

## Darwin Plus Main & Strategic: 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 2025**

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### Darwin Plus Project Information

Scheme (Main or Strategic)	Darwin Main
Project reference	DPLUS181
Project title	East Caicos Wilderness Areas: Protecting the Caribbean’s largest uninhabited in the British West Indies
Territory(ies)	Turks and Caicos Islands
Lead Organisation	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Project partner(s)	Turks and Caicos National Trust, Marine Conservation Society,
Darwin Plus grant value	£584,482
Start/end dates of project	01 July 2022-31 Sept 2025
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2024-Mar 2025) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2)	01 April 2024-31 March 2025
Project Leader name	Louise Soanes
Project website/blog/social media	
Report author(s) and date	Louise Soanes, Simon Busuttil, Amdeep Sanghera, April 2025

### 1. Project summary

This project seeks to safeguard East Caicos, the largest uninhabited island in the Caribbean UK Overseas Territories from unplanned and unchecked development. We aim to amplify the voices of local communities who have historically relied on and continue to use the island, while also encouraging the exploration of new nature-based opportunities. The goal is to reshape the narrative surrounding East Caicos—transitioning it from an undeveloped island waiting for development to an exceptional natural resource that offers sustainable economic opportunities for both the country and its people. This will be achieved through a combination of awareness campaigns and public outreach and community and stakeholder engagement with the aim to better understand and document the cultural, heritage and ecological values of East Caicos. Ultimately this project will lead to the establishment of a Community Conservation Area. This area will be formally recognized by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and managed by a council or committee drawn from local communities, with support from the National Trust.

This initiative is particularly important because, although approximately 45% of the land area of the Turks and Caicos Islands is designated as a “Protected Area,” these designations have often been imposed without input from the local communities most affected by them, resulting in a lack of legitimacy. By empowering the communities most directly impacted by the preservation of East

Caicos, the project aims to ensure that the future management of the island reflects their priorities and aspirations.

## 2. Project stakeholders/partners

### **Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)**

RSPB has been collaborating with the UK Overseas Territories (OTs) for more than 25 years. Our core approach is to build long-lasting partnerships with local organizations to support the growth of sustainable, community-led conservation initiatives. RSPB has a strong presence in the Turks and Caicos Islands, having successfully completed an EU BEST II project, followed by two Darwin initiatives (DPLUS055 and DPLUS121). These projects have not only established RSPB's long-term presence but also deepened our collaboration with local stakeholders. Our role in this project has primarily been facilitation and oversight and supporting local partners in achieving on-the ground objectives, including facilitating participatory mapping exercises, digitalising cultural and ecological values and supporting field work and community engagement activities.

### **Turks & Caicos National Trust (TCNT)**

TCNT, the locally based non-profit organization, has been dedicated to preserving the natural, cultural, and historical heritage of the Turks and Caicos Islands since its founding in 1992. The Trust has earned the confidence of TCI citizens over the years. TCNT leads efforts to engage and facilitate community participation in conservation planning, particularly through Community Workshops. It also works to raise awareness about East Caicos, highlighting its significance as both a rich cultural heritage site and a potential contributor to sustainable economic development. TCNT are leading on the ground project activities including engagement with local communities and other key stakeholders, supporting communications, outreach and advocacy and ecological data collection.

### **Marine Conservation Society (MCS)**

MCS has been actively supporting the Caribbean UK Overseas Territories for over 20 years, focusing on improving the management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Since 2002, MCS has partnered with the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR) in the Turks and Caicos Islands. MCS takes the lead on utilizing the Community Voice Method (CVM), which involves participant filming, transcription, data analysis, and film editing. Additionally, MCS has been working to deepen our understanding of East Caicos' importance for turtle conservation.

Other organisations, while not project partners are equally as important in delivering project activities, including

- **BirdsCaribbean:** has supported bird guide training workshops.
- **SWA Environmental:** has led efforts bird and plant surveys, helping to update and establish estimates of Important Bird Area (IBA) species and the presence of non-native species.
- **Turks & Caicos Reef Fund (TCRF):** TCRF has assessed the impact of Stony Coral Loss Disease (SCTLD) on coral reefs off East Caicos, building on baseline data collected during an EU BEST grant in 2018. TCRF has revisited survey sites in 2021 and 2023, and analysis of the data is ongoing.

Due to staff shortages within TCNT during this project, to ensure we achieve project objectives we have recently welcomed three highly experienced consultants to support our project activities, each bringing valuable expertise to enhance our efforts.

- **Ms. Zakiya Uzoma-Wadada,** Executive Director of the Trinidad and Tobago Emancipation Support Committee, brings her extensive experience in strategic planning

and governance structure development. She will play a key role in supporting the establishment of the Community Conservation Council.

- **Ms. Oshin Whyte**, Ecologist and Director of Gaia Consultants in the Turks and Caicos Islands, is working closely with us to identify and engage local community members for the formation of the Community Conservation Council. Ms Whyte will also assist the Council in crafting a community-driven vision for the future of East Caicos and in supporting communication and outreach activities.
- **Ms Maria-Oviedo** with experience in protected area planning will advise on the documentation and registration of East Caicos as an Indigenous Community Conserved Area (ICCA)

Moving into the final 6 months of the project, another very important stakeholder will emerge, that is the **Community Conservation Area Council (CCA)**. Key members are currently being identified through community consultation.

### 3. Project progress

#### 3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

**Output 1: Participatory resource management plan for East Caicos produced via facilitation incorporating local knowledge of priority cultural, historic and ecological heritage values**

##### 1.1- 1.9. Completed in previous years

**1.10 Digitisation of ecosystem services and habitats offering nature-based solutions to climate change into GIS maps, analysis of ecosystem service hotspots, and qualitative transcripts from workshops, interviews and field excursions.** Completed. Qualitative data collected during community workshops has been digitised and results have been collated into a report and shared with project partners (Annexe 1). In addition, a manuscript that will be submitted for peer reviewed publication is currently being drafted reporting on this qualitative data collection. Biodiversity values have also been collated and new ecological data collected as part of this projects (e.g. plant surveys, nesting turtle surveys) these have been digitalised and reported (Annexe 2-5)

**1.11 RSPB Data Management Unit collates mapping outputs into a story map about East Caicos:** In progress, a draft has been prepared but needs review and input from project partners and stakeholders to finalise,

**1.12 MCS transcribes and analyses filmed interview data (in collaboration with RSPB) and produce analysis summary report:** Completed (Annexe 6), and results are being used to guide discussions with community members during engagement activities conducted in March 2025

**1.13 -1.14.** Completed in year 2.

**1.15 MCS Hold 4 CVM screenings (including discussion and feedback) targeting communities across the 4 inhabited islands:** Completed (Annexe 6) Following on from the six CVM workshops MCS with the support of TCNT and RSPB implemented in Y2, TCNT implemented five workshops with high schools, tourism resorts, community leaders and civil society groups. These were carried out in Providenciales, North Caicos and Grand Turk, and were in response to the moderate attendance of CVM workshops in Y2. A total of 71 people attended these TCNT-led workshops in Y3, enabling an increase in demographic groups to input into the management plan while also extending the geographic reach with Grand Turk being visited. To support wider societal engagement and input regarding the CVM film and the overall project aims, in June 2024 the documentary film was launched online in the TCI through a [bespoke webpage](#). Additionally, a voluntary survey based on the workshop themes and questions was also generated, with 35 responses received Therefore, at least 196 people took part in the overall CVM consultation process.

**1.16 MCS input and analyse CVM screenings and feedback proceedings to produce report and recommended draft management plan (see 5.3):** Completed (Annexe 6) Analyses of CVM

workshop data, including that of Y2 workshops, the TCNT-led workshops and the online survey (see 1.15), were carried out via NVivo qualitative data software using a hybrid deductive-inductive coding methodology, whereby an initial coding framework was developed based on the four key questions central to the three methodologies. The coding framework was subsequently refined and expanded throughout the coding process to further develop themes and subcodes. The report's draft recommendations centre around tourism, development, environmental protection, community, cultural and historical preservation, and education (see Annexe 6 for full set of draft recommendations). The draft recommendations are being used to guide discussions with community members during engagement activities conducted in March 2025.

**1.17 RSPB/MCS with support of TCNT carry out consultations with selected stakeholders to gain feedback on recommended draft management plan.** *In progress.* In March 2025 MCS's Amdeep Sanghera visited TCI to work with TCNT's Dr Della Higgs on presenting the draft CVM report recommendations. This involved visiting Providenciales, North Caicos, Middle Caicos, South Caicos and Grand Turk, with a total of 25 stakeholders consulted on the draft recommendations (see activity 1.16) arising from the CVM community consultations. These stakeholders included key representatives from the environment, fisheries, tourism, NGO, culture and heritage, and youth sectors. Transcription and analysis of responses are ongoing, and will inform the finalisation of the CVM report recommendations. This engagement process also provided an opportunity to produce a list of potential members for the Community Conservation Area Council. A draft management plan has not yet been drafted as project partners agree that this plan needs to be led and devised by the Community Conservation Area Council.

**1.18 TCNT facilitated community-led production of East Caicos management plan.** *In progress.* Project partners agree that the management plan needs to be led by the Community Conservation Area Council. Project outputs including the ecological, cultural and heritage mapping, the CVM report and the stakeholder engagement that was undertaken in March 2025 will be provided to the Community Conservation Area Council, when formed, to allow them to develop a vision and management plan. Consultant Zakiya Uzoma-Wadada also visited the TCI in March 2025 to engage with TCNT Council and Government officials on the formation and governance of the proposed Community Conservation Council (Annexe 7) and will help to inform the development of the management plan once the Community Conservation Council has been formed, we anticipate this being completed by the end of the project

## **Output 2: Sustainable, long-term, locally owned and designed small business and nature-based tourism plans developed for East Caicos.**

**2.1 TCNT ensure promotion of local products/services on social media/websites:** Over the past year we have engaged the services Caicos Media – a Turks and Caicos- based media company. Caicos Media have initiated a campaign to raise awareness of East Caicos and have developed East Caicos Wilderness social media pages. A full report on all social media activities can be found in Annexes 8-11.

