

Darwin Plus: Overseas Territories Environment and Climate Fund Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the “Writing a Darwin/IWT Report” Information Note: (<https://dplus.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources/reporting-forms-change-request-forms-and-terms-and-conditions/>). It is expected that this report will be a **maximum** of 20 pages in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2021

Darwin Plus Project Information

Project reference	DPLUS 098
Project title	Restoring and safeguarding wetlands of the Caribbean UKOTs
Territory(ies)	Anguilla, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands
Lead organisation	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Partner institutions	Anguilla National Trust, Montserrat National Trust, Turks and Caicos National Trust, Montserrat Department of Environment (DoE), Turks and Caicos Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR)
Grant value	299,332
Start/end dates of project	1 April 2019 – 31 March 2022
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2020-Mar 2021) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2)	Apr 2020-Mar 2021, Annual Report 2
Project Leader name	Charlie Butt
Project website/blog/social media	
Report author(s) and date	Lyndon John and Charlie Butt 30 th , April 2021

1. Project summary

Caribbean wetlands are rich in wildlife and offer nature-based solutions to climate change by sequestering carbon and absorbing excess water during flooding events and yet, are being destroyed and degraded. This project aims to reverse the loss and degradation of wetlands in Anguilla, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos by sharing best practice, developing and applying practical on-the-ground wetland conservation and restoration measures, promote strengthened safeguard policy and practice and increase public awareness of the value of wetlands. It aims to address conservation issues at two wetlands in Anguilla and one in Turks and Caicos – selected by our project partners – and to enable the creation of a wetland in Montserrat, an island that has lost all of its wetlands over the last two decades. The project more broadly seeks to increase awareness of the value of wetlands in the Caribbean and elevate momentum around the conservation of wetlands in these territories, the wider Caribbean overseas territories and beyond. Note: wetland maps were provided in the Yr1 Annual Report.

2. Project stakeholders/partners

The project was conceived through extensive consultation with the RSPB’s partners in the Caribbean UKOTs. Wetlands conservation emerged as a common theme during project

development discussions with our Caribbean UKOTs partners and as a priority in Anguilla (to conserve and restore two wetlands); Montserrat (reverse historic wetland loss); and the Turks and Caicos (clean-up and restoration of Wheeland Ponds – described in the Birds of the UK Overseas Territories as “the most important palustrine wetlands on the island [of Providenciales]”). Partners identified the sites and the issues to be addressed at each.

Community and school groups in Anguilla have been actively engaged in site restoration activities (planting of vegetation and clean-ups) and biodiversity monitoring (Figure 9). Anguilla National Trust (ANT) led site visits for the community (including young people) to raise awareness of East End Pond Conservation Area, Road Salt Bay Pond IBA and other ponds on the Anguilla mainland. These visits have helped increase understanding about the importance of wetland ecosystem services and biodiversity and to increase appreciation for these sometimes under-valued habitats. Presentations (Annex 1.0) were given to students, ANT members, and the international conservation community, plus one-on-one consultation with high level Government of Anguilla representatives (including the Minister of Natural Resources as well as the Permanent Secretary) have allowed the ANT to reach a wider audience in Anguilla and elsewhere. The ANT has also been working with the Sandy Ground Community Group on advocacy and public awareness activities in response to a Memorandum of Agreement that had been signed in May 2020 for the development of a mega-yacht marina within Road Salt Pond IBA (see <https://www.facebook.com/roadbaysaltpond/> / <https://www.roadbaysaltpond.com/>).

Several Montserrat Steering Group Committee meetings have been co-hosted by project partners Montserrat National Trust (MNT) and Department of Environment (DoE). The wider Project Steering Committee (PSC) comprises representatives from the Montserrat National Trust, the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Housing and the Environment, Specialist Consultants, and technical experts from the RSPB with active engagement of members of the Isles Bay and Old Towne Communities, the Sand miners and Golf Course Developer, Mr. Dwayne Hixon.

Planned face-to-face engagement with the residents of the nearby communities was suspended due to Government imposed COVID-19 restrictions which limit the gathering of crowds during the reporting period. However, there have been electronic mail exchanges with representatives from the Isles Bay/Old Towne Community. Online meetings via Zoom are being organized for the upcoming year after key policy decisions have been taken and approved by Government: namely the vesting of lands in the Montserrat National Trust and the declaration of the wetland site as a protected area for wildlife.

Conservation activities for the Wheeland Pond area (and other wetlands) in Turks and Caicos have been led by Turks and Caicos National Trust (TCNT) and volunteers from the local Interact and Rotaract clubs of Providenciales. Participants were informed about the value of wetland sites and the need to address problems such as poor solid waste disposal. Bird surveys were also conducted by both staff and members of the community to further build up the baseline population of birds that use Wheeland Ponds. On March 25th, 2021, TCNT project staff attended the Towne Hall meeting in the Wheeland community to engage Hon. Kyle Knowles, as the newly elected representative of this constituency. They were able to promote the citizen science events and restoration plans to the Hon. Knowles as well as the community at large.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

This section provides a comprehensive overview of the major achievements during the period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021

Output 1. Wetland conservation action plans prepared in partnership with local experts and grassroots organisations and capacity to develop and implement plans increased

The inception workshop was held in Anguilla (17-20 June 2019) hosted by the Anguilla National Trust (ANT) and facilitated by the RSPB (outputs detailed in the YR1 AR). A central focus and output of the workshop was to prepare draft action plans developed for each site.

Annual monitoring plans were completed (with methods agreed) in Year 1 of the project. These methods have been applied to bird and plant surveys conducted in Year 2, across the

Territories. (Annex 0.3 and Annex 0.4). Wetland bird monitoring occurs at the end of each month in Anguilla and bi-monthly in Turks and Caicos. In Montserrat, quarterly bird surveys are conducted at the project site in Belham Valley with monitoring of birds at other sites for comparative purposes and to determine trends in the number of birds cited at the proposed project site. (See Annex 0.5).

Two plant monitoring plots were established at East End Pond Conservation Area (Anguilla) in August 2019 and continue to be monitored with the last survey having taken place in February 2021. Results of the monitoring show that two new grass species have established themselves in one (eastern) plot while a grass species is no longer found in the second (western) plot. The plant species list at Road Salt Bay Pond IBA (Anguilla) will be reviewed in Quarter 4 Year 3 as no plots were established at this site due to its limited vegetation area.

Bird surveys were conducted in Montserrat at Marguerita Bay, Carrs Bay, Pipers Pond and Little Bay during April 2020 and March 2021, towards developing a baseline for the Belham Valley wetland, Old Road Bay. Seventeen (17) wetland bird species have been observed during this period. Thirteen (13) of these species have been seen at Old Road Bay. Of the seventeen (17) species observed nine (9) species were shorebirds. September is the peak period for the migration of shorebirds to Montserrat. Hence the highest number of shorebirds was seen in September, see Figure 1. for wetland bird counts at Old Road Bay (including shorebirds).

Birds at Old Road Bay			Number of times this species was observed for the year
Wetland birds	Shorebirds	Greater Yellowleg	3
		Lesser Yellowleg	5
		Spotted Sandpiper	18
		Least Sandpipers	4
		Solitary Sandpiper	2
		Pectoral Sandpiper	1
	Other wetland birds	Common Gallinule	18
		Great White Egret	25
		Cattle Egrets	167
		Green Heron	25
		Yellow-Crowned Night- Heron	5
		Snowy Egret	1
		Belted Kingfisher	7

Figure 1. Wetland bird species recorded in Montserrat, 2019-2020

A general comparison of the Montserrat data for 2019 and 2020 show that more species were observed in Yr 2 than the previous year, (see Annexes 0.6a and 0.6b). For the plant survey forty-four (44) native plants, five (5) invasive, seven (7) endemic and ten (10) unfamiliar plants were observed (Annex 0.7). Further work on the Plant Survey was hindered in part by the November flooding event which decimated some of the plant species observed previously (Annexes 0.8 and 0.9) as well as the most recent COVID lockdown. Plant surveys will resume in Q1 Year3. The technical team will proceed with the collection of field data on plants and wetland birds to inform the development of appropriate conservation plans in Yr 3. The findings of Island wide surveys of the bird populations indicate that the wetland, once established, will attract a variety of bird species. The habitat of various waterbirds was observed and the findings augur well for the success of this project. The information gathered will inform the Belham Valley biodiversity management plan. Two leading members of the local technical team who are actively engaged in the habitat monitoring programme, as well as the education and outreach activities, led efforts to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands and their role in

supporting migratory birds. This project has strengthened local conservation capacity by providing opportunities for early career conservationists within the DoE to gain further experience in bird and plant identification. TCNT staff have benefited from remote training in bird identification provided by DECR through the partnership, despite COVID-19 induced lockdown travel restrictions. Youth Day celebrations (Sept 25th) presented an opportunity for students to act as 'citizen scientists', watching and recording shorebirds.

Action plans for East End Pond Conservation Area (EEPCA) and Road Salt Pond IBA (Anguilla) and Wheeland Pond (Turks and Caicos) were prepared in YR1 and now serving as 'living documents' i.e. being adaptively managed based on continual monitoring and evaluation of progress at each site. Priority actions taken at EEPCA and Road Salt Pond IBA included: to develop and implement a restoration plan (using the results of the May 2019 feasibility study for the removal of the fill). Actions identified within the May 2019 feasibility study required hard engineering to remove silt from the pond which is currently impeding drainage of water through existing sink holes and/or to connect the pond to the coast to facilitate drainage and water transfer. These actions are estimated to cost in the millions of dollars and are beyond existing operational budgets as well as beyond what is currently available through external grants.

RSPB injected further financial resource towards flood modelling of the EEPCA, which was completed in November 2020 by Environment Systems Ltd. This outlined the areas at most risk of flooding around EEPCA, using various rainfall scenarios. The modelling work also identified possible measures to mitigate flooding impacts, including restoring natural vegetation within the EEPCA and surrounding areas. The report has been shared with the Department of Physical Planning, the Department of Lands and Surveys, and the Ministry of Natural Resources. (Annex 0.11).

Flood modelling and the accompanying opportunity maps have helped to identify areas that would benefit from targeted vegetation restoration within the EEPCA. A total of 163 plants (91 red, 38 black, and 29 white mangroves and five buttonwood) have so far been planted within the EEPCA, with 99 surviving (survival rate = 61%). Eighty individuals from the Albena Lake Hodge Comprehensive School's Environmental Club and the ANT's Where the Wild Things Are summer camp have assisted with restoration efforts.

Three interpretation signs have been designed to highlight the importance of the EEPCA and the birdlife that can be found on the site. (Annex 0.12(a), 0.12(b)), these will be installed in Yr3.

To create enriching opportunities to view and experience the EEPCA and its fauna and flora, a viewing platform, slightly setback from the pondline, was constructed to replace a gazebo that had been destroyed in September 2017 during Hurricane Irma. This has been designed to withstand strong hurricanes (see Annexes 0.13(a) and 0.13(b)). Five buttonwood seedlings have so far been planted around the platform to provide additional shade and cover. Additional buttonwood seedlings are scheduled to be planted along the walkway that leads to the viewing platform.

