

Darwin Plus Main: Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the “Project Reporting Information Note”
(<https://darwinplus.org.uk/resources/information-notes>)

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 20 pages** in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2024

Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line

Darwin Plus Project Information

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| Project reference | DPLUS181 |
| Project title | East Caicos Wilderness Area: Protecting the Caribbean's largest uninhabited island in the British West Indies |
| Territory(ies) | Turks & Caicos Islands |
| Lead Partner | RSPB |
| Project partner(s) | Turks & Caicos National Trust, Marine Conservation Society |
| Darwin Plus grant value | £584, 482 |
| Start/end dates of project | 01 July 2022 - 31 March 2025 |
| Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2023-Mar 2024) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2) | 01 April 2023 – 31 March 2024, Annual report 2 AR2 |
| Project Leader name | Simon Busuttil |
| Project website/blog/social media | East Caicos Wilderness East Caicos Wilderness |
| Report author(s) and date | Simon Busuttil 30 April 2024 |

1. Project summary

The project aims to protect East Caicos, at 47 square kilometres, the largest uninhabited island in the Caribbean UKOTs, from unplanned and unrestrained development through giving a voice to local communities who have used and continue to use the island, and to stimulate new nature-based uses.

The project aims to “change the narrative” around East Caicos from that of it being an undeveloped island awaiting development, to that of it being an amazing nature-based resource that offers economic opportunities to the country and its people.

It will achieve this through awareness raising, and involvement through community and stakeholder workshops leading to the development of a Community Conservation Area registered with IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) and represented by a committee or council drawn from the local communities and supported by the local National Trust.

This is important as whilst some 45% of the land area of TCI is designated “Protected Area” these designations have, to date, been largely imposed from outside the communities that they primarily affect and lack legitimacy. The aim of this project is to achieve legitimacy through the most affected communities having the leading voice in however East Caicos is preserved and managed into the future.

2. Project stakeholders/partners

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

The lead partner is RSPB which has been working with the OTs for over 25 years. The underlying principle of our work is to establish enduring relationships with local partners to help support the development of sustainable and locally-lead conservation programmes. RSPB is established in the Turks and Caicos Islands. A successful EU BEST II project followed by two Darwin projects (DPLUS055 and DPLUS121) have given RSPB a long-term presence and deepened our relationship with local actors.

The formal partners working alongside RSPB are:

The Turks & Caicos National Trust (TCNT)

The Turks and Caicos National Trust is the local membership-based, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the natural, historical and cultural heritage of the Turks and Caicos Islands. The Trust has earned the trust of the citizens of the TCI since its creation in 1992.

TCNT is responsible for leading on the engagement and facilitation of North, Middle and South Caicos community members in the conservation planning process, particularly through the Community Workshops and raising awareness of the potential for East Caicos both to be a repository of TCI's rich heritage and culture AND contribute to its sustainable economic development.

Marine Conservation Society (MCS)

MCS has been active in the Caribbean UK Overseas territories for over 20 years and provided significant support to partners to improve management of their Marine Protected Areas. MCS has worked on partnership projects in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) alongside the Government's Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR) since 2002.

MCS is responsible for leading the use of the Community Voice Method (CVM) including participant filming, footage transcription and data analysis, film editing and screening of the CVM and leading efforts to better understand the importance of East Caicos for turtles.

Others

In addition, three regional and TCI subcontractors have been engaged and contracted by RSPB to support project activities. These are,

- **BirdsCaribbean** – who have lead bird guide training workshops and engaging hoteliers to raise awareness about nature-based tourism opportunities.
- **SWA Environmental** –who will support TCNT and community members participation in bird/plant survey techniques and update/establish estimates of IBA trigger species and presence/absence of non-native species.
- **Turks & Caicos Reef Fund (TCRF)** – who have through field work and survey, established the extent of Stony Coral Loss Disease (SCTLD) on coral reefs off East Caicos thanks to the baseline collected through an EU BEST grant in 2018. TCRF was able to collect comprehensive baseline data on benthic cover and fish biomass, a data set is now more important than ever as SCTLD arrived in the Turks and Caicos in 2019. In 2021 and 2023 TCRF revisited those sites, and the data are still being analysed.

In this reporting period all contracts and partnership agreements have been completed and both BirdsCaribbean and Turks and Caicos Reef Fund (TCRF) have now completed their work programs within the project.

The three main partners (RSPB, TCNT and MCS) meet regularly at several levels (from leadership through to project delivery teams) and established a superb working relationship.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Output 1: Participatory resource management plan for East Caicos produced via facilitation incorporating local knowledge of priority cultural, historic and ecological heritage values

1.1 Completed in year 1.

1.2 Completed this reporting period. Induction training completed this reporting period, though on-the-job coaching is ongoing. TCNT staff on Middle Caicos able to effectively support the project as a result.

1.3 Completed this reporting period. MCS, with support of RSPB and TCNT developed a list of stakeholders for CVM filmed interviews, ensuring the provision of a gender-representative range of stakeholders with emphasis on capturing youth perspectives too. See Annex 4 item A20.

1.4 Completed this reporting period. MCS and RSPB with support from TCNT developed interview questionnaire, workshop protocols, and consent forms and used them in the CVM workshops. See Annex 4, items A21, A22 and A23.

1.5 Completed this reporting period. The TCNT Community Engagement Officer, based on South Caicos, supported by RSPB/MCS piloted interview questionnaire with community members in South, North and Middle Caicos, ahead of the stakeholder workshops.

1.6 Completed this reporting period. MCS finalised the list of participants for filming and workshop across 4 inhabited islands and arranged filmed interviews and workshops. Project partners developed a set of target stakeholders, with TCNT providing critical support in engaging potential film interviewees. Emphasis was placed on the finalised participant list being gender-representative while also having a focus on youth participation. See Annex 4 item A24.

1.7 Completed this reporting period. MCS's UKOT Conservation Officer and Social Science Officer visited TCI for 3 weeks in October 2023 to implement CVM filmed interviews. With support of TCNT, the team carried out 23 filmed interviews with 31 participants across Providenciales, North, Middle and South Caicos between 4th - 21st October 2023. The filmed interviews used an interview questionnaire that focused on themes including sense of place, community issues, connection to East Caicos and visions for its future management. Interviews were, on average, just over 60 minutes each. A blog regarding this fieldwork trip was also created for the MCS member magazine. See Annex 4, items A25 and A26.

1.8 Completed this reporting period. RSPB, supported by TCNT engaged a local filmmaker (Romello Williams) to make a film of East Caicos using a drone. This was shown at the community engagement workshops, school talks and prior to boat trips taking students to East Caicos (2.12 and 2.13 below). It will have further uses such as being placed on the proposed website. Link to film is [here](#).

1.9 Completed this reporting period. TCNT, supported by RSPB hosted two Community Engagement Workshops: one on South Caicos and one combined on North and Middle Caicos in May 2023. Knowledgeable community members who had long-term residence on South, Middle or North Caicos and with existing place specific knowledge of East Caicos obtained either through historical or current visits to East Caicos (e.g., fishermen, plant collectors, recreational users) to attend the workshops and results incorporated in 1.10 below. Most community members who had visited East Caicos were male and fishermen. Approximately 14 community members participated in the workshops. The drone film of East Caicos (see 1.8 above) was shown at each workshop, and participatory mapping exercises were conducted to identify the localities and boundaries of places of importance, key ecosystem services and people's relationships with specific places. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with community members who were either unable to attend the interviews, or key people who attended the workshop to follow-up on specific issues more in-depth. Where necessary, individual conversations were held with interviewees at a place and time of their choosing. Eighteen individuals were interviewed. In all a total of 25 community members were engaged (20 males and 5 females).

