



Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects Half Year Report (due 31st October 2021)

Project reference	DPLUS119
Project title	Technical assistance programme for effective coastal-marine management in the TCI
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Turks & Caicos Islands (TCI)
Lead organisation	Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)
Partner(s)	Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR), Turks & Caicos Islands Government (TCIG) South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI)
Project leader	Dr Megan Tierney
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	HYR2
Project website/blog/social media	Project Website: https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/turks-caicos-islands-marine-coastal-management/#toc Social Media handles: @JNCC_UK, @TCIG_Press, @SAERI_FI, @Darwin_Defra

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

This report outlines progress made against activities and deliverables of DPLUS119 scheduled for Q1 and Q2 of Year 2 (Y2) of the project (i.e. April – September 2021). Please note that we have used the revised Logframe and Implementation timetable which were approved through formal Change Requests in Year 1 (Y1) of the project.

Output 1. Natural Capital evidence base and tools are developed through a capacity building process with TCIG staff (WP1).

In this reporting period, Work Package 1 (WP1) has focussed on the following:

Natural Capital Asset Register (Activities 1.1 – 1.4)

- Under WP1 a natural capital asset register for the TCIs was developed in Y1 of the project (Activities 1.1 – 1.4); however publication of the summary report on the project website/dissemination to wider stakeholders and uploading the asset register to the TCI Data Portal that has been developed by DPLUS094 was still to be completed.
- Just prior to publication/dissemination of the WP1 report some inconsistencies in the underlying TNC (The Nature Conservancy) benthic habitat data layers used by this project (DPLUS119) and that led by eftec which is developing Natural Capital Accounts for the Caribbean UK Overseas Territories (DPLUS108) were identified.

- Discussions between JNCC, eftec, TNC and DECR have resolved the issue (which was related to the different raster conversion methods used) and there has been agreement on which layers and method need to be used going forward.
- It was further agreed that the DPLUS119 WP1 report would not be amended (as otherwise redrafts would need to be done every time there is an update in the data), but that an explanatory note will be added to both the DPLUS119 and DPLUS108 reports to explain why differences exist.
- Further, it was agreed it would be beneficial if the DPLUS119 WP1 Knowledge Exchange Programme (Activity 1.7) planned for Y3 of the project was to incorporate an element showing how asset information and maps can be updated when new data is available.
- Now that these issues have been resolved, the WP1 report will be published on the DPLUS119 project webpage.

Natural Capital Asset Register Workshop (Activity 1.6, Indicator 1.4 – due for completion Y2Q1)

- A workshop was to be held by Y2Q1 to present the outcomes produced by WP1 in the first year of the project to stakeholders. However, it has been agreed by the WP1 leads and Project Management Group (PMG) that this exercise would be more beneficial to be built into the WP1 Knowledge Exchange Programme planned for Y3 (Activity 1.7).
- This, plus other proposed changes to the remainder of WP1, which includes being able to refine, update and validate the benthic habitat maps and asset register with data which is anticipated to be available by Y3 of the project will be submitted in a formal Change Request.

Output 2. Completed status assessments for marine/coastal habitats within TCI territorial waters based on best available evidence through a capacity building process with TCIG staff (WP2).

In this reporting period, Work Package 2 (WP2) has focussed on prioritising habitats that will be used in the sensitivity and status assessments, identifying pressures and associated activities in the coastal-marine waters of the TCIs, collating available data and commencement of the sensitivity assessments for identified pressures in the priority habitats.

Priority Habitats (Activities 2.2 – 2.5; and Activities 3.1 – 3.4)

- Discussions were held with the WP2 and WP3 leads, DECR and members of the Project Advisory Group (PAG) to identify and agree the priority habitats for both the assessment (WP2) and indicator (WP3) work. Due to a mixture of data availability and time constraints, it was agreed that 3 instead of 5 priority habitats would be selected. These are:
 - Coral reefs, seagrass and sand.

Literature Review (Activity 2.3, Indicator 3.3 – not due for completion until Y2Q3)

- A literature review of the three priority habitats has been completed to record existing evidence of the condition of habitats, categorised as damaged, good, or unknown, and of sensitivity to anthropogenic pressures (Figure 1). Evidence was recorded as either proxy or empirical, and confidence scores were assigned based on the amount and type of evidence available.