To implement a public awareness plan for wetlands and coastal areas two events were held during Year 2, including mangrove planting with Albena Lake Hodge Comprehensive School Environmental Club (29 October 2020) and a site clean-up with the Inspire Community Group (19 December 2020). Two field trips were conducted during Year 2 (ANT's Where The Wild Things Are summer programme, 13 August 2020; wetland and wells fieldtrip with the Omolulo International School.

To initiate a regular water quality monitoring programme. ANT partnered with the Water Lab-Department of Health Protection to conduct water quality tests. Salinity and pH were measured to inform vegetation restoration and to provide a basic overview of ecological health. Test results indicate that the waters are slightly alkaline and salinity levels are within parameters conducive for mangrove survival.

Priority actions taken at Road Salt Pond included: *To develop and implement a restoration plan*. Using the results of flooding and mitigation opportunity maps, areas for revegetation within and around Road Salt Pond have been identified. Thus far, a total of 95 seedlings (22

red, 21 black, and 21 white mangroves and 31 buttonwood) have been planted by ANT staff and Sandy Ground community members, with 91 surviving (survival rate = 96%).

To implement public awareness plan for wetlands and coastal areas. Two events were held at Road Salt Pond during Year 2, including a morning birding activity to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day (October 2020) which was attended by 12 individuals and an afternoon activity to conduct the annual Caribbean Waterbird Census (February 2021) which was attended by 22 individuals.

To develop and implement an advocacy plan, Road Salt Pond has been identified as a site for a mega-yacht marina development, with a Memorandum of Agreement having been signed between the Government of Anguilla and the project proponent in May 2020. The Sandy Ground community is opposed to the marina development and has engaged the ANT in their advocacy efforts. To support their work and their position, the ANT has shared flooding and opportunity maps of the area (developed as part of the Darwin Plus-funded project DPLUS091 by Environment Systems Ltd.) with both the community and the Minister of Natural Resources. The ANT has put the Sandy Ground Community Group in contact with the RSPB’s casework division which has also been providing advice and assistance. RSPB has provided ANT with a small grant to produce a series of high quality video shorts to highlight the natural wonders of the IBA and use these in outreach on social media and to appeal internationally. The ANT understands that the project proponent has not been in contact with the Government of Anguilla since signing the MOA and, that while an environmental impact assessment is required before the development can be approved (if environmental and social impacts can be adequately mitigated), EIA consultancy services have not been secured. Given the lack of progress, the Sandy Ground Community Group has asked the ANT to draft a Road Salt Pond Protected Areas position paper, with the ultimate aim of having Road Salt Pond declared a protected area with the ANT vested with management responsibility. The ANT is currently drafting this position paper.

Montserrat: A significant rainfall and subsequent deluge event occurred on 9th November 2020 in the Belham Valley. The water flows through the catchment re-sculpted historic channels and



Figure 2 Proposed wetland areas and boundaries for protection Key: Red – major wetland; Blue – protected area; Yellow- water feature of golf course

left in its wake natural pools – wetlands – in the lower Belham Valley. Prior to this, several Project Steering Committee meetings were held to discuss the positioning and design of the wetlands. The flooding event confirmed the area to be delineated as the site for the establishment of a wetland in the Belham Valley.

Old Road Bay was mapped by drone and a draft map of the site was shared with project partners for review and consensus at project meeting held via Zoom on Friday 19th March 2021. These discussions yielded a common understanding of the proposed management arrangements for the area. The Partners agreed that the entire site (17+ acres) be designated as a protected area for wildlife with provisions for recreational use and activities that are compatible with the conservation goals for that area. See (Figure 2) cropped for insertion into report (not shown to scale).

Discussions were held with a local developer who has an interest in establishing a golf course in the area. The

developer supports the recommendations to demarcate the entire 17+ acres as protected for wildlife with human activities that are not incompatible with the conservation goals of the area. Management agreements are being drawn up at the policy level and these will be executed as legally binding once Cabinet has granted approval.

The principal goals of the Wheeland Pond (Turks and Caicos) conservation action plan centre



Figure 3. TCNT and community member teams clean up activity at Wheeland Pond

on bird monitoring, removal of solid waste and raising awareness of wildlife locally and at the TCI level. Good progress has been made on all these areas. Staff and volunteers from the local Interact and Rotaract clubs of Providenciales worked together to clean up the Wheeland area, these events – when it was possible to hold them in light of the pandemic – provided an opportunity to educate about wetlands and recycling. Bird surveys were also conducted by both staff and members of the community, who benefited from TCNT education and outreach efforts regarding the importance of the wetland and the birdlife it supports.

National elections were held in Anguilla at the end of June 2020, following which a new administration was elected into office. On 10 September 2020, ANT staff and Council met with the newly elected Hon. Minister for Natural Resources, Mr. Kyle Hodge. The ANT provided an update on work and projects being conducted by the ANT, including this DPLUS098 project. Following the meeting, a written report was also submitted. The ANT has been involved in discussions with the Ministry responsible for Natural Resources (through the Permanent Secretary) regarding the aforementioned agreement/Memorandum of Understanding that was signed by the previous administration (in June 2020) relating to the proposal to develop a mega-yacht marina and hotel and residential properties within Road Salt Pond IBA. The ANT prepared and submitted a short visual brief outlining the results of storm surge modelling (from DPLUS 091) to the Ministry of Natural Resources.

The Montserrat team held policy discussions and site meetings with the Hon. Minister with responsibility for the Environment and Permanent Secretary, the Chief Physical Planner, Chief Surveyor (Ag) and Director of Environment, along with the Executive Director of and the Project Support Officer of the Montserrat National Trust. Discussions focussed on designating the Lower Belham Valley as a protected area.

In the Turks and Caicos, the Director Sanders-Penn met with Hon. Josephine Connolly, Minister of MTEC along with the Permanent Secretary and Deputy PS. A presentation was shared highlighting the restoration plans for the Wheeland Pond site along with small business opportunities underpinning eco-tourism to benefit the Wheeland community. This meeting was held on the March 4th, 2021. On March 25th, 2021, TCNT project staff attended the Towne Hall meeting in the Wheeland community to engage Hon. Kyle Knowles, newly elected representative of this constituency. The staff promoted Wheeland Pond as an asset, highlighted the citizen science events held there as well as the restoration plans to the Hon. Knowles and the attendant community.

Output 2. Natural and artificial wetlands where restoration techniques are piloted lead to measurable increase in ecological quality and improvement and enhancement of natural capital values indicators

Wetland restoration needs assessment for EEPKA (Anguilla), Wheeland Pond (Turks and Caicos) and Belham Valley Wetlands (Montserrat) were completed in Yr.1 and reported in the Yr1 AR. The professional rehabilitation and remediation feasibility study (N.S Nettles & Associates proposal to restore East End Conservation Area (Area) wetland site was

completed in YR1 and detailed in the Yr1 AR. Additional flood modelling studies for EEPKA were commissioned by the RSPB and completed. These studies will assist with identifying habitat restoration opportunities including nature-based solutions to climate impacts. (Annex 0.11) This study builds upon the findings of the geological study performed by Nettles (2019 – detailed in the Yr1AR) by modelling the potential flood extents and depths of East End Pond, using the watershed volumes estimated in the report.

A Sand Mining Action Plan and Rehabilitation guidelines were formulated and finalised for the Upper Belham Valley (Montserrat) with the collaborative efforts of the RSPB. Both documents are to be incorporated into the modified Physical Development Plan for the island. The Physical Planning Unit is in the process of submitting a policy paper which includes both the Sand Mining Action Plan and Rehabilitation guidelines for consideration by Cabinet. From the completed Sand Mining Action plan, a Sand Mining Monitoring Checklist was created and is currently being used for monitoring purposes. Technical input and advice was provided to the Government of Montserrat (GoM) in response to its request for public response to the proposed modifications of the Belham Valley Physical Development Plan. These comments were published (Annex 0.15) on the GoM website [here](#). RSPB comments can be found in Annex 2.1.

While restoration measures at Road Salt Pond (Anguilla) had been delayed due to uncertainty about the proposed mega-yacht marina development, the ANT and community members have initiated revegetation of the pond's perimeter, with 95 seedlings/trees having been planted (22 red, 21 black, 21 white mangroves, and 31 buttonwood), with 91 surviving (survival rate = 96%).

The sand mining guidelines (Montserrat) which were developed under this project are being used to manage activity upstream. Plans are underway to conduct a virtual workshop with the sand miners to be led by Sand Mining consultant, Jonathan Stacey in which the approaches to mining will be reviewed and the subject of rehabilitation in the mining sector will be examined (Q1YR3). The flooding which took place in the Belham Valley November 2020 has created some benefits by furnishing the catchment with a natural watercourse and infilling the craters left abandoned by the sand miners in the upper Belham Valley. Freshwater flow from the Belham River has surfaced near the beach and has created several ponds which has helped the project steering committee to map out the location of wetlands to be enhanced (YR3Q1). Works are planned to enhance and safeguard the ecology of the area and restrict activities that could compromise the quality of the habitat that has resulted from the floods. The terms of reference for partnering with Golf Course Developer, Dwayne Hixon, in safeguarding and restoring the wetlands are being drafted for approval and sign-off by the end of Q4YR2.

Works have commenced at Wheeland Pond (Turks and Caicos) to install the viewing point/walkway for Wheeland community members and visitors to walk the trail viewing different birds and plant-life. With the COVID19 imposed capacity constraints on the partnership, the emphasis at Wheeland Pond has pivoted towards keeping it free of solid waste and raising awareness about the site's importance (virtually through much of 2020, with some limited gatherings within the rules). Community members interested in bird identification training now know to contact the TCNT as there will be future opportunities including and involving local tour operators (taxi drivers). This will allow for marketing of more bird watching eco-tourism and this revenue generating initiative can be adapted throughout the TCI complimenting the imperative to conserve TCI's unique and precious wetlands with economic incentives.



Figure 4. Clearance of trail and preparation for viewing hide at Wheeland Pond

Inspire Community Group (which includes young people from the East End and neighbouring villages) and the Albena Lake Hodge Comprehensive School Environmental Club have adopted ANT's East End Pond Conservation Area as community engagement areas. Both groups have conducted clean-ups while the latter has also assisted with the planting of mangrove seedlings and wetland bird surveys. The ANT has recently engaged Sandy Ground community members in restoration activities, with mangrove and buttonwood seedlings at the pond-vegetation line interface now being planted at Road Salt Pond.



Figure 5. Mangrove seedling planting- EEPCA, Anguilla

It is anticipated that there is now greater community awareness in Montserrat around the importance of wetlands and the need to conserve them, following communication and outreach efforts. A survey to gauge the population's knowledge concerning wetlands and to establish baseline data is being executed in collaboration with the Montserrat Statistics Department (results and evidence to be provided in the next report). Face-to-face engagements with the residents of the nearby communities were suspended due to Government imposed COVID-19 restrictions which limit the gathering of crowds during the reporting period. However, there has been email exchanges with representatives from the Isles Bay/Old Towne Community. Online meetings via Zoom are being organized for the upcoming year after key policy decisions have been taken and approved by Government: namely the vesting of lands in the Montserrat National Trust and the declaration of the site as a protected area for wildlife.