The workshops and interviews were audio recorded, transcribed verbatim and coded using the qualitative software NVivo software. A thematic content analysis identified key ecosystem services mentioned by community members associated with East Caicos and in-depth narratives the value and importance of places generating rich stories on local knowledge, cultural practices, past and present-day use (evidence in Annex 4). Further work will take place in Year 3 to write up a full report integrating the digitised maps, and in-depth qualitative data.

1.10 Significant progress made this reporting period. RSPB staff (Dr Natasha Constant and Alison Beresford (Senior International Conservation Scientist) have completed both i.) the digitisation of the key ecosystem services generated through the community workshops (1.9 above) and ii.) bringing together the disparate ecological and habitat data from public sources (identified through the desktop and literature search (3.1 below). See Annex 4 item A 9 for summary. Full report will follow later.

Further work will take place in year 3 to i) bring this data together in one place ii.) make this data accessible through strongly visual maps that will form part of the management plan and iii) produce the data in other formats to advocate for the nature-based future for East Caicos.

1.12 Completed this reporting period. MCS transcribed and analysed the filmed interview data (in collaboration with RSPB) between (dates) and produced an analysis summary. CVM interviews were transcribed externally and were returned to MCS for analysis. All interviews were coded in NVivo based on (a) the interview structure and (b) common themes. Interviewees were also classified to ensure the film output was representative of a wide variety of stakeholder groups, genders and ages. To ensure transparency with partners without access to NVivo software, a film narrative that reflected the findings of the coding was produced. A long script was produced based on the coding analysis which was shared both within MCS and to ARK to provide feedback. This was then shortened in a way to ensure that the common themes were represented, and all participants were present in the final film. See Annex 4, items A27 and A28.

1.13 Completed this reporting period. The CVM film output entitled '*East Caicos – Our past, our present, our future*' was created using Premier Pro, with drafts sent to project partners to ensure the project team were happy with the output. [REDACTED]

1.14 Completed this reporting period. MCS, with the support of TCNT, arranged and promoted the CVM film screening across North, Middle and South Caicos and Providenciales. Promotion was by flyer either in physical form or electronic. WhatsApp contacts and groups were used primarily with team members making extensive use of their contacts to "snowball" publicity. A decision was made on safety grounds (in the light of recent increased gun violence) to not host open public meetings on Providenciales but to invite stakeholders through an RSVP system. See Annex 4 item A16 for photographs of flyers used to promote the CVM screenings. The screenings were also promoted by social media [REDACTED] See Annex 4, item A30.

1.15 Completed this reporting period. MCS with the support of TCNT and RSPB held six (6) CVM screening workshops (including discussion and feedback) targeting communities across North, Middle and South Caicos and Providenciales between 19th March and 5th April 2024. There were approximately 75 attendees at these three workshops. A bespoke in-person screening of the film was provided to Government Minister (Honourable Josephine Connolly), Permanent Secretary (Honourable Wesley Clerveaux) and the Director of the Fisheries and Marine Resource Management Department (Mrs. Thecla Joseph). [REDACTED]

Activities 1.11, 1.16, 1.17 and 1.18 not scheduled for this reporting period.

Output 2: Sustainable, long-term, locally owned and designed small business and nature-based tourism plans developed for East Caicos.

2.1 In progress. Whilst regular contact has been made at a leadership level between representatives of this project and Invest TCI and CED this has not yet been translated into workshops or practical help for potentially relevant business owners.

2.2 In progress. Regular contact has been made at a leadership level between representatives of this project (TCNT's Executive Director) and representatives of Dept. of Culture and Experience TCI. Experience TCI is the new DMMO (Destination Marketing and Management Organisation) that has replaced the Tourist Board during the life of this project. Emphasis is on placing East Caicos at the heart

of any international brand development of TCI. The small business. (TCI Assured Authentication) is still on the agenda but may not happen within the life of this project.

2.4 Significant progress. TCNT together with the Fisherman's Co-op on South Caicos has identified many of those fishermen with the relevant skills set and is engaging them eg through the stakeholder workshops. Some of their views are to be heard in the CVM film (1.13 above) and their knowledge incorporated.

2.6 Completed this reporting period. BirdsCaribbean led a five-day Caribbean Birding Trail (CBT) Interpretive Bird Guide Training Workshop for current and prospective guides from TCI on Providenciales between 23rd and 27th October 2023. Support was provided by the Turks and Caicos National Trust and Department of Environment and Coastal resources (DECR). Twenty-four participants attended including 19 guides from 13 companies interested in moving into providing birdwatching activities. See Annex 4 items A3, A4, A5 and [here](#).

2.7 Completed this reporting period. BirdsCaribbean held a half-day workshop for hoteliers to inform them about how the benefits from birdwatching tourism. The event was hosted by the Ritz Carlton but was unfortunately only attended by 4 attendees from 3 establishments. There are few small providers and no real eco-lodges of the type this training was directed at, perhaps explaining the poor attendance, and demonstrating the challenge in developing this market here. See Annex 4 item A2.

2.12 Significant progress. TCNT utilize Heritage & Discovery Clubs in the secondary schools (private & public) for students to be engaged and join educational activities. Over 180 students were engaged by the Community Engagement Officer on South Caicos at various events and clubs. Of these 42% were male and 58% female. Activities included showing the East Caicos film and quizzes about the island. See Annex 4 item A6 for details.

2.13 Significant progress. Fifty-four (54) people made up of 44 students (60% female, 40% male) plus teachers and assistants visited East Caicos on 6th and 13th October 2023 from South and Middle Caicos respectively. Few if any of the persons involved had visited the island before. The logistics of the visit, particularly from North and Middle Caicos are complex. The visits were a great success, and some students can be heard talking about their experiences in the CVM film.

There has been no significant progress towards Activities 2.3, 2.5, 2.8, 2.9, 2.10 and 2.11 in this period.

Output 3: Ecological, cultural and historic baseline established, and presence of non-native species determined and used to inform conservation management and community empowerment.

3.1 Significant progress made this reporting period – almost complete. The RSPB's Project Manager carried out a desk-based research and review of existing studies and grey literature, identifying gaps in the data and areas for further survey. Support was provided by SWA and MCS for plant and turtle data respectively, and many other individuals and volunteers. Two species specific surveys were carried out with the logistical help of Salterra Resort and Spa on South Caicos – for Reddish Egrets and American Flamingos to bring data for priority bird species up to date. Full results are in two reports (See Annex 4 items A7 and A8) but in summary East Caicos is globally important for both these species. This had not been known before. Four bird species have been identified as occurring in globally important numbers on East Caicos and all now have up to date population estimates.

This data was used to support the inclusion of East Caicos in the Key Biodiversity Area submission for North, Middle and East Caicos (3.10 below). See Annex 4 items A10 and A11 for the KBA submission and supporting data.