Reference title	Author	Year	Name of publication	Location	Evidence of condition	Evidence on sensitivity	Condition	Brief description of evidence on condition	Brief description of evidence on sensitivity	Confidence	Rationale for confidence	Pressure
Wilson, A., Anderson, C., Banks, C., Dempsey, A., Fox, M., Gino, M., Heister, P., Parnes, A., Raich, S., Rinder, J. and Smith, C., 2009. Ecological assessment to detect imminent change in coral reefs of Admiralty Cookburn Land and Sea National Park, Turks and Caicos Islands. Marine Ecology. Progress Series 384, 1-11.	Wilson et al.	2009	Ecological assessment to detect imminent change in coral reefs of Admiralty Cookburn Land and Sea National Park, Turks and Caicos Islands	Admiralty Cookburn Land and Sea National Park, Turks and Caicos Islands	Yes - empirical	No	damaged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observed and assessed baseline was on the senescent composition and coral community structure at South Caicos. Study sites around the South Caicos island appeared to be similar in their coral community structure however, genetic composition was variable. The dominant benthic component found on the reefs was carbonate substrate, indicating an accreting reef framework. On benthos largely dominated by carbonate substrate dominated benthos had a low percent cover of live coral. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observations of algae overgrowth in many of the shallow reefs that were surveyed, suggested to indicate land-based nutrient sources. High levels of algae were also seen at many remote sites with no land-based nutrient sources. Authors also suggest that the impact of increased sedimentation and nutrients has started to cause a "phase-shift" from coral to algae reefs. An increase in sediment-resistant hard corals across the TCI's is also predicted by the authors, e.g. <i>Siderastrea</i> spp. 	Moderate	This study collected data on reefs that were surveyed, suggested to indicate land-based nutrient sources. All survey sites were situated in South Caicos. Minimal data collected on pressure/sensitivities.	Sedimentation, excess nutrients, Macro-algae
Goureau, T.J., Frame, T., Jones, J., Lockhart, K., Hibbert, M. and Lewis, A., 2008. Turks and Caicos Islands 2006 coral reef assessment. Large-scale environmental and ecological interactions and their management implications. Revista de Biología Tropical. 58(1), 1-11.	Goureau et al.	2008	Turks and Caicos Islands 2006 coral reef assessment. Large-scale environmental and ecological interactions and their management implications	21 (Pug) TCI, 21 (Pug) TCI, 21 (Pug) TCI	Yes - empirical	No	damaged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive surveys were carried out in Providenciales, South Caicos, East Caicos, and Grand Turk. Live coral cover averaged 10-20%, maximum around 40%. Dead coral exceeded live coral at all sites. High algae abundance was seen at almost all sites. Progressive decline in live coral cover over the past 15-20 years was clear at all sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progressive mortality appears to be underway from coral bleaching coral diseases, algae overgrowth, and in some locations near dredging, from excessive turbidity. Stress from sedimentation was a seen down-current from the Cruise Ship Port dredging site. Epidemic levels of coral diseases were found at many locations, most commonly was an increase pathogen of White Plague disease. Large areas of shallow reef framework that died from White Band Disease around 1970, and have shown little signs of recovery since. Many diseases correlate with certain species of algae, which might be reservoirs for pathogens. Most TCI reefs are algae dominated, driven by an excess of nutrients. 	Moderate	Good information on coral condition using spatially extensive surveys to look at large-scale gradients. Surveyed various islands across TCI.	Algae, bleaching, coral disease and sedimentation.
Knipp, A.L., Pentzahn, J.C., Jossé, C. and Herber, H., 2020. Corals and their response to the 2014-2017 coral bleaching event in the Turks and Caicos Islands. SN Applied Sciences, 2(8), 164-171.	Knipp et al.	2020	Corals and their response to the 2014-2017 coral bleaching event in the Turks and Caicos Islands	21 (Pug) TCI, 21 (Pug) TCI, 21 (Pug) TCI	Yes - empirical	No	good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessed coral colour, as a coral health proxy, across South Caicos in relation to the 2014-17 global bleaching event (GBE). All coral bleached during the study sites were found to be resilient to the maximum regional thermal stress during the 2014-17 GBE. Many plate type corals bleached significantly during the GBE however, both plate type and boulder-type significantly recovered to pre-GBE health by the beginning of 2017. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased temperature found to play a direct role in declining coral colour (coral bleaching) during the GBE. Cooler, post-GBE regional water temperatures resulted in all coral health recovery for both boulder and plate-type corals, albeit with less coral color variability post-GBE than pre-GBE. 	Low	Only focused on South Caicos. Used coral colour as a proxy to assess coral bleaching. Dated study (1999).	Bleaching
Steiner, S.C.C., 1999. Species presence and distribution of scleractinia (Cnidaria: Anthozoa) from South Caicos, Turks and Caicos Islands. Ecological of marine science, 65(1), pp.863-871.	Steiner	1999	Species presence and distribution of scleractinia (Cnidaria: Anthozoa) from South Caicos, Turks and Caicos Islands	1999 Bull Mar Sci	Yes - empirical	No	good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assesses the characteristics of coral assemblages across South Caicos. Three distinct assemblages were depicted. Coral assemblages found in 1m trenches have low species richness and the most homogeneous distribution of individuals per species. A 2m trench was found to have the highest species richness and diversity, with comparatively heterogeneous individual abundances. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shallow water coral assemblages (1m) thought to be influenced by persisting wave impact of the easterly Trade Winds causing turbulence and scouring. Coral assemblages found in 2m trenches benefit of water movement allow for greater variety of corals to flourish, limited mainly by the topography. Limitations of coral growth at 2m are thought to be linked to sediment run-off. <i>Acropora cervicornis</i> was thought to have once been a 	Low	Limited information/ data on actual condition of corals. Dated study (1999) and small survey range (South Caicos).	Trade winds (turbulence and scouring), sediment run-off

