

## Darwin Plus: Overseas Territories Environment and Climate Fund Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the "Project Reporting Information Note"  
(<https://darwinplus.org.uk/resources/information-notes>)

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 20 pages** in length, excluding annexes)

**Submission Deadline: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**Submit to: [BCF-Reports@niras.com](mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com)** including your project ref in the subject line

### Darwin Plus Project Information

Project reference	DPLUS150
Project title	Ecosystem sensitivity and climate vulnerability for MSP in the BVI
Territory(ies)	British Virgin Islands (BVI)
Lead Partner	National Oceanography Centre
Project partner(s)	Ministry of Natural Resources, Labour and Immigration Joint Nature Conservation Committee Wood Plc.
Darwin Plus grant value	£356,763.00
Start/end dates of project	01/07/21 – 30/06/23
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2022-Mar 2023) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2)	Annual Report 2
Project Leader name	James Strong
Project website/blog/social media	None
Report author(s) and date	James Strong (18/04/2023)

### 1. Project summary

The marine environment can be effectively managed using Marine Spatial Planning (MSP - similar in concept to planning on land). However, extra tools are required to consider the impacts of human activities on marine habitats. This project will expand, integrate and enhance existing tools and outputs developed by the project partners to create a new ES-CV tool covering both the marine and terrestrial environment, including representation of human-environment interactions and impacts, and existing indicators to track change in the environment. MSP remains the most effective mechanism for managing damaging human activities and protecting vulnerable marine features. The proposed tool and process will enable MSP issues in the BVI to be addressed and allow the MNRL&I to produce marine spatial plans based on integrated datasets and more holistic planning considerations for the foreseeable future. The tools proposed here will greatly facilitate the production of marine spatial plans by in-country partners.

### 2. Project stakeholders/partners

Much of the key stakeholder engagement was conducted early in the project (see the annual report for 2022). The initial engagement both provided the specification for the products to be produced but also some the essential information that populates the modules. To refine this process, JNCC (project partner) ran a workshop in the BVI (week commencing 30<sup>th</sup> January

2023 - two bouts lasting 4 hour). The workshop examined the following topics: (i) the habitat classes we're using in the outputs; (ii) the habitat descriptions we developed from the literature and emails with input from key stakeholder; (iii) what a sensitivity assessment is and why they are useful; (iv) the methodology for developing the sensitivity assessments; and (v) sessions to go through the evidence and sense-check the assessments produced within the project. Invited attendees at the workshop included Argel Horton, Mervin Hastings, Rozina Norris-Gumbs, and Joseph Smith Abbott (Ministry of Natural Resources, Labour, and Immigration - MNRLI); Shannon Gore (Coastal Management Consulting and the Association of Reef Keepers); Tessa Smith Claxton, Theodore James, Atoya George (Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth Affairs, Fisheries and Agriculture), Susan Zaluski (H. Lavity Stoutt Community College), Nancy Pascoe and Finfun Peters (National Parks Trust) and Aiara Cardosa, Laura Arton and Margy Church (Beyond the Reef).

This last year has been dedicated to producing the tools that were defined with the stakeholders in the previous round of reporting. Communication between the project partners has been significant though as we are at the point of merging separate products into the GIS toolbox. For example, this has required extensive communication between Wood Plc with JNCC and NOC regarding the importation of the sensitivity matrix, Coastal Resource Atlas (DPlus152), human activity data (additional deliverable created by NOC not listed in the proposal) and general input into the design and functionality of the GIS tools.

Additional stakeholder engagement occurred whilst NOC were deployed in the BVI for the fieldwork. This included:

Working daily with the NPTVI during the three weeks of survey work

19<sup>th</sup> April 2022: Weather down day hence meeting with the National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands and the Ministry of Natural Resources (meeting with Joseph Smith Abbott), Labour and Immigration; collection of equipment; trip to Center for Applied Marine Studies (H. Lavity Stoutt Community College)

30<sup>th</sup> April and the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022: NOC staff visit to local college to teach staff how to build, deploy and download water quality data using the YSI Exo2 sonde.

5<sup>h</sup> May 2022: capacity building event with Trust and Ministry staff. The day was spend doing sidescan sonar and drop-down video observations with BVI staff/stakeholders.

### **3. Project progress**

#### **3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities**

With regard the key project activities, the follow activities are now complete:

- List the human activities within the marine environment or directly influencing the marine environment (evidence: see Annual report 2022)
- Undertake literature review on sensitivity of BVI's marine and coastal habitats to pressures, following agreed assessment method (evidence: report available on request)
- 2.1 Collate existing information and classifications for BVI marine environment (evidence: undertaken as part of both DPlus 150 and 152 and documented in the Coastal Resource Atlas 2 delivery report)
- 2.2 Develop a sensitivity assessment method based on available information, using MarESA as a framework (evidence: matrix and report complete and currently being integrated into the ES-CV).
- 2.3 At the workshop held in WP2, capacity building to develop understanding of sensitivity assessments and review the draft sensitivity assessments with local stakeholders (evidence: workshop delivered by JNCC)
- 2.4 Consult with in-country experts to sense check outputs (evidence: workshop delivered by JNCC, online meetings and email chains. We must acknowledge the significant contribution provided by Dr Shannon Gore in facilitating this and other activities).