**2.2 TCNT together with MCS engage Fishing Co-op (Mr. Talbot), and DECR to identify fisherman that have set skills and knowledge of historical trails, dive site, turtle watching, etc.** *Completed.* TCNT together with MCS met with fishers from South Caicos, North Caicos and Middle Caicos interested in livelihood diversification. Project activities such as the CVM as well as Activity 1.9 and the longstanding relationships between project partners and fishers have resulted in identification of several fishers with skills and knowledges in historical trails, dive/snorkel trips and turtle watching.

**2.3- 2.5** *Completed in previous years*

**2.6 TCNT to develop a free, easy-to-use and accessible East Caicos information package for tour guides to be able to use when guiding to East Caicos.** *In progress*

**2.7 TCNT (Executive Director) to represent project's vision for East Caicos in fortnightly strategy development meetings of new DMMO Experience TCI.** *In progress.* Given the lack

of Executive Director for most of the last year, this activity has not been accomplished, but with the recruitment of a new Executive Director in January 2025 this activity is not back on track and is in progress.

**2.8 TCNT to work to work with 5 relevant local businesses to develop strong support for the East Caicos project vision and improve their promotion).** *In progress*. The project thus far has engaged with two large hotel resorts including Salterra who supported biodiversity surveys to be undertaken on East Caicos. We will continue to work with local businesses for the remainder of this project.

**2.9 TCNT utilize Heritage & Discovery Clubs in the secondary schools (private & public) for students to be engaged and join educational activities.** Ongoing and *In progress* and will be fully reported by the end of the project

**2.10 TCNT encourages youth/students to join quarterly expeditions to East Caicos and report on findings through the Youth Reports of the Environment initiative.** Ongoing and *In progress* and will be fully reported by the end of the project

**Output 3: Ecological, cultural and historic baseline established, and presence of non-native species determined and used to inform conservation management and community empowerment.**

**3.1-3.2** *Completed in Year 2*

**3.3 SWA, supported by TCNT, updates field studies with updated estimates of IBA trigger species (covering summer and winter migration) and maps key areas for plants (Nov-January after rainy season to ensure priority species are visible) and identifies potential invasive non-native species:** *Completed* During field studies, several species and features of interest were observed, with notable findings including the presence of breeding Near-threatened West Indian Whistling Ducks, possibly a first in recent history. Additionally, the known range of the endemic *Stenandrium carolinae* was expanded on East Caicos (Annexe 3). In addition through a collaboration with a local hotel resort we were able to conduct comprehensive reddish egret surveys of East Caicos revealing a globally important population (Annexe 5), this finding has led to East Caicos' inclusion in a Key Biodiversity Area submission to BirdLife International.

**3.4 -3.6** *Completed in previous years*

**3.7 MCS implement sea turtle nesting surveys in Yr1 nesting season, repeated in Yr2 and Yr3.** *Completed* The final year of surveys was completed, and the recorded distributions of nesting turtles have been incorporated into ecological maps (Annexe 4)

**3.8 MCS Analyse and produce report of nesting data.** *Completed* (Annexe 4)

**3.9** *Completed Year 2*

**3.10** *Completed in Year 2*

**Output 4: Awareness and appreciation of the cultural, historic and ecological value of East Caicos is increased amongst communities, TCI citizens, the private sector and government stakeholders leading to strengthened support for protected status for E Caicos**

**4.1 TCNT engage hosts from Uncut, Our TCI, TB Radio Show, Heritage Matters, and other local podcast/radio to promote cultural, historic and ecological value of East Caicos** Project partners participated in a local radio show in March 2025 (Annexe 10)

**4.3 Develop a website to provide information about the East Caicos Project to attract the target audience, engage stakeholders, and provide content that is informative and relevant to the project.** The website has been launched <https://eastcacioswildernessproject.com/>

**4.4 Updates provided through Head of Department meetings (monthly) and progress reports to Cabinet (Governor/Ministers) quarterly.** The lack of Executive Director for most of the past year has delayed this activity, however with the appointment of a new Executive Director in January 2025 this activity is back on track as evidenced by recent engagement with Government Ministers in March 2025 (Annexe 11)

**4.5 RSPB produces East Caicos heritage values film with local film producer:** This has been produced as a 3-part series, project partners are working on a dissemination plan which will involve focused events and the Turks and Caicos film festival. Following the launch of these videos they will be shared with schools and other community organisations.

**Output 5: Strengthened capacity of national project partners, TCI citizens and local communities to effectively manage and protect East Caicos wilderness area**

5.1 -5.2 Completed in previous years

**5.3 TCNT based Community Engagement Officer will lead on the preparation and facilitation of a governance framework detailing how decisions will be made, existing community governance bodies and processes to support the CCA, identify and document traditional and natural resource management laws to support the CCA.** In progress Due to staff leaving and delays in recruitment we recruited a highly experienced regional Consultant from Trinidad and Tobago to lead this activity. Ms Uzoma-Wadada visited TCI between the 28 March-1<sup>st</sup> April to engage with the TCNT Council on the formation of the Community Conservation Council. This will enable her to work on developing a Governance structure for the CCA. Ms Uzoma-Wadada also plans to visit again at the end of April once the CCA has been formed to provide a training workshop on effective governance and strategic planning (Annexe 7).

**5.4 TCNT, supported by the RSPB and technical expertise from the region, supports community to develop a management plan based on grassroots knowledge elicited in Yr2 workshops, and informed by science to guide resource use decisions.** Planned for last 6 months of project. Project partners have agreed that the management plan should be led by the Community Council which is currently in the initial stages of formation.

**5.5 RSPB prepares and submits funding bid for continuity.** In progress. We are currently exploring opportunities for future funding to support the development of the Community Council through training and capacity building (for example in strategic and management planning), and to support further engagement with Government and the ICCA council.

### 3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

**Output 1: Participatory resource management plan for East Caicos produced via facilitation incorporating local knowledge of priority cultural, historic and ecological heritage values**

**Baseline condition:** Aspirations of communities on the islands surround East Caicos are unclear and no management plan in place for the land although there is a constant threat from unsustainable development. Local knowledge of cultural and natural heritage is not captured and areas of cultural significance are not mapped. In addition, while ecological data has previously been collected there had been no attempt to collate this data nor to fill any data gaps.

**Progress towards achievement:** Good progress. The first three years of this project have paved the way for the establishment of the Community Conservation Council, which will be responsible for creating a management plan for East Caicos. This process will be guided by the ecological, cultural, and heritage mapping undertaken as part of this project, as well as the collection of community perspectives and values, culminating in a community-led management plan. This has been supported by the Community Voice Method process, with just under 200 community members feeding into the consultation process with analysis of feedback resulting in draft recommendations to support creation of a management plan (see Annexe 6). In March 2025, a list of potential CCA members was compiled following consultations with key stakeholders from

North, South, Middle Caicos, Providenciales and Grand Turk. To support the newly formed council, governance and strategic planning training will be provided during the remaining six months of the project by a regional consultant from Trinidad and Tobago. This will enable the CCA to develop a vision and comprehensive plan for East Caicos. The successful completion of this output will be marked by the creation of the vision and management plan for East Caicos. We are confident that this will be achieved by the end of the project.

**Output 2: Sustainable, long-term, locally owned and designed small business and nature-based tourism plans developed for East Caicos.**

**Baseline condition:** Local tour guides for hotels/independent local business with natural heritage of East Caicos and its ecological values are low/non-existent and understanding of knowledge amongst youth not quantified.

**Progress towards achievement:** *Good progress.* Birds Caribbean led training in ecotourism in year 2 of the project. To date, two hotels' resorts have been engaged and one has supported biodiversity surveys of East Caicos, TCNT will continue to engage with smaller business owners and will continue to provide educational opportunities through excursions and film screenings for the remainder of the project.

**Output 3: Ecological, cultural and historic baseline established, and presence of non-native species determined and used to inform conservation management and community empowerment.**

**Baseline condition:** Ecological/cultural knowledge and importance of East Caicos is limited or unknown. No formal assessments of non-native/native available and areas of key habitat and population assessments (i.e of KBA species) unclear

**Progress towards achievement:** *Strong progress:* A desk-based gap analysis of existing data and research was completed in Year 1, informing subsequent field study plans. Targeted population assessments of IBA bird species and other priority species have been updated and have been used to inform IBA/KBA reassessment. Existing ecological data and data collected during this project have been pulled together in a ecological report (Annexe 2), and digitised as mapping outputs and shared with local partners. These efforts have greatly improved the ecological knowledge of East Caicos and have resulted in a Key Biodiversity Area submission to BirdLife as a component of a wider Turks and Caicos KBA.

**Output 4: Awareness and appreciation of the cultural, historic and ecological value of East Caicos is increased amongst communities, TCI citizens, the private sector and government stakeholders leading to strengthened support for protected status for E Caicos.**

**Baseline Condition:** significance of East Caicos in TCI is limited. awareness of cultural, historic and ecological value of East Caicos within TCI unknown but likely low/limited to individuals with a specific interest.

**Progress towards achievement:** *Strong progress.* Through our collaboration with a local TCI-based marketing agency, we have significantly exceeded our initial goal of 12 social media posts per year (Annexe 8). Additionally, a three-part documentary, produced by local filmmakers, has been completed, and we are currently developing a dissemination plan to maximize its impact. This plan will target key stakeholders, including higher-level government officials, local communities, and youth groups. Activities will include organized film screenings, participation in TCI's annual film festival, and outreach at schools and youth organizations.