3.4 Completed in YR1

3.5 Completed in YR1

3.6 Completed in YR1

3.7 Significant progress made this reporting period. A total of four turtle nesting and foraging habitat surveys of East Caicos were carried out during this reporting period. This involved assessment of index nesting sites identified in Yr 1 along with key turtle foraging habitats (seagrass beds, reefs) identified as part of the TCI Turtle Project. All encountered turtle nesting and foraging activity was categorised according to the sea turtle nesting protocol, with locations georeferenced too. The TCRF-led live-aboard dive expedition (see Activity 3.9) also documented turtle nesting activity using drone surveillance techniques while conducting their research activities. See Annex 4 item A32.

3.8 Significant progress made this reporting period. See Annex 4 item A33 for a Field Summary Report. All foraging and nesting data collected during this reporting period will be used to provide a final analytical report at the end of the project with recommendations.

3.9 Completed this reporting period. TCRF led a 6 day live-aboard dive expedition off the north coast of East Caicos between July 29th and August 5th 2023, to assess extent of Stony Coral Loss Disease. Benthic data was collected as well as fish biomass data. This was the 3rd expedition to East Caicos since 2018. The original aim was to repeat the data collection every two years (with 2020 being cancelled) but the 2023 thermal bleaching event means that TCRF will be returning annually to assess the loss and/or resilience of the reefs of East Caicos.

This now yearly expedition will help provide a comprehensive picture of the underwater flora and fauna found there. Evidence of her reefs' resilience to disease paints a picture of hope for coral reef management and restoration initiatives. In 2023 17 volunteers participated of which 10 were researchers and 7 were citizen scientists learning and volunteering. There was representation from 3 Darwin grants, 2 Plus and 1 Local (East Caicos, Seabirds, Coral Rubble (Darwin Local) on this research trip and were able to bring in unique genets of some of the rarer stony coral species for bio banking in TCRF's new land-based facility on Providenciales. Results are still pending, and TCRF is returning to East Caicos in July 2024 to assess the impact of 2023's thermal bleaching event. TCRF aim to have results analysed this year. And a full report will be available at the end of Y3.

3.10 Completed this reporting period. RSPB completed a submission for the North, Middle and East Caicos Ramsar Nature Reserve to be recognised as a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) based on four bird species occurring in the area in globally important numbers. Consultations with government through DECR. The submission was fully aligned and co-ordinated with the outputs of DPLUS164 title. See Annex 4 item A11 for the submission.

Activities 3.2 and 3.3 not scheduled during this reporting period.

Output 4: Awareness and appreciation of the cultural, historic and ecological value of East Caicos is increased amongst communities, TCI citizens, the private sector and government stakeholders leading to strengthened support for protected status for E Caicos.

4.1 Less activity than planned in this reporting period. TCNT has suffered from high staff turnover and staff shortages during this reporting period and has been less able than anticipated to engage with the media (through creating stories and doing interviews). This has been part of the thinking behind contracting a private company (TAG Media) to handle social media outputs (see 4.3 below)

4.3 Ongoing. A decision has been made to replace publicising the project through traditional media with engaging the public through tailored social media and a website. This was because the media landscape has changed significantly e.g., the local TV channel PTV no longer functions and sales and use of the other channels are rapidly falling. The activity "TCNT prepare and release media press releases with TC Weekly News, Sun News, PTV, and TCI E News" will be replaced through a change request.

4.4 Ongoing. The Executive Director of TCNT (Winema Penn-Sanders) has regularly updated Government ministers and departmental colleagues on the project and its progress. The idea of East Caicos as part of a Turks and Caicos World Heritage Site has been established.

4.5 Significant progress made this reporting period. RSPB, with support of TCNT has drawn up the film project brief and appointed BTSW productions to make an East Caicos heritage values film. Filming will start shortly and be completed towards end of 2024. See Annex 4 item A12 for the brief.

Activity 4.2 will not take place and will be the subject of a Change Request to remove it.

Output 5: Strengthened capacity of national project partners, TCI citizens and local communities to effectively manage and protect East Caicos wilderness area

5.1 Completed

Activities 5.2, 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5 not scheduled for this reporting period.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1: Participatory resource management plan for East Caicos produced via facilitation incorporating local knowledge of priority cultural, historic and ecological heritage values

Baseline Condition: Aspirations of communities on the islands surrounding East Caicos (South, North, Middle) are unclear and no management plan is in place for the island. Local knowledge of cultural and natural heritage not captured, and areas of cultural significance are not mapped.

Progress towards achievement: Good progress made towards this output in the recording period and the output will be achieved fully by project end. Individuals are eager to participate and engage in the exercises so far. The challenge will be to find individuals willing to participate more deeply in Community Conservation Area governance through participation in a council or committee.

Measurable Indicators:

1.1 Three workshops with relevant local communities and stakeholder groups to carry out participatory GIS mapping, visioning exercises, and focus group discussions, capturing the ecosystem services, heritage values and future aspirations for the management of East Caicos by end Y2.

Two workshops and 18 interviews with knowledgeable community members who couldn't attend the workshops or to follow-up on key issues more in-depth were conducted. A total of 25 people on South, North and Middle Caicos interviewed, and their stories captured, digitised on maps.

1.2 At least 30 filmed Community Voice Method (CVM) stakeholder interviews across four inhabited islands – Providenciales, North, Middle and South Caicos – analysed, with representative gender sampling in Yr2Q1; CVM.

31 stakeholders interviewed through the CVM process. This footage edited and made into a CVM film. Gender sampling showed 58% male (n=18) and 42% female (n=13) made up the sample.

1.3 At least 10 young people equipped with cameras and self-capture views/aspirations towards TCI nature in Yr2 Q1

Ca 10 young people so far have been given this opportunity and there will be further opportunities in Y3.

1.4 Analysis of filmed interviews and self-captured footage, and one Community Voice Method documentary film created and screened across four inhabited islands involving with at least 100 mixed-gender, age and background participants by Yr2 Q3

CVM documentary film produced and shown to approximately 75 people through six film screenings/workshops across four islands (North, Middle and South Caicos and Providenciales) in March and April 2024. Details on gender and age balance captured.

1.5 Creation of digital story maps detailing ecosystem services and heritage values of East Caicos by end of Year 2 to be co-created then shared with communities and stakeholder groups.

Scheduled to be completed by end 2024 (Y3)

1.6 Community Voice Method and mapping outputs inform, via face-to-face consultation with at least 30 selected stakeholders across 4 inhabited islands, a final draft community-led and designed management plan for East Caicos by end of project.

CVM film and mapping outputs will be completed by end Sept 2024 (in Y3). Management Plan will then be completed

Output 2: Sustainable, long-term, locally owned and designed small business and nature-based tourism plans developed for East Caicos.

Baseline Condition: Local tour guides from hotels/independent local businesses with natural heritage knowledge of East Caicos and its ecological values are low/non-existent and understanding of knowledge amongst youth not quantified.

Progress towards achievement: Slower progress towards this output than planned. Whilst there has been significant engagement with some local businesses, most do not see this as an opportunity yet and/or do not possess the equipment and skills to access East Caicos. The tourist economy is extremely buoyant, and many operators plan to do more of the same (for which there is significant demand) rather than take risks in developing relatively untried products. Planning in any formal sense (e.g., being able to produce a plan for use in evidencing) is not deeply engrained and business decisions are often more spontaneous and organic and certainly, not necessarily made public. That said, there are several businesses who see opportunities in our vision for East Caicos. It seems likely that this output will be just partially achieved by the end of the project. We will seek a Change Request to reflect the issues faced.