The Turks and Caicos project team partnered with Brilliant Studios Gallery for the wetland photo competition held in Yr2Q3 (see <https://www.facebook.com/tcinternationaltrust>) at the primary and secondary schools throughout TCI. In addition, works continue in the community to engage local businesses at Wheeland to support the long-term safeguarding of Wheeland Pond. The project team continues to advocate for the restoration project and the local business partner, neighbouring Kimcha Village, continues to support this initiative.

Output 3. The value of wetlands and need for their wise use is better-understood by those intending to undertake operations or make decisions affecting their ecological quality

Over the last year, the ANT has facilitated five public wetland excursions (East End Pond Conservation Area on 23 May 2020 – 11 participants, Grey Pond Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) on 27 June 2020 – 18 participants, Long Salt Pond IBA on 29 August 2020 – 8 participants, Cove Pond IBA on 26 September 2020 – 4 participants, and Road Salt Pond IBA on 13 February 2021). On 13 August 2020, as part of the ANT's annual Where The Wild Things Are summer programme 70 individuals (60 children and 10 adults) hiked around East End Pond Conservation Area, learning about wetland biodiversity as well as the importance of Anguilla's wetlands. Participants also assisted by planting red mangrove seedlings. To celebrate World Wetlands Day, members of the public joined ANT staff to conduct a Caribbean Waterbird Census at Road Salt Pond (22 individuals) and at East End Pond Conservation Area on 3 February 2021 (5 individuals).

There is a growing interest for birding among the Montserrat population and several events were organized by the Department of Environment during the year to facilitate greater education and awareness. The Wetlands Survey Questionnaire - when the results are in - will help to provide baseline data that will be used to gauge the impact this project is having on the wider society.

On 10 September 2020, ANT staff and Council met with the newly elected Hon. Minister for Natural Resources, Mr. Kyle Hodge. The ANT provided an update on work and projects being conducted by the ANT, including this DPLUS098 project. The ANT presented the project during the event 'Shovel Ready Nature-Based Solutions in the UK Overseas Territories' at the RSPB-organised nature-based solutions webinar on 16 September 2020 (86 attendees, including representatives from DEFRA and the UK House of Lords), at the ANT Annual General Meeting on 7 December 2020 (58 attendees), and at the UKOT Conservation Forum Conference on 3 March 2021 (approx. 60 attendees).

Representatives from the TCNT were able to engage decision makers on two separate occasions (March 4th & March 25th) to highlight the natural capital value of the wetlands. Ministry and constituent representatives were interested in the opportunity for community members to generate revenue for existing and potential new small businesses based on eco-tourism.

Several policy discussions and site meetings were held in Montserrat in relation to this project were had with the Hon. Minister with responsibility for the Environment, Mr. Crenston Buffonge and Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Beverly Mendes, Mr. Clement Jerome Meade, the Chief Physical Planner, Miss Nicole Duberry – Chief Surveyor (Ag) and Director of Environment – Miss Ernestine Corbett, along with MNT project staff.

The developer, Mr. Dwayne Hixon, proprietor of the proposed golf course development, is working collaboratively with project partners to improve the wetlands which were created after the November 2020 flooding. A contract is under preparation by the RSPB to cover expenditure associated with groundworks to enhance the new wetlands of the Lower Belham Valley. The Montserrat Department of Environment is providing guidance in the works to be undertaken.

School activities were conducted by the Montserrat DoE with primary school students on World Wetlands Day introducing them to importance of wetland habitats (see [here](#)). The Department of Environment assisted the CAPE Environmental Science students of the Montserrat Community College in a pond dipping exercise for their Student Based Assessment (SBA). The data collected will assist the students as they investigate the biodiversity of freshwater ecosystems in Montserrat (see [here](#)). In the Turks and Caicos, March 2021 is Education Month, so TCNT used the opportunity to host a Citizen Science event at Kimcha Village with the senior students of the Clement Howell High School. Students had the chance to observe and learn about the wetlands at Kimcha Village in Wheeland. This tour with the students highlighted the

importance of wetlands to the community and the fauna that depend on them as well as what happens when wetlands are destroyed ([Instagram post](#)). TCNT recently received an invitation from the Education Department Curriculum Unit, to participate in their curriculum review sessions (scheduled: 5th - 6th of May 2021) for primary schools and content development for secondary schools. This provides an opportunity to infuse conservation of wetlands and other environmental principles into the school curricula.

The Hon Minister, Mr. Crenston Buffonge and Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Beverly Mendes, have committed to finalising the land tenure issues for the Lower Belham Valley and progress consideration of the area proposed for wetland creation to be declared a protected area by Cabinet. In total four meetings were held with the Chief Physical Planner to discuss issues surrounding the development plan for the area; and also to address sand mining in the Upper Belham Valley. The on-site meetings with the Chief Surveyor considered land take and demarcation for mixed land use, including the wetland habitat. The project team also benefitted from the legal guidance of the Hon Attorney General. The Registrar of Land is expected to advance action to have the “new” lands – created by lahar flow following the eruption of Soufriere volcano in the 1990s registered in the name of the Crown. The Habitat Creation Report and wetland creation design concept (Annex 0.15) prepared by RSPB Senior Sites Manager, John Badley through an RSPB sabbatical in January 2020, were shared with the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and also with the Chief Physical Planner for consideration/review, and inclusion in the overarching development concept for the area. A follow-up meeting with the Permanent Secretary, PSC and the RSPB Team was held 18 September 2020 to discuss the project and next steps.

RSPB commissioned TCI-based environmental consultancy to develop targeted materials and encourage online civil society participation in the TCI National Sustainable Physical Development Plan (NSPDP) consultation. RSPB policy advocacy team will continue engagement with EDSA, the outfit responsible for the NSPDP and with TCI Planning to ensure wetlands conservation is rooted in the NSPDP.

Output 4: Strengthened wetlands conservation management, restoration and organisational capacity of the project partners

All project partners participated in a cross Territory virtual meeting held 3rd November 2020 to facilitate sharing of experiences, challenges and approaches to wetlands management. (*Annex 0.17*). Plans are being made for a face-to-face meeting to be held in one of the project Territories possibly in March 2022 (depending on the pandemic situation).

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1. *Wetland conservation action plans prepared in partnership with local experts and grassroots organisations and capacity to develop and implement plans increased.*

Action plan process for target wetland sites initiated at inception workshop in Q1 Year 1 with all project partners, facilitated by technical specialists in wetland restoration. All the action plans have been prepared to a high standard, nevertheless some of the partnerships could elevate proactive engagement with their action plan and benefit from the more established experienced within some of the partnering OTs. RSPB will look to facilitate such efforts through Year 3.

Bird surveys have been conducted at Wheeland Pond (TCI) (Annex 0.5) East End Pond Conservation Area and Road Salt Bay Pond IBA (Anguilla) (Annex 0.3). Island-wide surveys were conducted by the DoE in Montserrat (Annex 0.9b).

A minimum of two staff were involved in all field activities and the preparation of action plans in each territory. Junior staff in DoE (Montserrat) helped support feasibility assessments with RSPB and project leads within TCNT (Heritage Sites Manager and Conservation Officer) have increased capabilities with wetland bird monitoring thanks to participation in joint field efforts with DECR, with bird identification supported during inter-island travel restrictions via a local WhatsApp group. Development of Wheeland Action Plan has been aided by RSPB in-house expertise with guidance and recommendations shared with TCNT.

Project partners have successfully engaged with and submitted comments to government Physical Planning departments to address land management challenges relating to the target wetlands and in attempts to secure status as protected areas (e.g. Wheeland Pond, TCI) and

wetlands in Lower Belham Valley, Montserrat. This effort will need to be sustained in YR3 to achieve these goals.

Output 2. Natural and artificial wetlands where restoration techniques are pilot-tested enable measurable increase in value of sites for wetland birds and people

Wheeland Pond was plagued with solid waste prior to the project launch and is now almost entirely free of waste. There was no regular bird monitoring and now bird monitoring is in place to track changes in the long-term. A rehabilitation and remediation plan is now in place to restore East End Pond Conservation Area (EEPCA) with actions from the plan implemented this last year, (described above). The Environment Systems report - Modelling inland flooding catchment around East End Pond Conservation Area (Annex 0.12(c)) - commissioned by the RSPB enables the pinpointing of restoration interventions around EEPCA, Anguilla (Env. Sys. Ltd Report) and planting of mangroves and gazebo construction in EEPCA. The Nettles report (detailed in Yr1AR) provides a basis for a major funding application to address the silting issue.

2.3 Sand mining rehabilitation and wetland creation plans developed for the Belham Valley, Montserrat by Q4 Yr1; interventions identified, shared with the sand mining consortium and attached to planning conditions



Figure 6. Cleanup efforts at Wheeland Pond

Sand mining consultant Jonathan Stacey prepared draft rehabilitation guidelines (Yr1AR) and a Sand Mining Action plan (Annex 0.14). In-Territory training has not been possible due to the pandemic. Virtual training and engagement options are being explored for Yr3. RSPB provided recommendations as part of the Fort Ghaut Sand Mining public consultation (Annex 0.16, 2.1). RSPB Site Manager John Badley's plan for wetlands in LBV based on November 2020 flood event.

Pilot testing of restoration measures Road Salt Pond IBA and EEPCA in Anguilla (described in 3.1 above). A contract is being prepared for golf course developer Dwayne Hixon to underpin groundworks to enhance the wetlands that have formed in the LBV following the November flooding event.

The focus at Wheeland Pond (TCI) has principally been on the cleanup works and public outreach. Considerable efforts have already been undertaken to clean up Wheeland Ponds since YR1 (see Figure 6) and a local contractor has led deep cleaning of the Wheeland Pond, and constructed a walkway and viewing points. Wheeland Pond is well on the way to

becoming free of building and household debris. Going forward, it may be beneficial to move from measuring per cent change in waste material removed, to per cent site cover free from waste, to show that the measures are impactful and in place in the long-term and make it easier to monitor progress.

Output 3 The value of wetlands and need for their wise use is better-understood by civil society, private sector and government stakeholders (local use, commercial development and government planning)

ANT facilitated four public wetland excursions; a questionnaire has been prepared to determine baseline wetland awareness and wetlands concepts in Montserrat and; bird and site surveys conducted at Wheeland (TCI) in July and a photo competition with prizes was held to raise wetlands awareness: see [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#). Turks and Caicos National Trust have been very proactive promoting the Darwin+ and complimentary Audubon Shorebirds projects through Social Media (see <https://www.facebook.com/tcinationaltrust> for posts).

Hon. Minister with responsibility for the Environment, Mr. Crenston Buffonge and Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Beverly Mendes have publicly endorsed the efforts of the Montserrat Wetlands creation project in the Lower Belham Valley (<https://youtu.be/NJU-vlgIVZQ> the Environmental segment starts at 3hrs 25mins 27s). On the 16th April 2021, TCNT Executive Director met with the Hon. Josephine Connolly (Minister with responsibility for environment – see [FB](#) timeline),

which provided an opportunity to introduce various TCNT led initiatives including the Darwin Plus project.