The East Caicos website has been successfully launched, and we are working to integrate it into prominent TCI platforms, such as Visit TCI and the TCNT website. As part of our efforts, we have also facilitated field trips to East Caicos with local stakeholders, including Ministers. We will continue our educational and outreach activities through the remainder of the project completion, and our local partner, TCNT, is committed to continuing education and outreach on East Caicos beyond the project's duration. As a result of this project, we are confident that awareness of the cultural and ecological values of East Caicos has been raised within local communities



(evidenced by interactions with social media, Government officials attending project planning meetings and engaging in discussions on the development of the CCA and vision for East Caicos)

### **Output 5: Strengthened capacity of national project partners, TCI citizens and local communities to effectively manage and protect East Caicos wilderness area**

**Baselines Condition:** Capacity to engage local communities is limited and structures to effectively manage/protect East Caicos are not in place. There is a high risk of uncontrolled, sustainable development of the island

**Progress towards achievement:** *In progress.* In March 2025, TCNT and MCS visited key stakeholders from North, Middle, West, and South Caicos, as well as Grand Turk and Providenciales, to engage with local communities regarding the findings of the CVM analysis. During these visits, they sought recommendations on potential members from each community who would be best suited to sit on the Community Conservation Council (CCA). Based on these recommendations, invitations were sent to selected individuals, inviting them to attend a meeting at the end of April 2025.

Meanwhile, Consultant Ms. Zakiya Uzoma-Wadada, from Trinidad and Tobago, visited TCI at the end of March to engage with the TCNT Council. Her goal was to better understand their perspectives on the governance of the CCA (Annexe 7). Ms. Uzoma-Wadada will return at the end of April to work directly with the CCA members on vision-setting and planning. By the conclusion of this project, a fully functioning Community Conservation Council will be in place, with an agreed-upon vision for East Caicos. This will pave the way for the CCA to take the next steps for East Caicos, which may include pursuing ICCA designation.

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

**Outcome: Participatory natural resource management, sustainable livelihoods, awareness and local capacity helps establish the future protection of the unique cultural, historic and natural heritage values of East Caicos.**

In March 2025 TCNT and MCS engaged with local communities from five islands in the TCI to gather suggestions for community members to sit on the Community Conservation Area Council, invitations will be sent out in April 2025 inviting potential members to attend a meeting at the end of April where consultant Ms Uzoma-Wadada will engage and build capacity on developing a strategy and vision for East Caicos. Project partners have agreed that the Council have to make the decision on whether they want to define East Caicos as an Indigenous Community Conserved Conservation Area (ICCA), but we will provide guidance as to how they can determine if they want to go that route (Annexe 12) **(Measurable indicator 1-3)**

Birds Caribbean led training in ecotourism in year 2 of the project. To date, two hotels' resorts have been engaged and one has supported biodiversity surveys of East Caicos, TCNT will continue to engage with smaller business owners and will continue to provide educational opportunities through excursions and film screenings for the remainder of the project **(Measurable indicator 4)**

This project has launched an intensive outreach campaign, utilizing social media, locally produced documentaries, and field visits to East Caicos. Through engagement with social media, government officials, and local communities, strong support has been expressed for the sustainable management of East Caicos. The community-driven process of developing a vision for East Caicos has highlighted the deep understanding local communities have of the island, as well as the value they place on it **(Measurable Indicator 5)**.

At the start of this project the baseline understanding of the ecological and cultural importance of East Caicos limited was limited. Significant progress has been made towards addressing these gaps. Community workshops and the Community Voice Method helped to gather qualitative data on the cultural and heritage values of East Caicos and to better understand the local community's future vision for the island. These novel qualitative data collection methods are being pulled together as a scientific manuscript for peer-reviewed publication. Targeted population assessments of IBA bird species and other priority species have been updated and



used to inform the IBA/KBA reassessment. Existing ecological data, along with new data collected during this project, have been compiled into an ecological report (Annexe 2), digitized into mapping outputs, and shared with local partners. All of these outputs have been made available and easily accessible to the newly formed CCA Council to help inform their development of a vision and management plan for East Caicos (**Measurable Indicator 6**).

### 3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

**Assumption 1** Covid19 does not prevent face to face workshops in Middle and South Caicos.  
*Holds true – no issues in travelling around TCI.*

**Assumption 2** Fisherfolk interested in and keen to diversify livelihoods, participate in training.  
*It has proven somewhat difficult to engage with fisherfolk in diversify livelihood opportunities, and this project did not fully understand the processes and resources required to establish such livelihood opportunities.*

**Assumption 3** Sufficient investment or loans are available to initiate start-up businesses.  
*This is now not considered a component of this project, having underestimated the level of financial resources required to establish new business opportunities focusing on East Caicos. However project partners are committed to supporting the development of livelihood opportunities in further projects.*

**Assumption 4** Stakeholders agree to participate in CVM process including filmed interviews, self-capture camera exercise, participatory workshops, and face-to-face consultations.  
*We found very good engagement of stakeholders with participatory workshop and CVM.*

**Assumption 5** Stakeholder engagement activities (CVM, GIS Mapping) adheres to TCI Covid measures (e.g., social gathering numbers, social distancing etc) to promote safe participation and minimise any disruption caused by ongoing pandemic.  
*Holds true. Covid-19 restrictions lifted in TCI.*

**Assumption 6** International tourism picks up to pre Covid19 levels.  
*Holds True. Turks & Caicos has an exceptionally fast-growing tourism economy and has made a full recovery (<https://today.caricom.org/2022/05/30/tci-on-track-for-full-tourism-recovery-caricom-business/>)*

**Assumption 7** Participants able to agree on small business development opportunity priorities.  
*This is now not considered a component of this project, having underestimated the level of financial resources required to establish new business opportunities focusing on East Caicos. However, project partners are committed to supporting the development of livelihood opportunities in further projects.*

**Assumption 8** Fisherfolk interested in and keen to diversify livelihoods, participate in training.  
*Fisher folk were incited to attend BirdsCaribbean training but did not participate, we recognise we need a different approach and more resources to support diversifying livelihoods. This is now not considered a component of this project, having underestimated the level of financial resources required to establish new business opportunities focusing on East Caicos. However project partners are committed to supporting the development of livelihood opportunities in further projects.*

**Assumption 9** Tour operators willing to accommodate and optimise East Caicos as part of their offering.  
*This is now not considered a component of this project, having underestimated the level of financial resources required to establish new business opportunities focusing on East Caicos. However project partners are committed to supporting the development of livelihood opportunities in further projects.*

**Assumption 10** Young people willing and able to attend event excursions.  
*Holds True. Young people very willing to visit East Caicos*

**Assumption 11** Field survey timings optimised to determine quantitative assessment of priority globally threatened and IBA trigger species.

*Holds true. Surveys carried out at optimal times.*

**Assumption 12** Conditions allow sea turtle nesting monitoring; pandemic does not inhibit travel to East Caicos

*Holds True. Pandemic not causing any travel issues in TCI.*

**Assumption 13** Sufficient data generated to enable KBA criteria assessment Communities willing to share local knowledge around plants and wildlife and heritage sites within East Caicos Surveys able to detect presence of non-native species.

*Holds true. Minimal effort required to detect invasive species during RSPB/TCNT visit to East Caicos. We expect future surveys will have no issues in detecting the presence of non-native species.*

**Assumption 14** People tune in in sufficient numbers to listen to podcasts and interviews.

*Hold true*

**Assumption 15** WHSRN approve East Caicos nomination.

*This is now not considered a component of this project*

**Assumption 16** Project runs smoothly and to plan to enable Green List criteria to be met (Good Governance, Effective Management, Sound Design and Planning, successful conservation outcomes).

*Mostly holds true. There were some delays in recruitment and adjustments to timelines have been made. This has no impact the project outcome,*

**Assumption 17** Press releases appeal to media outlets.

*Holds true.*

**Assumption 18** Recruitment able to attract sufficient quality candidates from within TCI or wider region.

*Holds true. Both recruits are from TCI.*

**Assumption 19** Community interested and willing to establish a Community Conservation Area for East Caicos.

*Holds true. Communities participating in events/presentations provided so far.*

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

The eastern section of the North, Middle, and East Caicos Islands Ramsar site encompasses approximately 18% of East Caicos, with the Ramsar wetlands extending seamlessly across the island. This project aligns with the recent Ramsar Resolutions, especially Resolution XIII.15 from the 13th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Parties to the Convention were urged to "...seek mechanisms that facilitate the conservation and transmission of traditional knowledge from indigenous peoples and local communities, including sustainable natural resource use, with the support of scientific advice." This principle closely matches the objectives of our project. Additionally, Contracting Parties were encouraged "to continue promoting cultural diversity and traditional knowledge systems within wetlands as part of integrated planning approaches," which directly aligns with the project's proposed strategy.

**Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):** This initiative contributes to the post-2020 framework ambition of '30x30,' as it will significantly expand TCI's protected area (PA) network. With approximately 26% of TCI's land already protected, and East Caicos representing 5% of the total land area, this project has the potential to meet the 30x30 target for TCI five years ahead of schedule.

## Contribution to UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

This project will support several UN SDGs, including:

- **SDG 1: No Poverty** – By creating sustainable, long-term economic opportunities for local communities. While specific statistics are lacking, local anecdotal evidence suggests that communities in South Caicos do not benefit economically in the same way as those in Providenciales. This project aims to address this imbalance.
- **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth** – Specifically, target 8.9, which encourages policies that promote sustainable tourism, create jobs, and celebrate local culture and products. This will be achieved by developing eco-tourism opportunities and supporting local businesses selling traditional products.
- **SDG 11: Sustainable Communities** – With a focus on target 11.4, which calls for stronger efforts to protect cultural and natural heritage. The project will increase public understanding and appreciation of East Caicos' cultural, historical, and environmental values, encouraging community stewardship.
- **SDG 14: Life Below Water and SDG 15: Life on Land** – By enhancing knowledge of the island's biodiversity, the project will inform effective management and protect habitats from detrimental development through the creation of a Community Conservation Area.
- **CMS Article III:** The project's turtle nesting monitoring program will contribute to the conservation of important habitats and species, helping to prevent their extinction. It also supports the TCI Government's Vision 2040 policy 'NC3.1 – Good Ecosystems and Marine Resource Management,' particularly through the role of Protected Areas in ecosystem management. Furthermore, it aligns with the 2001 TCI Environment Charter (especially points 2, 7, 9, and 10), contributing to conservation efforts and environmental education.
- **TCI Government's Green Paper:** The project will help fulfill Goal 15 of the People's Plan for Empowerment and Inclusive Growth (TCIG Green Paper) to "Protect the Land and her Bounty," safeguarding over 40 terrestrial habitats identified across the Turks and Caicos Islands, from dry forests to wetlands.

