

# Darwin Plus: Overseas Territories Environment and Climate Fund

## Annual Report

**Important note:** To be completed with reference to the Reporting Guidance Notes for Project Leaders:  
it is expected that this report will be about 10 pages in length, excluding annexes

**Submission Deadline: 30 April**

### Darwin Plus Project Information

Project Ref Number	DPLUS013
Project Title	Promoting the creation and appropriate management of protected areas in Anguilla and the Cayman Islands
Territory (ies)	Anguilla; Cayman Islands
Award holding Organisation	Anguilla National Trust
Partner Organisations	National Trust for the Cayman Islands; Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Grant Value	£193,568
Start/end date of project	1 October 2013 / 30 September 2015
Author(s), date	Farah Mukhida, 4 April 2014

**Note: Please remove the blue guidance notes from all sections before submission**

This report should be sent in MS Word only (if you have concerns about layout you may submit a pdf but this is in addition to a Word version). If you have already answered a question in one section, do not repeat the information in another section, but refer back to the section number.

Each section contains questions to guide the completion of the report. **Not all questions have to be answered** – Project Leaders should exercise judgement as to those most relevant to the project.

When making statements of progress or impact please ensure you refer as much as possible to sources of evidence to support what you say. For example, when reporting training events, you should be able to show how useful the event has been and how the training might be applied as well as the numbers participating and duration. In order to comment on the quality of the work it is useful if you could share appropriate project documentation such as training manuals, meeting reports, training feedback etc.

**Please note:** Significant changes to the project should be approved in advance of implementing them. You can do this through submitting a Change Request form which can be found here <http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/resources/>. Do not simply report that a significant change has happened. Changes requiring formal approval include; a delay in project implementation causing underspends and carry forwards; staff changes (relating to CVs provided at application stage); changes in project scope; project termination. If not clear whether a change requires formal approval please check with LTS.

### 1. Project Overview:

Caribbean small island states, including UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) are a global conservation “hotspot.” Pressures, including climate change, threaten the important biodiversity and ecosystem services that they provide.

Protected areas are important for maintaining critical species, habitats, and ecosystem services. On Anguilla and the Cayman Islands, most land is privately owned, creating unique

challenges for site designation and management. Despite formal designation of a limited set of protected areas in the two UKOTs, appropriate and effective management has been constrained by limited financial and human resources and legislative shortcomings. These protected area networks require expansion and improved management so that important features, processes, habitats, and species can be maintained, protected, and climate adapted while management capacity is built.

This project enhances institutional capacity of the two main protected area management organisations in Anguilla and the Cayman Islands, the Anguilla National Trust (ANT) and the National Trust for the Cayman Islands (NTCI), respectively. The project involves the assessment of existing and potential protected areas to quantify their economic and environmental value, identification of key areas that should be protected, land acquisition planning, sustainable protected areas planning and management (including sustainable financing), review of relevant legislation, development of public and political support for protected areas, and increasing capacity of the two UKOTs' protected areas management agencies (ANT and NTCI).

## **2. Project Progress**

### **2.1 Progress in carrying out project activities**

With the project commencing in October 2013, progress made thus far made covers six months of work.

Key activities conducted during the last six months primarily centred on Output 1 of the project (Existing and potential protected areas are identified and prioritised for their biological and ecosystem service values and acquisition plans are developed):

1. Ms Jodi Johnson was hired as the Anguilla National Trust Protected Areas Manager while Ms Cathy Childs was hired as the Environmental Programmes Assistant by the National Trust for the Cayman Islands. The ANT also hired Mr. Devon Carter as the Protected Areas Assistant (supported through funds provided by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds [RSPB]). Ms Johnson, Mr. Carter, and Ms Childs are leading project implementation on Anguilla and the Cayman Islands, respectively. They are supported by staff of the ANT, NTCI, and RSPB.
2. The completion of rapid desk-top ecological literature review on Anguilla and the Cayman Islands which involved reviewing readily-accessed published information about Anguilla's and the Cayman Islands' biodiversity and habitats. This information was used to inform the identification of key sites of interest (site priority lists, including information about site ownership, for Anguilla and the Cayman Islands). These lists informed (and will continue to inform) subsequent project activities. Results of the literature review were also included within priority site evaluation sheets for both UKOTs.
3. Rapid ecosystem services assessments were completed for 15 sites in the Cayman Islands and 13 sites in Anguilla. Stakeholder workshops were held in both UKOTs during which those assessments were conducted. Rapid Ecosystem Service Appraisal Forms were completed for each site. Maps outlining site boundaries as well as habitat types have been appended to each form.
4. Protected Area review committee was formed in Anguilla. The committee is chaired by the Deputy Governor and falls under the larger working group, the Inter-Ministerial Committee for the Environment.
5. The RSPB provided training in the implementation of the Toolkit for Ecosystem Services Site-based Assessments (TESSA) in both the Cayman Islands (two days) and Anguilla (two days) in January 2014.

