

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	DPLUS137
Project title	Transforming Anguilla's Marine Parks: institutionalising sustainable and collaborative management solutions
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Anguilla
Lead partner	Fisheries and Marine Resources Unit-Department of Natural Resources (FMRU-DNaR)
Partner(s)	Anguilla National Trust (ANT), Blue finance (Bf)
Project leader	<i>Kafi Gumbs</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. Marine park values (ecological, socio-economic) are established to inform sustainable management frameworks and to monitor and evaluate management impacts

Over the last six months, work has been undertaken to establish and document marine park biodiversity value. Benthic data that was collected during Year 1 of the project was analysed with data compared to previously collected data as well as to regional marine health index values to help national and regional establish trends (Activity 1.1).

A vessel and visitor carrying capacity and willingness to pay survey was disseminated through national email listservs (Government of Anguilla email distribution list, ANT listserv), Whatsapp networks and Facebook (Anguilla Connoisseurs, 33 Beaches (Anguilla for Tourists 3.0), The Pulse: Anguilla, Anguilla Beneath The Blue, Anguilla National Trust) (Activity 1.2). The on-line survey form is still open to responses but 102 people have so far completed the survey. The survey form will be closed at the end of the October and results will be analysed.

Output 2. Effective and sustainable co-management structures and tools are in place for the integrated management of Anguilla's marine parks

In preparation of Blue finance's work on the governance structure of Anguilla's marine parks and following the drafting of four of the six the marine parks management plans, we have undertaken a review of existing marine parks legislation and have identified preliminary areas that will likely require legislative amendments (Activity 2.1).

Output 3. National capacity to plan, manage, and monitor marine parks is raised, supported by enhanced technical skills and greater public awareness and cooperation

In an effort to build local/national capacity, a young divers programme has been initiated with a local dive company. So far, five young people have been trained as PADI Open Water divers (Activity 3.2). The intention is for these young divers to work with FMRU-DNaR and the ANT in

in-water marine park related work, especially as it relates to the implementation of activities identified within the site-based management plans (including benthic surveys, snorkel/dive trail maintenance, in-water clean-ups).

To support the public awareness and communications plan, a gender action plan was developed to ensure gender equity and equality in project implementation, monitoring, and evaluation (Activity 3.4). While recognising that gender is inclusive of individuals who identify as male, female and nonbinary, one of the first actions being undertaken through this gender action plan has been the creation of women in science group, with a first meeting scheduled for late October 2022.

Communications and outreach deliverables related to the project over the last six months include two meetings with the Minister and Permanent Secretary responsible for natural resources during which the project activities and progress was discussed, a presentation about Sombrero Island Nature Reserve Marine Park and an introduction to this project at the American Ornithological Society-Birds Caribbean meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico (1 July 2022), and summer camp activity with the Anguilla Library Services' Save Our Seas camp, attended by 60 children who learned about the purpose and value of Anguilla's marine parks and visited two sites (Little Bay Marine Park, Sandy Island Marine Park) (Activity 3.3 and Activity 3.4).

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.

Anguilla's political context. In July 2022, the Minister responsible for Natural Resources, Mr. Kyle Hodge, resigned from the Government of Anguilla. During the development phase of the project and the project's first year of implementation, we had engaged Mr. Hodge in discussions about this project and had his full support. The new Minister, Ms Quincia Gumbs-Marie, was formerly the Parliamentary Secretary for Natural Resources and has been an advocate for sustainable use and conservation of the marine environment, attending COP26 in Glasgow in November 2021 and has spoken about the importance of the blue economy. Since assuming her Ministerial role, both FMRU-DNaR and the ANT have met with her to discuss and provide updates about the project; she has reiterated the importance of Anguilla's nearshore environments and, similar to the previous Minister, supports the involvement of stakeholders within the marine park management planning process. During our last meeting with her in September 2022, it was agreed that all management plans will be taken to the public before being taken to the Government of Anguilla for sign-off.

Management planning. We had initially hoped to have completed all six management plans by May 2022. The Sandy Island Marine Park management plan was completed but due to conflicting schedules amongst all stakeholders, a brief hiatus was taken over the summer months. Marine Park Management Planning Committee meetings were scheduled to resume in October 2022. All management plans should be completed before the end of the year which will allow for public consultations to take place in Q4.

These unexpected developments should not impact the budget or our ability to meet Year 2 targets.

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
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Formal Change Request submitted:	No
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Received confirmation of change acceptance	n/a
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Change request reference if known:	
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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**