



Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2014)

Project Ref No	DPLUS019
Project Title	<i>Socioeconomic aspects of turtle conservation in the Cayman Islands</i>
Country(ies)	Cayman Islands, UK
Lead Organisation	Cayman Islands Department of Environment
Collaborator(s)	University of Exeter
Project Leader	Janice Blumenthal
Report date and number (eg HYR3)	HYR1
Project website	N/A

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).

Excellent progress has been made on all aspects of the project, with all activities on schedule to meet or exceed targets on project deliverables.

Output 1

1.1 Socioeconomic assessment of the cultural value and drivers of turtle meat consumption and the prevalence of illegal take (Key milestones: methods training workshop Jun 2014, >100 interviews completed by Nov 2014, analysis completed March 2015). Methods training workshops on the administration of socioeconomic surveys were organised for 10 participants (8 in Grand Cayman and 2 in the sister islands). To date, 292 household survey interviews have been conducted, on schedule to complete 600 interviews by 30 November – exceeding the deliverable of 100 interviews in order to allow a more rigorous quantitative analysis. Additional surveys of high school students (to explore cultural and age effects) and international tourists and restaurants (to further investigate demand) have also been planned and will be completed by 30 November.

1.2 Presentation of socioeconomic results so Government and the Cayman Turtle Farm have valid information on the role of turtle meat production in increasing or decreasing pressures on wild stocks (Key milestone: presentation of policy paper to CI Government Sep 2015). Data collection is on schedule to allow completion in September 2015.

1.3 A collaborative approach is developed to protect nesting female turtles (Key milestones: Workshop for DoE, Police, Tourism, and Customs Oct 2015). Data collection is on schedule to allow completion in October 2015.

1.4 Members of the public are aware of the need to reduce illegal take of marine turtles (Key milestones: educational materials produced and distributed, press releases, public consultation and recruitment of volunteers May 2014 and May 2015). Press releases were issued (resulting in local newspaper, radio, and television coverage) and educational materials were distributed to beachfront property owners and residents and to 30 beachfront hotels. Additionally, 25 in-depth stakeholder interviews were conducted to explore perceptions relating to the Cayman Turtle Farm and illegal take and 72 volunteers were recruited (36 in Grand Cayman, 16 in Little Cayman, and 20 in Cayman Brac).

1.5 Management and Evaluation: (Steering group meetings April, July, Oct, Jan 2014; April, July, Oct, Jan 2015). To initiate the project, project discussions and interviews for the post of Darwin Project Officer were held in April (via Skype). A steering committee workshop was held in June, along with presentations to various stakeholder groups (Turtle Farm, FCO representatives, Minister of Environment, and Department of Environment Research, Operations, Administration, and Enforcement Staff). A steering group meeting was held in October (via Skype).

Output 2

2.1 Quantification of marine turtle nesting population size and the farm contribution to assess vulnerability to illegal take (Key milestones: recruitment of interns for turtle nesting night survey fieldwork May 2014, May 2015, completion of two night survey field seasons 2014 and 2015). Four interns for nesting beach monitoring, tagging, and genetic sample collection were recruited in May and began fieldwork at the beginning of the green turtle nesting season in June. The 2014 field season is now near completion with 135 green turtle nests located and marked to enable collection of genetic samples and 21 nesting female green turtles tagged and photodocumented to identify Cayman Turtle Farm “living tags.”

2.2 Completion of genetic analysis of >500 samples (Jan 2016). Tissue samples have been collected from all nesting female green turtles and from all nests excavated to date. Cayman Islands CITES export permits and UK CITES import permits have been obtained and shipment of samples is planned to allow genetic analysis to begin in 2015.

2.3 Management and evaluation (Steering group meetings April, July, Oct, Jan 2014; April, July, Oct, Jan 2015). See above: steering group meetings were held in April, Jun, and October.

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

N/A – no major changes to budget and timetable are anticipated.

2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with LTS: N/A

Formal change request submitted: N/A

Received confirmation of change acceptance N/A

3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully as it is unlikely that any requests to carry forward funds will be approved this year. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project and would like to talk to someone about the options available this year, please indicate below when you think you might be in a position to do this and what the reasons might be:

N/A

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

No

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also be raised with LTS International through a Change Request.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk. The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 20-035 Darwin Half Year Report**