re-wilding of Anguilla for the short- and long-term benefit of pollinators implemented, monitored, and evaluated

To support this work, a Guide to Anguilla’s Pollinators is being developed, which will include easy-to follow re-wilding protocols for backyard gardeners, farmers, and hotel landscapers

(Activity 3.1). To supplement the guide, an initial map showing priority re-wilding sites has been created and will continue to be populated as we secure and integrate re-wilding partners.

Based on the results of our pollinator assessments, we have created a working list of pollinator-friendly plants and have begun planting seeds of flowering plants and trees (ten species). In addition to 20 lignum vitae seedlings that we gave to homeowners (as part of World Biodiversity Day 2022 celebrations), we also currently have over 400 seedlings growing in our nurseries, with at least another hundred seeds ready to plant (Activity 3.2).

In May, to commemorate World Bee Day (20 May 2022), we planted 19 lignum vitae trees along one of Anguilla's main boulevards and one of the primary school yards (in partnership with the Morris Vanterpool Primary School). In June 2022, through a series of public workshops, working with children and their parents, we constructed and gave away 40 bug boxes. We have also started our hummingbird feeder give-away programme, having distributed 20 hummingbird feeders so far which have been placed in backyards across the island (Activity 3.3).

Output 4. National capacity to plan, manage, implement, and monitor a national pollinator strategy is raised, supported by enhanced technical skills, greater public awareness, and vested community interest

During the first year of the project, 18 women were trained in the theoretical components of beekeeping. The beekeeping theory course (conducted by the Iyanola Apiary Beekeeping Cooperative and the University of the West Indies) was followed by practical training in June and September (into October) 2022 of ten women (including three ANT staff in addition to two male ANT staff members) (Activity 4.2). Practical training has so far covered wild hive extractions, hive relocations, hive management and care in addition to supplemental feeding and an introduction to re-queening. By the end of the second practical training session (September-October 2022) and so far through this project, nine managed hives have been established within three new apiaries. All practical training has been conducted by Mr Richard Matthias, Master Beekeeper, President of the Iyanola Apiary Beekeeping Cooperative, and President of the Association of Caribbean Beekeeping Organisations.

Following the first training session held in June 2022, Mr Matthias advised on the formation of Anguilla's first beekeeping collective, including the development of a Collective pledge. The Collective, the Queen Bees Collective, is comprised of ten women who have taken part in the practical beekeeping training.

We have continued to implement our communications and public awareness plan (Activity 4.5, Activity 4.7), focusing in-person training and outreach initiatives, social media, and citizen science.

Outreach and engagement activities over the last six months have included:

- Celebrating World Bee Day (20 May 2022, see above, Output 3)
- Celebrating International Biodiversity Day (21 May 2022) during which we organised an afternoon of family-oriented activities that focused on raising awareness about the importance of Anguilla's pollinators as well as the various different pollinator species. Activities included pollinator-focused arts and crafts activities, a guided walk and scavenger hunt, decorating plant pots and planting pollinator-friendly basil and tarragon seedlings, lignum vitae seedling and hummingbird feeder give-aways, face painting and a honey tasting.
- Holding a Facebook-based trivia competition, with all questions related to pollinators, leading up to the International Biodiversity Day Festival (five Facebook posts).
- Circulating four press releases which were posted on Facebook and shared with Anguilla- and Sint Maarten-based newspapers and local radio stations.
- Holding four public activities, including an evening bat and moth presentation and a walk and moth trapping demonstration, two pollinator house/bug box construction workshops and a public presentation about honeybees.

- Posting six Facebook static posts, four Instagram static posts, and three WhatsApp status posts.
- Developing and disseminating six different information pamphlets related to pollinators.

Created during the first few months of the project, individuals have continued to post their pollinator sightings on the Anguilla Pollinator Project iNaturalist page. There are now 58 registered observers and 604 posted observations on the page (Activity 4.6).

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

We have not experienced any notable problems. We have, however, with additional funding from the European Commission, moved our introductory beekeeping training to Year 2 of the project from Year 3. More advanced training will continue in Year 3 of the project with DPLUS funding.

We have also been able to begin work on a national Pesticide Policy (identified as a priority action within the National Pollinator Strategy). Supported by European Commission funds, in June 2022 we held a one-day stakeholder workshop to introduce the policy development process and to collect views and positions and to discuss concerns about pesticide use and regulation. The workshop was attended by 24 individuals, representing the ANT, AU-DNaR, Environment Unit-DNaR, Department of Health Protection, GAA, hotel sector, Anguilla Farmers Association, Queen Bee Collective and Anguilla Beautification Club, and was facilitated by local lawyer and former Deputy Governor of Anguilla, Mr Stanley Reid. A small working group was established following this workshop, comprised of representatives from the ANT, AU-DNaR, Environment Unit-DNaR, Fisheries and Marine Resources-DNaR, Department of Health Protection, Anguilla Farmers Association, and the hotel sector. Mr Reid has facilitated a series of working sessions and, with the working group, has drafted a Pesticide Policy document. Roles and responsibilities for policy implementation are currently being reviewed/finalised before sharing with the Government of Anguilla Executive Council.

These actions have no impact on the DPLUS budget. Training of beekeepers will continue into Year 3 of the project (as budgeted).

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

Discussed with NIRAS-LTS: No

Formal Change Request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance n/a

Change request reference if known:

4a. 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: £

4b. 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 re-budget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no

guarantee that Defra will agree a re-budget 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.**

5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

No other issues.

If you are a new project and you received feedback comments that requested a response (including the submission of your risk register), or if your Annual Report Review asked you to provide a response 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 NIRAS-LTS International through a Change Request. **Please DO NOT send these in the same email.****

Please send your **completed report by email** to BCF-Reports@niras.com. The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number, followed by the specific fund in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 29-001 Darwin Initiative Half Year Report**