



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

Project reference	DPLUS131
Project title	A "B-Line" to Re-wilding: Anguilla's Pollinator Project
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Anguilla
Lead organisation	Anguilla National Trust (ANT)
Partner(s)	Agriculture Unit-Department of Natural Resources (AU-DNaR), Gender Affairs Anguilla (GAA), Alderney Wildlife Trust (AWT)
Project leader	Farah Mukhida (co-lead) William Vanterpool (co-lead)
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	HYR1
Project website/blog/social media	

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).

Output 1. Ecosystem values of Anguilla's pollinator and potential effects of climate change identified

Activity 1.1 Complete assessment of bird pollinators using already collected terrestrial bird data

Anguilla's bird pollinators were assessed and mapped (numbers, distribution on the Anguilla mainland) using data that the ANT has collected since 2007. A bird pollinator report has been completed.

Activity 1.2 Conduct bee and butterfly assessments, including habitat requirements, on the Anguilla mainland

We have secured the services of Mr. Karl Questel, an entomologist and botanist from St. Barthélemy. Arrangements have been made for K. Questel to be on Anguilla to assist project partners in bee, butterfly (and other insect) and associated plant assessments from 22-28 November 2021.

Activity 1.3 Conduct bat assessments, including habitat requirements, on the Anguilla mainland and compare to the results of a 2007 desk-top review

We have secured the services of Mr. Baptiste Angin, bat expert (and naturalist) from Guadeloupe. Arrangements have been made for B. Angin to be on Anguilla to assist project partners in bat and associated plant assessments. His time will overlap with that of K. Questel (from 22-28 November 2021).

Activity 1.4 Collate and analyse climate change data and forecasts for the northern Lesser Antilles to elucidate likely climate change impacts on Anguilla's pollinators and the habitats on which they rely.

Climate change data and forecasts have been collated for the northern Lesser Antilles. The data will be applied to our pollinator focal species following the completion of all our bird, bee, butterfly, and bat assessments (namely, Activity 1.2 and Activity 1.3).

Output 4. National capacity to plan, manage, implement, and monitor a national pollinator strategy is raised, supported by enhanced technical skills, greater public awareness, and vested community interest

Activity 4.1 ANT staff and other participating nationals complete self-assessment competencies questionnaire to identify training needs

ANT, AU-DNaR, and GAA staff have completed a self-assessment competencies questionnaire. Data from these questionnaires is currently being analysed to identify priority training needs.

Activity 4.3 Establish beekeeping/bee product production cooperative

We have engaged Mr. Richard Matthias, President of the Organisation of Caribbean Beekeepers Association (based in St. Lucia), in discussions about moving the beekeeping women's cooperative in Anguilla forward. R. Matthias will be on Anguilla from 12-17 November to work with project partners to identify potential wild bee sources, beehive locations, and habitat availability and enhancement opportunities. R. Matthias will assist us with the development of the beekeeping cooperative and will provide the necessary training to the new beekeepers. We have already been approached by two individuals expressing interest in beekeeping (before we have even started to promote the initiative).

Activity 4.6 Develop and implement opportunities for citizen science engagement, using iNaturalist

We have created an [Anguilla Pollinator Project iNaturalist](#) page. A press release is scheduled to be disseminated on 19 October 2021 to formally launch the page and to encourage individuals to upload their photos to the site or to share them directly with us through WhatsApp or e-mail.

Activity 4.7 Publicise and report on project progress and results through national and international media and directly to national groups, cross-territory stakeholders, international scientific community, and the Government of Anguilla Executive Council

Since launching this project, we have disseminated one press release announcing the funding award (June 2021).

Project partners will be meeting in October to jointly develop a public awareness and communications plan.

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.

No notable problems or unexpected developments have been encountered over the last three months

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.

COVID-19 cases on Anguilla have been fluctuating with just over 100 cases. Despite this relatively high number, the Government of Anguilla has not instituted any additional significant restrictions on travel (no restrictions for travel/movements within Anguilla, no quarantine required for vaccinated visitors or returning residents). Thus far, COVID-19 has not significantly impacted our project results and we do not expect any serious issues over the next few months.

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: No

Formal change request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance No

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?

There are no other issues we wish to raise.

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**