Figure 1. Screenshot of the compilation of data and information from the literature review undertaken to record existing evidence of condition of the TCI coral reef, seagrass and sand habitats.

Identifying Activities and Pressures (Activity 2.2, Indicator 2.2 – due for completion Y2Q2)

- A collation of information and data on activities and pressures occurring in TCI waters was completed which drew upon information in the TCI Data Portal, online searches and prior data searches from WP3.
 - Challenges were found in accessing spatial data for some activities, particularly fishing. This may mean changes are needed to the approach being used for the status/condition assessment work.
- Activities were correlated to those in the [JNCC UK pressures-activities database](#), and associated medium-high risk pressures identified (Figure 2).

PAD activity category	PAD activity	Pressures (medium-high RPP only)
Transport	Vessel movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Above water noise Underwater noise changes Visual disturbance
	Vessel moorings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Penetration and/or disturbance of the substrate below the surface of the seabed, including abrasion Physical change (to another seabed type) Physical change (to another sediment type)
	Vessel berths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abrasion/disturbance of the substrate on the surface of the seabed Penetration and/or disturbance of the substrate below the surface of the seabed, including abrasion Physical change (to another seabed type) Physical change (to another sediment type)
	Vessel anchorages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abrasion/disturbance of the substrate on the surface of the seabed Penetration and/or disturbance of the substrate below the surface of the seabed, including abrasion Abrasion/disturbance of the substrate on the surface of the seabed
Other man-made structures	Cultural and heritage sites (e.g. wrecks, sculptures, foundations etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Penetration and/or disturbance of the substrate below the surface of the seabed, including abrasion Physical change (to another seabed type) Physical change (to another sediment type) Wave exposure changes
Extraction of living resources	Diving (incl. removal of living resources)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of target species Abrasion/disturbance of the substrate on the surface of the seabed
	Line fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of non-target species Removal of target species
	Pelagic fishing (or fishing activities that do not interact with sea bed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of non-target species Removal of target species Abrasion/disturbance of the substrate on the surface of the seabed
Maintenance Dredging	Capital dredging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barrier to species movement Changes in suspended solids (water clarity) Habitat structure changes - removal of substratum (extraction)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Penetration and/or disturbance of the substrate below the surface of the seabed, including abrasion Smothering and siltation rate changes (Heavy) Smothering and siltation rate changes (Light)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abrasion/disturbance of the substrate on the surface of the seabed Barrier to species movement Changes in suspended solids (water clarity) Emergence regime changes, including tidal level change considerations Habitat structure changes - removal of substratum (extraction)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Penetration and/or disturbance of the substrate below the surface of the seabed, including abrasion

Figure 2. Screenshot of the Pressures and Activities database compiled as part of Work Package 2.

