



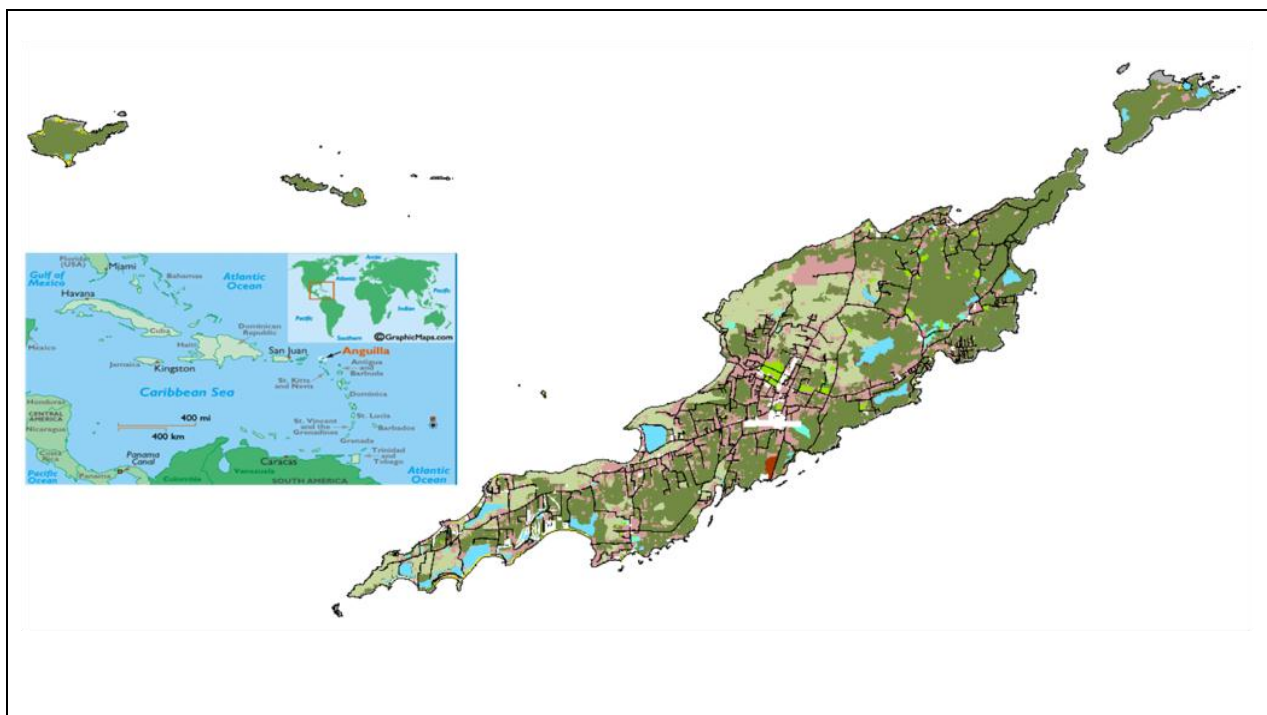
Darwin Initiative Overseas Territories Challenge Fund Final Report

This report should be completed and submitted within a month of agreed end date of project

Darwin Ref Number	EIDCF016
Darwin Project Title	Anguilla National Ecosystem Assessment-A Foundation for a Green Economy
Country (ies)	Anguilla
Award holding Organisation	Department of Environment, Government of Anguilla
Partner Organisations	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Grant Value	£XXX
Start/end date	June 2012 to April 2013
Author(s), date	Sharmer Fleming, Calvin Samuel and Karim Hodge

1. Challenge Fund Background

Anguilla is the most northerly island of the Eastern Caribbean (18° 50' N and 63° 50' W).



The island's ecosystems have traditionally provided an important source of income through the export of products, and exploitation of the island's unique biodiversity, to promote tourism. At

the same time, these ecosystems support the livelihoods of the population of Anguilla through the provision of multiple ecosystem services, including provision of fresh water, maintenance of soil fertility and a variety of food resources. Our marine parks - although not fully efficient- are proof that if managed effectively, ecosystems can provide significant support to the island's economy. However, research conducted through the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and by other agencies has confirmed that there is a need to increase the level of awareness on the importance and economic value of Anguilla's various ecosystems. These range from dry xeric land, forest and wetlands, to marine and coastal ecosystems.