Each territory has made good progress as regards private sector engagement in Montserrat and Turks and Caicos regarding wetland value. Montserrat is most advanced with active engagement of golf course developer engaged in wetland site restoration efforts in the Lower Belham Valley. Meanwhile in TCI, the TCNT has engaged ecotourism company Kimcha Village in its public education and sensitization efforts on wetland conservation.

Progress made with public education in Anguilla is reported above (section 3.1).

The DECR retains an ambition to secure greater protection for Wheeland and enhanced protection for other key TCI wetlands through this project. TCNT Executive Director has a proactive dialogue now with the TCI Government regarding wetlands, with efforts to be stepped up in Yr3 to lock in a public commitment to wetlands protection. Good progress has been made in Montserrat with project partners jointly expressing ambition to have the wetlands in the Lower Belham Valley enhanced, vested in the MNT and declared as a protected area.

Output 4 Strengthened wetlands conservation management, restoration and organisational capacity of the project partners

Roles and responsibilities all agreed and defined in YR1 and continuing throughout YR2. Action plans now in place for all sites and territories. Two Territory spatial plan consultations have come up in Year 2, one in Montserrat the other in TCI. RSPB and project partners engaged in both consultations (Annexes 2.1 and 2.2). This indicator may need revisiting as it is in the gift of government planning departments to ensure development plans incorporate wetland protection, rather than our project partners. However, there are strong early indications that shoring up protection of the wetlands in the Lower Belham Valley in Montserrat is achievable. Montserrat held a public consultation over the sand mining industry and its future which provided a good opportunity to progress the debate about securing wetland protection. The floods of November created wetlands in the Lower Belham Valley that have now garnered support from the golf course developer, DoE/MALHE and the MNT for protection as part of the plans for the Belham Valley.

Since the project started, the inception workshop, bilateral meetings and field visits, bird identification, plant identification, fostering partnerships with private sector have all contributed towards enhanced wetland conservation capabilities for all project partners. Discussions have begun around future resourcing of wetlands conservation efforts post March 2022.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Outcome: Key threatened wetlands across the Caribbean UKOTs have enhanced protection and are in better ecological condition through improved engagement, networking and collaboration between government and civil society

The existence of the project, the energy it has brought to the project partners and emphasis on the focal wetlands has significantly increased the likelihood that East End Pond Conservation Area in Anguilla, LBV wetlands in Montserrat and Wheeland Pond in the Turks and Caicos will benefit from enhanced protection. The future for Road Salt Bay Pond IBA is more uncertain due to the looming presence of the 'definitive agreement' between an offshore developer and Government of Anguilla setting out plans to convert this internationally important wetland into a marina. However, advocacy efforts and local support for this site has stepped up considerably in light of the threat.

0.1 Wetland action plans produced and actions piloted and tested at four < ANT 2, TCI 1, MNT 1 > priority wetland sites across participating Territories by Yr3

Wetland action plans produced in YR1 and actions are being tested at EEPKA in Anguilla, Wheeland Pond (TCI) and planning is advanced for enhancement of wetlands in Lower Belham Valley in Montserrat. Advocacy and awareness activities are being prioritised for Road Salt Bay Pond IBA, (described under activities above).

0.2 Wetland sites where actions are piloted show progress along the results chain that leads to favourable conservation status being achieved

ANT has undertaken pilot site restoration activities at EEPCA including solid waste removal campaign, planting of mangrove seedlings and construction of walkway and viewing gazebo to encourage bird watching on site. The increase in vegetation and cover for shorebirds at EEPCA will lead to reduced disturbance to shorebirds and increase the chance of successful breeding attempts and hence favourable conservation status being achieved.

Wheeland Pond (TCI) has had deep cleaning of solid waste undertaken both through community based actions led by TCNT and the procurement of a contractor for removal of heavy waste items disposed on the site (i.e. construction debris, household appliances etc.). A walkway has been constructed along with a viewing platform to encourage community engagement in birdwatching, see [here](#). The action plan – with Yr2 recommendations from RSPB ecology experts – sets out a pathway to impact for each target (Annex 3.1).

Wetlands in Lower Belham Valley in Montserrat which emerged from a flood event in November 2020 are being enhanced with the engagement of a local golf course developer with the support of project partners (DOE/MALHE and MNT). The baseline counts of shorebirds were rather low prior to the floods and the expectation is that shorebird and migratory waterbird counts will increase significantly as a result of the protection of the new wetlands.

0.3 Statutory bodies recognise action plans developed for priority wetland sites.

The conservation action plan for Wheeland Pond (TCI) has been made into a working document (Annex 3.1) which is referenced as a monitoring guide for the project and for works being implemented with the support of DECR and the Ministry. There are positive indications from TCI government partners that Wheeland Pond can be formally recognised as a protected area.

The Montserrat Ministry of Agriculture, Housing, Lands and Environment (MAHLE) has recognised, inputted to and endorsed the wetlands enhancement actions to be undertaken in the LBV. This plan has been informed by technical guidance provided through RSPB's staff sabbatical and RSPB Wetlands Ecology team.

Further engagement with the relevant departments in Anguilla on the action plans may help increase their recognition and importance and help support the case to keep Road Salt Bay Pond IBA intact as a functioning wetland as opposed converted to a Marina.

This indicator may benefit from being revised with more of a focus on project partners' recognition and use of action plans.

0.4 Improved collaboration and capacity of the project partners results in improved conditions of project wetland sites compared to baseline, leading to better site-led conservation.

Environment Systems Ltd., was contracted by RSPB to build on the EEPCA restoration feasibility study completed by Ocean Earth Technologies (detailed in YR1 of the project). Recognising the high cost of addressing removing sediment from sink holes within the pond (to allow for faster drainage during heavy rainfall events), Environment Systems Ltd. assessed the potential for softer, nature-based opportunities to address flooding impacts both at the Pond and within the East End community that considered the East End Pond watershed in its entirety and considering the impacts of current and potential impacts of development and habitat conversion (from forested to degraded), Environment Systems Ltd. identified priority areas for restoring. The report for ANT has been shared with relevant Government of Anguilla departments and Ministries as it provides insight into potential impacts of development for communities within this extensive watershed.

TCNT and DECR have been working well together, with DECR providing in-house ecological expertise to the Trust and in doing so building up their capacity to identify shorebirds as well as

monitor and conserve wetlands. TCNT has played to their strengths in public outreach and engagement, detailed in earlier sections. This has created a real buzz around Wheeland Ponds, not just from the clean-ups but the opportunity to engage and excite community members about the wetland birdlife and the potential for economic opportunities through TCI citizen based and international tourism.

There is excellent collaboration between MNT and government of Montserrat, as detailed in earlier sections, resulting in sound plans emerging for the Lower Belham Valley with actions scheduled for Yr3.

0.5 At least one private sector company employee and four staff from two Government departments able to communicate across government and the private sector of the value of and need for wise use of wetlands

Good private sector engagement so far in Montserrat and TCI as detailed in section 3.1 and 3.2 above. In a recent meeting, the private golf course developer was highly in favour of bringing protected area status to the Lower Belham Valley, whilst Kim Cha Village in Turks and Caicos has vocally supported the project at Wheeland (see TCI Facebook [timeline](#)). Montserrat Government is behind the efforts for the Lower Belham Valley.

0.6 Community endorsement of wetland action plans

Community and school groups have been actively engaged in site restoration activities (planting of vegetation and clean-ups) and biodiversity monitoring (See Sec 1.5) in relation to both EEPKA and the RSP Bay IBA, Anguilla. The ANT has also been working with the Sandy Ground Community Group on advocacy and public awareness activities in response to the aforementioned Memorandum of Agreement that had been signed in May 2020 for the development of a mega-yacht marina within Road Salt Pond (see roadbaysaltpond.com for more info). Further community outreach will take place in Montserrat in Yr3.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption 1: Stakeholders available and able to impart local / relevant knowledge to inform management plans | Comment: Management plans successfully completed in YR1 with implementation measures occurring in YR2, despite the setbacks brought on by COVID pandemic.

Assumption 2: Senior officials willing to approve and then implement the site management plans | Comment: In all 3 OTs senior officials have indicated support for the project and have supported implementation of site management plans. The local implementation of the plans varies between Territories, e.g. in Anguilla being ANT-led and other OTs partnership based.

Assumption 3: Measures needed to restore wetlands are effective and project timeframe is sufficient to demonstrate positive impact of interventions | Comment: Measures have included mangrove planting, removal of solid waste, erection of viewing platforms and trail construction to facilitate visitors and birdwatching. However, other measures related to the pandemic (community workshops, events, outreach) have constrained activities on sites. In the case of the cleanup efforts at Wheeland and enhancements of Lower Belham Valley wetlands in Montserrat, the project timeframe is sufficient to see the results. The mangroves planted at EEPKA will take time to mature however the gazebos are ready for use by the community and tourists.

Assumption 4: Hurricanes or other extreme weather events do not prevent pilot and testing of management plan actions | So far, hurricanes and extreme weather events have not hindered project progress (the Montserrat deluge having a positive impact on the project). However the risk remains high for YR3; a highly active Atlantic hurricane season is forecasted.

Assumption 5: Extreme weather events do not disrupt ability to update or develop baselines for wetland sites; do not undo conservation efforts | See 4 above. Baselines in place but extreme weather could still undo or halt progress made so far.

Assumption 5b: Covid-19 global pandemic and its direct and indirect impact on the RSPB and its partners, does not inhibit our ability to achieve the project outcome | Remains an important assumption; good progress made overall as documented above but areas inhibited include face to face training of sand miners and reduction or pausing of some planned community workshops

Assumption 6: Conservation management plan actions can be delivered and adaptively managed by Governments and Trusts. | Comment: Project partners in project territories have engaged in implementation of conservation actions across target sites with support of government partner agencies. All partners effectively delivering plans so far.

Assumption 7: Openness and willingness of Trusts and Government to collaborate and work transparently and openly | Comment: Project partners in project territories have engaged in implementation of conservation actions across target sites with support of government partner agencies. In Anguilla, Road Salt Pond is being considered for a marina development. This has stalled some action implementation, whilst greater progress has been made at EEPCA.

Assumption 8: Communities endorse plans to enhance EEPCA; restoration leads to reduced flood risk and better ecological outcomes | Comment: ANT has good relationship with East End community and good ongoing engagement. Further restoration opportunities have been identified through the Environment Systems report (see above).

Assumption 9: Sand miners accept need to restore where they have extracted material from in line with consultant and team-prepared guidelines | Situation has altered slightly since the November 2020 deluge, with some areas where extraction took place smoothed by flood water. More to do in Yr3 to try to engage the sand miners virtually, whilst travel options remain limited.

Assumption 10: Covid-19 global pandemic does not inhibit plans to implement actions at wetland sites | Comment: In Anguilla, project site Road Salt Pond is being considered for a marina development. This has stalled planned on-the-ground actions. Actions underway at all other sites.