- JNCC conducted a workshop with the PAG to prioritise the activities and pressures for the sensitivity assessments and resultant status assessment work (Figure 3). Minutes summarising the outcomes from the workshop were provided to the PAG (Annex 1).
 - Activities identified include:
 - Current activities identified that might put pressure on marine-coastal habitats include: ferry routes, moorings, artificial structures, wrecks, cruise ships, lobster and conch fishing, sport fishing, boat rides/sailing, dredging (navigational), sewage runoff; jet skiing, fly boarding, ecotourism (viewing/feeding stingrays), coastal activities (picnics etc.), diving/snorkelling, removal of terrestrial cover, agriculture, construction of new marine structures (marinas), digging canals, land clearance, small-scale oil spills mainly from shipping, run off from other Caribbean islands contributing to large quantities of sargassum blooms, landfill sites causing increases in algae and cyanobacteria
 - Future activities identified that might put additional pressure on marine-coastal habitats include: floating bars, sand mining operations, increased number of yachts and associated activities at large marinas.
 - The key pressures agreed to be assessed for sensitivity were:
 - Abrasion/disturbance of the substrate on the surface of the seabed and penetration of the substrate below the surface of the seabed: These will have the same sensitivity scores and evidence
 - Smothering and siltation changes – at both heavy and light levels
 - Physical change to another seabed or sediment type: All habitats are assessed as highly sensitive to this pressure as it assumes complete change of one habitat to another.
 - Physical loss (to land or freshwater habitat): All habitats are assessed as highly sensitive to this pressure as it assumes complete loss of habitat
 - Organic enrichment: Effects from Sargassum and algal blooms
 - Introduction of microbial pathogens: Effects from SCTLD and other diseases



Figure 3. Screenshot of presentation and participants at the online Activities and Pressures workshop held as part of Work Package 2.

Sensitivity Assessments (Activity 2.4 and 2.5, Indicator 2.4 – not due for completion until Y2Q4 but work commenced)

- Sensitivity assessments for the identified pressures will be undertaken for the three key habitats:
 - Assessment work has commenced and is now almost complete for the three habitats and is currently undergoing final QA checks.

- There is a notable lack of evidence on sensitivity for sand habitats (and associated algal communities), however sufficient evidence was available for coral reefs and seagrasses for most pressures.
- Due to the timeframes available, further pressures can not be assessed, but would add value to the final sensitivity and associated condition assessments.
- Once finalised, evidence and data will be used to undertake the status/condition work – Y2Q3 onwards (Activity 2.6).
- The methods for activities, pressures and sensitivity work is being drafted. This will include:
 - Rationale for selection of the 3 habitats
 - Methods for the asset condition literature review, with outputs annexed
 - Methods for the work undertaken for selecting activities, pressures and the sensitivity assessment methods used, with outputs annexed
 - Recommendations/tools/guidance to DECR to undertake similar work in the future

Output 3. Marine indicators to monitor changes to coastal/marine natural capital enabling progressive adoption of a monitoring programme developed through a capacity building process with TCIG staff (WP3).

In this reporting period, Work Package 3 (WP3) has focused on identifying priority habitats (see Output 2), finalising the scoping exercise, developing the indicator development plan and commencing the first phase of indicator development.

Scoping exercise and developing indicator development plan (Activity 3.1, Indicator 3.1 – due for completion Y1Q4).

- As noted in the Y1 Annual Report, while this activity had been commenced in Y1, additional time was required to finalise the exercise whereby priorities, data availability and an indicator development plan could be scoped.
- This has now been completed. The scoping document which provides a summary of the indicators which could be developed and outlines a plan for the indicator development is ready for the PMG to review and provide final sign-off.

Phase 1 Indicator Development (Activity 3.3, Indicator 3.3 – not due for completion until Y2Q3)

- As noted in the Y1 Annual Report, it was agreed between the Project Partners to conduct a pilot study on the top priority indicators for development. These pilot studies will form part of the indicator development undertaken during Y2, but will allow data availability to be explored and to see if the indicator would work on a small case study area, before expanding across a wider area.
- This work was initiated in this reporting period with meetings held between JNCC and DECR to discuss the final list of indicators and steps which will be used in the pilot (test) studies.
 - It was agreed that testing will start with seagrass extent and condition and abrasion on sandy habitats, with extent and condition of coral habitats possibly following at a later stage, once methods are proved.
- The first phase of indicator testing/development is now underway.