As it stands, there has been no previous holistic ecological assessment of the economic benefits that can be derived from Anguilla's ecosystems. Instead, several articles of policy and legislation for the implementation of an Environmentally Sustainable Development Strategy have been established. These legislative documents outline and form the basis on which Anguilla's Sustainable Environmental Management and Development are guided, but are not as effective as they should be, owing to the incompleteness of some key elements. Such key elements include the production of an ecological assessment report on the economic benefits that Anguilla's ecosystems might potentially provide, and how these could be exploited on a sustainable basis.

The project aimed 'to examine the potential benefits for undertaking a national ecosystem assessment on Anguilla. In order to achieve the aim the following key questions were to be answered

1. What is the current state of knowledge of Anguilla's ecosystems?
2. What are the potential economic benefits from conducting a national ecosystem assessment on Anguilla?
3. How does the current administrative, policy and legislative context encompass Anguilla's ecosystems and does it allow for the development of a green economic strategy?

The resources sought by this Challenge Fund were pivotal for this project because it would initiate the development of a framework for an ecosystem assessment for Anguilla, thus enabling the development of a green economic strategy that will be built on the sustainable use of the island's ecosystem services. The assessment will permit Anguilla to utilise its ecosystem services in a sustainable manner, which in turn will enhance economic development and poverty alleviation. Likewise, this exercise will inform the country's biodiversity conservation policy and build the foundation for conducting a National Ecosystem Assessment (NEA).

2. Challenge Fund Activities

The key activities undertaken are presented in table 1.

Activities	Coordinator(s)
To examine the administrative, policy and legislative context in which an ecosystem assessment for Anguilla would be set.	Dr. Floyd Homer (Regional Consultant)
To evaluate the ways in which the Department of Environment's leadership of an ecosystem assessment would assist Anguilla in meeting its wider international policy commitments and the goals set by national policy	Dr. Floyd Homer (Regional Consultant)
To review the extent to which the current and planned research portfolio of the DOE and its partners has already, or it is likely to, put in place all the elements of an ecosystem assessment.	Dr. Floyd Homer (Regional Consultant)
To identify potential information sources both nationally and internationally as well as potential partners, both within Anguilla itself and internationally	Dr. Floyd Homer (Regional Consultant) Rhon Connor Karim Hodge
To research and provide clear guidance of options for conducting a national ecosystem assessment, including benefits and costs.	Dr. Floyd Homer
Department of Environment will liaise with the UK's Joint Nature Conservation Committee to secure access to UK advice on implementing a national NEA including advice from senior UK Government scientists involved in the UK NEA and advice from the WCMC who coordinated this project.	Three individuals from the Department of Environment travelled to the UK to meet with various experts who worked on the UK NEA. Mr. Clint Lake Mr. Calvin Samuel Ms. Sharmer Fleming
Community Meetings were held in three key villages to allow persons in all spheres of the island to attend and be informed on the National Ecosystem Assessment.	Ms. Sharmer Fleming Mr. Karim Hodge Mr. Calvin Samuel
Focus Group Meetings (Ongoing)	Ms. Sharmer Fleming Mr. Karim Hodge Mr. Calvin Samuel
Press Release for Community Meetings	Ms. Sharmer Fleming
Press Release on Project	Ms. Sharmer Fleming Mr. Calvin Samuel Mr. Karim Hodge
Community Flyers	Ms. Sharmer Fleming Clint Lake
NEA Brochures	Ms. Sharmer Fleming Mr. Clint Lake

Works undertaken but were not originally planned are;

1. Medium Term Economy Strategy Review

This is a yearly activity coordinated by the Ministry of Finance. It is done to evaluate whether or not Anguilla is achieving the overarching objectives set in the Medium Term Economy Strategy. Following this evaluation, focus was placed on how Anguilla can improve and diversify its economy. An important aspect of this discussion was the use of wise environmental practices in the aim developing a 'Green Economy. This discussion formed a significant role in the project for it allowed options towards developing a green economy to be explored and considered on a national basis. In addition, it allowed the DOE within their presentation to provide a synopsis on how the sustainable use of our ecosystem services as well as better environmental practices can sustain our economy while meeting the needs of all in our society.

2. Framework for Fiscal Responsibility

Facilitated by the Ministry of Finance, the Department of Environment (DOE) used this opportunity to present to the stakeholders how Anguilla can pursue greening the economy with a Framework for Fiscal Responsibility in place. Given the realities on ground, it is pivotal to determine the impacts the Framework for Fiscal Responsibility will have on the development of a Green Economy as well. This workshop allowed discussions to evolve in regards to the benefits of doing the National Ecosystem Assessment project for Anguilla.