Measurable Indicators:

2.1 By Q3Yr2, number of sustainable tourism-based business development plans (incorporating at least 3 social, economic, and environmental sustainability goals), prepared by Middle and South Caicos community workshop participants increases to 5 from 0 (pre project), with at least 3 plans implemented by end of Yr3

Whilst not scheduled for completion within this reporting period it seems clear that having business plans as evidence is not achievable. This level of planning is not something that businesses (particularly the small, local businesses that we wish to encourage) do here as a matter of course, let alone make public. That said, there is interest from several businesses of various sizes in using East Caicos for the sorts of sustainable nature tourism compatible with the aims of this project. As a measurable indicator we will suggest (through a Change Request) that other evidence such as letters of commitment or filmed interviews should be used.

2.2. By end of Yr2, 24 citizens including 5 fisherfolk trained by Birds Caribbean as TCI assured registration East Caicos heritage focussed guides from baseline of 0, with at least 30 bookings made by end of Yr3

BirdsCaribbean carried out the Caribbean Birding Trail Certified Guide training as planned at the target of 24 citizens has been achieved. However, no-one from the target audience of fishers from South Caicos attended even though we publicised it as well as we could within the community. Two operators who bonefish in the area participated in the training but they were not the target audience. We are looking at an alternative way of encouraging fishers to participate. It appears that the commitment of being away from home for five days may have put people off despite it being clear that travel, accommodation, and subsistence would have been covered by the project.

It currently seems unlikely that the indicator of 30 bookings by the end of year 3 will be achieved. We will seek to amend this indicator through a Change Request.

2.3. 10 hotels and eco-lodges that receive training and materials from project in Yr2, each provide 10 of their guests to the local businesses supported by the project from Yr3

TCNT has not had the resource to produce these materials this year. It is also apparent that effecting change within businesses is harder and takes longer than the indicator allows for. It seems unlikely that this indicator will be fully achieved by the end of the project. This is because, in the context of a very buoyant tourist economy here, they do not necessarily have time to listen, plan and implement the changes suggested.

We will seek to amend the indicator through a Change Request to reflect these issues.

2.4. By end of Yr2, 5 TCI-based tour operators (from baseline of 1) publicly advertise nature based, cultural and historic tours of E Caicos led by 3 of 5 trained guides (baseline = 0) on VisitTCI.com, TCNT and Tourist Boards

This indicator has not been achieved. Whilst at least five tour operators have expressed strong support for the idea of East Caicos being developed as a nature-based heritage site, none are publicly advertising East Caicos tours yet though they will take guests if requested. There has not yet been a link-up between trained guides and the three platforms mentioned. We will continue to encourage links over the course of Y3 but it seems unlikely that this indicator will be achieved by project end. We will seek to amend the indicator through a Change Request to reflect these issues.

2.5. 50 young people (aged 11- 18) attend at least 3 workshops, excursions, or educational opportunities (inter-generational learning exchanges, nature-based activities, and interactions with scientists) with 50% demonstrating an improved knowledge of the ecological, cultural and historic values of East Caicos before end of project.

This measurable indicator has been achieved. 25 students, teachers and helpers from South Caicos and 29 from North and Middle Caicos have been taken to visit East Caicos through the project. Feedback from some of the students was included in the CVM film. Further opportunities are planned in Y3. In addition, five (5) talks given at schools and clubs on South, North and Middle Caicos reaching over 180 students. Quizzes and competitions suggest a good and growing knowledge of East Caicos.

Output 3: Ecological, cultural and historic baseline established, and presence of non-native species determined and used to inform conservation management and community empowerment.

Baseline Condition: Ecological/cultural knowledge and importance of East Caicos limited/unknown. No formal assessments of non-native/native (and invasive species) available and areas of key habitat and population assessments (i.e. of KBA species) unclear.

Progress towards achievement: Strong progress has been made towards this objective over the reporting period and the output will be completed by the project end.

Measurable Indicators:

3.1 Desk-based gap analysis of available peer-reviewed research, studies and other research (including grey literature) done on East Caicos completed by Q4 Yr1, informing field study plans

The desk top study has been completed and the summary report exists in late draft form (see Annex 4 items A13 and A14). It is a live document and will be updated as new data comes in eg from the Kew Gardens led TIPA (Tropical Important Plant Area) project DPLUS114 and from surveys generated by this study itself (eg under 3.2 below). Two surveys have already been carried out directly in response to gaps identified by this project (see 3.2) and more are being

looked at for feasibility under this project. Discussions with other specialist groups has also taken place to understand how identified gaps can be closed and understanding increased. This includes getting quantitative data on the distribution and abundance of endemic TCI Rock Iguanas which have long been assumed to be extirpated from East Caicos but for which some sightings have been unearthed and the feral cat population which is likely to be the significant limiting factor on the Rock Iguana population.

3.2 Targeted population level assessments of IBA bird trigger species and other priority (globally threatened and endemic) species completed using robust, repeatable sampling methods completed by Q3Yr3. 4 TCNT conservation staff to participate in bird monitoring to build monitoring and data management capacity.

Completed. Two bird species were identified through the analysis (under 3.1) as having significant gaps in knowledge. A survey of Reddish Egrets (Annex 4 item A7) took place in January 2024 and identified East Caicos as globally important for this threatened and declining species. A survey of American Flamingos (Annex 4 item A8) took place in February 2024 and also identified East Caicos as important for this species (though not globally so). IBAs (Important Bird Areas) are now being supplanted/replaced by KBAs (Key Biodiversity Areas). The data collected under 3.2 meets KBA qualifying levels and so has been used to support a submission for KBA designation for East Caicos (see 3.5 below) (Annex 4 item A11 for completed KBA Proposal form).

Three volunteers participated across the two surveys. TCNT staff were unable to participate but there will be further opportunities in Y3.

This project is working closely with DPLUS164 to share logistics and surveys for breeding seabirds on East Caicos.

3.3 Quantification and monitoring of nesting sea turtle populations at 5 index sites around East Caicos, completed by end of Yr1, repeated in Yrs 2 and 3

Significant progress was made through four surveys which strategically sampled key turtle nesting and foraging sites across East Caicos. Yr 2 data will be used to inform final analysis and report in Yr 3.

3.4 Extent of Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD) mapped and quantified once during Yr2 and once in Yr3 at 8 target sites

Completed. In 2023 the marine survey team from TCRF alongside volunteers and citizen scientists were able to collect data on the presence and prevalence of SCTLD along the northern coast of East Caicos. The aim is to compare this data to baseline data collected in 2018 as a part of the E.U BEST KBA analysis project. East Caicos now represents the most comprehensive data set on pre and post SCTLD benthic composition in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Of the 16 sites surveyed in 2018, the 8 sites with highest percentage of stony coral cover were reassessed in 2021, over a year after the arrival of SCTLD on those reefs. This project allowed us to conduct the same surveys again in 2023 helping bolster the data set. These data are still being analysed but anecdotally have provided a sense of hope for the resilience of coral reefs in areas of little human impact.