Assumption 11: Social media platforms and live events reach appropriate audience/s | Comment: all partners have made significant progress in outreach, in particular via Facebook.

Assumption 12: Advocacy materials developed are relevant across all of the participating CCN National Trusts and therefore effective at the Territory / local level | Comment: assumption holds, with opportunities to further share materials at the next virtual gathering

Assumption 13: Improved knowledge / access to knowledge leads to improved habitat and species conservation | Much greater awareness by key staff in Montserrat and TCI resulting in better monitoring and engagement

Assumption 14: Children able to retain lessons into adulthood and, remain on island in sufficient numbers to be vocal advocates for wetlands in future | This assumption is hard to test in a three year project.

Assumption 15: Covid-19 does not prevent company volunteer day taking place or other on-the-ground business participation in or engagement with wetland activities | Efforts undertaken despite Covid19 constraints, within rules, e.g. with Kim Cha at Wheeland (TCI) and in Montserrat

Assumption 16: Government capacity to support and publicise their support of wetlands conservation not hindered by Covid-19 impacts in-territory | Comment: holds true, though Covid19 has diverted some senior decision-makers attention

Assumption 17: Government processes are willing and able to accommodate wetland protection commitments in their plans | Comment: indications from Montserrat suggest this assumption holds (plan for Belham Valley). Relevant TCI Government department supportive of Wheeland Protection. Much more to do in Anguilla vis-à-vis Road Salt Pond IBA.

Assumption 18: All partner staff are successfully able to participate in capacity- strengthening workshops | Comment: virtual gathering held (Annex 0.17) Remote-based training conducted in TCI (DECR training provided to TCNT staff on site monitoring and on shorebirds and wader identification).

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

The project has highlighted the role of wetland ecosystems in supporting environmental resilience in the partner territories, particularly in the face of climate change. Through social media and outreach, there is now far greater awareness of the importance of wetlands in the Turks and Caicos, there is huge momentum from the Sandy Ground community to save Road Salt Pond IBA, and recognition of the need to restore the Belham Valley as host to the last remaining wetland on Montserrat – this is in fulfilment of the requirements of the Ramsar Convention. It has proven to be timely and of national importance given the significant reduction in the spatial extent of wetlands on Montserrat consequent to the significant loss of wetlands to the island as previously noted. It has also influenced watershed and land management policies by supporting the Ministry in its engagement with the sand mining industry (Annex 0.1) and fostering the needs for best practice in the sector. The floods of November 2020 highlighted the vulnerability of the region and the need to engage in sound land management practices. The Environment Systems Ltd., EEPCA restoration feasibility study assessed the potential for softer, nature-based opportunities to address flooding impacts both at the Pond and within the East End community. It considered the East End Pond watershed in its entirety and examined current and potential impacts of development and habitat conversion, identifying priority areas for restoration. The report has been shared with relevant Government of Anguilla departments and Ministries as it provides insight into potential impacts of development for communities within this extensive watershed. The project is actively contributing towards Strategic Goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity [Aichi Targets](#) are being met: A (Target 1) through greater biodiversity awareness in each OT; C (Target 11) through efforts to formally protect wetlands and; D (Target 15) through the restoration of EEPCA, LBV (Montserrat) and Wheeland (TCI).

5. OPTIONAL: Consideration of gender equality issues

All partners Efforts are made to ensure that there is adequate representation of stakeholders in all aspects of project planning and delivery. Consultations are planned and executed in such a way that there is inclusivity and engagement at all levels of society. The Project Steering Committees in the respective territories are gender inclusive with balanced representation. Linkages with schools and other community groups have been formed to advance the aims and objectives of this project. Children and women have participated in bird watching activities and enlisted in the campaign to restore wetland habitats in their respective territories as can be seen (Annex 0.18). There is no indication the project activities or goals are increasing inequality, on the contrary, efforts at Wheeland Pond and East End Pond have successfully engaged and brought in wide community representation and participation.

6. Monitoring and evaluation

RSPB steering group meetings have been held almost every quarter since the project began. These meetings serve as a venue to discuss project progress, challenges and how to address them. RSPB has facilitated partnership meetings – biannual at a minimum - in each territory to help define roles and responsibilities and to track progress. RSPB is largely responsible for M&E but this is done in conjunction with our partners through zoom (videoconference) meetings (e.g. Annex 0.19), email, whatsapp and phone calls. Quarterly technical and financial reports are submitted to RSBP by the partners with supporting evidence concerning implementation. Covid19 has limited the ability to repeat the independent appraisal in TCI.

7. Lessons learnt

A key lesson is that it is possible to continue to deliver a project as large and complex as this one during a pandemic, despite challenges. Some aspects of work intended to be delivered face to face, such as the engagement with the sand mining community has proved to be challenging remotely, however we will continue to explore ways in which this can be delivered in Yr3.

Implementing projects in the natural environment comes with uncertainty, stochastic events can upend or potentially benefit project outcomes. For instance, this project has benefited from the November 2020 flooding of the Belham Valley. Discussions regarding the location of the wetlands were being stymied by how it will impact the land requirements of proposed golf course development; any unanswered questions were addressed by the deluge. The flooding of the valley unearthed the natural underground flow of the river which has proven useful in finalising the wetland location with the engagement of the golf course developer.

Limited organisational capacity remains a challenge for both TCI partners. One way in which wetland bird ID capacity in TCNT has been addressed is through a closer link with the DECR's in-house ecology expert via WhatsApp and other channels. As DECR still cannot actively get to the project site due to Covid19 and other pressures, TCNT are leading on the wetland bird monitoring with mentoring and assistance from the DECR. RSPB continues to provide partner to partner strengthening support and guidance, most recently with a COVID19 capacity grant that put in place a Conservation Projects Support Manager position to assist with financial and administrative reporting of projects with RSPB.

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

(a) Review comment recommended revision of indicators: 0.4, 0.5, 1.4, 2.5, 3.2, 3.4.

The logframe was revised in light of CV19, which included the revision of the recommended indicators which were subsequently approved as part of the latest change request.

(b) Sustainability and legacy; Project partners have been successful in engaging with physical planning development stakeholders in Montserrat (e.g., sand mining policies in Montserrat) and efforts are being stepped up in TCI (exploring protected area status being granted for Wheeland Ponds).

(c) Darwin identity; Project partners are reminded to include Darwin logo and name of project on signage (e.g., Anguilla's EEPCA template signs). Partners also note the contribution of the project in social media posts and special events. There remains room for improvement that will be addressed in Yr3.

(d) Project response to COVID-19; The project has been impacted by COVID-19 with records of some project partners being affected. A project change request was submitted and approval received.

9. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

In YR1, a department of TCI Government (not DECR) undertook some 'beautifying' works at one of the three ponds that make up Wheeland in mid-2019, which involved clearance of bankside vegetation and partial in-filling for a 2m wide walkway. Whilst this event was met with disappointment, it was counterbalanced in YR2 with the confirmation of Crown Land status for Wheeland (after some doubt was cast over the land tenure status). Efforts are now underway with the support of the DECR to have it declared as a protected area. While some small scale solid waste dumping continues to be an issue, TCNT is preparing another clean up activity and the hope is that continued public awareness with the residents of the Wheeland community will build appreciation for the site.

In Montserrat, the project was adapted following the November 2020 flood event which created a more viable opportunity for the wetlands in the Lower Belham Valley. The challenge for YR3 is to advance the registration of the Crown lands and the designation of the protected area status for the project area. The potential risk of another flood or lahar event which may alter the terrain substantially in this highly dynamic region by filling it in with debris is recognised. However, the key stakeholders are interested in pursuing this goal of wetland habitat and

support the investment in enhancement given the loss of this type of habitat throughout Montserrat largely as a result of past volcanic activity.

The biggest risk to all partners at the present time remains the direct and indirect consequences of Covid19 global pandemic. All partner National Trusts have experienced severe financial challenges through the loss of visitors and reduced income. Some have received financial support through an increased government subvention to help meet some of the shortfall (e.g. MNT). TCI has experienced a collapse in tourism and a significant proportion of TCNT's income is derived from tourism site revenue fees; some staff had to be let go of. TCNT's survival will depend on the goodwill and availability of financial aid measures from the TCI government, UK government or the EU (who have made available some emergency financial instruments to OCTs).

10. Sustainability and legacy

All project partners have continued to remain engaged with the project and remain focused on the ultimate objective of delivering wetland conservation in their respective Territories. This is happening despite the challenges and constraints brought on by the COVID 19 pandemic. Partners have used the project as a platform to increase public awareness of the value of wetlands to society through social media activities, special day events, conducting restoration activities involving students and community members on project sites and advocating for protected area status for some (e.g., TCI and Montserrat). Early career conservationists within the TCNT have become increasingly involved and evermore capable in bird and wetland conservation issues, suggesting a legacy of impact beyond the life of the project. The engagement of children and young people in activities has fostered greater ecological awareness and stimulated interests in birds and their habitats. The activities planned for Yr3 of this project seek to build on the successes of YR2 and keep momentum with community engagement.

11. Darwin identity

Darwin identity; Project partners are reminded to include Darwin logo and name of project on signage (e.g. Anguilla's EEPKA template signs Annex 0.12(a), 0.12(b)). Partners also note the contribution of the project during social media (see [here](#), and [here](#)) and other special events.

12. Impact of COVID-19 on project delivery

All project staff are taking relevant precautions in light of the Covid19 pandemic. Inability of RSPB staff to conduct any project visits and meet physically with project partners and provide field based assistance. Similarly, inability of consultants to visit project OTs.

Anguilla: No significant impact on project so far. No staff health impacts.

Montserrat: Stakeholder engagement activities have been delayed; arrangements are being made to hold meetings virtually using the Zoom platform. Schools were closed as a result of COVID-19 and this affected the education outreach activities which were scheduled for Q1 YR2. No increase in budget expected however spending has been protracted as a result of the postponement of some activities. No face to face engagement with sand miners and training in rehabilitation by the specialist consultant has been possible due to travel restrictions.

Face-to-face engagements with the residents of the nearby communities were temporarily suspended due to Government imposed COVID-19 restrictions which limit the gathering of crowds during the reporting period. However, there has been electronic mail exchanges with representatives from the Isles Bay/Old Towne Community. Online meetings via Zoom are being organized for the upcoming year after key policy decisions have been taken and approved by Government: namely the vesting of lands in the Montserrat National Trust and the declaration of the site as a protected area for wildlife. Project staff have avoided the virus.

TCI: Significant impact recorded on project due to measures implemented by government to curb spread of Covid-19. No inter-island travel permitted, this prevented DECR expert ecologist travelling to Providenciales where Wheeland is situated. For a brief period it wasn't possible to travel within Providenciales. Local travel restrictions have limited movement of

personnel between islands and within communities. Schools were closed as a result of COVID-19 and this has affected the education outreach activities. Efforts are being made to cover public outreach components via social media platforms (i.e. Facebook). One key project support staff suffered from Covid19 and another fell ill from other causes. Both thankfully now in better health.