While there have been no changes to the project plan, it should be noted that there was a slight discrepancy between what was listed in Section 25 of the project proposal (Expected Outputs) and the Implementation Schedule. Under Expected Outputs, detailed evaluations of ecosystem services of at least two sites were scheduled to be completed by Quarter 4, Year 1 while they

are scheduled for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of Year 2 under the Implementation Schedule. The Implementation Schedule provides the correct schedule as detailed evaluations cannot be conducted until the rapid ecosystem services assessments have been formally completed (Quarter 4, Year 1). Thus, detailed evaluations will be completed in the first half of Year 2, as suggested by the Implementation Schedule. The results of the assessments indicate that both detailed evaluations will be conducted on sites in the Cayman Islands.

## **2.2 Project support to environmental or climate outcomes in the OTs**

The focus of this project is on enhancing protected areas management in Anguilla and the Cayman Islands. The Caribbean region has been identified as a biodiversity hotspot. In addition, the UK Government has recognised that most of its biodiversity is actually found within its UKOTs. Safeguarding habitats and species, while balancing the need for economic and social development, can (and has been) challenging – but not impossible – on both Anguilla and the Cayman Islands. Indeed, both Territories have employed protected area networks as one way to help manage pressures on fragile ecosystems, including (but not limited to) land development, overfishing, climate change, and invasive species.

It has also been recognised that these areas, in addition to protecting habitats for their ecological value, also provide a host of services for humans, including food, water, and recreation. This project seeks to build on this understanding of ecosystem services, in an effort to support arguments for increased protection and sustainable use of natural resources. Maintaining ecosystem health and integrity to increase potential for ecosystem resiliency, especially in the face of climate change, is critical.

This project, as a first step in making the case for both enhanced management and protected area network expansion on both UKOTs, has involved assessments of the ecosystem services that these areas provide and has increased capacity amongst both organisations (ANT and NTCI) in ecosystem services valuation and comparison (see Section 2.1 for activities conducted and Section 2.3 for tangible outputs).

## **2.3 Progress towards project outputs**

Project Partners have met outlined project outputs for Year 1 of the project.

Following outputs have been completed/achieved:

- Rapid ecological assessments for Anguilla and the Cayman Islands completed (means of verification: Priority list of actual and potential protected areas; Site Evaluation Forms for actual and potential protected areas)
- Rapid desk-based assessment of ecosystem services for Anguilla and the Cayman Islands (means of verification: Site Evaluation Forms for actual and potential protected areas; one-day stakeholder workshops in Anguilla and the Cayman Islands to complete Rapid Ecosystem Service Appraisal Forms for key priority sites with 17 participants attending in Anguilla [5 March 2014] and 20 attending in the Cayman Islands [16 January 2014]; Rapid Service Appraisal Forms for 13 sites in Anguilla and 15 sites in the Cayman Islands [a final report will be produced for the end of Quarter 1 of Year 2])
- Protected areas review committee established in Anguilla (chaired by Deputy Governor)
- Four NTCI staff members and five ANT staff members trained in Toolkit for Ecosystem Services Site-based Assessments (2-day workshops on both the Cayman Islands and Anguilla in January 2014)

## **2.4 Progress towards the project outcome**

Although still early into the project, progress is being made towards the project outcome, especially with regards to enhancing institutional capacity to manage and develop protected areas. Both the NTCI and ANT have increased their staff complement with the employment of

an Environmental Programmes Assistant (NTCI) and a Protected Areas Manager and Assistant (ANT). The roles and responsibilities of these individuals are to support protected areas management and development on their respective Territory. Training of staff in both organisations, provided by the RSPB, in ecosystem services assessments and evaluation has also increased capacity to understand and advocate for national protected area systems.

Building on progress made, it is believed that project partners will continue to make significant headway in achieving the project outcome by the end of the project in October 2015.

### **3. Project Stakeholders**

Within the first six months of this project, two stakeholder workshops have been held (one each in Anguilla and the Cayman Islands). The workshops focused on involving stakeholders in the identification and valuation of ecosystem services provided by actual and potential protected areas. 20 stakeholders (including NTCI representatives) actively participated in the workshop held in Cayman while 17 attended that held in Anguilla (including ANT representatives). The results of the workshop (Rapid Ecosystem Appraisal Assessment Forms) have been circulated to the participants, with an invitation to make further comments/provide additional input.

No major challenges have thus far arisen with regards to stakeholder involvement although we are aware that this may not always be the case as we move forward with the project: land/property issues are contentious both in Anguilla and the Cayman Islands as most land is privately owned.

### **4. Monitoring, evaluation and lessons**

Internal monitoring and evaluation has primarily taken place through quarterly project partner steering committee meetings. So far one meeting was held on 28 November during which progress was measured against expected outputs. Due to scheduling conflicts the second steering committee meeting has been scheduled for 12 May 2014. Monthly in-house/organisation-based meetings to assess progress to date and to discuss any challenges have also been held. Project partners are also in close (at least weekly) e-mail contact as sharing information and exchanging ideas has been essential.