- 3.1 Review and assess the feasibility of incorporating a cumulative impact assessment method within the ESCV framework and tool. (evidence: cumulative impact assessment review / see annual report 2022)

The follow activities are nearly complete (probably completion by mid-May 2023):

- 4.1 Integrate the activity/pressure (WP1), sensitivity matrix (WP2) and cumulative impacts method, if possible, into the ESCV framework.
- 4.2 Produce ESCV tools for stakeholders.

Activity “5.1 Deliver training on the ESCV tool to all stakeholders” is scheduled for the w/c 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

### **3.2 Progress towards project Outputs**

“Output 1 - Pressures/ Activities Matrix developed for BVI”

The action within output 1 has been delivered in full. The resulting pressure / activity matrix can be source from NOC or JNCC on request. The final matrix will also be delivered to the project partners and stakeholders during the ‘hand-over’ event in June 2023. There is also a report that accompanies the matrix, which is also now complete.

“Output 2 Sensitivity Assessment for Marine and Coastal habitats in BVI”

This entire output is now also complete. The full sensitivity assessment has been shared by JNCC with Wood Plc and NOC so that it can be fully integrated within the other products. There is an individual written sensitivity assessment per habitat for the 8 habitats assessed in full and an accompanying report that details the methods and evidence base assessed during the production of the assessment. The final assessment required a lot of communication between project partners, and Darwin projects, to ensure that it aligned with the GIS tools, the demands of the in-country stakeholders and the new Coastal Resource Atlas produced in DPlus152.

“Output 3 Review available cumulative impact assessment methods and assess feasibility for use in the BVI”

This output has been completed, in-full, and reported in the 2022 annual report. The review highlighted 10 existing cumulative impact approaches and tools. The review then focused on just four tools what are freely available and complete. Of those, three proved unsuitable on closer inspection. Of these:

- One was formatted for ArcMap Pro only (Seanergy) – its package is not commonly used by Government staff in the BVI;
- One was coded in R and only covered physical pressures (CumI); and
- One tool lacked a CIA module that dealt with habitat x pressure interactions within the publicly available tool (Baltic Sea Impact Index (BSII) Cumulative impact Assessment Toolbox).

Based on this, only the Marine Threat Model (Halpern et al., 2008; 2015) is suitable and available for inclusion within the ES-CV tool. This tool is simplistic when compared to other tools that do typically convert human activities to pressures. However, the basis of the Marine Threat Model has been extensively reproduced in other approaches and it remains a useful tool for estimating cumulative impacts in the marine environment.

“Output 4 Translation and integration of existing marine management tools into the ESCV tool (activity to pressures matrices; sensitivity matrices; and options for considering cumulative impacts).”

This output is the last deliverable and is 90% complete. Wood Plc are leading this task. This output could only be progressed once all of the other project outputs had been completed. With regard to specific steps in the log frame, we can report the following progress.

“5.1 Presence of two tools encoded in the ES-CV tool by Jan 2023”

The ES-CV tool contains the required modules (matrix, sensitivity assessment and final coastal resource atlas 2).

“5.2 Construct matrix detailing the structure of the tool and how tools interact by Jan 2023”

This step is complete. The structure and mechanisms with the toolbox and complete and working.

“5.3 Hosting of the ES-CV tool on the National GIS system within the Government of the BVI by March 2023”

This has not been met yet. We intend to provide training on how to use the ES-CV tool before we deliver it to the BVI government. As such, we see that this is likely to be met two weeks for the training (so that the tool is embedded in their IT systems before we commence the training). Current completion planned for the end of May 2023.

“5.4 Recommendations on the use and maintenance of spatial tool and linking tools presented to BVIG by March 2023”

The documentation to support the ES-CV tool is now complete. This includes aspects on how to substitute key spatial data or matrix entries in the ES-CV tool. This report will be provided during the hand-over event planned for the first week of June 2023 (NOC and Wood Plc to be in attendance in the BVI).

“Output 5 Stakeholder engagement to understand: (i) the required format for the ES-CV tool to ensure its compatible with existing management measures; (ii) presence and intensity of human pressures; (iii) distribution of key habitats and the availability of information for estimating sensitivity; and (iv) the training requirements needed to maximise stakeholder use of the ES-CV tool”

Much of this output is now complete. The Ministry provided the required structure for the ES-CV tool early on in the project i.e. by specifying that the ES-CV tool needed to be closely aligned to the terrestrial tool (also produced by Wood Plc). Importantly, DPlus150 undertook additional work not specified in the proposal document. It was apparent that the spatial data concerning the distribution of human activities in the marine environment of the BVI was not present. As such, NOC generated proxies for all of the main human activities in the waters of the BVI. This ‘geo-database’ has been passed onto Wood Plc for inclusion in the ES-CV tool.

With regard to output 4.4 (delivery of training to support the use and maintenance of the ES-CV tool in the BVI by March 2023), once again, the training is delay and scheduled now to be delivered with the data hand-over in early June 2023.