13. Safeguarding

Please tick this box if any safeguarding violations have occurred during this financial year.

The RSPB takes safeguarding extremely seriously. RSPB has a safeguarding policy and all RSPB staff on the project have passed the minimum level of safeguarding training required; advanced training has been undertaken by project leads. Our contracts with partners require that they have safeguarding measures in place and implement these accordingly. The RSPB safeguarding policy is available online:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/globalassets/downloads/documents/abouttherspb/rspb-safeguarding-policy-statement-2019.pdf>

14. Project expenditure

Figures to follow.

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021)

Project spend (indicative) in this financial year	2020/21 D+ Grant (£)	2020/21 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)				
TOTAL				

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

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2020-2021 – if applicable

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</p> <p>Improved ecological status and climate-resiliency of wetlands through better recognition, protection, and restoration of wetland biodiversity and ecosystem functions at key sites across the Caribbean UKOTs</p>		<p>Good progress made on continuation of collecting ecological baseline data; public awareness through social media platforms; engagement in wetland site restoration through solid waste removal (TCI), mangrove planting (AXA); trail and viewing platform construction for visitor experience (TCI and AXA). Progress also noted in securing government interest in supporting the project and securing formal protection for project wetland sites .</p>	
<p>Outcome: Key threatened wetlands across the Caribbean UKOTs have enhanced protection and are in better ecological condition through improved engagement, networking and collaboration between government and civil society</p>	<p>0.1 Wetland action plans produced and actions piloted and tested at four < ANT 2, TCI 1, MNT 1 > priority wetland sites across participating Territories by Yr3</p> <p>0.2 Wetland sites where actions are piloted show progress along the results chain that leads to favourable conservation status being achieved</p> <p>0.3 Statutory bodies recognise action plans developed for priority wetland sites.</p>	<p>Plans produced in YR1. Actions have been tested throughout YR2.</p> <p>YR2 actions included wetland site restoration through solid waste removal at Wheeland (TCI), mangrove planting at EEPKA (AXA); trail and viewing platform construction for visitor experience (TCI and AXA)</p> <p>Advanced discussions concerning the protected status for Wheeland Pond in TCI being led by DECR. In Montserrat, discussions with MAHLE and Physical Planning Unit regarding protecting coastal wetlands in LBV. Road Salt Pond in Anguilla has</p>	<p>The TCI partnership will need to move from the working draft format of the action plan to a more formal but still 'living' document by Yr3</p> <p>Continued monitoring of birds as indicators of wetland health will help inform progress towards favourable conservation status.</p> <p>Focus on direct outreach to FCDO and Government of Anguilla regarding the threat to the IBA. Support formal engagement by TCNT with relevant departments and ministries as regards the vesting of Wheeland Pond to the Trust, and its formal protection.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>0.4 Improved collaboration and capacity of the project partners results in improved conditions of project wetland sites compared to baseline, leading to better site-led conservation.</p> <p>0.5 At least one private sector company employee and four staff from two Government departments able to communicate value of and need for wise use of wetlands</p> <p>0.6 Community endorsement of wetland action plans</p>	<p>emerged as potentially threatened by interest in developing a marina there.</p> <p>DECR provided remote support to TCNT staff in bird identification for wetlands while under travel restrictions due to COVID. Similarly, in Montserrat, DoE and MNT have had additional support from the RSPB following the Jan 2020 sabbatical, to build capacity as well as mentoring by on-island expertise and senior DoE staff for early career DOE staff in bird identification and data collection</p> <p>A golf course developer has joined the efforts of DOE/MAHLE and MNT in enhancing the wetlands in the Lower Belham Valley and supporting efforts for official protection. In TCI, Kimcha Village (eco tourism venture), has been supporting TCNT on its conservation efforts in Wheeland Pond.</p> <p>Communities are supportive of the conservation actions undertaken at wetland sites (e.g., solid waste clean up campaigns, public education on wetland birds via social media platform, visitation infrastructure) Covid19 related protocols have inhibited holding of face-to-face public meetings / gatherings for consultation</p>	<p>Build on the sound in-territory collaborations in YR1 and YR2 to strengthen partnerships and plans for each wetland; ensure at minimum two coordination meetings in 2021 and plan for big gathering (COVID19 depending) in early 2022.</p> <p>Foster these partnership initiatives involving the business sector; seek high profile statement from government officials in at least two of the three territories.</p> <p>Where permissible under COVID protocols, engage communities to advance wetland conservation awareness and activities; seek opportunities (missed in Yr2) to share action plans and invite feedback and opportunities for co-ownership</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Output 1. Wetland conservation action plans prepared in partnership with local experts and grassroots organisations and capacity to develop and implement plans increased</p>	<p>1.1 Action plan process for target wetland sites initiated at inception workshop in Q1 Year 1 with all project partners, facilitated by technical specialists in wetland restoration</p> <p>1.2 Bird monitoring re-initiated from Q2 Yr1; site biodiversity baseline estimates established at all sites by Q1 Yr2 with bi-annual monitoring thereafter.</p> <p>1.3 Two field-based staff lead on wetland conservation actions and by Q1 Yr3 able to demonstrate learned competencies in each Territory</p> <p>1.4 By Q3 Yr3, at least one NGO project partner has submitted comments to government with recommendations to protect and restore their wetlands</p> <p>1.5 Conservation action plans produced for East End Pond Conservation Area, Road Salt Pond (Anguilla) and Wheeland Pond (Turks and Caicos) by Q4 Year 1</p> <p>1.6 Meetings held between National Trusts and Government to assist with planning and decision-making relevant to all wetlands in each Territory</p>	<p>Activity undertaken in YR1 and reported on in YR1AR.</p> <p>Bird monitoring activities undertaken (in all project sites (annexes 0.3, 0.6a, 0.6b, 1.0)</p> <p>Good staff involvement from each partner so far and competencies developed in bird and plant identification (annexes 0.4, 0.7);</p> <p>Partnerships in TCI and Montserrat have involved recommendations to government on wetlands and protected area status for project sites; some further work needed in Anguilla to identify partnerships following government reorganisations.</p> <p>Plans produced and submitted in YR1.</p> <p>Physical planning development consultations held in TCI and Montserrat have enabled input by National Trusts and RSPB to inform</p>	<p>Review progress on wetland conservation measures undertaken according to action plans.</p> <p>Continue at least bi annual bird monitoring at all wetland sites</p> <p>Continue capacity building activities and strengthening of skills acquired in YR1 and YR2 to drive project progress</p> <p>Specific ask needed re: vesting of Wheeland Ponds to TCNT and addition of the site to the Heritage Sites Register, working with Crown Lands Dept. Increase outreach to planning departments in each territory; support partners explore policy advocacy options</p> <p>Continue to adaptively manage action plans as the project progresses; ensure action plans remain in focus and govern efforts by the partnerships</p> <p>Strengthen advocacy capacity with project partners to advance protection status of wetlands with OT governments. Seek opportunities for face to face / virtual meetings</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
		the process about importance of wetlands (Annex 7.0)	
1.1 Hold a workshop at the start of the project with all project partners, facilitated by technical specialists in wetland restoration		Completed in YR1	Preparations for end of project (Year 3) workshop
1.2 Prepare annual monitoring plans to survey birds and plants		Completed in YR1	No further action needed
1.3 Undertake bird and plant surveys at each wetland site		Completed	No further action needed
1.4 Produce conservation action plans for EEPKA, Road Salt Pond (AXA) and Wheeland Pond (TCI)		Plans completed for EEPKA and RSP in YR1.	Review conservation actions being undertaken under wetland action plans and possibly progress outstanding actions. More work needed to finalise Wheeland Pond action plan. Scope for government involvement in Anguilla to be explored by ANT (as necessary / beneficial to project).
1.5 Conservation actions undertaken at the target wetland sites		Progress made on site restoration activities in target wetland sites (Annexes 5.0,6.0, here) and expected to continue in YR3, subject to impacts of COVID19	Continuation of wetland restoration activities in YR3 within COVID19 protocols within OTs.
1.6 Meetings held between National Trusts and Government to assist with planning and decision-making relevant to all wetlands in each Territory		Progress made in YR2 on informing physical development planning processes. Support provided by RSPB to partners in Montserrat and TCI on physical development planning policy review exercises	Continue support to partners in seeking to have project target wetlands declared as protected areas. RSPB to provide further advocacy support to Anguilla (Sandy Ground Community and the ANT) in securing protection for RSP IBA.
Output 2. Natural and artificial wetlands where restoration techniques are pilot-tested enable measurable increase in value of sites for wetland birds and people	2.1 Wetland restoration needs assessment for EEPKA (AXA), Wheeland Pond (TCI) and Belham Valley Wetlands (MNT) completed by Q3 Yr.1 across Territories.	Completed in YR1	No further action needed.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>2.2 Rehabilitation and remediation plan in place to restore East End Pond Conservation Area (EEPCA) (Anguilla) by Q3 Yr1 with actions from the plan implemented by Q4 Year 2;</p> <p>2.3 Sand mining rehabilitation and wetland creation plans developed for the Belham Valley, Montserrat by Q4 Yr1; interventions identified, shared with the sand mining consortium and attached to planning conditions</p> <p>2.4 Restoration measures pilot-tested in Anguilla and Montserrat by Q3 Year 3.</p> <p>2.5 Wheeland Pond (Turks and Caicos) becomes free of building and household debris, plastic and litter following local community engagement and public awareness; 50% decrease and 95% decrease in waste material in pond by Q1 Year 2 and Q2 Year 3 respectively compared to baseline</p>	<p>Completed in YR1</p> <p>Rehabilitation action plan developed in YR1 and used in physical development planning consultation in YR2</p> <p>Mangrove planting begun at EEPCA; plans in place to enhance pools in Montserrat in Yr3</p> <p>Community based clean up actions led by TCNT conducted as well as contractor secured for deep cleaning of heavy solid waste; construction of walkway and viewing platform.</p>	<p>No further action needed</p> <p>Virtual convening of MNT, DoE, RSPB and consultant meetings with sandminers to explore and embed proposed practices early in YR3; MNT, DoE, RSPB supervision of contractor engaged for wetlands creation enhancement in Lower Belham Valley; explore feasibility of sand mining consultant travel to Montserrat, subject to Covid19 restrictions</p> <p>Continue use of social media to build community awareness of restoration activities undertaken at Wheeland pond and wetland values. Organise community meeting hosted by DECR and TCNT once TCI lockdown measures cease and pending impacts of CV19 crisis on TCNT</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
2.1 Wetland restoration needs assessment for EEPCA (AXA), Wheeland Pond (TCI) and Belham Valley Wetlands (MNT) completed by Q3 Yr.1 across Territories.		Completed in YR1	No further action required
2.2 Rehabilitation and remediation plan in place to restore East End Pond Conservation Area (EEPCA) (Anguilla) by Q3 Yr1 with actions from the plan implemented by Q4 Year 2;		Plan completed in YR1. Additional flood modelling studies, commissioned by the RSPB completed	Exploration of potential NBS approaches to EEPCA restoration; possible implementation of actions recommended in the Environment Systems report.
2.3 Sand mining rehabilitation and wetland creation plans developed for the Belham Valley, Montserrat by Q4 Yr1; interventions identified, shared with the sand mining consortium and attached to planning conditions		Sand mining rehabilitation actions identified for Belham Valley; Lower Belham Valley wetland creation plans agreed upon;	Consultant conduct stakeholder meeting and training with sand miners; explore scope for more stringent planning requirements to underpin consent for extractive activities.
2.4 Restoration measures pilot-tested in Anguilla and Montserrat by Q3 Year 3.		Restoration measures conducted at EEPCA with mangrove planting; walkway and robust viewing gazebo constructed in YR2 (Annex 5.0, 6.0). Lower Belham Valley wetland creation plans agreed upon, works commenced and to be finalised in YR3;	Signage installation at EEPCA and continued mangrove planting; MNT, DoE, RSPB supervision of contractor engaged for wetlands creation enhancement in Lower Belham Valley;
2.5 Wheeland Pond (Turks and Caicos) becomes free of building and household debris, plastic and litter following local community engagement and public awareness; 50% decrease and 95% decrease in waste material in pond by Q1 Year 2 and Q2 Year 3 respectively compared to baseline		Community clean up campaigns and deep cleaning conducted by contractor; walkway and birdwatch viewing platform construction (see here)	Solid waste removal activity completed. Maintenance and community awareness and appreciation for Wheeland to be conducted; signage installation; completion of viewing platform
Output 3. The value of wetlands and need for their wise use is better-understood by civil society, private sector and government stakeholders (local use, commercial development and government planning	3.1 Use of social media platform(s) with at least >900 views on Facebook Live in TCI, >800 views of Montserrat government public announcement about wetlands project on YouTube and >350 people reached in Anguilla to promote public awareness and	Social media platforms extensively used by project partners (see here , here , here and here). More to do to measure and understand impact of outreach.	Continued promotion and use of social media in OTs given CV19 constraints. Greater use of available monitoring tools to determine engagement refine messaging