We are also currently exploring how the cultural and heritage values identified as part of this project will feed into Turks and Caicos' Cultural Policy

## 5. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

The primary goal of this project is to empower local communities to manage East Caicos sustainably, ensuring the preservation of key cultural, ecological, and community values. Our approach has been inclusive, engaging a diverse range of stakeholders from across the Turks and Caicos Islands, balancing both men and women, and representing various demographics, from fishing communities to government officials. Participatory workshops involved both men and women, and the Community Voice Method (CVM) videos included contributions from 18 men and 13 women. The selection of members for the Community Council was informed by local consultations, ensuring equal representation from both genders, and both men and women were asked about their interest and any barriers to joining the Community Conservation Area (CCA).

The project is deeply committed to gender equality and social inclusion. This commitment is clearly reflected in the composition of the core project team, which includes six women and two men, ensuring a strong focus on gender balance in leadership. We are especially pleased of the recruitment of three female consultants, one of whom is a local TCI islander, and another from Trinidad and Tobago, who bring a wealth of regional expertise to the project.

The project prioritizes the voices of three of the most underserved and economically disadvantaged communities in TCI: South, North, and Middle Caicos. In doing so, it ensures representation from those who are socially excluded from the dominant decision-making centres in Providenciales, where international capital often promotes unsustainable development. The Community Voice Method (CVM) employed in this project is specifically designed to amplify the voices of those least represented.

Given that all three engaged communities are rural or fishing-based—areas that tend to be more conservative—ensuring the representation of women has required proactive efforts on our part. For example, the CVM screening workshops, particularly those held in Providenciales, were scheduled over three consecutive days during morning and early afternoon hours to accommodate the availability of different demographic groups. Of the 53 attendees across six workshops, 21 (40%) were women, and in the three Providenciales workshops alone, this number rose to 48% (n=15).

In addition, the recent fieldwork led by TCNT and MCS to gain feedback on draft CVM recommendations involved interviewing nine women and 16 men. All efforts were made to support gender-representative sampling across the select islands, including interviewing at flexible times during the week and weekends, however the male-dominated nature of key stakeholder groups including fisheries and tourism biased the sample towards males.

<b>GESI Scale</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Put X where you think your project is on the scale</b>
<b>Not yet sensitive</b>	The GESI context may have been considered but the project isn't quite meeting the requirements of a 'sensitive' approach	
<b>Sensitive</b>	The GESI context has been considered and project activities take this into account in their design and implementation. The project addresses basic needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups and the project will not contribute to or create further inequalities.	
<b>Empowering</b>	The project has all the characteristics of a 'sensitive' approach whilst also increasing equal access to assets, resources and capabilities for women and marginalised groups	X
<b>Transformative</b>	The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	

## 6. Monitoring and evaluation

Given the challenges faced by the project in previous years due to staff shortages, we have taken steps to get back on track by recruiting three consultants to support project activities. It has been crucial to ensure that our expanded project team is well-informed and working collaboratively to meet project goals. To facilitate this, project partners and consultants hold weekly meetings to provide updates on ongoing activities and plan for the upcoming weeks. In December 2024, we introduced a RACI matrix to clarify roles and responsibilities, helping ensure everyone is aligned. Thanks to this regular process of reflection and updates, the project is now progressing rapidly toward achieving its objectives.

The core project team (RSBP, MCS TCNT and project Consultants) meet on average every two weeks to discuss project progress. Smaller work teams are formed as needed; for example, a social science technical team consisting of members from RSPB and TCNT worked closely throughout late 2023 to develop methods, questionnaires, and consent forms for community consultation, CVM film production, and stakeholder meetings

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) is managed by the Project Manager, while financial M&E is handled by the RSPB Finance Department, represented by the Senior International Finance Officer, Wendy Cain.

## 7. Lessons learnt

This project has been ambitious, and while we've made significant strides, it may have been more extensive than initially anticipated. We've experienced delays due to staff shortages, but despite these challenges, by the end of the project, we will have laid the groundwork for the further development of the Community Conserved Area Council. However, we may not reach the stage of officially designating East Caicos as an ICCA (Indigenous and Community Conserved Area). While it is possible to rush this designation, that would not align with the core aim of the project. The focus has always been on empowering local communities. As a result, while we will have established a Community Conservation Area Council, we will need to offer continued support to help them decide whether they want to pursue the ICCA designation or explore other options—it is their vision to develop, not ours. That said, project partners remain fully committed to supporting the CCA Council's development post project as and when local partners request our assistance.

Though the project faced challenges due to staff losses, this also provided an unexpected opportunity to engage with regional and national consultants. For example, the recruitment of Ms. Zakiya Uzoma-Wadada has been a transformative development for the project. Her extensive experience in developing strategic plans and governance structures for Caribbean organizations has already proven extremely invaluable. This has reinforced the importance of tapping into the wealth of expertise available within the Caribbean region to fully realize the project's goals.

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

We have addressed comments on our Year 2 annual report below:

No.	Comment from reviewer	Response
1.	The reviewer sympathises with the project team for the disappointing response to its efforts to stimulate locally owned and designed small business and nature-based tourism plans for East Caicos. In relation to Output 2. The reviewer agrees that the logframe should be revised as a matter of urgency and understand that has now been actioned. The project refers to some interest from several businesses, including the Salterra resort— if it could develop just one or two successful businesses might others quickly follow?	We have now amended our logframe and the changes have been approved by Darwin.
2.	TCNT staffing issues have been a serious problem for the project: it is not clear if these have been resolved for the final year. And whether the revision to the log frame have taken this issue into account	The staffing issues did delay project activities but also gave us the opportunity to reflect on the expertise and skills we required to achieve project outcomes. This resulted in us recruiting 3 Consultants (1) a Trinidadian Consultant highly experienced in Governance and strategic planning in the Caribbean; (1) a Local ecologist who will help to engage local communities in the formation of the Community Conservation Council and (3) a technical consultant who will help advise on the designation for East Caicos as an ICCA. With these additions to the project team we

		are well on the way to making this project success.
3.	The flamingo survey was undertaken from a light aircraft that appears to have caused disturbance to the birds – could a drone be a possibility for future surveys?	<p>The aircraft caused some disturbance. We tried quantifying this but our methods weren't robust so we do not have quantitative data. We did comment broadly on the issue in the published scientific work (JCO, accepted, currently being reviewed). Our experience with drones is that they can cause more disturbance or at least the same as an aircraft.</p> <p>Also, the wetlands are extensive and to use drones would have taken much longer and been more expensive eg having to travel via ferry and car to many sites to be able to fly the drone.</p> <p>An aircraft allowed us to cover EVERY wetland in TCI, quickly and cheaply to be able to assess the total population. Would have taken days (if not weeks) with a drone</p>
4.	The project states that it has not submitted any Darwin Plus Standard Indicators, and it is unclear why this should be the case	The project was established before there was a requirement to set standard indicators, we now have established these.

## 9. Risk Management

No new risks have arisen during the last year of the project and we continually monitor risks already identified. We have included an updated risk register in the Annexes (Annexe 14)

## 10. Scalability and durability

The project aims to ensure both scalability and durability in its achievements, focusing on long-term community empowerment, ecological preservation, and cultural appreciation for East Caicos. By addressing key concerns such as the lack of a resource management plan and the need for stronger community engagement, the project has made significant strides in fostering local ownership and ensuring lasting outcomes.

A wide range of local stakeholders have been engaged through a combination of local consultations, social media campaigns, field visits, and targeted educational outreach. These efforts have allowed key groups such as local businesses, government stakeholders, and community members to understand the project's benefits, including the potential for sustainable development through nature-based tourism and the protection of East Caicos' cultural and ecological heritage. Through the creation of a website and social media campaigns, the broader community has become increasingly aware of the importance of East Caicos, ensuring ongoing participation and support. The ongoing consultations and formation of the Community Conservation Area Council (CCA) provide a platform for local stakeholders to voice their opinions, ensuring that the benefits and costs are clearly communicated and understood.

The project has generated substantial interest from potential adopters, as evidenced by the increased commitment of local businesses, community members, and government officials. By providing capacity-building opportunities such as training for local guides, the project has highlighted how a nature-based future for East Caicos can be economically and ecologically beneficial. Furthermore, through engagements such as field trips, film screenings, and

educational activities, community members, including youth, are more informed and invested in preserving East Caicos for future generations.

Through the formation of the CCA council, project partners have ensured that local communities will play a pivotal role in decision-making, which will drive the long-term success of the management plan. The integration of local knowledge and perspectives into the process, combined with governance and strategic planning training, has ensured that the CCA council is prepared to manage East Caicos in a way that benefits both the environment and the local economy.

This project has actively engaged with government stakeholders to raise awareness about the need for a sustainable, community-driven management plan for East Caicos. The formation of the CCA Council and the recognition of East Caicos as part of the wider Turks and Caicos Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) highlight the project's alignment with national conservation priorities. In addition, through consultations and training workshops, the project has contributed to the development of governance structures that will continue beyond the project's duration. The CCA's ongoing work may also support the pursuit of ICCA (Indigenous and Community Conserved Area) designation, ensuring that government policies support the long-term protection of East Caicos.