Output 4. Building TCIG staff capacity in natural capital approaches and raising awareness through community engagement and communications (WP4).

In this reporting period, Work Package 4 (WP4) was to primarily to focus on Knowledge Exchange, commence delivery of the stakeholder engagement and communications plan developed in Y1, and provide project updates via various means.

Stakeholder and community engagement events (Activity 4.4, Indicator 4.3 – not due for completion until Y3Q4)

- Due to the ongoing challenges presented by Covid-19 (see Section 2b), it has not been possible to execute any in-person stakeholder or community events in this reporting period. The WP leads and the PMG continue discussions on how these may be best delivered. The stakeholder engagement and communications plans will be adjusted accordingly.
- However, the PAG was formalised with an online introductory session and Q&A session held in this reporting round. This session served to introduce PAG members to each other, provide an overview of the project, role of the PAG, the topics and timings of proposed PAG Forums, and an opportunity for PAG members to ask any other questions they may have about the project. Terms of Reference (ToRs) were also agreed (Annex 2).
- A workshop to gather input from the PAG on activities and pressures on TCI marine and coastal environments was held in August 2021 – see details summarised under Output 2.

Project Updates (Activity 4.6, Indicator 4.4 – not due for completion until Y3Q4)

- Work continued on drafting additional pages for the project webpage which will feature updates on project progress and access to project outputs. These are due to go live in Y2Q3.
- Updates via Twitter have been posted when appropriate – e.g. the WP2 Activities and Pressures Workshop (Figure 4).
- During this reporting period, work between DPLUS119 and DPLUS094 was ongoing to develop appropriate guidelines for how to share and upload DPLUS119 products on the TCI Data Portal.
 - This has involved ensuring that as well as any TCIG requirements, JNCC and Defra data sharing agreements would also be met before data is uploaded to the portal.
 - The guidelines are in the final stages of review, following which the first of the DPLUS119 products (Natural Capital Asset Register and Ecosystem Service Maps produced in Y1 of the project) will be uploaded and available on the TCI Data Portal.
 - With these guidelines in place, subsequent DPLUS data products should be uploaded to the Data Portal in a timely manner.



Figure 4. Twitter post highlighting the Activities and Pressures workshop held as part of Work Package 2.

Knowledge Exchange Visit to TCI by JNCC Stakeholder Engagement Expert (Activity 4.7, Indicator 4.5 – due for completion Y2Q1)

- Due to the ongoing travel restrictions presented by Covid-19 (see Section 2b), it was not possible to undertake this activity in this reporting period. The PMG have met to discuss how this, and the other scheduled Knowledge Exchange Visits, can be delivered. The proposed plan will be submitted via a formal Change Request.

Output 5. Project management, reporting and IT (WP5).

In this reporting period, Work Package 5 was to continue with overall project management and commence the environmental data storage and management requirements scoping exercise.

Project Management (Activities 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.7 – ongoing throughout project)

- Due to the Project Leader being based in Australia for the reporting period (see more details in Section 2a), and therefore PMG members operating across time zones incompatible for online meetings, no PMG meetings were held during this reporting period. However the PMG remained in contact via email, with the Project Leader providing updates or requesting feedback/direction on any issues that arose as required.
- As can be seen from the summary under each Output above, there has been good progress on all other aspects of the project.
- Due to the circumstances of the Project Leader, an extension for submission of the Y1 Annual Report was granted. The report was prepared in this reporting period and submitted in August 2021.

Scoping Data Storage and Management Requirements (Activity 5.5, Indicator 5.6 – not due for completion until Y2Q3)

- Now that DPLUS094, which developed the TCI Data Portal and initiated work on data management procedures has been completed, discussions can begin in earnest regarding next steps in this process. It is likely that the timeframes for this activity will need to be adjusted – this will be submitted via a formal Change Request.