“4.5 Gender mix (50:50) input into the consultation process across the life of the project by January 2023”

We have been unable to attain a 50:50 gender balance into the consultation process as the majority of the stakeholder and partner organisations are mostly staffed by females (M:F ratio at: NOC 1:1, JNCC 1:5, NPTBV 1:2, MNRL 0:2).

### **3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome**

The DPlus150 project outcome is “step-change in the level sophistication and capability of marine management in the BVI along with an ability to integrate climate vulnerability and facilitation of MSP”.

The first indicator (“0.1 Adoption of the ES-CV tool with the workflow generating marine management advice and actions by March 2023”) is clearly not currently met. This is due to the planned hand-over and training occurring in June rather than March. On receipt of the data, training and reports, we hope that the BVI Government will have all the tools and spatial data needed to start generating spatial plans for their waters.

The second indicator is met as we believe that the MNR&L do considered the imminent deliver of the ES-CV tool as the main tool supporting marine spatial planning in the BVI. As four outcome indicator 0.3 (“Ability to conduct spatial analyses across the land/sea boundary by March 2023”), this again can only occur after the delivery of the end products at the end of the project. Once delivered, we then hope to gain the testimonials on the value and capability of the ES-CV tools from in-country practitioners. Equally, outcome indicators such as “0.2 Presence of MNRL&I documents stating where the ES-CV tool fits within the Ministry’s marine manage pathway”, “0.3 Report case study examining the marine management capability before and after the development of the ES-CV spatial planning tool” and “0.4 Feasibility study detailing the

supporting role of the ES-CV in MSP” will all be generated after delivery of the products. In hindsight, these indicators are likely to become available after the lifetime of the project and are perhaps not the most adequate measures. To overcome this, project staff will consult with the Ministry (delivery body for MSP in the BVI) during the in-country training to understand the timeline for implementing the MS-CV tool.

### **3.4 Monitoring of assumptions**

With regard to the main assumption underlying the delivery of the main outcome, we believe that the BVI Government remain committed to the use of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and the use of the ES-CV tool for delivering spatial analysis that underlies MSP. During the fieldwork delivered for DPlus152, NOC’s dealings with the Ministry were all positive. It must be acknowledged that NOC has not sustained a sufficient level of dialogue between partners across the two DPlus projects enough. The National Parks Trust right indicated to NOC that communication had been lacking and they were concerned about alignment of products between the two DPlus projects. The lead for both projects (J. Strong) acknowledges this shortfall and has scheduled meetings to improve the flow of information and progress reports between the two project and be inclusive of all project partners.

With only one remaining in-country event (hand-over and training), we are confident that no natural hazards or disasters will compromise overall delivery.

With regard to assumption associated with output 2 (“There is data and information on habitat sensitivities is openly available”), the entire evidence base needed for the sensitivity matrix was freely available with no restrictions on the access of information.

Assumption associated with output 4

The data sources required for the: (i) identify and locate human activities; and (ii) describe and delineate the main marine habitats (via DPlus152) were all of the required resolution, format and availability.

Assumption associated with output 5

NOC believe that, overall, we have maintained good working relationships between project partners and stakeholders during the project. Again, it should be highlighted that the lead, J. Strong, failed somewhat to maintain sufficient communication between project partners across the two Darwin Plus projects. This did cause some strain within the partners. However, this was a temporary situation and easily corrected through scheduling more meetings and consolation.

The final assumption, i.e. the “integration of WP components into the ESCV is not dependent on any one WP component” has been met as all components (including an extra one for the human activities data) has been created and merged successfully within the ES-CV tool.

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

This project remains timely in view of the current BVI government Green Paper; Environmental Management Climate Adaptation and Sustainable Development. The Bill specifically identifies the need for “institutional structures and procedures” (such as MSP) to manage (among others), “biodiversity conservation” and “marine pollution” and meet “International commitments under multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)”. These include the Nagoya Protocol and inter-national agreements related to oil pollution. The project will support; Sustainable Development Goal 14 contributing to the sustainable management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems, the Ramsar and Cartagena Convention. Associated with these ambitions, MSP is implicit in the Bill’s objective of establishing a Natural Resources Inventory and addressing biodiversity conservation more generally.

Further Multilateral Environmental Agreements important to biodiversity are applicable to the BVI as a result of their ratification by the UK (e.g. Ramsar Convention, Cartagena Convention). Associated with these ambitions, MSP is implicit in the Bill’s objective of establishing a Natural Resources Inventory and addressing biodiversity conservation more generally. Finally, the Virgin Islands Strategic Blue Economy Road map (2020–2025) states “A focus on spatial planning and cumulative environmental impact assessment should be adopted...” as a high priority (short term). This project will actively contribute to national policy development, supporting implementation of the BVI Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy, BVI National Physical Development Plan and BVI Natural Resources Strategy.

#### 5. Gender equality and social inclusion

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board <sup>1</sup> .	10 females compared with 3 male board staff
Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women <sup>2</sup> .	The project’s primary points of senior contact at the NPTVI, JNCC and MNR&L are all female.