The project has successfully shifted local attitudes and behaviours toward greater appreciation of East Caicos' cultural, historical, and ecological value. Through collaborations with local media outlets, social media campaigns, and the creation of the three-part heritage documentary, the project has generated significant awareness among local communities, government officials, and the private sector. The educational activities involving youth, such as excursions and nature-based learning, have instilled a sense of pride and ownership in the younger generation, further ensuring the long-term sustainability of conservation efforts. As evidenced by the increased participation of local communities in project activities and the positive engagement with social media campaigns, the project has fostered a more informed and involved public, ensuring that conservation efforts will continue well beyond the project's end.

To ensure the durability of outputs and outcomes, the exit plan outlines a strategy to transfer management responsibilities to the CCA Council, supported by governance training and strategic planning workshops. The project has already made significant progress in this area, with the CCA in its early stages of formation and a vision for East Caicos under development. Additionally, ecological and cultural data collected throughout the project have been compiled into reports and GIS maps, ensuring that these resources will remain accessible for future decision-making. The formation of partnerships with key organizations, including the TCNT and local businesses, further supports the long-term sustainability of the project's efforts.

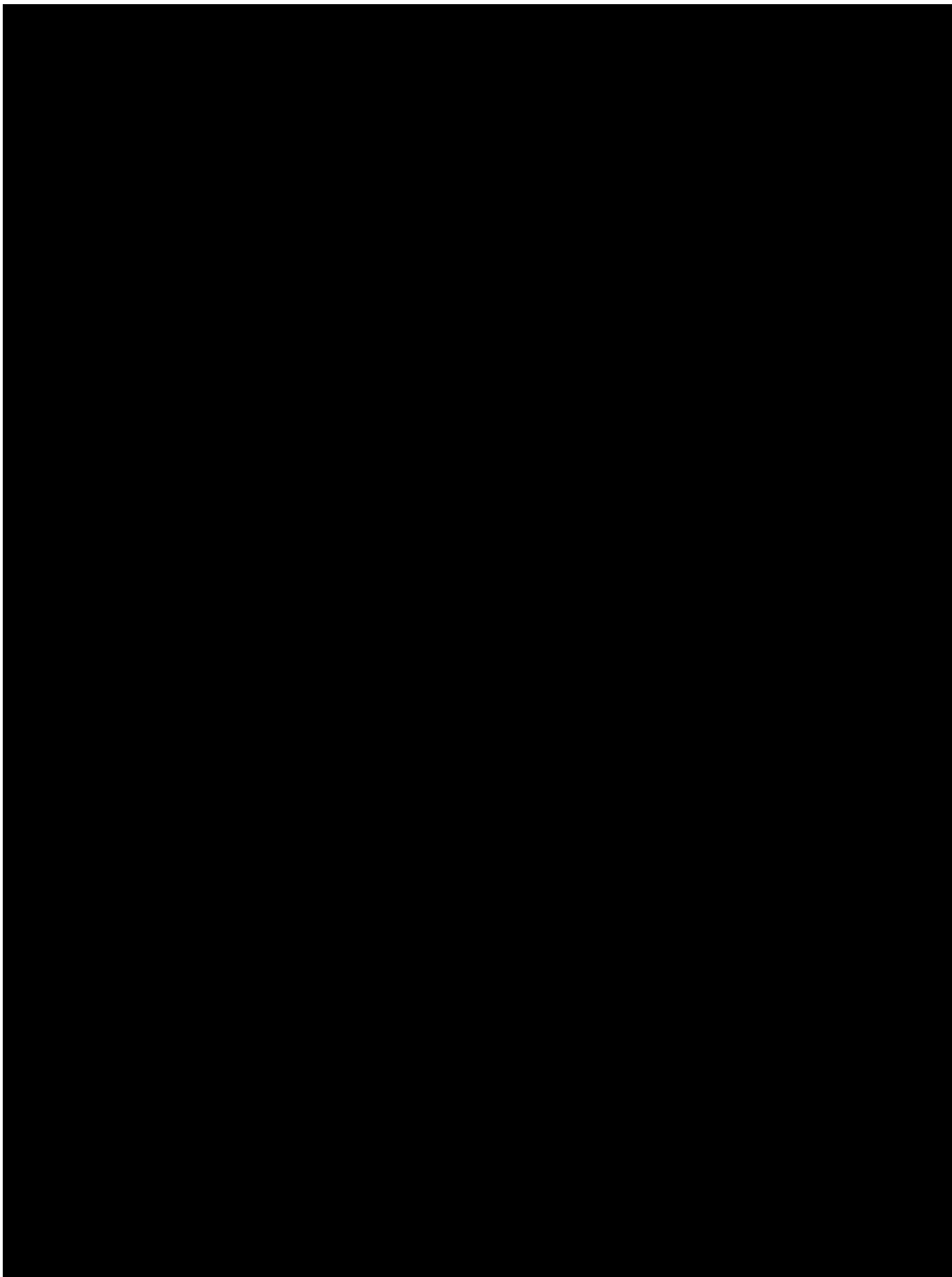
To further promote the durability of the project, the project team is taking steps to secure future funding and support for the CCA, as well as to continue educational and outreach activities. By fostering strong relationships with local businesses and government stakeholders, the project has ensured that its objectives will remain a priority for these groups. The ongoing dissemination of the documentary and other educational materials will continue to raise awareness and build support for the long-term conservation of East Caicos. Additionally, the TCNT's commitment to continuing education and outreach activities beyond the project's duration further ensures that the legacy of the project will endure.

## **11. Darwin Plus identity**

Every effort is made to promote the Darwin identity on educational and outreach materials and when engaging with stakeholders (For example Annexe 9).



## 12. Safeguarding



### 13. Project expenditure

**Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025)**

Project spend (indicative) in this financial year	2024/25 D+ Grant (£)	2024/25 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>145,431</b>	<b>141,640</b>		

**NB: Please note that these figures are indicative**

**Table 2: Project mobilised or matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025)**

	Secured to date	Expected by end of project	Sources
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£)			Salaries supported by RSPB and TCNT
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities			

**14. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere**

None

**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 to edit and use the following for various promotional purposes (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

None right now

## Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2024-2025

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
<b>Impact:</b> East Caicos, the last remaining wilderness area of the British West Indies is protected and managed for generations by Turks and Caicos Islanders as a treasured, irreplaceable ridge-to-reef complex.		
<b>Outcome:</b> Participatory natural resource management, sustainable livelihoods, awareness and local capacity helps establish the future protection of the unique cultural, historic and natural heritage values of East Caicos.		
<b>Outcome indicator 0.1</b> East Caicos community conservation group comprised of at least 10 people from representative communities established by end of April 2025	Potential members of the Community Conservation Area (CCA) Council have been identified by local	Invitations will be sent out to potential members in the coming months  The first meeting is planned for the end of early summer
<b>Outcome indicator 0.2.</b> Future vision and management plan for the conservation of East Caicos underpinned and agreed by the East Caicos community conservation group, by end of project	This will be led by the newly formed CCA Council	The first meeting of the CCA Council will focus on developing this vision and management plan, facilitated by external experienced consultant from Trinidad and Tobago
<b>Outcome indicator 0.3.</b> The criteria for ICCA accessed by end of March 2025 and East Caicos registered as a community conservation area by the end of the project	Project partners have had meetings with UNEP-WCMC ICCA representatives and now have a better understanding of the process, We have developed guidance (Annexe 12) that will be provided to the CCA Council to allow them to make an informed decision on whether they want to proceed with this designation	Share ideas and discuss with newly formed CCA Council
<b>Outcome indicator 0.3</b> East Caicos heritage values receive elevated support amongst at least 5 local businesses as evidenced by letters of support and commitment from at least 2 businesses by end of March 2025 and at least 3 by the end of the project.	To date two hotels and one local fishing tour operator have been engaged and are supportive	Continue to work with local business and tourism officials to develop this component of the project

<b>Outcome indicator 0.4</b> By the end of April 2025 project at least 50% of Turks and Caicos citizens interviewed are supportive of maintaining East Caicos as a wilderness area, supporting local livelihoods development	Our targeted social media campaign combined with field excursions and film viewings and engagement directly with key stakeholders has already increased knowledge and understanding of the values of East Caicos	Continue to engage with stakeholders and promote the cultural, ecological and heritage values of East Caicos
<b>Outcome indicator 0.6</b> By the end of Yr3 Q3 existing data and data collected during this project are compiled to outline areas of critical importance for the (1) historic, (2) cultural and (3) environmental values of East Caicos and by the end of year 3 of the project these compiled outputs are made easily accessible to the CCA and other governing bodies.	<b>Completed.</b> Cultural, heritage and ecological values have been collected/collated and digitalised and reported (Annexe 1-2)	Share with newly formed CCA Council
<b>Output 1. Participatory resource management plan for East Caicos produced via facilitation incorporating local knowledge of priority cultural, historic and ecological heritage values</b>		
<b>Output indicator 1.1</b> Three excursions/ workshops with relevant local communities and stakeholder groups to carry out participatory GIS mapping, visioning exercises and focus group discussions, capturing the ecosystem services, heritage values and future aspirations for the management of East Caicos by end Y2	Completed	Continue engagement with stakeholders until the end of the project including training on governance and visions planning scheduled for end of April for the CCA Council
<b>Output indicator 1.2</b> At least 30 filmed Community Voice Method (CVM) stakeholder interviews across four inhabited islands – Providenciales, North, Middle and South Caicos – analysed, with representative gender sampling in Yr2Q1; CVM.	Completed	
<b>Output indicator 1.3</b> At least 10 young people equipped with cameras and self-capture views/aspirations towards TCI nature in Yr2 Q1	Completed	
<b>Output indicator 1.4</b> Analysis of filmed interviews and self-captured footage, and one Community Voice Method documentary film created and screened across four inhabited islands involving with at least 100 mixed-gender, age and background participants by Yr2 Q3	Completed (Annexe 6)	
<b>Output indicator 1.5</b> Creation of digital story maps detailing ecosystem services and heritage values of East Caicos by the end of March 2025 to be co-created then shared with communities and stakeholder groups.	In progress	Complete this story map and embed within the East Caicos website