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months (for COVID-19 specific delays/problems, please use 2b). Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

There were a number of challenges experienced in this reporting period:

Data availability

As noted in Section 1 (Output 2) there is a lack of data to enable sufficient sensitivity and status assessments, or indicator development on all TCI benthic habitat types. Therefore the approach has been adjusted to focus this work on three priority habitats for which there is data available. Likewise, there has been some challenges obtaining spatial data for all activities, particularly fishing, which may mean the approach being used for the status/condition assessment work will need to be modified. However, the project will include training and guidelines in how to undertake the assessments and develop indicators. Through this legacy, TCIG will be able to update the assessments and/or develop additional indicators when new data is available.

Staff Changes

There have been a number of changes to the JNCC technical experts leading the work packages – notably WP1, WP2 and WP4. Alternative staff have been assigned to lead WP1 and WP2; WP4 is currently being covered by the Project Leader, but a new technical lead is being resourced. The staff changes have had no impact on the quality of the work and outputs, but time was required for hand-over and for the new leads to come up to speed with the project. This may result in a request to extend the timeframes for some deliverables. These will be submitted by a formal Change Request.

Project Leader

The Project Leader needed to return to Australia on compassionate grounds for the entire reporting period. The Project Leader did continue to work during this period but sometimes at reduced capacity; it

also meant that the Project Leader and colleagues in the UK and TCI were working on vastly different time zones. Together these things impacted on the level of 'face-to-face' (virtual) communications and presented some challenges in reporting and forward planning. Communication moved primarily to email and the Project Leader joining key calls. Overall this had minimal impact on progress of the technical aspects of the project, however substantial forward planning was not possible until the Project Leader returned to the Falkland Islands in October. A Change Request is being prepared to capture the changes to project activities, timelines and budget that have been referred to Section 1 and those posed by the ongoing challenge of Covid-19 (see Section 2b). Note, LTS were informed of the Project Leader's situation and how it may impact on the project. LTS were very understanding and supportive, which the Project Leader and Partners were very grateful for. LTS also allowed substantial extensions, particularly to reporting obligations, as required.

2b. Please outline any specific issues which your project has encountered as a result of COVID-19. Where you have adapted your project activities in response to the pandemic, please briefly outline how you have done so here. Explain what residual impact there may be on your project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has impacted this project in this reporting period in three main ways:

1. Due to restrictions on international travel, it has not been possible for JNCC technical staff to travel to the TCIs to undertake planned Knowledge Exchange (KE) programmes;
2. Members of the project team have had to juggle competing commitments that have been brought about by the requirement to work from home – e.g. home schooling, caring for family members etc.;
3. A need for continual replanning of the project schedule and budget due to ongoing uncertainties about how Covid-19 may impact on project delivery.

In response, the Project Manager, PMG and Work Package leads have been working closely together to monitor the situation and adjust the workplan and budget to best suit the known situation at the time. Two Change Requests were submitted and approved in Y1, and a further Change Request is being prepared which will have a focus on providing some certainty around planned activities, especially the KE components, whilst also ensuring successful delivery within the timeframes and resources available to the project. At this stage we are planning for the Work Package KE Programmes that are planned for the remainder of Y2 and Y3 to be delivered remotely (via various means), DECR to take a larger role in delivering some of the community events, and that (if Covid-19 restrictions allow) a final KE will take place on-island and in-person at the very end of the project to showcase the combined outputs from the whole project and provide final capacity building exercises. All Project Partners would be involved with the final event and include JNCC and SAERI technical experts travelling to TCI to join DECR in delivering the event. It is hoped that the Covid-19 situation will be stable enough by this stage of the project to plan for this. These changes will also impact on allocation of budget in each Financial Year of the project. The Change Request being prepared will include proposed budget changes.

On the whole, the project team has continued to embrace some of the new ways of working, especially the greater use of virtual meetings and workshops. While lessons are still being learned as to the most effective way to use these approaches, the project will continue to employ these tools to progress and deliver aspects of the project, thereby reducing the need to travel and be exposed to current Covid-19 risks.

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

Discussed with LTS:	Yes/No
Formal change request submitted:	Yes/No [Intend to submit one by 30 Nov 2021]
Received confirmation of change acceptance	Yes/No N/A

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

Yes No Estimated underspend:

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project, please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.

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

N/A

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

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also** be raised with LTS International through a Change Request. **Please DO NOT send these in the same email.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk. The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 25-001 Darwin Half Year Report**