#### 6. Monitoring and evaluation

Specific project partners are responsible for individual outputs, and these partners have been tasked with monitoring and evaluating the delivery of these outputs. To-date, this process has been successful. The project lead (NOC) has also maintained oversight over the entire project and links to the other associated DPLUS (152) project. The communication of overall progress within the project is typically promulgated to other partners via update emails. In hindsight, this method has not been sufficient to keep all stakeholders updated during the project. The shortcomings of the system were pointed by a partner and additional meetings were quickly scheduled to increase the flow of information both within and between projects.

#### 7. Lessons learnt

The main lesson learnt from 2023 was that J.Strong (lead for DPlus 150 and 152) did not maintain sufficient communication between the two related projects. This was unfortunate oversight caused by the lead being too absorbed in the production of deliverables (the DPlus152 mapping was a significant and time-consuming activity). For future projects, the lead will commit to scheduling all update meetings at the beginning of the project (e.g., schedule meetings once every 2 months for the entire lifetime of the project at the very beginning). This

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<sup>1</sup> A Project Board has overall authority for the project, is accountable for its success or failure, and supports the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.

<sup>2</sup> Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

scheduling quickly establishes a habitat of routine communication throughout the project. With regard to events that went well, NOC were delighted with the assistance provided by the National Parks Trust Virgin Islands in delivering the fieldwork for DPlus 152, none of which would have been possible without the hard work, help and patience of Finfun, Cecil, Nancy, Cassander and Sean (all National Parks staff). T

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

No feedback was received so no action was taken.

## **9. Risk Management**

No new risks have arisen in the last 12 months that were not previously accounted for. Please find the DPlus150 risk register attached to this Annual Report.

## **10. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere**

This project has delivered more than it set out to do i.e. the creation of the human activity proxies. The delivery of the additional data allows the BVI Government to immediately and fully exploit the capabilities of the ES-CV tool. We also wish to highlight that significant sums couldn't be fully drawn down by the project. However, this never impacted on the quality or scope of the project's deliverables.

We also wish to highlight that after almost two years of effort, we were unable to establish a method for transferring funds to the MNR&L; this money has been returned to the Darwin Initiative. Equally, JNCC over-estimated their required resource for delivery; this unused money has also been returned to the Darwin Initiative.

## **11. Sustainability and legacy**

Conducting the workshops and fieldwork (DPlus152) significantly raised the profile of both Darwin Plus projects with the BVI. The training event planned for June 2023 will also significantly promote the impact and value of the project locally. Ultimately, as a GIS tool dedicated to assisting in Marine Spatial Planning, we hope that the legacy will be significant for many years to come in the form of continued good governance as well as suitable use of the marine environment.

## **12. Darwin Plus identity**

The most important event for highlighting the profile of both Darwin Plus projects was the presentation of the outputs for both projects to the Hon Dr. Natalio Wheatley, Prime Minister of the British Virgin Islands (BVI), during a visit to the NOC in February 2023. The press release for this event is included below:

"Last week the NOC was delighted to meet with the Hon Dr. Natalio Wheatley, Prime Minister of the British Virgin Islands (BVI), who was accompanied by colleagues from the BVI London Office. During the meeting, the NOC presented a historic account of our long-standing relationship and details of two ongoing marine scientific research projects funded via Darwin Plus, [DPLU150](#) and [DPLUS152](#). Both projects not only support capacity development of local stakeholders but provide data that will be

vitaly important in support of the BVI's efforts to manage their marine estate. In parallel these data will be critical in the BVI's efforts to promote their carbon reduction credentials, providing access to carbon markets and enabling the development of partnerships that support carbon removal initiatives. NOC lead scientist Dr. James Strong presented recently produced outputs from the Darwin Plus projects, which included a harmonised bathymetric surface (merged from both LiDAR and multibeam echosounder surveys), a seabed imagery data set consisting of over 500 historical observations and 340 additional stations visiting during fieldwork in 2022, and some of the recently modelled maps that'll represent the new Coastal Resource Atlas for the BVI (i.e. full coverage maps for various geomorphological features, habitat and species –



DLP152). Finally, Dr. Strong outlined the structure of a toolbox of Marine Spatial Planning tools (produced in conjunction with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour (BVI), the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (UK) and WSP Global Inc. - DPLU150), that has been calibrated for marine habitats and human activities in the BVI. These tools will allow local policymakers to exploit fully the new Coastal Resource Atlas, quickly draft marine spatial plans and bring about a step-change in marine management capabilities es locally.

The NOC would like to thank Dr Wassim Dbouk of the University of Southampton who organised the visit.”

Furthermore, the visit was also covered by press within the BVI (see the link below). Of particular note is the quote:

“Premier Wheatley also counted a meeting held with the UK’s National Oceanographic Centre as a triumph, describing it as “amazing”.

“We will soon be presented with the data from the environmental mapping. And that has huge implications for us,” he stated.

“I’m not sure how familiar persons in the Virgin Islands are with carbon markets, but carbon markets basically essentially, we have carbon emissions in the world and there are companies who want to be able to offset their carbon emissions,” Dr Wheatley explained.

Premier Wheatley further explained that these endeavours have an economic value. “And so they’re willing to fund projects that will help to preserve [the] environment and do other types of environmental projects.”