<b>Output indicator 1.6,</b> Community Voice Method and mapping outputs inform, via face-to-face consultation with at least 30 selected stakeholders across 4 inhabited islands, a final draft community-led and designed management plan for East Caicos by end of project.	Completed. (Annexe 6)	
<b>Output indicator 1.7</b> Sustainable, long-term, locally owned and designed small business and nature-based tourism plans developed for East Caicos.	In progress	Continue to engage with local business owners
<b>Output 2. Sustainable, long-term, locally owned and designed small business and nature-based tourism plans developed for East Caicos.</b>		
<b>Output indicator 2.1.</b> By the end of April 2025 at least 5 businesses publicly commit to supporting a nature-based future for East Caicos and the business opportunities that this project supports	To date two hotels and one local fishing tour operator have been engaged and are supportive	Continue to work with local business and tourism officials to develop this component of the project
<b>Output indicator 2.2.</b> By end of March 2025, 24 citizens including at least 3 on South Caicos trained as East Caicos heritage focussed guides from baseline of 0	Completed. Training provided by BirdsCaribbean in 2024	
<b>Output indicator 2.3.</b> By the end of May 2025 10 hotels and small accommodation providers (eg Air BnB) are provided with materials with which to promote links and activities on East Caicos.	To date two hotels and one local fishing tour operator have been engaged and are supportive	Continue to work with local business and tourism officials to develop this component of the project
<b>Output indicator 2.4.</b> By end of May 2025 the benefits of a nature-based future for East Caicos appears in at least one output of the new Destination Marketing Management Organization (DMMO) 50 young people (aged 11- 18) attend at least 3 excursions and educational opportunities (inter-generational learning exchanges, nature-based activities, and interactions with scientists) with 50% able to express what they most appreciate about East Caicos before end of project	In progress, We have facilitated more than 3 excursions to East Caicos and still have 8 more excursion planned. We are planning film showing of the locally-made East Caicos documentary.	Conduct 8 more field excursions of East Caicos with various stakeholder groups  Hold film showing of the locally-made East Caicos documentary
<b>Output indicator 3.</b> Ecological, cultural and historic baseline established, and presence of non-native species determined and used to inform conservation management and community empowerment.		
<b>Output indicator 3.1.</b> Desk-based gap analysis of available peer-reviewed research, studies and other research (including grey literature) done on East Caicos completed by Q4 Yr1, informing field study plans	Completed	



<b>Output indicator 3.2.</b> Targeted population level assessments of IBA bird trigger species and other priority (globally threatened and endemic) species completed using robust, repeatable sampling methods completed by Q3Yr3.	Completed and data being used in IBA/KBA reassessment	
<b>Output indicator 3.3.</b> TCNT conservation staff to participate in bird monitoring to build monitoring and data management capacity.	Completed and ongoing	
<b>Output indicator 3.4.</b> Quantification and monitoring of nesting sea turtle populations at 5 index sites around East Caicos, completed by end of Yr1, repeated in Yrs 2 and 3	Completed (Annexe 4)	
<b>Output indicator 3.5.</b> Extent of Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD) mapped and quantified once during Yr2 and once in Yr3 at 8 target sites	Completed in previous years	
<b>Output indicator 3.6.</b> Completed updated assessment of East Caicos against KBA criteria, informed by project field survey results, submitted to KBA Secretariat by end of Yr3	Completed	
<b>Output indicator 3.7.</b> Presence and potential impacts of non-native species assessed by end of Yr2	Completed (Annexe 3)	
<b>Output 4: Awareness and appreciation of the cultural, historic and ecological value of East Caicos is increased amongst communities, TCI citizens, the private sector and government stakeholders leading to strengthened support for protected status for E Caicos</b>		
<b>Output indicator 4.1.</b> Heritage Values film reaches 100% of TCI voters registering for a local film screening by end of March 2025	Three-part docu-series has been produced and we are now working on a dissemination plan	Disseminate videos to reach a wide audience including target screenings, featuring at TCI Film Festival and your and school outreach events
<b>Output indicator 4.2.</b> At least two media press releases shared by the end of the project and at least 12 social media posts per annum, detailing progress of project and community-led efforts to embed protection for East Caicos and create Community Conservation Area	We have implemented a targeted social media campaign (Annexes 8-11)	Continue to promote the project and East Caicos on Social media



<b>Output indicator 4.3.</b> East Caicos Wilderness website created, launched and maintained by end of March 2025	Created and launched	Embed link into other more visited websites to increase traffic
<b>Output indicator 4.4.</b> Annual briefing for Senior TCI Government Ministers, Government Officials and Governor on project progress by the end of the project	In progress, for example recent meetings with Government Minister in March 2025 (Annexe 11)	Continue to meet and brief Government officials and organise field excursions for key Government representatives.
<b>Output 5: Strengthened capacity of national project partners, TCI citizens and local communities to effectively manage and protect East Caicos wilderness area</b>		
<b>Output indicator 5.1.</b> Partner capacity increased by end of Yr1 through recruitment of a South Caicos-based Community Engagement and Outreach Officer and Heritage Support Officer to TCNT.	Three experienced Consultants have now been hired to fill the gaps left by staff shortages within TCNT	
<b>Output indicator 5.2.</b> Technical assistance from project team to on-island partners and 4 self-appointed leads from within South and Middle Caicos communities enables E Caicos Management plan to meet the IUCN-recognised Community Conservation Area (CCA) Traditional Management Plan standard, by end of project	Project partners have engaged with UNEP-WCMC on ICCA designation, and we are producing some guidance for the CCA Council so that they can make as informed decisions	Share ideas and discuss with newly formed CCA Council
<b>Output indicator 5.3.</b> Community-based East Caicos conservation area governance system in place with equal gender representation, supported by technical assistance from the project team By end of May 2025	Then Community Conservation Area Council is currently being formed. We have planned for a first meeting of the Council at the end of April	Governance and vision planning training will be provided to the council at a workshop at the end of April 2025
<b>Output indicator 5.4.</b> Funding bid prepared by end of project for submission to embed local capacity post-project	In progress, RSPB is exploring the Disney fund and we are considering TCNT applying for a Darwin Local when the next call is announced	Apply for any relevant funds to support the development fo the Community Conservation Council

## 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:</b> East Caicos, the last remaining wilderness area of the British West Indies is protected and managed for generations by Turks and Caicos Islanders as a treasured, irreplaceable ridge-to-reef complex.			

<p><b>Outcome:</b> Participatory natural resource management, sustainable livelihoods, awareness and local capacity helps establish the future protection of the unique cultural, historic and natural heritage values of East Caicos.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. East Caicos community conservation group comprised of at least 10 people from representative communities established by end of April 2025</li> <li>2. Future vision and management plan for the conservation of East Caicos underpinned and agreed by the East Caicos community conservation group, by end of project</li> <li>3. The criteria for ICCA accessed by end of March 2025 and East Caicos registered as a community conservation area by the end of the project</li> <li>4. East Caicos heritage values receive elevated support amongst at least 5 local businesses as evidenced by letters of support and commitment from at least 2 businesses by end of March 2025 and at least 3 by the end of the project.</li> <li>5. By the end of April 2025 project at least 50% of Turks and Caicos citizens interviewed are supportive of maintaining East Caicos as a wilderness area, supporting local livelihoods development</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Meeting minutes, meeting attendance sheets</li> <li>2. Management plan with vision, baseline informed by local knowledge and field survey results, and objectives for management:</li> <li>3. Community Conservation Area IUCN registration document</li> <li>4. Letters of support for East Caicos heritage values and a nature-based future from at least 5 businesses</li> <li>5. Results from CVM video screenings and associated community workshops, record of interactions with the East Caicos Heritage values film, questionnaire (online and/or in person) completed by at least 20 TCI who have visited/engaged in activities related to East Caicos' as part of this project</li> <li>6. Community workshop cultural and heritage mapping exercise outputs, report on ecological values, ArcGis story board shared on project website, maps printed as posters/poster boards;</li> </ol>	<p><i>Covid19 does not prevent face to face workshops in Middle and South Caicos.</i> This holds true because TCI Government is now at over 50% vaccination and meeting numbers will not exceed 30, within TCI guidelines for meetings.</p> <p><i>Fisherfolk interested in and keen to diversify livelihoods, participate in training.</i> This assumption holds true as partnership (involving MCS, Amanyara Resort, TCI Government) and two South Caicos fishers involved successfully taking Resort guests out on responsible turtle-tagging tourism trips for 5 years in Ramsar site through this tourism model (activity curtailed by Covid19).</p> <p><i>Sufficient investment or loans are available to initiate start-up businesses.</i> This holds true because TCNT will be engaging TCI Invest to invite them to make their small business grants available to support an initial number of small businesses get off the ground.</p>
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	<p>6. By the end of Yr3 Q3 existing data and data collected during this project are compiled to outline areas of critical importance for the (1) historic, (2) cultural and (3) environmental values of East Caicos and by the end of year 3 of the project these compiled outputs are made easily accessible to the CCA and other governing bodies.</p>		
<p><b>Outputs:</b></p> <p><b>Output 1:</b> Participatory resource management plan for East Caicos produced via facilitation incorporating local knowledge of priority cultural, historic and ecological heritage values</p>	<p>1. Three excursions/ workshops with relevant local communities and stakeholder groups to carry out participatory GIS mapping, visioning exercises and focus group discussions, capturing the ecosystem services, heritage values and future aspirations for the management of East Caicos by end Y2</p> <p>2. At least 30 filmed Community Voice Method (CVM) stakeholder interviews across four inhabited islands – Providenciales, North, Middle and South Caicos – analysed, with representative gender sampling in Yr2Q1; CVM.</p> <p>3. At least 10 young people equipped with cameras and self-capture views/aspirations towards TCI nature in Yr2 Q1</p>	<p>1. Workshop sign-in forms, completed qualitative database, completed audio, photographic and written recordings of each workshop</p> <p>2. Digital footage of all interviews, consent forms</p> <p>3. Self-captured camera footage, consent forms</p> <p>4. Interview transcriptions, qualitative database, completed CVM documentary film, audio, photographic and written recordings of each workshop, participant registration sheet, Audio record of consultation interviews, completed consultation questionnaire forms.</p> <p>5. GIS map outputs and Web-based story maps produced by RSPB Data Management Unit, Database/report of no. of communities and stakeholder groups engaged and sharing feedback on visuals.</p> <p>6. Project report, with appendix detailing recommendations for the East Caicos management plan</p>	<p>Stakeholders agree to participate in CVM process including filmed interviews, self-capture camera exercise, participatory workshops and face-to-face consultations. This is likely to hold true as MCS have successfully implemented a previous CVM project in TCI leading to policy change. Through local partnerships, MCS maintain existing and strong links with communities through existing TCI based work.</p> <p>Stakeholder engagement activities (CVM, GIS Mapping) adheres to TCI Covid measures (e.g. social gathering numbers, social distancing etc) to promote safe participation and minimise any disruption caused by ongoing pandemic. Project partners have long-term and successful experience of developing / implementing environmental management plans in TCI and the region, providing high-level confidence</p>