*A further expedition is planned in July 2024 to again collect data on the benthic composition as well as fish diversity and biomass. We know that SCTLD has spread across every forereef in the Turks and Caicos from West Caicos to East and throughout the Turks Islands as well. We are working to locate and map resilience and areas of hope across the islands. East Caicos has a dominant *Colpophyllia natans* (CNAT - Boulder Brain Coral) reef, a species heavily affected by SCTLD around Providenciales and West Caicos. The tracking of these densely populated spots clarifies where some of our breeding grounds might be. We were also able to bring in 10 colonies of CNAT to our land-based bio bank in Providenciales for genetic safeguarding. They are still*

doing very well, and we are keen to expand our efforts for collection during the Yr3 trip in July 2024. See Annex item A15 for infographic summary.

3.5 Completed updated assessment of East Caicos against KBA criteria, informed by project field survey results, submitted to KBA Secretariat by end of Yr3

Completed. Data collected under 3.2 formed the basis for a submission for most of East Caicos to be included in the North, Middle and East Caicos Key Biodiversity Area (KBA). Submission to the Secretariat is awaiting TCI Government approval but is likely early in Y3 of this project. This submission supports one of the recommendations of DPLUS129 which is to extent statutory protection via the North, Middle and East Caicos Ramsar Site Nature Reserve to those wetland areas of East Caicos that are not included to date.

3.6 Presence and potential impacts of non-native species assessed by end of Yr2

*This has not been completed in Y2, but important progress has been made in understanding which species should be prioritised and enquiries made regarding methods of surveying. This will be completed in Y3 of the project. Focus is on the impact of feral cats (*Felis catis*) on TCI Rock Iguana (*Cyclura carinata*).*

Output 4: Awareness and appreciation of the cultural, historic, and ecological value of East Caicos is increased amongst communities, TCI citizens, the private sector and government stakeholders leading to strengthened support for protected status for East Caicos.

Baseline Condition: Significance of East Caicos in TCI limited. Awareness of cultural, historic and ecological value of East Caicos within TCI unknown but likely low/limited to individuals with specific interest.

Progress towards achievement: Progress has been made towards this objective. The CVM film (1.2 above) has been shown to senior members of Government and we know that Government Ministers and the Premier himself are aware of this project and are discussing possible futures for East Caicos including a submission for it to be a World Heritage Site. Awareness of the alternatives to full development has been increased. Other conversations eg through social media are now being had.

Progress has been limited by lack of capacity in TCNT due to difficulties recruiting and retaining staff. We have worked on solutions to this local capacity issue eg by contracting out social media generation to a private company (though this too has had issues).

The production and showing of the film in Y3 will be significant and we are looking to “close the gap” on some of the targets in Y3. This will be easier when we have the content from the stakeholder workshops to better articulate the community’s views.

The Governments Department of Culture and Heritage is very interested in the project and has been invited to participate more deeply in its development.

Measurable Indicators:

1. Six Podcasts and radio interviews “speak your mind TCI” and film reach 75% of registered TCI voters (c.7,732) citizens, by end of project

Progress towards this indicator is slow. Lack of staff resource and capacity at TCNT has prevented the podcast and radio interviews being carried out to date. The East Caicos film has been contracted out and is currently being made, due for completion in January 2025. We are hoping to close the gap on these targets in Y3.

2. East Caicos nominated as Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network site by end of Yr3.

Data analysis and investigation under 3.1 and 3.2 above show that the site is not suitable for this designation and this indicator will be the subject of a Change Request to remove it from the project.

3. At least two media press releases shared with TCI media outlets per year and at least two articles in TCI news outlets by end of project, plus 12 social media posts per annum, detailing progress of project and community-led efforts to embed protection for East Caicos and create Community Conservation Area

The management of social media has been contracted out to a local private firm (TAG Media) to make up for the lack of staff resource and capacity at TCNT. The East Caicos Wilderness Instagram site is [here](#) and the East Caicos Wilderness Facebook site is [here](#). The social media post “target” has been exceeded. We expect to close the gap on these targets during Y3.

4.>2,000 online views of E Caicos video produced, featuring narration by well-known TCI TV personality by end of Yr2

This has not been achieved yet. A contract to a local filmmaker has been issued and the film is about to start production though the film will not necessarily be narrated by a well-known TCI personality.

5. Annual briefing for Senior TCI Government Ministers, Government Officials and Governor on project progress

Achieved. The TCNT’s Executive Director is regularly involved in discussions with senior government ministers including the Premier. The relevant Cabinet Minister (Honourable Josephine Connolly) and her Permanent Secretary (Hon Wesley Clerveaux) attended a private screening of the CVM film and a subsequent Q&A session with TCNT’s Executive Director and the Project Manager on 27th March 2024.

Output 5: Strengthened capacity of national project partners, TCI citizens and local communities to effectively manage and protect East Caicos wilderness area

Baseline Condition: Capacity to engage project target communities limited and structures to effectively manage/protect East Caicos not in place.

Progress towards achievement: Capacity to engage communities about the project have been significantly increased and are active (eg Community Engagement Officer based on South Caicos and allocation of TCNT staff with relevant skills to this project). Structures to effectively manage East Caicos have not yet been established and are planned for Y3.

Measurable Indicators:

5.1 Partner capacity increased by end of Yr1 through recruitment of a South Caicos-based Community Engagement and Outreach Officer and Heritage Support Officer to TCNT.

Achieved in Y1. Active in Y2. In practical terms, the appointed Heritage Support Officer (Charmony Hislop) has taken over the role formerly carried out by Della Higgs. The latter has been fully involved in the East Caicos project, her skills being far more suited to what the role and project requires.

5.2 Technical assistance from project team to on-island partners and 4 self-appointed leads from within South and Middle Caicos communities enables E Caicos Management plan to meet the IUCN-recognised Community Conservation Area (CCA) Traditional Management Plan standard, by end of project.

Scheduled for Y3

5.3 Community-based East Caicos conservation area governance system in place with equal gender representation, supported by technical assistance from the project team in Y3.

Scheduled for Y3

5.4 Environmental Funders Network bid (EFN) funding bid prepared and submitted in Yr3 to embed local capacity.

Funding bid is scheduled for Yr3. However, we are awaiting confirmation – anticipated by Q2 Yr3, of whether EFN can disburse grants, or whether we will source funds from elsewhere.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Project Outcome: Participatory resource management plan for East Caicos produced via facilitation incorporating local knowledge of priority cultural, historic and ecological heritage values

Progress towards Outcome:

Outcome indicators:

1. East Caicos Community Conservation Area (CCA) registration provides governance framework for its future protection by end of project

The baseline is that there was no discussion or possibility of the outcome happening without this project. By this indicator, considerable progress has been made towards the outcome at this stage of the project.

The registration depends on a group of citizens concerned enough for the future of East Caicos to come together with a mandate to represent their communities by the end of the project. Progress towards this indicator has been made during the reporting period. The stakeholder workshops and CVM film making process has begun to draw out some individuals who might be prepared to provide the local governance necessary to make the CCA successful and detailed discussions are being had as to how the governance of the CCA might be structured eg what the relationship of the Turks and Caicos National Trust to the CCA Council might be.

Whether we will have made sufficient progress on this for East Caicos to be registered as a CCA by the end of the project is not guaranteed. This registration process is, of course, dependent on the outcome of our work consulting with community and stakeholders and it may be that the community does not want this outcome. A that the community do want some sort of outcome consistent with this.