<https://bvinews.com/southampton-mou-a-major-achievement-premier/>

### 13. Safeguarding

Biodiversity Challenge Funds are committed to supporting projects develop and strengthen their safeguarding capabilities and capacity to prevent, listen, respond and learn. Defra will not automatically penalise projects where safeguarding concerns are identified, but will help projects respond and learn from the experience.

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	No
Have any concerns been investigated in the past 12 months	No
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	Yes: James Strong (lead) <span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span>
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	Yes: “Active Bystander” course
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	Not known
Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses. None	

Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so please specify. None

#### 14. Project expenditure

Please expand and complete Table 1. If all receipts have not yet been received, please provide indicative figures and clearly mark them as Draft. The Actual claim form will be taken as the final accounting for funds.

**Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023)**

Project spend (indicative in this financial year)	2022/23 D+ Grant (£)	2022/23 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)				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£185,288.36</b>	<b>£143,023.91</b>		

Highlight any agreed changes to the budget and **fully** explain any variation in expenditure where this is +/- 10% of the budget. Have these changes been discussed with and approved by Darwin Plus?

**Table 2: Project mobilising of matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023)**

	Matched funding secured to date	Total matched funding expected by end of project
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project.		
Total additional finance mobilised by new activities building on evidence, best practices and project (£)		

**15. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes**

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

In this section you have the chance to let us know about outstanding achievements of your project or significant strides towards attaining a particular goal so far that you consider worth sharing with the wider Biodiversity Challenge Fund community. This could relate to achievements or considerable progress already mentioned in this report, on which you would like to expand further, or achievements that were in addition to the ones planned and deserve particular attention. We may use material from this section for various promotion and dissemination purposes, including for example, publication in the Defra Annual Report, Darwin Plus promotion material, or on the Darwin Plus website. **Please limit text to 400 words.**

Please also include an engaging image, video or graphic\* that you consent to be publicised alongside the above text. Please ensure:

- that you have left the above agreement clause to indicate your consent. Text without this will not be used
- any images or videos are sent as separate files and not embedded in the body of the report

\*If you have no photos or videos for reasons of sensitivity, then please state that clearly and the Defra Comms team can work to create an alternative graphic.

Image, Video or Graphic Information:

File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)	File Name or File Location	Caption, country and credit	Online accounts to be tagged (leave blank if none)	Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No

**Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2022-2023 – if applicable**

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
<b>Impact</b> Improved protection of marine living resources and sustainable management of human activities; the promotion of the Blue Economy; and improved transparency and understanding of marine management processes		The project deliverable form the basic foundation for MSP in the BVI and we are confident that impact, post-project, will be significant for the sustainable use of marine resources.	
<b>Outcome</b> Step-change in the level sophistication and capability of marine management in the BVI along with an ability to integrate climate vulnerability and facilitation of MSP	0.1 Adoption of the ES-CV tool with the workflow generating marine management advice and actions by March 2023 0.2 Identification of the ES-CV as a key tool supporting marine spatial planning in the BVI by March 2023 0.3 Ability to conduct spatial analyses across the land/sea boundary by March 2023	<p>The first indicator (“0.1 Adoption of the ES-CV tool with the workflow generating marine management advice and actions by March 2023”) is clearly not currently met. This is due to the planned hand-over and training occurring in June rather than March. On receipt of the data, training and reports, we hope that the BVI Government will have all the tools and spatial data needed to start generating spatial plans for their waters.</p> <p>The second indicator is complete. indicator 0.3, can only occur after the delivery of the end products at the end of the project. Once delivered, we then hope to gain the testimonials on the value and capability of the ES-CV tools from in-country practitioners. Equally, outcome indicators such as 0.2, 0.3 and 0.4 will all be generated after delivery of the products. In</p>	To overcome issues identified, project staff will consult with the Ministry (delivery body for MSP in the BVI) during the in-country training to understand the timeline for implementing the MS-CV tool.)

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
		hindsight, these indicators are likely to become available after the lifetime of the project and are perhaps not the most adequate measures.	
<b>Output 1.</b> Pressures/ Activities Matrix developed for BVI	Pressures/ Activities Matrix developed for BVI chapter in report	The action within output 1 has been delivered in full. The resulting pressure / activity matrix can be source from NOC or JNCC on request. The final matrix will also be delivered to the project partners and stakeholders during the 'hand-over' event in June 2023. There is also a report that accompanies the matrix, which is also now complete.	
Activity 1.1 Pressures/ Activities matrix developed for BVI consultation by end Sept 21		Complete	
Activity 1.2 Pressures/ Activities review workshop by end of Nov 21		Complete	
Activity 1.3 Pressures/ Activities matrix finalised and associated methodologies reported by Jan 22		Complete	
<b>Output 2.</b> Sensitivity Assessment for Marine and Coastal habitats in BVI	Sensitivity Assessment for Marine and Coastal habitats in BVI chapter in report	This entire output is now also complete. The full sensitivity assessment has been shared by JNCC with Wood Plc and NOC so that it can be fully integrated within the other products. There is an individual written sensitivity assessment per habitat for the 8 habitats assessed in full and an accompanying report that details the methods and evidence base assessed during the production of the assessment. The final assessment required a lot of communication between project partners, and Darwin projects, to ensure that it aligned with the GIS tools, the demands of the in-country stakeholders and the new Coastal Resource Atlas produced in DPlus152.	
Activity 2.1 Sensitivity assessment method agreed by Nov 21		Complete	