	<p>4. Analysis of filmed interviews and self-captured footage, and one Community Voice Method documentary film created and screened across four inhabited islands involving with at least 100 mixed-gender, age and background participants by Yr2 Q3</p> <p>5. Creation of digital story maps detailing ecosystem services and heritage values of East Caicos by the end of March 2025 to be co-created then shared with communities and stakeholder groups.</p> <p>6. Community Voice Method and mapping outputs inform, via face-to-face consultation with at least 30 selected stakeholders across 4 inhabited islands, a final draft community-led and designed management plan for East Caicos by end of project.</p>		in production of draft East Caicos Management Plan.
<p><b>Output 2:</b> Sustainable, long-term, locally owned and designed small business and nature-based tourism plans developed for East Caicos.</p>	<p>1. By the end of April 2025 at least 5 businesses publicly commit to supporting a nature-based future for East Caicos and the business opportunities that this project supports</p> <p>2. By end of March 2025, 24 citizens including at least 3 on South Caicos trained as East</p>	<p>1. Letters of support from businesses or evidence from their websites of their support for the project or a nature-based future for East Caicos</p> <p>2. Professional guide training certificates issued by trainer, BirdsCaribbean training workshop record of attendance</p> <p>3. Screenshots of and links to marketing materials, screenshots</p>	<p>International tourism picks up to pre Covid19 levels. This holds true because TCI Government has been able to benefit from the UK's development of and access to the Covid19 vaccine, whilst measures are in place for testing and quarantine on arrival (see <a href="https://www.visittci.com/travel-info/tci-assured">https://www.visittci.com/travel-info/tci-assured</a>) . New opportunities will also arise through national tourism. TCNT will undertake promotion and outreach to TCI citizens around the heritage</p>

	<p>Caicos heritage focussed guides from baseline of 0</p> <p>3. By the end of May 2025 10 hotels and small accommodation providers (eg Air BnB) are provided with materials with which to promote links and activities on East Caicos.</p> <p>4. By end of May 2025 the benefits of a nature-based future for East Caicos appears in at least one output of the new Destination Marketing Management Organization (DMMO) 50 young people (aged 11- 18) attend at least 3 excursions and educational opportunities (inter-generational learning exchanges, nature-based activities, and interactions with scientists) with 50% able to express what they most appreciate about East Caicos before end of project</p>	<p>4. Strategy paper or marketing document or screenshots</p> <p>5. Feedback sheets from students, photos of event, signed registration/attendance sheets,</p>	<p>values, benefits and attractions available at East Caicos.</p> <p>Participants able to agree on small business development opportunity priorities. This holds true because small business options have already been identified through a TCRF-SWA small project and business development workshop held in a previous project</p> <p>Fisherfolk interested in and keen to diversify livelihoods, participate in training. This assumption holds true as partnership (involving MCS, Amanyara Resort, TCI Government) and two South Caicos fishers involved successfully taking Resort guests out on responsible turtle tagging tourism trips for 5 years in Ramsar site through this tourism model (activity curtailed by Covid19).</p> <p>Tour operators willing to accommodate and optimise East Caicos as part of their offering. This holds true because Turks and Caicos Tourism already advertises Snorkelling and Sport fishing tours on its website. The expectation is that diversifying the offering will prove attractive to TCI Government.</p> <p>Young people willing and able to event excursions. We believe this holds true as feedback from our on-island appetite for such excursions and a lack of opportunities</p>
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			at present. Feedback also suggests there is a good deal of respect for elders by the younger generation.
<b>Output 3:</b> Ecological, cultural and historic baseline established, and presence of non-native species determined and used to inform conservation management and community empowerment.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Desk-based gap analysis of available peer-reviewed research, studies and other research (including grey literature) done on East Caicos completed by Q4 Yr1, informing field study plans</li> <li>2. Targeted population level assessments of IBA bird trigger species and other priority (globally threatened and endemic) species completed using robust, repeatable sampling methods completed by Q3Yr3.</li> <li>3. TCNT conservation staff to participate in bird monitoring to build monitoring and data management capacity.</li> <li>4. Quantification and monitoring of nesting sea turtle populations at 5 index sites around East Caicos, completed by end of Yr1, repeated in Yrs 2 and 3</li> <li>5. Extent of Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD) mapped and quantified once during Yr2 and once in Yr3 at 8 target sites</li> <li>6. Completed updated assessment of East Caicos</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Desk-top assessment and gap analysis report with recommendations informing field assessments</li> <li>2. Annual reports; technical report with quantitative data on IBA trigger species; plant diversity index maps; fieldwork reports and photographs of field activities, photographs of TCI citizen participation; TCNT staff feedback sheets</li> <li>3. Analytical report of turtle nesting distribution and density across index sites</li> <li>4. SCTLD maps; technical report</li> <li>5. KBA assessment produced; copy of submitted assessment to KBA secretariat</li> </ol>	<p>Field survey timings optimised to determine quantitative assessment of priority globally threatened and IBA trigger species.</p> <p>Fieldwork will be led and managed by experienced expertise from within the project partnership and so timings will be carefully chosen to account for seasonality with careful consideration given to potential disruption and associated risks arising from adverse conditions.</p> <p>Conditions allow sea turtle nesting monitoring; pandemic does not inhibit travel to East Caicos.</p> <p>This assumption holds true as project partner MCS has been part of local partnerships monitoring sea turtle nesting throughout pandemic.</p> <p>Sufficient data generated to enable KBA criteria assessment Communities willing to share local knowledge around plants and wildlife and heritage sites within East Caicos Surveys able to detect presence of non-native species.</p> <p>Some of the reported non-native species being ungulates (donkeys, goats, cattle), should be relatively easy to detect during field surveys. Detection of these and other species (e.g. feral cats) should be possible with camera traps. Extreme weather has potential to disrupt field surveys. However, field surveys can be</p>

	<p>against KBA criteria, informed by project field survey results, submitted to KBA Secretariat by end of Yr3</p> <p>7. Presence and potential impacts of non-native species assessed by end of Yr2</p>	<p>6. list of presence / absence of invasive species, report on possible impacts of non-natives with input and feedback from DoA and communities;</p>	<p>rescheduled if extreme weather (e.g. hurricanes) affect TCI during the project period.</p>
<p><b>Output 4:</b> Awareness and appreciation of the cultural, historic and ecological value of East Caicos is increased amongst communities, TCI citizens, the private sector and government stakeholders leading to strengthened support for protected status for E Caicos.</p>	<p>7. Heritage Values film reaches 100% of TCI voters registering for a local film screening by end of March 2025</p> <p>8. At least two media press releases shared by the end of the project and at least 12 social media posts per annum, detailing progress of project and community-led efforts to embed protection for East Caicos and create Community Conservation Area</p> <p>9. East Caicos Wilderness website created, launched and maintained by end of March 2025</p> <p>10. Annual briefing for Senior TCI Government Ministers, Government Officials and Governor on project progress by the end of the project</p>	<p>1. Newly produced video of E Caicos; screenshot of online view count of video shorts, evidence of screenings</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3. Copies of news articles in TCI news outlets, Screenshots of social media posts</p> <p>4. Website links, figures on views</p> <p>5. Project annual briefing document for officials</p>	<p>People tune in in sufficient numbers to listen to podcasts and interviews. We understand that prior TCNT led podcasts, Facebook Live events and radio interviews were very well received and serve as a solid basis for follow-up outreach work through this project.</p> <p>WHSRN approve East Caicos nomination. This holds true as there is an existing dialogue with WHSRN around nominating East Caicos as a WHSRN site.</p> <p>Project runs smoothly and to plan to enable Green List criteria to be met (Good Governance, Effective Management, Sound Design and Planning, successful conservation outcomes). We are confident this holds true as significant new on island capacity will be recruited and trained on island, with dedicated remote and in-territory support provided by project partners.</p> <p>Press releases appeal to media outlets. TC weekly news regularly highlights issues of environmental interest and</p>