3. Greening the Economy Conference

Coordinated by JNCC, the Greening the Economy Workshop provided an opportunity for stakeholders to be made aware of the realities on ground and expose them to models which can be followed to develop a Green Economy.

4. Environmental Experts Meeting

As a component of the Greening the Economy Workshop, this meeting brought together the technical persons of the Government of Anguilla to discuss key factors, such as where the environment is placed in the decision making process. The steps Anguilla are to make to improve the decision making procedure which will contribute significantly to better environmental management and the ability to develop a green economy were also elicited.

5. Lionfish Workshop

This workshop exposed fishers, chefs, stakeholders as well as Government representatives on what practical steps can be undertaken to alleviate the impacts that the Lionfish proposes on the

Coral Reef ecosystems. This is pertinent to the NEA since the coral reef ecosystem is one of the key ecosystems which support the livelihoods of the Anguillian population and protects the island's coast.

6. FOR Anguilla Project

This is a current ongoing project which aims to identify the threats to biodiversity and policy responses to the need for biodiversity management plans in three UK overseas territories in the Caribbean. Social, governance and ecological components in this project will involve surveys of communities, key decision makers and coral reefs in Turks and Caicos Islands, Cayman Islands and Anguilla. Methodologies are similar to that were those employed in the FORCE project. This project allowed information in regards to the coral reef ecosystems to be collected, analysed and presented to the community. It added support to the need for us to manage our ecosystems. This feeds into the prospective NEA project.

7. Ministry of Social Development Retreat

A yearly activity coordinated by the Ministry of Social Development. A number of departments were invited to give a presentation on their recent works. The DOE was asked specifically to speak about the NEA project which was being advertised. This provided an opportunity for DOE to illustrate to the Ministry how it will fit into the scenario building and other pertinent areas of the NEA. Additionally, it informed the Ministry on the progress made on this project.

8. Habitat Mapping Project

This project aimed to consolidate and develop terrestrial biodiversity information in a format applicable to decision making, in order to ensure the sustainable management of the local terrestrial natural resources. Detailed maps of habitats, seasonal resources used, species populations, as well as threatened species distribution; for developed, developing and protected areas were produced. All descriptors were fed into the GIS database used by the Land Development Control Committee (LDCC) which is responsible for reviewing and approving development across the island. This project is has been extended to include the marine environment. It contributes significantly to the NEA project in mapping the location of key ecosystems.

9. Communication Skills Seminar

This capacity building exercise was done in-house by Dr. Floyd Homer. Other Government agencies were also invited to participate. This activity assisted the Department staff in

developing the fundamental skills for approaching the community and relating the information to all persons. Consequently, this building capacity seminar contributed to the delivery of the objectives of this project.

10. An Ecosystem Assessment of Anguilla's wetlands

This project was done in conjunction with the Habitat Mapping Project. It allowed an inventory of Anguilla's Wetlands to be established. Additionally, a map illustrating Anguilla's wetlands and their vegetation system was produced. Our wetlands are crucial ecosystems to the wellbeing of Anguilla and the people, hence, this information is vital to the overall NEA project.

Main Achievements of the Challenge Fund

The various meetings that DOE partook in, piqued key stakeholders and many others interest in 'Greening Anguilla's Economy'. Hence this project, in association with other activities which spoke to greening the economy, demonstrated the cornucopia of benefits Anguilla's ecosystems can provide if managed in a sustainable manner.

Documents

- Guidelines and Strategy for Conducting An Ecosystem Assessment of Anguilla (Appendix 1)
- Past and Current Research Relevant to An Ecosystem Assessment of Anguilla (Appendix 1)
- Lessons Learnt and Options for Conducting An Ecosystem Assessment (Appendix 1)
- Role of the Department of Environment in Meeting Policy Commitments (Appendix 1)

Presentations

- "Designing Anguilla's Green Economy" (Appendix 2)
- "The Road to Sustainability" (Appendix 2)
- "Our Ecosystems' Services" (Appendix 2)

3. Outcome & Impact of Challenge Fund

- (a) The OT Challenge Fund provided the foundation for the main project; National Ecosystem Assessment (NEA) for Anguilla through
- Generating local interest and gaining landowners and key stakeholders support
 - The development of potential options that DOE can use to conduct the NEA
 - Identifying additional key research areas and providing a comprehensible strategy for moving forward

- The collation of information pertaining to Anguilla's ecosystems giving a clear vision on what data Anguilla currently has stored which can be utilised in a National Ecosystem Assessment.
- Enlightening some policymakers in the economic sector as well as decision makers in the development section.