Issues faced include whether there will be sufficient individuals emerging from the local communities to form an effective governance structure and how the local National Trust is able to support the process and the development of these individuals with partner support.

2. Future vision for the conservation of East Caicos underpinned and agreed by the East Caicos community conservation group, by end of project

The baseline is that there was no vision for the conservation of East Caicos at the start of this project. By this indicator, considerable progress has been made towards the outcome at this stage of the project.

As with progress against indicator 1 (above) there is, at this stage (end of Y2) of the project, still a variety of views on the future of East Caicos as expressed by the community and stakeholders. There is a significant consensus that East Caicos cannot and should not be subject to the kind of unplanned development that Providenciales has been subjected to. A consensus within that broad view as to what the future of East Caicos should be, has not yet been developed (and may

not within the life of this project). Views range from no development at all and/or full protection to a more nuanced spatial approach that allows some low-key nature-based, sustainable development.

It is only at the end of Y2 (the time of writing) that the major consultations and stakeholder workshops are still being carried out. We are confident that there will be a vision at the end of the project that deepens the commitment to the conservation of East Caicos.

3. By end of project, East Caicos heritage values receive elevated support amongst 8 local businesses (5 local hotels and 3 tour operators), as measured by new livelihood opportunities (nature tours led by 5 newly trained guides)

The baseline for this indicator is that at the start of this project was there were no local hotels catering for ECW visits, and only one boat operator doing informal visits. No trained guides were in place to the best of our knowledge.

There is no doubt that the project is succeeding in growing interest in, understanding of and support for a nature-based future for East Caicos. It is unlikely that this indicator will be achieved by the end of the project (as described previously). Effecting change in businesses is harder and more time-consuming than the indicator takes account of and it may be that the indicator of elevated support is changed (via a Change Request) to businesses joining an East Caicos partnership and demonstrating that support through letters.

4. By end of project, the proportion of Turks and Caicos citizens interviewed that are supportive of maintaining East Caicos as a wilderness area, supporting local livelihoods development, increases by 50% from baseline determined in Yr1

Delays to the start of the project due to difficulties in recruitment meant that no baseline was established in Yr1. This indicator will be the subject of a Change Request.

5. The maps of key areas of critical importance for historic, cultural and environmental heritage conservation enable the CCA and other governing bodies to protect these from future development threats by end of Yr2

These maps have either been produced or are in the process of being produced. Work in Y3 will make these more accessible in a strong visual form and combine the different areas of interest in layers so that heritage “hotspots” can be identified.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption 1 Covid19 does not prevent face to face workshops in Middle and South Caicos.
Holds true – no issues in travelling around TCI.

Assumption 2 Fisherfolk interested in and keen to diversify livelihoods, participate in training.
Holds partly true. No fisherfolk from South Caicos attended Bird Guide training on Providenciales. We will need to try a different approach, likely go to South Caicos to attract them to attend.

Assumption 3 Sufficient investment or loans are available to initiate start-up businesses.
Holds partly true. Invest TCI have not yet made available any additional loans to initiate start-up within this project scope.

Assumption 4 Stakeholders agree to participate in CVM process including filmed interviews, self-capture camera exercise, participatory workshops, and face-to-face consultations.
Holds true. Stakeholders willing and attended. Good turnout including from target communities.

Assumption 5 Stakeholder engagement activities (CVM, GIS Mapping) adheres to TCI Covid measures (e.g., social gathering numbers, social distancing etc) to promote safe participation and minimise any disruption caused by ongoing pandemic.

Holds true. Covid-19 restrictions lifted in TCI.

Assumption 6 International tourism picks up to pre Covid19 levels.

Holds True. Turks & Caicos has an exceptionally fast-growing tourism economy and has made a full recovery (<https://today.caricom.org/2022/05/30/tci-on-track-for-full-tourism-recovery-caricom-business/>)

Assumption 7 Participants able to agree on small business development opportunity priorities.

This assumption has not been tested yet.

Assumption 8 Fisherfolk interested in and keen to diversify livelihoods, participate in training.

Holds partly true. No fisherfolk from Sth Caicos attended Bird Guide training on Providenciales. We will need to try a different approach, likely go to South Caicos to attract them to attend.

Assumption 9 Tour operators willing to accommodate and optimise East Caicos as part of their offering.

Holds partly true. Tour Operators have been slow to accommodate let alone optimise East Caicos in their offering.

Assumption 10 Young people willing and able to attend event excursions.

Holds True. Young people very willing to visit East Caicos

Assumption 11 Field survey timings optimised to determine quantitative assessment of priority globally threatened and IBA trigger species.

Holds true. Surveys carried out at optimal times.

Assumption 12 Conditions allow sea turtle nesting monitoring; pandemic does not inhibit travel to East Caicos

Holds True. Pandemic not causing any travel issues in TCI.

Assumption 13 Sufficient data generated to enable KBA criteria assessment Communities willing to share local knowledge around plants and wildlife and heritage sites within East Caicos Surveys able to detect presence of non-native species.

Holds true. Minimal effort required to detect invasive species during RSPB/TCNT visit to East Caicos. We expect future surveys will have no issues in detecting the presence of non-native species.

Assumption 14 People tune in in sufficient numbers to listen to podcasts and interviews.

Not tested yet as no podcasts or interviews produced.

Assumption 15 WHSRN approve East Caicos nomination.

This will not be tested. Site now known NOT to be suitable for this nomination.

Assumption 16 Project runs smoothly and to plan to enable Green List criteria to be met (Good Governance, Effective Management, Sound Design and Planning, successful conservation outcomes).

Mostly holds true. There were some delays in recruitment and adjustments to timelines have been made. This has no impact the project outcome, and a change request was submitted and approved in Dec 2022.

Assumption 17 Press releases appeal to media outlets.

Holds true. One article published locally.

Assumption 18 Recruitment able to attract sufficient quality candidates from within TCI or wider region.

Holds true. Both recruits are from TCI.

Assumption 19 Community interested and willing to establish a Community Conservation Area for East Caicos.

Holds true. Communities participating in events/presentations provided so far.

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

The eastern portion of the North, Middle & East Caicos Islands Ramsar site covers around 18% of East Caicos; the Ramsar wetlands are contiguous with the rest of the island. The project will deliver against recent Ramsar Resolutions, particularly XIII.15 of the 13th COP to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Parties were encouraged to "...seek mechanisms that allow the conservation and transmission of traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities including in the sustainable use of natural resources, with scientific advice." (23) This aligns closely with the project goals. Furthermore, Contracting Parties were encouraged "to continue to promote cultural diversity and traditional knowledge systems and practices within wetlands as part of holistic approaches to planning..." (24) matching our proposed approach with the project.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): This project will contribute to the post-2020 framework ambition of '30x30', as it will add a substantial area of high conservation value to TCI's PA network. As TCI already has circa 26% of land protected, and given East Caicos alone makes up 5% of TCI's land area, this project could achieve the 30x30 target for TCI, five years ahead of target.