No changes have thus far been made as to how project activities are monitored.

Lessons learned from this year's work and management of the project have centred on the need to remain flexible and adaptable while also keeping project goals and outputs in mind. Working on two different Territories and within two small organisations, the importance of involving staff, keeping communication lines open, providing remote support, and still considering the individual UKOT priorities and context has been paramount. For example, the TESSA, while it has been applied to other countries around the world, was adjusted to ensure that local circumstances (on both the Cayman Islands and Anguilla) could be adequately and appropriately considered.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

## 7. Sustainability

As this project has just started in earnest, focus has been placed on publicity.

The project is an important component of both the ANT's and the NTCI's work programmes. In an effort to promote the work being conducted, formal press releases have been issued within both Territories (to launch the project as well as to announce and discuss the stakeholder workshops). The project has been publicised quarterly within the ANT's quarterly newsletter, One Rock, and on the organisations' facebook pages ([www.facebook.com/axanationaltrust](http://www.facebook.com/axanationaltrust); [www.facebook.com/groups/10048433250/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/10048433250/)). Darwin Plus is always acknowledged for its support.

## 8. Project Expenditure

Please expand and complete Table 1.

**Table 1 project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014)**

Project spend in this financial year	2013/14 Grant (£)	2013/14 Total actual Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				Underspend was due to project partners' decision for RSPB to train ANT staff members in TESSA. With all ANT staff trained in how to apply TESSA, NTCI Environmental Programmes Assistant was not required to spend two months in Anguilla to conduct the work. Savings are related to monies that would have otherwise been spent on living allowance, accomodation, and transporation for the NTCI Environmental Programmes Assistant. Monies were instead used for travel and accommodation for two RSPB representatives and the NTCI Environmental Programmes Assistant for a one week stay (ANT training exercise and trial TESSA application) in Anguilla.
Operating Costs				
Capital items				
Others (Please specify)				Monies expended were related to a stakeholder workshops held in Anguilla and the Cayman

				islands to complete Rapid Ecosystem Assessment Appraisal Forms for each UKOT. We initially did not envision such workshops when developing the project proposal, but given the clear need to for stakeholder involvement and our cost savings under the Travel and Subsistence Budget line, we believed them to be important to the project and would assist us in reaching our project aim/goal.
<b>TOTAL</b>	34820.00	34053.34	<b>2.20</b>	<b>US funds were used during this project.</b> <b>Exchange rate:</b> <b>1 USD : 0.597334 GBP</b> <b>(<a href="http://www.xe.com">www.xe.com</a>, 8 April 2014)</b>

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

**9. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes**

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

Although this project has only started in earnest, major achievements to date include the training of both ANT and NTCL staff by RSPB technical experts in the Toolkit for Ecosystem Services Site-based Assessments as well as the application of the Toolkit to both islands to help with the identification of key/priority areas that could/should be considered for inclusion within national protected areas systems.

TESSA is an innovative approach to understanding both actual and potential changes at individual sites on ecosystem services. It can be used to promote more effective planning decisions while at the same time promoting biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services delivery. As indicated by the authors of the Toolkit, the approach has previously not been applied widely because ecosystem services can be difficult and expensive to measure. TESSA, however, aims to change this by providing specific (but flexible) guidelines on how services can be identified, analysed, and measured and how the results of such exercises can then be clearly communicated. The TESSA methodology is also similar to BirdLife International's framework for monitoring Important Birds Areas in that both incorporate methods for monitoring state (condition), pressures (threats), and responses (management) at sites. The data can be used to establish a baseline for each site and can be repeated over time to generate an understanding of ecosystem services trends. The parallels of TESSA and BirdLife International's monitoring framework are especially helpful as the latter is a tool that has been tested and is currently being used in Anguilla.

Thus far, TESSA Appraisal Forms have been completed for 15 sites in the Cayman Islands and 13 sites in Anguilla. The sites were identified through a priority listing exercise that involved ranking sites based on (*inter alia*) their biodiversity, presence of endemic and World Conservation Union Red List species, size, condition, uniqueness, distance from other protected areas, and ownership (private/Crown). A full report that analyses the results of the TESSA exercise on both UKOTs will be generated to then guide the ANT and NTCl in determining where management and protection efforts should be focused in the short-, medium-, and long-term as well as opportunities for public-private partnerships. The information will also be presented to government and nongovernment stakeholders. Ensuring an open and transparent process will hopefully promote active stakeholder involvement as well as natural resources management and conservation buy-in.



## **Annex 1 – Changes to project plan**

Reporting against Q27 in the application

## Checklist for submission

	Check
<b>Is the report less than 10MB?</b> If so, please email to <a href="mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk">Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk</a> putting the project number in the Subject line.	X
<b>Is your report more than 10MB?</b> If so, please discuss with <a href="mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk">Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk</a> about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	-
<b>Have you included means of verification?</b> You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	X
<b>Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report?</b> If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number.	-
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.	