The Challenge Fund has provided the DOE with the capacity to undertake the relevant research and attempts to determine the practicality of conducting a National Ecosystem Assessment in Anguilla. The project also provided the opportunity to build regional and international collaborations with researchers who were part of the UKNEA and Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA) or disciplined in ecosystem assessments. These collaborations are important for the development of the proposed main round funded project 'National Ecosystem Assessment for Anguilla'.

The potential economic benefits of Anguilla's ecosystems has never been explored or valued. Due to the lack of information as it relates to this aspect, the Darwin Challenge Fund focused on developing a logistic and methodological framework that would be used as a guide to successfully implement the main round funded project commencing in 2013. This is through the provision of the most suitable options that can be used for conducting a NEA, a component of this scoping exercise project.

The DOE has produced its first draft of the full Darwin Initiative Fund Proposal which is currently under review. Contact has been made with potential consultants for the project and the practicalities of conducting this project in Anguilla has been in discussion with both regional and international experts who have been engaged in NEA and/or the MEA. DOE has already engaged in discussion with key stakeholders who will have a pivotal role in the project. Considering that a majority of Anguilla's land is privately owned, DOE is presently evaluating potential ecosystems which can be used as a demonstration site.

There was a delay in locating the arrival of the funds in the Government system which caused a setback in the project. This was the only impediment encountered during the course of this project. Nevertheless, the project carried out and finished on time.

4. Lessons

The scoping project identified that there is a general concern in regards to the degradation of Anguilla's ecosystems. Community members and stakeholders are keen on finding ways to

better manage the ecosystems to sustain the livelihoods of Anguilla as well as the economy. It was indicative that there are persons with business initiatives that utilises biodiversity in a conservative manner and not degrading. This scoping exercise project also allowed for the Department of Environment to get key stakeholders and community members on board with the project in the initial stage.

Methodological options were identified for the Department of Environment to determine the most feasible method to conduct the National Ecosystem Assessment. The communication skill sets acquired are transferrable to future projects and the overall development of the Department.

5. Project Expenditure

Item	Budget for whole project*	Actual Expenditure	Variance** as a %	Comments
Travel Costs	£XXX	£XXX	-25%	The most economical option for travel to the UK was used.
Subsistence costs	£XXX	£XXX	0	
Overhead costs	£Nil	£Nil	£Nil	
Operating Costs	£XXX	£XXX	-35%	Although the project is completed, conferences are on-going.
Capital Costs	£Nil	£Nil	£Nil	
Other Consultancy (review legal and policy framework, review current and planned research portfolio, identify information sources)	£XXX	£XXX	-25%	Negotiated with consultant to obtain the best value possible to deliver the outputs of this project.
Other (Public Awareness and Education)	£XXX	£XXX	0	
Salaries (specify by individual)				
TOTAL	XXX	XXX	-22.5%	An outcome of the discussions with community members and the consultant implied that a demonstration site is needed. Funds not utilised during the course of the project are used for the development of the site. Land acquired by DOE is used to fully establish a nature trail.

* please indicate which document you refer to if other than your project application or annual grant offer letter

** please explain any variance of +/- >10%

6. Other comments not covered elsewhere

- The Department of Environment has initiated the works for a demonstration site on land acquired through the Government of Anguilla for DOE. This demonstration site will be a Nature Trail. It will serve as an educational site as well as an example of what potential business opportunities can be derived from utilising our ecosystems and biodiversity in a conservative manner.

Darwin Challenge Fund Reporting Guidelines

All Darwin projects are required to report on the work they have undertaken with Darwin funds and this offers you the opportunity to report on your achievements and lessons learnt and on any other issues you would like to raise. Your report should show how you have progressed against the activities outlined in your application, or clearly explain any changes and the reasons why these changes were necessary.

You are expected to prepare the report in conjunction with your partners and you are expected to submit a Final Report within 1 month of completion of the agreed dates for the award (max 6 pages excluding annexes).

We will acknowledge and read all reports submitted, but will only contact you about your report if there are specific concerns.

If you have any additional queries about reporting, please feel free to email or call on 0131 440 5181.

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 5MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk putting the project reference number in the Subject line.	X
Is your report more than 5MB? If so, please advise Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk that the report will be sent by post on CD, putting the project reference number in the Subject line.	NA
Have you included means of verification? You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	X
Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number.	NA
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.	

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