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>understanding of named wetlands and their values by Q2 Year 3.</p> <p>3.2. At least one Government Minister publicly endorses in-territory plans to safeguard and restore wetlands by Q2 Year 3.</p> <p>3.3. At least one developer in each territory recognises wetland value through engagement in at least one wetland restoration activity by Q1 Year 3;</p> <p>3.4 Public education campaign on the ecological values of Anguilla's priority wetlands and importance to island resiliency delivered by the ANT to at least 85% of East End Village (Anguilla) primary school children by end of Year 2</p> <p>3.5 At least one territory government authority has, by the end of the project publicised a statement explicitly calling for the need to protect wetlands</p>	<p>More to do. No public endorsement as yet but good Ministerial level awareness in Montserrat and engagement in TCI</p> <p>Private sector engaged in TCI and Montserrat on project activities in target wetlands</p> <p>100% participation of school children participated in ANT led wetlands education programme</p> <p>Good progress in engaging Ministries in physical planning review exercises in TCI and Montserrat</p>	<p>Advance efforts to have Wheeland Pond established as a protected area through DECR; Secure LBV wetlands in Montserrat as protected areas</p> <p>Foster engagement and sustained interests by developers in project in all participating OTs. explore scope for Tourism sector to become more involved in promotion of the amazing wetlands in the Anguilla and TCI – and developing wetlands in Montserrat</p> <p>Potentially follow-up with same students and next cohort of students to reinforce learnings</p> <p>Further work to translate momentum generated into a development policy or explicit commitments in line with Environment Charters and Ramsar Convention</p>
<p>3.1 Integrated/innovative community involvement through dramatization, poetry, music and presentations to raise awareness of connectivity between healthy wetlands, vector control and healthy communities. Organizing activities such as birding and breakfast during international/regional conservation days (IMBD,</p>		<p>Limited opportunities due to Covid19 for creative community involvement (poetry, music etc.). However, communities engaged and involved at all sites</p>	<p>Given CV19 restrictions, partners continue to use social media and organise events around key environmental activity days (e.g. Earth</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
Caribbean Endemic Bird festival) at wetland sites to raise significance of wetlands (Anguilla, Turks and Caicos).			Day, World Wetlands Day etc.) to raise profile of target wetlands
3.2. Hold regular meetings with decision-makers focussed on communicating the natural capital value of wetlands		Good progress made in Montserrat and TCI, see here . More to do to engage planning departments.	Partners continue to explore scope for high-level meetings to be held with officials regarding project objectives
3.3 Private company volunteer day working on practical activities held at one of the wetlands		Engagement of private sector in both TCI and Montserrat. Good active engagement by Kim Cha in TCI.	Foster private sector partnerships engaged in YR2 to participate in YR3 wetland project activities. Explore options in Anguilla
3.4 Schools to engage science classes in specific assignments from monitoring seasonal wildlife at wetlands to control of invasive species (plants.).		Schools engaged physically in AXA and virtually by other partners due to Covid protocols in effect	ANT work with a local Sixth Form Biology class on compare growth and survival of mangrove species; MNT/DoE to engage similarly with schools, as far CV19 protocols allow; TCNT to engage with Ministry of Education in having wetland education added to upcoming curriculum
3.5 RSPB policy advocacy specialist to support local engagement with the TCI Physical Development Plan and submit comments in support of wetlands conservation		Commenced in YR1 and continued in YR2 by RSPB engagement in informing physical development planning processes in TCI and MNI.	Support Montserrat government develop sand mining policy; RSPB to continue policy advocacy efforts in TCI alongside our partners
Output 4. Strengthened wetlands conservation management, restoration and organisational capacity of the project partners	<p>4.1 Agreement on the roles and responsibilities of each party in the project</p> <p>4.2 Priority action plan in place for each wetland in each Territory by Q3 Yr3</p>	<p>Achieved and reported in YR1</p> <p>Achieved and reported in YR1</p>	<p>Continue into Yr3.</p> <p>Wetland conservation activities to be continued in YR3; Community outreach and participation via social media; increase recognition within high-level of government</p> <p>Continue to seek formal protection in TCI with support of DECR; Continue to</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>4.3 At least one Territory Development Plan incorporates wetland protection, enhancement and safeguard in (Q1 Yr.3);</p> <p>4.4 By Q2 Yr3, all participating Trusts and Government representatives have strengthened capabilities in wetland conservation and restoration</p>	<p>Not yet happened. Good potential for formal protection to be granted in Montserrat and TCI</p> <p>Project partners have engaged in building capacities in bird identification; plant identification; promoting public education on wetland habitat values; engagement in wetland enhancement (MNI). Restoration by mangrove tree seedling production and out planting by ANT (AXA); visitation walkways and viewing platform construction to attract public. All demonstrate capabilities and interests fostered by this project through these activities in each OT (see annexes 0.3, 0.4, 0.6a, 0.6b)</p>	<p>support efforts of MNT/DoE for formal protection of wetlands in LBV</p> <p>Virtual meeting between all partner OTs on zoom to share excellent outputs and experiences generated in Year 1 and YR2 – RSPB to facilitate</p>
4.1 A Project Steering Group Committee will be established comprising of the project partners. The committee will meet at the onset of the project then at least once every 3 months		Several Steering Group meetings held (see Annex 0.18) for example minutes	Continue to hold biannual SG meetings
4.2 Produce priority action plan for each wetland in each Territory		Produced in YR1	See sections covering output 1 and output 2 above
4.3 RSPB policy specialists to work closely with government partners in supporting territory development plans that recognise wetlands value		RSPB provided technical input to the TCI Spatial Plan, with connections now made with relevant consultants. There is good ongoing engagement in Montserrat (sandmining policies and physical development)	<p>TCI: Wheeland Pond advancing to PA status, currently being advanced by DECR with support from TCNT</p> <p>MNI: Declaration of LBV wetlands as PA vested in MNT; advancing sand mining policy work.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
			Greater public awareness of the threat to Road Salt Bay Pond IBA and public support for the site's formal protection
4.4 RSPB to lead workshop to build capacity and capability of Trust staff in wetland conservation and restoration		Conducted in YR1 and reported	End of project face to face meeting to be held Q4YR3, Covid19 depending

Annex 2: Project’s full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed) - if applicable

