

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 2023

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
Partner(s)	Anguilla National Trust, Blue finance
Project leader	<i>Kafi S. Wallace</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	<i>31 October 2023, HYR3</i>
Project website/blog/social media	

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).

Although we are not looking for specific reporting against your indicators, please use this opportunity to consider the appropriateness of your M&E systems (are your indicators still relevant, can you report against any Standard Indicators, do your assumptions still hold true?). The guidance can be found on the resources page of the relevant fund website.

Output 1. Marine values (ecological, socio-economic) are established to inform sustainable management frameworks and to monitor and evaluate management impacts.

Activities under Output 1 for the first six months of Year 3 of the project included conducting/completing socio-economic assessments for each of the marine parks (Activity 1.3).

Socioeconomic assessments were completed for all of the marine parks (Activity 1.3). While these assessments have been completed after site-based action plans have been drafted, the action plans are meant to be living documents and are still subject to updating following the final round of public meetings which were scheduled for October 2023.

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

Activities under Output 2 during the first six months of Year 3 of the project included reviewing the strategy for the marine parks management including aspects of governance (Activity 2.1), reviewing the marine parks legal agreements for the Government of Anguilla (Activity 2.2), and continued enforcement/monitoring of activities being conducted within the marine park boundaries (Activity 2.9).

At the end of Year 2 of the project, guidelines to support a marine parks management agreement (Activity 2.1) and the actual legal agreement (Activity 2.2) were drafted by Blue finance and shared with local project partners. Both documents have been reviewed by the Fisheries Unit and the Anguilla National Trust with aspects/requirements of the documents requiring legislative support being integrated into the slate of marine park legislative amendments that are currently being reviewed through public consultation (to then be submitted to Executive Council/Cabinet and the Attorney General's Chambers for follow-up action). While there are a number of legislative amendments being proposed, two of the most significant include making all of Anguilla's marine parks no-take (except for limited and controlled harvesting of crayfish from Prickly Pear Marine Park and Shoal Bay-Island Harbour Marine Park, with a review of this exception to be undertaken after five years) and the inclusion of dive wrecks within the marine park network (and therefore protected under the marine parks legislation).

As part of this project, a marine parks network management plan (Activity 2.4, Activity 2.5), supported by site-specific action plans, were finalised in Year 2. Similarly, willingness to pay and carrying capacity (Activity 1.2) were also completed with results informing a marine park mooring buoy plan. Number and placement of mooring buoys have been identified for each of the parks and mooring buoys are currently being procured to support this aspect of work.

Marine parks monitoring has included 44 trips to marine parks to monitor activities. Illegal anchoring continues to be the main infraction.

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

Activities under Output 3 for the last six months of the project included implementing the advocacy and public awareness campaign (Activity 3.3) and publicising, reporting on project progress and results through national and international forums (Activity 3.4), and sharing lessons learned and opportunities for replication elsewhere (Activity 3.5)

Communications and outreach activities (Activity 3.4, Activity 3.5) over the last six months have included:

- Meetings
 - Meeting with the Government of Anguilla Cabinet (12 April 2023), presenting on proposed marine parks legislative amendments; agreed that recommended amendments would be presented to the public through a series of consultations
 - Women in Science meeting (2 June 2023)
- Presentations
 - Celebrate Islands webinar, hosted by the International National Trust Organisation (11 May 2023, 36 people attending)
 - Presentation for Reserve Natural St. Martin and Agence Territoriale de l'Environnement (St. Barthelemy) (14 June 2023, 4 people attending)
 - Presentation for Anguilla Enhancement Project (4 July 2023, 10 people attending)
 - Anguilla Dive Tourism Policy Consultation (28 July 2023, 40 people attending)
- Site Visits and Field Trips
 - Guided public hike along the Anguilla northern coast, with views of Anguilla's marine parks, including short presentation on Anguilla's marine parks, project aims, activities, and results (27 May 2023, 38 people)
 - Site visit to Prickly Pear Marine Park with Republic Bank (2 September 2023, 18 people)
- Learning Exchanges
 - Learning exchange with representatives from Reserve Natural St. Martin (2 people), Agence Territoriale de l'Environnement (St. Barthelemy) (1 person), Fuana & Flora (1 person) during which project aims, activities, and results were discussed
- Camps

- Summer camp through the Department of Youth and Culture’s Youth ESCAPE summer programme initiative, with a focus on Anguilla protected areas, including the marine parks (14-18 August 2023, 12 young people)
- Social Media
 - Facebook and Instagram post about Worlds Ocean Day (8 June 2023) (Facebook reach: 1021 accounts; Instagram reach: 203 accounts)
 - Facebook and Instagram post about marine park-focused summer camp (2 September 2023) (Facebook reach: 918 accounts; Instagram reach: 192 accounts)
- Partnerships
 - Anguilla Ocean Keepers, a community of divers who are working with project partners to implement marine park management action plans, including maintaining the existing Little Bay Snorkel and Dive trail, restoring habitat through the deployment of reef balls and moving at risk coral fragments from comprised areas of wrecks onto the designed habitat.

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.

With funding through the EU’s Resilience, Sustainable Energy and Marine Biodiversity Programme and additional financial support from the Government of Anguilla, we have secured funding to purchase a vessel for the Fisheries and Marine Resources Unit, specifically for marine park management and enforcement. A request for proposals was issued on 26 April 2023 and a contract was awarded to local shipbuilder, Rebel Marine on 1 June 2023. The fit-for-purpose vessel is expected to be completed by the end of 2023, to be launched at the beginning in 2024.

The purchase of the vessel will benefit the project, with no financial implications on the project.

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

Discussed with NIRAS: n/a

Formal Change Request submitted: n/a

Received confirmation of change acceptance n/a

Change request reference if known: n/a

4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2023 – 30 September 2023)

Actual spend: £ [REDACTED]

4b. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this financial year (ending 31 March 2024)?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

4c. 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.

NB: if you expect an underspend, do not claim anything more than you expect to spend this financial year.

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

If you are a new project and you received feedback comments that requested a response, 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.

All new projects (excluding Darwin Plus Fellowships and IWT Challenge Fund Evidence projects) should submit their Risk Register with this report if they have not already done so.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also be raised with NIRAS 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**