

Biodiversity Challenge Funds Projects Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and Darwin Plus Half Year Report

Note: If there is any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website, please ensure you clearly highlight this.

Submission Deadline: 31st October 2022

Project reference	DPLUS158
Project title	Piloting a new solution for invasive species in UKOTs
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Anguilla
Lead partner	Fauna & Flora International
Partner(s)	Anguilla National Trust, Government of Anguilla
Project leader	Olivier Raynaud
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	31 October 2022, 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. Monitoring system established to inform and evaluate conservation actions on the ecology and globally threatened biodiversity of Fountain National Park (FNP)

Over the last six months, a series of protocols have been established for FNP biodiversity (Activity 1.1). Monitoring protocols for terrestrial birds (resident and migratory) include pre-IAS eradication/baseline point counts and the use of the strategic placement of a passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) station. Point counts will be repeated during the spring and autumn migration seasons (October and May) while the PAM station will collect data over a period of at least one month during those same migration seasons. Ground lizard *Pholidoscelis pleii* and tree lizard *Anolis gingivnus* biodiversity assessments will follow the same point count protocols established for monitoring the same species on Anguilla's offshore cays. Plant assessments will include an assessment of the entire FNP during which a plant species list for the site will be established. All endangered plants and trees as well as plants of particular interest (eg orchids) and trees with a circumference of >50cm will be GPSed and mapped.

Terrestrial bird (resident and migratory) as well as ground and tree lizard surveys were conducted at the start of the project. Plant assessments are scheduled to be conducted in early November 2022 during the rainy season (Activity 1.2).

Output 2. The biodiversity of Fountain National Park is recovering following permanent eradication of multiple harmful invasive aliens and reintroduction of native species

The last interrogations regarding the fence design and the eradication protocols were discussed and addressed on site by the Project Steering Committees. Quotations for all upcoming tasks are being sought to finalize the operational plans for both the construction of the pest-resistant fence and the removal of invasive alien species.

Output 3. Effective and sustainable structures and tools for management of Fountain National Park are in place

The Project Steering Committee, comprised of representatives from FFI, ANT, the Government of Anguilla and WMIL, was established at the start of the project (Activity 3.1). Following several remote meetings, the Steering Committee met on site early October to exchange with key project stakeholders and fine-tune technical solutions and specifications.

Output 4. National capacity to plan, manage, implement, and monitor national parks is raised, supported by enhanced technical skills and increased public awareness

During the first six months of the project, a public survey to evaluate knowledge and attitudes towards Anguilla's terrestrial protected areas, especially FNP, was designed (Activity 4.1). The survey is currently being reviewed before being disseminated using digital (listservs) and social media (WhatsApp, Facebook). A public awareness strategy has been developed (Activity 4.3), which is based on the objectives and strategies of this project's work and its expected long-term impact. The strategy includes using a range of outreach tools from static social media posts, radio and newspaper press releases and radio shows, hands-on/experiential learning opportunities and site visits. In terms of outreach already conducted (Activity 4.5), one press release has been disseminated on radio, newspaper and social media, officially launching the project and 130 individuals have already been taken on visits to FNP during which the site's heritage (ecological, cultural) value, as well as plans for the mainland island, have been discussed.

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

The only unexpected development at this stage is the [REDACTED] As soon as all quotes for equipment and contracts have been synthesized, the project steering committee will evaluate how this impacts the project procurement of goods and services which were planned in USD.

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

Discussed with NIRAS-LTS: No

Formal Change Request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance No

Change request reference if known: N/A

4a. 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: £

4b. 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 re-budget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a re-budget 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.

5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

No.

If you are a new project and you received feedback comments that requested a response (including the submission of your risk register), or if your Annual Report Review asked you to provide a response 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 NIRAS-LTS International through a Change Request. **Please DO NOT send these in the same email.****

Please send your **completed report by email** to BCF-Reports@niras.com. The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number, followed by the specific fund in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 29-001 Darwin Initiative Half Year Report**