N.B. if your application’s logframe is presented in a different format in your application, please transpose into the below template. Please feel free to contact Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk if you have any questions regarding this.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: Improved ecological status and climate-resiliency of wetlands through better recognition, protection, and restoration of wetland biodiversity and ecosystem functions at key sites across the Caribbean UKOTs</p> <p>(Max 30 words)</p>			
<p>Outcome: Key threatened wetlands across the Caribbean UKOTs have enhanced protection and are in better ecological condition through improved engagement, networking and collaboration between government and civil society</p> <p>(Max 30 words)</p>	<p>0.1 Wetland action plans produced and actions piloted and tested at four < ANT 2, TCI 1, MNT 1 > priority wetland sites across participating Territories by Yr3</p> <p>0.2 Wetland sites where actions are piloted show progress along the results chain that leads to favourable conservation status being achieved</p> <p>0.3 Statutory bodies recognise action plans developed for priority wetland sites.</p> <p>0.4 Improved collaboration and capacity of the project partners results in improved conditions of project wetland sites compared to baseline, leading to better site-led conservation.</p>	<p>0.1 Priority wetland action plans produced and publicised in National Reports.</p> <p>0.2 Scientific reports detailing baseline assessments for pilot wetland sites produced and change in ecological status; monitoring reports</p> <p>0.3 Statement from government officials endorsing wetland creation / action plans</p> <p>0.4 Summary documents of partner meetings; workshop attendance lists; photos of wetland clean-ups at Wheeland Pond, planting of vegetation at EEPKA events; enhanced ecological opportunities</p>	<p>Stakeholders available and able to impart local / relevant knowledge to inform management plans.</p> <p>Senior officials willing to approve and then implement the site management plans.</p> <p>Measures needed to restore wetlands are effective and project timeframe is sufficient to demonstrate positive impact of interventions.</p> <p>Hurricanes or other extreme weather events do not prevent pilot and testing of management plan actions</p> <p>Covid-19 global pandemic and its direct and indirect impact on the RSPB and its partners, does not inhibit our ability to achieve the project outcome</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>0.5 At least one private sector company employee and four staff from two Government departments able to communicate value of and need for wise use of wetlands</p> <p>0.6 Community endorsement of wetland action plans</p>	<p>(foraging, breeding) for shorebirds at Road Salt Bay Pond IBA;</p> <p>0.5 Minutes from in-territory meetings discussing wetlands; input to the consultation on TCI island-wide physical development plan; minutes from meetings with private sector representatives</p> <p>0.6 Correspondence from community leaders following consultation</p>	
<p>Outputs:</p> <p>1. Wetland conservation action plans prepared in partnership with local experts and grassroots organisations and capacity to develop and implement plans increased</p>	<p>1.1 Action plan process for target wetland sites initiated at inception workshop in Q1 Year 1 with all project partners, facilitated by technical specialists in wetland restoration</p> <p>1.2 Bird monitoring re-initiated from Q2 Yr1; site biodiversity baseline estimates established at all sites by Q1 Yr2 with bi-annual monitoring thereafter.</p>	<p>1.1 Inception workshop agenda and objectives document; attendance list; PowerPoint presentations; feedback sheets; minutes and actions; draft training materials; workshop report</p> <p>1.2 Template with monitoring protocols to be used across all wetland sites. Site biodiversity / species monitoring reports; bi-annual reports.</p> <p>1.3 workshop exercise sheets inc. draft management plans; written</p>	<p>Extreme weather events do not disrupt ability to update or develop baselines for wetland sites; do not undo conservation efforts</p> <p>Conservation management plan actions can be delivered and adaptively managed by Governments and Trusts.</p> <p>Openness and willingness of Trusts and Government to collaborate and work transparently and openly</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>1.3 Two field-based staff lead on wetland conservation actions and by Q1 Yr3 able to demonstrate learned competencies in each Territory</p> <p>1.4 By Q3 Yr3, at least one NGO project partner has submitted comments to government with recommendations to protect and restore their wetlands</p> <p>1.5 Conservation action plans produced for East End Pond Conservation Area, Road Salt Pond (Anguilla) and Wheeland Pond (Turks and Caicos) by Q4 Year 1</p>	<p>feedback on project staff-led wetland action plans provided by RSPB wetland / site staff</p> <p>1.4 Copy of comments and recommendations submitted to Government</p> <p>1.5 Conservation action plans (refer to 0.1)</p>	
<p>2. Natural and artificial wetlands where restoration techniques are pilot-tested enable measurable increase in value of sites for wetland birds and people</p>	<p>2.1 Wetland restoration needs assessment for EEPKA (AXA), Wheeland Pond (TCI) and Belham Valley Wetlands (MNT) completed by Q3 Yr.1 across Territories.</p> <p>2.2 Rehabilitation and remediation plan in place to restore East End Pond Conservation Area (EEPCA) (Anguilla) by Q3 Yr1 with actions from the plan implemented by Q4 Year 2;</p>	<p>2.1 Restoration needs assessment report(s) for each target wetland site</p> <p>2.2 Report on expected outcomes and challenges arising from efforts to restore EEPKA; EEPKA action plan; technical restoration manual and executive summaries for</p>	<p>Communities endorse plans to enhance EEPKA; restoration leads to reduced flood risk and better ecological outcomes</p> <p>Sand miners accept need to restore where they have extracted material from in line with consultant and team-prepared guidelines; government</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>2.3 Sand mining rehabilitation and wetland creation plans developed for the Belham Valley, Montserrat by Q4 Yr1; interventions identified, shared with the sand mining consortium and attached to planning conditions</p> <p>2.4 Restoration measures pilot-tested in Anguilla and Montserrat by Q3 Year 3.</p> <p>2.5 Wheeland Pond (Turks and Caicos) becomes free of building and household debris, plastic and litter following local community engagement and public awareness; 50% decrease and 95% decrease in waste material in pond by Q1 Year 2 and Q2 Year 3 respectively compared to baseline</p>	<p>EEPCA (Anguilla); photos of re-planting and action on-the ground</p> <p>2.3 Restoration and wetland creation plans produced for Belham Valley; correspondence or photos of virtual or 'in real life' meetings with stakeholders; sand mining rehabilitation guidelines attached to mining conditions; conceptual wetland creation plan produced</p> <p>2.4 Photos of re-planting / community engagement at wetland sites in Anguilla; dip well (water monitoring data) and site visits in Montserrat, Zoom virtual calls recorded;</p> <p>2.5 Photos of wetland waste, pre and post removal; Use of social media platforms (e.g. Facebook live), record logins and number of views for the activities; subcontracts with clean up contractors in Turks and Caicos</p>	<p>Covid-19 global pandemic does not inhibit plans to implement actions at wetland sites</p>
<p>3. The value of wetlands and need for their wise use is better-understood by civil society, private sector and government</p>	<p>3.1 Use of social media platform(s) with at least >900 views on Facebook Live in TCI, >800 views of Montserrat government public</p>	<p>3.1 Screenshots of social media platform(s) live events (e.g. Facebook live, online survey etc.),</p>	<p>Social media platforms and live events reach appropriate audience/s</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>stakeholders (local use, commercial development and government planning)</p> <p><i>N.B.</i> - If you have more than 3 outputs, insert a row(s). It is advised to have less than 6 outputs since this level of detail can be provided at the activity level.</p>	<p>announcement about wetlands project on YouTube and >350 people reached in Anguilla to promote public awareness and understanding of named wetlands and their values by Q2 Year 3.</p> <p>3.2. At least one Government Minister publicly endorses in-territory plans to safeguard and restore wetlands by Q2 Year 3.</p> <p>3.3. At least one developer in each territory recognises wetland value through engagement in at least one wetland restoration activity by Q1 Year 3;</p> <p>3.4 Public education campaign on the ecological values of Anguilla's priority wetlands and importance to island resiliency delivered by the ANT to at least 85% of East End Village (Anguilla) primary school children by end of Year 2</p> <p>3.5 At least one territory government authority has, by the end of the project publicised a statement explicitly calling for the need to protect wetlands</p>	<p>record logins and number of views for the activities</p> <p>3.2 Press release in-territory quoting Government Minister endorsement</p> <p>3.3 photos of company staff participating in restoration actions; reviews endorsing wetlands restoration enhancement efforts posted by visitors in Tripadvisor, booking.com;</p> <p>3.4 Photos of school children participating in ANT led virtual or face-to-face education class; Teachers providing record of numbers of participating students</p>	<p>Advocacy materials developed are relevant across all of the participating CCN National Trusts and therefore effective at the Territory / local level</p> <p>Improved knowledge / access to knowledge leads to improved habitat and species conservation</p> <p>Children able to retain lessons into adulthood and, remain on island in sufficient numbers to be vocal advocates for wetlands in future</p> <p>Covid-19 does not prevent company volunteer day taking place or other on-the-ground business participation in or engagement with wetland activities</p> <p>Government capacity to support and publicise their support of wetlands conservation not hindered by Covid-19 impacts in-territory</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
		3.5 Meeting agendas; minutes, actions of meetings captured; participation lists of attendees	
<p>4. Strengthened wetlands conservation management, restoration and organisational capacity of the project partners</p>	<p>4.1 Agreement on the roles and responsibilities of each party in the project</p> <p>4.2 Priority action plan in place for each wetland in each Territory by Q3 Yr3</p> <p>4.3 At least one Territory Development Plan incorporates wetland protection, enhancement and safeguard in (Q1 Yr.3);</p> <p>4.4 By Q2 Yr3, all participating Trusts and Government representatives have strengthened capabilities in wetland conservation and restoration</p>	<p>4.1 A signed and agreed MOU between the partner organisations at the start of the project will clearly set out the obligations and roles of all parties in delivering the project objectives.</p> <p>4.2 Signs publicising planned management activities and actions at each wetlands</p> <p>4.3 Development plan wetland policies publicised through online media; wetlands annexes in physical land use / development plans</p> <p>4.4 Project team-led action plans for post-project period</p>	<p>Partners are willing to sign MoU agreements and agree on roles and responsibilities with the lead partner</p> <p>Government processes are willing and able to accommodate wetland protection commitments in their plans</p> <p>All partner staff are successfully able to participate in capacity-strengthening workshops</p>
<p>Activities (each activity is numbered according to the Output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)</p> <p>Output 1. Wetland conservation action plans prepared in partnership with local experts and grassroots organisations and capacity to develop and implement plans increased</p>			

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>1.1 Hold a workshop at the start of the project with all project partners, facilitated by technical specialists in wetland restoration</p> <p>1.2 Prepare annual monitoring plans to survey birds and plants;</p> <p>1.3 Undertake bird and plant surveys at each wetland site</p> <p>1.4 Produce conservation action plans for East End Pond Conservation Area, Road Salt Pond IBA (Anguilla) and Wheeland Pond (Turks and Caicos)</p> <p>1.5 Conservation actions undertaken at the target wetland sites</p> <p>1.6 Meetings held between National Trusts and Government to assist with planning and decision-making relevant to all wetlands in each Territory</p>			
<p>Output 2. Natural and artificial wetlands where restoration techniques are piloted lead to measurable increase in ecological quality and improvement and enhancement of natural capital values indicators</p>			
<p>2.1 Scoping mission to East End Pond Conservation Area (Anguilla), Belham Valley Wetlands (Montserrat) and Wheeland Pond (Turks and Caicos) wetland to assess individual restoration needs from removing fill, to addressing pollution</p> <p>2.2 Commission professional rehabilitation and remediation feasibility study (N.S Nettles & Associates proposal [http://nsnettles.com/] already in place) to restore East End Conservation Area (Area) wetland site in Anguilla, specifically: (1) Determine the distribution and estimate the quantity of fill material historically placed in the East End Salt Pond (2) Assess the impacts of removing this fill material from a groundwater quality perspective and an ecosystem impact perspective (3) Evaluate the hydrology of the East End Salt Pond as it relates to the periodic flooding resulting from high intensity rainfall events and (4) Present ecologically sustainable flooding mitigation alternatives</p> <p>2.3 Develop restoration and biodiversity action plans for Belham Valley sand mining operations in Montserrat; identify restoration measures needed for Wheeland Pond (TCI)</p> <p>2.4 Pilot-test proposed restoration measures in Anguilla, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos</p> <p>2.5 Encourage interested, motivated persons from communities within vicinity of wetlands to partner with National Trusts to form action group for long term implementation of management plan for wetland sites.</p>			
<p>Output 3. The value of wetlands and need for their wise use is better-understood by those intending to undertake operations or make decisions affecting their ecological quality</p>			

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>3.1 Integrated/innovative community involvement through dramatization, poetry, music and presentations to raise awareness of connectivity between healthy wetlands, vector control and healthy communities. Organizing activities such as birding and breakfast during international/regional conservation days (IMBD, Caribbean Endemic Bird festival) at wetland sites to raise significance of wetlands (Anguilla, Turks and Caicos).</p> <p>3.2. Hold regular meetings with decision-makers focussed on communicating the natural capital value of wetlands</p> <p>3.3. Private company volunteer day working on practical activities held at one of the wetlands</p> <p>3.4 Schools to engage science classes in specific assignments from monitoring seasonal wildlife at wetlands to control of invasive species (plants).).</p> <p>3.5 RSPB policy advocacy specialist to support local engagement with the TCI Physical Development Plan and submit comments in support of wetlands conservation</p> <p>Output 4. Strengthened wetlands conservation management, restoration and organisational capacity of the partner organisations.</p> <p>4.1 A Project Steering Group Committee will be established comprising of the project partners. The committee will meet at the onset of the project then at least once every 3 months</p> <p>4.2 Produce priority action plan for each wetland in each Territory</p> <p>4.3 RSPB policy specialists to work closely with government partners in supporting territory development plans that recognise wetlands value</p> <p>4.4 RSPB to lead workshop to build capacity and capability of Trust staff in wetland conservation and restoration</p>			

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the Subject line.	X
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Have you included means of verification? You should 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 need 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. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	X
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	