The project will contribute to UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- (1) No poverty, by creating and developing viable and long-term economic opportunities for local communities. Whilst there are no readily available statistics, anecdotal evidence from local partners indicates that the South Caicos community does not receive the same economic benefits as communities of Providenciales. This project seeks to change that.
- (8) Decent work and economic growth, particularly target 8.9 (implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products) by developing sensitive eco-tourism opportunities and local businesses selling traditional products.
- (11) Sustainable communities, particularly target 11.4 (strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage) by improving public understanding, appreciation, and willingness to steward the cultural, historic and environmental heritage values of East Caicos.
- (14) Life below water and (15) life on land, by increasing knowledge of island biodiversity to inform effective management and protecting loss of habitat from insensitive development through the creation of a Community Conservation Area.
- CMS Article III: The project's nesting turtle monitoring will contribute to conserving "habitats or species that are of importance in removing the species from danger of extinction". The project will contribute to TCI Government's Vision 2040 policy 'NC3.1 Good ecosystems, marine and aquatic resource management', (role of Protected Areas in the management of ecosystems) and contribute to the 2001 TCI Environment Charter (points 2 [protection of key habitats] 7
- [update baseline data] 9 and 10 [education]). It will also meet Goal 15 of the People's Plan for Empowerment and Inclusive Growth (TCIG Green Paper) to "Protect the Land and her Bounty" ... particularly the 40+ terrestrial habitats identified in the Turks and Caicos Islands, which range from dry forests to wetlands.

- There has been some progress in compiling sea turtle nesting data on East Caicos (see activity 3.7)

5. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board ¹ . | <i>The Project Board of six is made up of 66.6% women</i> |
| Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women ² . | <i>All three of the main project partners (RSPB, MCS and TCNT) are led by women (100%).</i> |

| GESI Scale | Description | Put X where you think your project is on the scale |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Not yet sensitive | The GESI context may have been considered but the project isn't quite meeting the requirements of a 'sensitive' approach | |
| Sensitive | The GESI context has been considered and project activities take this into account in their design and implementation. The project addresses basic needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups, and the project will not contribute to or create further inequalities. | X |
| Empowering | The project has all the characteristics of a 'sensitive' approach whilst also increasing equal access to assets, resources and capabilities for women and marginalised groups | |
| Transformative | The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change | |

The project has a strong commitment to gender and social inclusion. In addition to the following proportions of women in Board and leadership positions, one of the two posts recruited locally for this project is female.

The project is focussed on representing the views of three of the poorest and least developed communities in TCI – those of South, North and Middle Caicos. In this the project is ensuring a voice for those who are socially excluded from the main decision-making locus of Providenciales and the dominance of international capital that advocates unsustainable development. The very method used, that of Community Voice Method (CVM), aims to represent all views but particularly those that are least represented.

All three communities engaged are either rural or fishing and therefore inherently conservative. Ensuring that women are represented has required pro-activity on the project's part. The CVM screening workshops, particularly in Providenciales, were designed to be run over three consecutive days at morning and early afternoon times to overcome barriers that certain demographics face in participating. Out of the 53 attendees who signed attendance sheets across the six workshops, a total of 21 (40%) were female, and this rose to 48% (n=15) with just focusing on the three Providenciales workshops. The community workshops and interviews specifically targeted community members with place specific knowledge of East Caicos obtained

¹ A Project Board has overall authority for the project, is accountable for its success or failure, and supports the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.

² Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

through historical or current visits to the island therefore, of the 25 community members who participated in the workshops and interviews only 5 were women. Although efforts were made to engage women in these conversations the composition of community members with place specific knowledge of East Caicos were primarily restricted to male fishers. That said, across Y2 of the 517 persons considered “engaged” by the project through workshops, talks etc, 60% of those engaged were female. The proportion of females declined with increasing age group. More youths and students engaged were female than elders.

6. Monitoring and evaluation

The three partners meet formally once a year part as review of the previous year and part planning the following year. The last was May 2023 and the next will be in May 2024. In addition to the once-a-year formal project meeting between partners, there are constant other meetings at which partners actively monitor, evaluate and manage the East Caicos Wilderness Project.

The RSPB Project Executive (Charlie Butt) and TCNT’s Executive Director and representative on the Project Board Winema Penn meet monthly and the RSPB Project Manager (Simon Busuttill) works out of the TCNT office enabling regular and close contact, communication, and planning. Opportunity was taken in November 2023 when the Project Manager was on his annual visit to the UK for a f2f meeting at MCS HQ in Ross-on-Wye between RSPB and MCS.

Smaller work teams form as and when necessary eg a social science technical team from RSPB, TCNT and RSPB met regularly during late 2023 to develop the methods, questionnaires and consent forms necessary for the community consultation, CVM film production and stakeholder meeting and in the run-up to the stakeholder workshops in TCI a slightly different group of staff from the same three organisations met weekly during 2024 to plan strategy and logistics. The same group carried out a comprehensive review of both the formal and informal outcomes from the CVM film shows, Ministerial meeting and stakeholder workshops which was fed to the Project Board. As per the model *Plan-Do-Review* the response to these findings were incorporated into workplans for Yr3.

The emphasis has been on flexibility, as all three organisations but particularly the National Trust are short on staff resources. This also allows adaptive management.

The Project Implementation Plan (PIP) See Annex 4 item A19 is the primary tool that the three partners use together to track progress against activities and outputs. This live document with a comment column is updated after almost any meeting between partners. This retains focus on the activities, outputs and outcome of the project. The Project Manager “scores” each under the RAG (Red, Amber, Green) system for ease of consideration.

M&E is agreed to be the responsibility of the Project Manager. Financial M&E is via the RSPB’s Finance Department (represented by the Senior International Finance Officer, Wendy Cain).

After a “quiet” Y1, the three partners have had a lot more contact (as per above) in Y2. The light touch approach in terms of formal project management and the focus on activities and outcomes has been successful. There are no project failures which arise from not having a different project management and monitoring system. We will continue through Y3 as we support the development of the Community Conservation Area.

7. Lessons learnt

What has worked well?

Close team relations both as individuals within the project and organisationally has been crucial. Time spent together socially, and good communications have built trust.

The light touch project structure has focussed on delivery (rather than reporting) and caught up on many objectives (activities and outputs) after a very slow start due to delays in recruitment.

Clearly allocated activities to partners and the use of a one-stop-shop Project Implementation Plan (PIP) as a simple shared project tool have made monitoring progress and evaluating issues simple.

Having the Project Manager embedded within one organisation in-country has also helped get “under the skin” of issues and shift focus where necessary.

What has not worked so well, and we would do differently in future?

Several of the elements in the project, particularly those under Output 2 can now be regarded as clearly over-optimistic. They depend on actions on the part of the business community and are therefore out of our control. The lead in time for business decisions is much longer than the project allows for. **More rigorous challenge during project development** would have likely identified this issue and allowed us to suggest more achievable targets.

These lessons, particularly the greater rigour during project development have been incorporated into the successful Darwin Strategic bid DPR 12ST.