Project summary		SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
Activity 2.2. Sensitivity scores for BVI marine habitats compiled with associated evidence base by July 22			Complete	
Activity 2.3 Stakeholder consultation to agree final sensitivity outputs by Sept 22			Complete	
Activity 2.4 Pressures/ activities and sensitivity assessment for BVI Report finalised by October 22			Complete	
Output 3. Review available cumulative impact assessment methods and assess feasibility for use in the BVI	Review available cumulative impact assessment methods and assess feasibility for use in the BVI		This output has been completed, in-full, and reported in the 2022 annual report. The review highlighted 10 existing cumulative impact approaches and tools. The review then focused on just four tools what are freely available and complete	
Activity 3.1. Review and testing of cumulative impacts assessments suitable for BVI – report by Nov 2022			Complete	
Activity 3.2. Stakeholder consultation on differing cumulative impacts assessments Dec 2022			Complete	
Activity 3.3. Revise suitability report with stakeholder consultation by Jan 2023			Complete	
Output 4.	Translation and integration of existing marine management tools into the ES-CV tool (activity to pressures matrices; sensitivity matrices; and options for considering cumulative impacts).		This output is the last deliverable and is 90% complete. Wood Plc are leading this task. This output could only be progressed once all of the other project outputs had been completed. With regard to specific steps in the log frame, we can report the following progress under the activity/indicators.	
Activity 4.1 Presence of two tools encoded in the ES-CV tool by Jan 2023			Complete	

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
Activity 4.2 Construct matrix detailing the structure of the tool and how tools interact by Jan 2023		Complete	
Activity 4.3 Hosting of the ES-CV tool on the National GIS system within the Government of the BVI by March 2023		This has not been met yet. We intend to provide training on how to use the ES-CV tool before we deliver it to the BVI government. As such, we see that this is likely to be met two weeks for the training (so that the tool is embedded in their IT systems before we commence the training). Current completion planned for the end of May 2023.	To be done in June 2023
Activity 4.4 Recommendations on the use and maintenance of spatial tool and linking tools presented to BVIG by March 2023		The documentation to support the ES-CV tool is now complete.	
<b>Output 5.</b> Stakeholder engagement to understand: (i) the required format for the ES-CV tool to ensure its compatible with existing management measures; (ii) presence and intensity of human pressures; (iii) distribution of key habitats and the availability of information for estimating sensitivity; and (iv) the training requirements needed to maximise stakeholder use of the ES-CV tool.	<p>5.1 Generation of format specification for the ES-CV tool with representatives from the MNRL&amp;I by October 2021</p> <p>5.2 Presence of a definitive list of human activities occurring in BVI waters by September 2021</p> <p>5.3 Spatial data on the distribution of marine habitats collated by Dec 2021</p> <p>5.4 Delivery of training to support the use and maintenance of the ES-CV tool in the BVI by March 2023</p>	Much of this output is now complete. The Ministry provided the required structure for the ES-CV tool early on in the project i.e. by specifying that the ES-CV tool needed to be closely aligned to the terrestrial tool (also produced by Wood Plc). Importantly, DPlus150 undertook additional work not specified in the proposal document. It was apparent that the spatial data concerning the distribution of human activities in the marine environment of the BVI was not present. As such, NOC generated proxies for all of the main human activities in the waters of the BVI. This 'geo-database' has been passed onto Wood Plc for inclusion in the ES-CV tool.	

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
	5.5 Gender mix (50:50) input into the consultation process across the life of the project by January 2023		
Activity 5.1 Generation of format specification for the ES-CV tool with representatives from the MNRL&I by October 2021		Complete	
Activity 5.2 Presence of a definitive list of human activities occurring in BVI waters by September 2021		Complete	
Activity 5.3 Spatial data on the distribution of marine habitats collated by Dec 2021		Complete	
Activity 5.4 Delivery of training to support the use and maintenance of the ES-CV tool in the BVI by March 2023		To be completed	Delivery planned w/c 5 <sup>th</sup> June
Activity 5.5 Gender mix (50:50) input into the consultation process across the life of the project by January 2023		Met	

## Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project Summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<b>Impact: Improved protection of marine living resources and sustainable management of human activities; the promotion of the Blue Economy; and improved transparency and understanding of marine management processes.</b>  (Max 30 words)			
<b>Outcome:</b>  Step-change in the level sophistication and capability of marine management in the BVI along with an ability to integrate climate vulnerability and facilitation of MSP	0.1 Adoption of the ES-CV tool with the workflow generating marine management advice and actions by January 2023. Provision of direct training and practical demonstration of ES-CV tool by BVI stakeholders on national projects/case study problems. Following training, stakeholders will be expected to be able to demonstrate how they use and can apply the tool to solve real world problems.  0.2 Identification and adoption of the ES-CV as the primary method for supporting marine spatial planning in the BVI by February 2023.  0.3 Ability to conduct spatial analyses across the land/sea boundary that support Marine Spatial Planning and analyses	0.1 Testimonials on the value and capability of the ES-CV tools provided by: (i) Ministry of Natural Resources, Labour and Immigration; (ii) BVI Department of Disaster Management; and (iii) the National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands. Practical demonstration of ES-CV tool by at least 15 BVI Government employees of varying grades and responsibilities (across multiple departments). BVI stakeholders will demonstrate the tool without direct supervision of project team, feedback forms collected following training.  0.2 Presence of MNRL&I pathway document stating the forward plan for using the ES-CV tool and producing MSPs of the BVI  0.3 Report case study examining the marine management capability	That resulting management practices, based on the assessments provided by the ES-CV spatial planning tool, are adopted  BVI Government and stakeholders maintain commitment to the project  BVI have mechanisms in place to implement the management practices derived from the use of the ES-CV tool  BVI Departments have ability to work cooperatively across land sea boundaries  National projects requiring the ES-CV tool are not delayed further due to COVID-19 and related impacts.

	<p>of coastal vulnerability by March 2023.</p> <p>0.4 Application of ES-CV on at least 5 different national projects or case study problems during the project or within at least 1 year of project completion.</p> <p>0.5 Expectation that the tool will be maintained and modified by the BVI stakeholders following its deployment and project completion.</p>	<p>before and after the development of the ES-CV spatial planning tool</p> <p>0.4 Assessment studies and/or related outputs using the ES-CV tool reference in project documentation and/or BVI national policy. Example case studies can be developed if national projects are delayed due to COVID-19 and related impacts.</p> <p>0.5 Audit trail or record of subsequent refinements of the tool made by BVI stakeholders without the involvement of the project team. New tool versions developed after project completion. Demonstrated capacity building shown by limited or no further engagement with project team after completion of project.</p>	
<p><b>Output 1</b></p> <p>Pressures/ Activities Matrix developed for BVI</p>	<p>1.1 Pressures/ Activities matrix developed for BVI consultation by end Sept 21</p> <p>1.2 Pressures/ Activities review workshop by end of Nov 21</p> <p>1.3 Presence of a definitive list of human activities occurring in BVI waters by September 2021</p> <p>1.4 Pressures/ Activities matrix finalised and associated</p>	<p>1.1 Pressure/ Activities document circulated to stakeholders and feedback received with a short report detailing the consultation phase</p> <p>1.2 Workshop attendees list and meeting report</p> <p>1.3 Stakeholder reviewed and agreed pressures/ activities matrix and methodologies</p>	<p>BVI Government remain engaged and supportive of the project</p> <p>Absence of natural hazards and disasters allow workshop to take place</p>

	methodologies reported by Jan 22	produced and circulated to workshop attendees  1.4 Report accompanying the finalised pressure/activity matrix	
<b>Output 2</b>  Sensitivity Assessment for Marine and Coastal habitats in BVI	2.1 Sensitivity assessment method agreed by Nov 21  2.2 Sensitivity scores for BVI marine habitats compiled with associated evidence base by July 22  2.3 Stakeholder consultation to agree final sensitivity outputs by Sept 22  2.4 Pressures/ activities and sensitivity assessment for BVI Report finalised by October 22	2.1 Minutes of workshop circulated to stakeholders  2.2 Draft report of evidence base and sensitivity scores circulated to stakeholders  2.3 Sensitivity outputs used in model in WP2  2.4 Published report, available on JNCC website and BVI	There is data and information on habitat sensitivities is openly available
<b>Output 3</b>  Review available cumulative impact assessment methods and assess feasibility for use in the BVI	3.1 Review and testing of cumulative impacts assessments suitable for BVI – report by Nov 2022  3.2 Stakeholder consultation on differing cumulative impacts assessments Dec 2022  3.3 Revise suitability report with stakeholder consultation by Jan 2023	3.1 Draft report on the available of cumulative impacts assessment methods suitable for use in the BVI  3.2 Minutes of stakeholder consultation on the suitable cumulative impacts assessment methods  3.3 Draft report finalised with the finds on the consolation	No hinderances identified