			Times of the Islands have previously published articles by specialists from DECR and elsewhere on a range of environmental issues.
<b>Output 5:</b> Strengthened capacity of national project partners, TCI citizens and local communities to effectively manage and protect East Caicos wilderness area	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Partner capacity increased by end of Yr1 through recruitment of a South Caicos-based Community Engagement and Outreach Officer and Heritage Support Officer to TCNT.</li> <li>2. Technical assistance from project team to on-island partners and 4 self-appointed leads from within South and Middle Caicos communities enables E Caicos Management plan to meet the IUCN-recognised Community Conservation Area (CCA) Traditional Management Plan standard, by end of project</li> <li>3. Community-based East Caicos conservation area governance system in place with equal gender representation, supported by technical assistance from the project team By end of May 2025</li> <li>4. Funding bid prepared by end of project for submission to embed local capacity post-project</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Job advertisement; terms of reference; work plan; signed recruitment paperwork for both roles</li> <li>2. workshop report detailing priority areas for conservation; CCA signed agreement document; East Caicos management plan; draft submission to IUCN CCA.</li> <li>3. Signed governance document by relevant parties, images of signing, community forum established members list</li> <li>4. Copy of funding bid submitted, copy of acknowledgement of receipt from funder</li> </ol>	<p>Recruitment able to attract sufficient quality candidates from within TCI or wider region.</p> <p>The project team is already aware of a pool of promising young talent from within TCI and the wider region, indicating this assumption holds.</p> <p>Community interested and willing to establish a Community Conservation Area for East Caicos.</p> <p>We believe this holds true due to interest in prior initiatives, though these lacked the resources needed to take East Caicos to required level in terms of community driven management and ownership.</p> <p>Sufficient community participation, input and ownership of East Caicos management plan.</p> <p>We believe this holds true because the workshops held through Output 1, coupled with the CVM work in Output 3, will enable the community to define what is important and take ownership of East Caicos future.</p> <p>An adequately gender- and age balanced governance system can be established.</p> <p>We believe this holds true because of the applied experience held in RSPB's inhouse conservation science team</p>

			<p>that will be brought to bear through this project.</p> <p>EFN funding mechanism for core capacity remains available in 2024-5. We believe this holds true because we understand significant work has been ongoing to establish and launch the fund in late 2021 and early uptake and interest suggest the fund will be a success.</p>
<p><b>Activities</b></p> <p><b>Output 1</b></p> <p>1.1 RSPB conduct desktop research to compile available information</p> <p>1.2 RSPB, supported by TCNT provide equipment and IT to support daily operations between Middle Caicos and South Caicos. (Vehicle, boat, tablet, external hard drive, tablet, stationary, etc.)</p> <p>1.3 RSPB conduct in-house training with current conservation staff in Middle Caicos and new conservation staff in South Caicos that will be recruited on island</p> <p>1.4 MCS, with support of RSPB and TCNT develop interviewee list of stakeholders for CVM filmed interviews and workshops</p> <p>1.5 MCS and RSPB develop interview questionnaire, workshop protocols, and consent form</p> <p>1.6 TCNT Community engagement officer, supported by RSPB/MCS pilots interview questionnaire with community members in South and Middle Caicos, including women and girls, to ensure gender appropriate.</p> <p>1.7 MCS finalise list of participants for filming and workshop across 4 inhabited islands and arrange filmed interviews and workshops</p> <p>1.8 MCS, with support of RSPB and TCNT, carry out filmed interviews and workshops across Providenciales North, Middle and South Caicos ensuring gender balance</p> <p>1.9 RSPB, supported by TCNT organise 3 excursions to East Caicos to conduct field walks and oral history interviews with selected knowledgeable elders and youth from the 4 inhabited islands. Field walks to visit and fix the location of as many of the mapped sites as possible using hand-held GPS units. Oral history interviews will document key traditional cultural knowledge about the different biologically and culturally significant sites, including the ethnohistory, traditional stories and songs, placenames, and the resource-use and management strategies associated with each area and its resources</p> <p>1.10 RSPB carries out digitisation of ecosystem services and habitats offering nature-based solutions to climate change into GIS maps, analysis of ecosystem service hotspots, and qualitative transcripts from workshops, interviews and field excursions</p> <p>1.11 RSPB Data Management Unit collates mapping outputs into a story map about East Caicos</p> <p>1.12 MCS transcribes and analyses filmed interview data (in collaboration with RSPB) and produce analysis summary report</p> <p>1.13 MCS produce CVM film output</p> <p>1.14 MCS arrange and promote CVM film screening across four inhabited islands</p> <p>1.15 MCS Hold 4 CVM screenings (including discussion and feedback) targeting communities across the 4 inhabited islands by the end of Year 2, Q1.</p> <p>1.16 MCS input and analyse CVM screenings and feedback proceedings to produce report and recommended draft management plan (see 5.3)</p> <p>1.17 RSPB/MCS with support of TCNT carry out consultations with selected stakeholders to gain feedback on recommended draft management plan (see 5.3)</p> <p>1.18 TCNT facilitated community-led production of East Caicos management plan</p>			

## **Output 2**

**2.1** TCNT ensure promotion of local products/services on social media/websites.

**2.2** TCNT together with MCS engage Fishing Co-op (Mr. Talbot), and DECR to identify fisherman that have set skills and knowledge of historical trails, dive site, turtle watching, etc.

**2.3** Birds Caribbean-led 5-day Caribbean Birding Trail (CBT) Interpretive Bird Guide Training Workshop for current and prospective guides from Providenciales, Grand Turk, Salt Cay and North, Middle and South Caicos. The Workshop will be carried out with support from local partners including the Turks and Caicos National Trust and SWA Environmental Consulting who will carry out activity 3.2 (see below).

**2.4** Birds Caribbean hold a half-day workshop for hoteliers to inform them about how they can benefit from and cater to avi-tourists, including understanding the birding market, what birders need, how to get general adventure/ nature tourists into birding, and how to create bird-friendly gardens and hotel grounds through landscaping with native plants.

**2.5** TCNT to develop a free, easy-to-use and accessible East Caicos information package for tour guides to be able to use when guiding to East Caicos

**2.6** TCNT (Executive Director) to represent project's vision for East Caicos in fortnightly strategy development meetings of new DMMO **Experience TCI**

**2.7** TCNT to work to work with 5 relevant local businesses to develop strong support for the East Caicos project vision and improve their promotion)

**2.8** TCNT utilize Heritage & Discovery Clubs in the secondary schools (private & public) for students to be engaged and join educational activities

**2.9** TCNT encourages youth/students to join quarterly expeditions to East Caicos and report on findings through the Youth Reports of the Environment initiative.

## **Output 3**

**3.1** RSPB carries out desk-based research and review of existing studies and grey literature

**3.2** SWA delivers 1-day training of TCNT staff and North, South and Middle Caicos community members to identify bird and floral species of interest

**3.3** SWA, supported by TCNT, updates field studies with updated estimates of IBA trigger species (covering summer and winter migration) and maps key areas for plants (Nov-January after rainy season to ensure priority species are visible) and identifies potential invasive non-native species

**3.4** MCS identify index nesting sites using existing TCI Turtle Project (TCITP) nesting data and published literature

**3.5** MCS develop standardised Sea turtle nesting protocol using existing TCITP sampling protocols

**3.6** MCS deliver capacity-building workshop for partners and key stakeholders such as DECR on sea turtle nesting monitoring

**3.7** MCS implement sea turtle nesting surveys in Yr1 nesting season, repeated in Yr2 and Yr3.

**3.8** MCS Analyse and produce report of nesting data

**3.9** TCRF lead dive expeditions to assess extent of Stony Coral Loss Disease

**3.10** RSPB-led analysis of field survey results and traditional knowledge to inform KBA assessment of East Caicos

## **Output 4**

**4.1** TCNT engage hosts from Uncut, Our TCI, TB Radio Show, Heritage Matters, and other local podcast/radio to promote cultural, historic and ecological value of East Caicos

**4.2** Develop a website to provide information about the East Caicos Project to attract the target audience, engage stakeholders, and provide content that is informative and relevant to the project

**4.3** Updates provided through Head of Department meetings (monthly) and progress reports to Cabinet (Governor/Ministers) quarterly.

**4.4** RSPB produces East Caicos heritage values film with local film producer

## **Output 5**

**5.1** TCNT, supported by RSPB, advertises and recruits for qualified individuals, (Heritage Sites Support Manager and Community Engagement Officer) building the technical skill capacity. TCNT to source employee internally at TCI level to interview for proposed positions.

**5.2** RSPB establishes an internal management and stewardship structure so project staff understand their roles in relation to decision processes and the strategic plan, creating a workplan to link operational activities over the course of the project to meet strategic objectives for the establishment of the CCA.

**5.3** TCNT based Community Engagement Officer will lead on the preparation and facilitation of a governance framework detailing how decisions will be made, existing community governance bodies and processes to support the CCA, identify and document traditional and natural resource management laws to support the CCA.

**5.4** TCNT, supported by the RSPB and technical expertise from the region, supports community to develop a management plan based on grassroots knowledge elicited in Yr2 workshops, and informed by science to guide resource use decisions.

**5.5** RSPB prepares and submits funding bid for continuity

**Table 1 Project Standard Indicators**

Please see the Standard Indicator guidance for more information on how to report in this section, including appropriate disaggregation.

DPLUS Indicator number	Name of indicator	If this links directly to a project indicator(s), please note the indicator number here	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DPLUS-A01	Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	2.2	People	Men	0	14	0	14	12
DPLUS-A01	Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	2.2	People	Women	0	10	0	10	12
DPLUS-C04	New assessments of community use of biodiversity resources published.	1.1	Number	New	0	0	1	1	1
DPLUS-C06	Analytics for funded project-specific social media posts.	4.1	Number	New	0	0	175 posts	175	12

**Table 2 Publications**

Title	Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (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, scheme, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and <b>deleted the blue guidance text</b> before submission?	X
<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.	X
<b>Is your report more than 10MB?</b> If so, please consider the best way to submit. One zipped file, or a download option, is recommended. We can work with most online options and will be in touch if we have a problem accessing material. If unsure, 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.	X
<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.	X
<b>Have you provided an updated risk register?</b> If you have an existing risk register you should provide an updated version alongside your report. If your project was funded prior to this being a requirement, you are encourage to develop a risk register.	X
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 15)?	X
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	X
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	X
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	