<p><b>Output 4</b></p> <p>Translation and integration of existing marine management tools into the ES-CV tool (activity to pressures matrices; sensitivity matrices; and options for considering cumulative impacts).</p>	<p>4.1 Generation of format specification for the ES-CV tool with representatives from the MNRL&amp;I by October 2021</p> <p>4.2 Presence of two tools encoded in the ES-CV tool by Jan 2023</p> <p>4.3 Incorporation of spatial data on the distribution of marine habitats collated by Dec 2022</p> <p>4.4 Hosting of the ES-CV tool on the National GIS system within the Government of the BVI by March 2023</p> <p>4.4 Recommendations on the use and maintenance of spatial tool and linking tools presented to BVIG by March 2023</p>	<p>4.1 Presence of a ES-CV specification document agreed with MNRL&amp;I.</p> <p>4.2 Presence of the two tools with the ES-CV tool and a report with diagrams detailing the modifications made to the HCVA to produce the ES-CV spatial planning tool</p> <p>4.3 Report section detailing the spatial data selected and imported into the ES-CV tool.</p> <p>4.4 Confirmation report that the ES-CV has been integrated with the National GIS infrastructure (provided by Town and Country Planning Department, BVI). Testimonial from the MNRL&amp;I that the marine-terrestrial ES-CV spatial planning tool has been made available through the National GIS system and plans for its further integration into the decision-making infrastructure</p> <p>4.5 Production of a user guide for the ES-CV and a report section providing recommendations for the continued use of the tool.</p>	<p>Existing data sources have the required resolution, format and availability to: (i) identify and locate human activities; and (ii) describe and delineate the main marine habitats or resource present within the planning region</p>
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<p><b>Output 5</b></p> <p>Stakeholder engagement to understand: (i) the required format for the ES-CV tool to ensure its compatible with existing management measures; (ii) presence and intensity of human pressures; (iii) distribution of key habitats and the availability of information for estimating sensitivity; and (iv) the training requirements needed to maximise stakeholder use of the ES-CV tool.</p>	<p>5.1 Delivery of training to support the use and maintenance of the ES-CV tool in the BVI by March 2023</p> <p>5.2 Gender mix (50:50) input into the consultation process across the life of the project by January 2023</p>	<p>5.1 Report detailing the ES-CV training events along with a participants list.</p> <p>5.2 Repeat surveys (start and end of project) to assess stakeholder awareness of the value of biodiversity and the impacts of different land management practices</p> <p>5.2b Disaggregated gender outputs from the consultation process and meeting records</p>	<p>Good working relationships are created and maintained between SHG/project partners and stakeholders.</p> <p>Integration of WP components into the ESCV is not dependent on any one WP component, i.e. issues with one WP will not jeopardise the integration of other completed components.</p>
<p><b>Activities:</b></p> <p>1.1 List the human activities within the marine environment or directly influencing the marine environment.</p> <p>1.2 Undertake literature review on sensitivity of BVI's marine and coastal habitats to pressures, following agreed assessment method.</p> <p>2.1 Collate existing information and classifications for BVI marine environment.</p> <p>2.2 Develop a sensitivity assessment method based on available information, using MarESA as a framework.</p> <p>2.3 At the workshop held in WP2, agree the sensitivity assessment method with local stakeholders.</p> <p>2.4 Consult with in-country experts to sense check outputs (in country meeting).</p> <p>3.1 Review and assess the feasibility of incorporating a cumulative impact assessment method within the ESCV framework and tool.</p> <p>4.1 Integrate the activity/pressure (WP1), sensitivity matrix (WP2) and cumulative impacts method, if possible, into the ESCV framework.</p> <p>4.2 Produce ESCV tools for stakeholders.</p> <p>5.1 Deliver training on the ESCV tool to all stakeholders.</p>			

### Annex 3: Standard Indicators

The Biodiversity Challenge Funds (BCFs) use high quality and accessible Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) to enable scaling, replication and increase the impact of the funds and the projects we support.

By asking project teams to align indicators with the Darwin Plus Standard Indicators, we aim to increase our contribution to the global evidence base for activities that support biodiversity conservation, poverty reduction and capability & capacity.

The tables below are provided to assist project teams in reporting against Standard Indicators. Please report against the Standard Indicators that you have selected specifically for your project in Table 1 below. Refer to the Standard Indicator Guidance & Menu available on the [Darwin Plus website](#) for guidance on how to select indicators, as well as how to disaggregate reporting within your chosen indicators.

New projects should complete the Y1 column and also indicate the number planned during the project lifetime. Continuing projects should copy and paste the information from previous years and add in data for the most recent reporting period.

We recognise that our menu cannot cover all the potential monitoring needs for all projects – where necessary you can select indicators from other sources or develop your own. See our BCF MEL guidance on best practices for selecting and developing indicators.

**Table 1**      **Project Standard Indicators** **Project pre-2022**

<b>DPLUS Indicator number</b>	<b>Name of indicator using original wording</b>	<b>Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with DPLUS Standard Indicators</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Disaggregation</b>	<b>Year 1 Total</b>	<b>Year 2 Total</b>	<b>Year 3 Total</b>	<b>Total to date</b>	<b>Total planned during the project</b>

In addition to reporting any information on publications under relevant standard indicators, in Table 2, provide full details of all publications and material produced over the last year that can be publicly accessed, e.g. title, name of publisher, contact details, cost. Mark with an asterisk (\*) all publications and other material that you have included with this report.

**Table 2**      **Publications**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Type</b> (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	<b>Detail</b> (authors, year)	<b>Gender of Lead Author</b>	<b>Nationality of Lead Author</b>	<b>Publishers</b> (name, city)	<b>Available from</b> (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)

## Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the <b>correct template</b> (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and <b>deleted the blue guidance text</b> before submission?	
<b>Is the report less than 10MB?</b> If so, please email to <a href="mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com">BCF-Reports@niras.com</a> putting the project number in the Subject line.	
<b>Is your report more than 10MB?</b> If so, please discuss with <a href="mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com">BCF-Reports@niras.com</a> about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
<b>Have you included means of verification?</b> You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	
<b>Do you have hard copies of material you need to submit with the report?</b> 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.	
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 15)?	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	