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

After a very slow start and consequent “quiet year 1”, the project team felt it premature to submit a Change Request Form until a clearer stronger overall idea of the challenges and issues facing the project. We have deliberately not submitted a Change Request Form during Yr 2 and now feel confident to submit a coherent Change Request which deals with the comments made in response to our Y1 Annual Report. The comments and our suggested response (which will be submitted by Change Request) are below.

| Reference | Comment by Reviewer | Project Response |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AR1 1 | Indicator 0.4 is not appropriate – how can the project aim to increase support by 50% against an unknown baseline? Consider revising. | Current Indicator 0.4 <i>“By end of project, the proportion of Turks and Caicos citizens interviewed that are supportive of maintaining East Caicos as a wilderness area, supporting local livelihoods development, increases by 50% from baseline determined in Yr1.”</i> to be changed to: <i>“By the end of the project 50% of Turks and Caicos citizens interviewed are supportive of maintaining East Caicos as a wilderness area, supporting local livelihoods development.”</i> via a Change Request, to be submitted May 2024 |
| AR1 2 | Outcome indicators 0.1, 0.2 and 0.5 are output level targets, not outcome level targets since they represent static deliverable targets rather than a measurable outcome. Furthermore, Outcome target 0.3 is not SMART since no baseline has been identified. Consider revising. | Outcome indicator 0.1 to be revised from <i>“East Caicos management plan produced and adaptively managed and registered as a Community Conservation Area with the IUCN by end of project.”</i> to <i>“East Caicos Community Conservation Area registration provides governance framework for its future protection by end of project.”</i> Outcome indicator 0.2 to be revised from <i>“East Caicos Community Conservation group comprised of ten people from representative communities established by end of project.”</i> to |

| | | |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | <p><i>“Future vision for the conservation of East Caicos underpinned and agreed by the East Caicos community conservation group, by end of project.”</i></p> <p>Output 0.5 to be revised from</p> <p><i>“At least fifteen areas of critical importance for heritage conservation mapped for future management and protection by end of Yr2.”</i></p> <p>to</p> <p><i>“The maps of key areas of critical importance for historic, cultural and environmental heritage conservation enable the CCA and other governing bodies to protect these from future development threats by end of Yr3.”</i></p> <p>All will be requested via a Change Request to be submitted in May 2024</p> |
| AR1 3 | <p>The project’s contribution to gender equality and social inclusion is not clear. The project has not reported on any efforts to include/target women in its participatory processes or training activities and targets are not disaggregated by gender. Consider setting targets and revising indicators accordingly</p> | <p>Whilst targets were not set containing gender components, gender statistics have been taken for ALL community and stakeholder workshop events including all CVM film screenings. These will be reported on.</p> |

9. Risk Management

There are no new risks that have emerged over the past year. That said the impact of three risks on the project has become clearer over Y2. These three risks are:

1. Reduced capacity for TCNT due to staff recruitment and retention issues has had a significant impact on Outputs 2 and 4 of the project.
2. The re-organisation of TCI’s Tourism sector through the replacement of the Tourist Board by a Destination Marketing and Management Organisation (DMMO) has slowed down progress for some activities but, longer term offers greater opportunities as the project is able to influence their overall strategy (TCI’s new brand).
3. Businesses have been much more difficult to engage than anticipated and the creation of new products using East Caicos in a nature-based way that they can offer has been much slower to emerge.

The project is adapting to these conditions as described in the report.

10. Sustainability and legacy

After a quiet Y1, the project has been very public with community workshops, stakeholder meetings and social media sites on Facebook and Instagram. This high level of engagement will continue during Y3. The creation of an East Caicos website to facilitate the project's profile is under discussion. High level government ministers including the Premier are aware of the project as are District Commissioners and several local MPs who have been engaged 121.

The intended sustainable benefits of the project are very much still valid. Indeed, the general social picture on Providenciales – booming economy, rising populations of tourists and visitors and the associated issues of overburdened services (evidenced by road traffic and restricted water supply), increased crime and illegal migration – is linked by many to the need for our project.

Whilst we are still creating the Community Conservation Area which we hope will confer some degree of restriction on development of East Caicos the concept of East Caicos as a World Heritage Site has been raised from within government itself, stimulated by this project. We see this as ultimately providing the kind of legal and structural framework that will help protect East Caicos. This should be seen as evidence of increased interest in the island and helping us ensure a sustained legacy for it.

This project by itself cannot create a sustained legacy. It starts that process. Further work will be needed. The project partners have already begun discussing this and most importantly, broadening out the project to include other partners.

11. Darwin Plus identity

The Darwin Plus logo has been used extensively across the project's outputs in Y2 as can be seen from the evidence in Annex 4. In particular, the CVM film which has been widely shown, including to senior Government officials and Ministers features the Darwin Plus logo prominently. Other examples include the stakeholder meeting leaflets (Annex 4 item A30) which were widely disseminated via social media and talks such as the one given at the Birds Caribbean training course.

The project has a clear identity although there has been some confusion at senior government levels between this project and DPLUS128, which includes the extension of the statutory Nature Reserve designation over East Caicos as one of its outputs, both being Darwin Plus projects focussing (albeit to different degrees) on East Caicos.

12. Safeguarding

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months? | No |
| Have any concerns been reported in the past 12 months | No |
| Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point? | No |
| Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months? | No |
| What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding? | Of the project team of six, four have received training in Safeguarding. The two TCNT staff on the project team received training directly because of this project (as part of the wider TCNT team). |

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| | |
| <p>Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses.</p> <p>None</p> | |
| <p>Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so please specify.</p> <p>None</p> | |
| <p>Please describe any community sensitisation that has taken place over the past 12 months; include topics covered and number of participants.</p> <p>None</p> | |
| <p>Have there been any concerns around Health, Safety and Security of your project over the past year? If yes, please outline how this was resolved.</p> <p>The rapid increase in shootings on Providenciales in late 2023 and early 2024 prompted a review by RSPB, MCS and TCNT of the public meetings proposed for the CVM film screenings on that island. This did not apply outside Providenciales. Discussions involving staff up to and including Director level prompted an adaptation of the project. Meetings were held away from areas where shootings had occurred, at times of lower risk (ie avoiding weekend evenings) and at “neutral” venues. The issue was resolved simply through the standard risk management process.</p> | |

13. Project expenditure

Full partner **actual** spend is not yet available. It will be provided separately at the end of May. We do not anticipate any significant variance.

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)

| Project spend (indicative) in this financial year | 2023/24 D+ Grant (£) | 2024/25 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 | | | | |

Table 2: Project mobilised or matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)

| | Secured to date | Expected by end of project | Sources |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|---------|
| Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£) | | | |
| Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£) | | | |

14. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

The design of the project has shifted slightly over the past year. We have found that support for the projects broad aims seems widespread, deep and sincere with many groups e.g., youth. At the same time, the projects goals of involving businesses in using East Caicos are over-ambitious. Whilst we can move businesses to support our aims, we cannot push them to use East Caicos before they are prepared to do so in terms of marketing, appropriate equipment and skills. The design of the project has therefore shifted to engaging with all communities including businesses building longer term and deeper support and reduced effort into trying to persuade businesses to move more quickly than they are prepared to. This will be reflected in the proposed change request.

The abolition of the Tourist Board and creation of a new organisation **Experience TCI**, a Destination Management and Marketing Organisation has meant that progress on several issues (such as a TCI Assured certification scheme) has slowed as the new organisation gets itself set up. Equally the opportunity is being taken to promote the natural and heritage conservation concepts that underlie our project and the role that East Caicos could play in the future of the TCI brand.

15. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes.

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds Secretariat to publish the content of this section.

We are particularly proud of the two films made. Details below

The short film was made by local film maker Romello Williams to show as background at our community workshops held in 2023 and for use in giving anyone and everyone who sees it a sense of East Caicos, a place which is difficult physically to get to.

The CVM film was made by MCS as the primary tool in the CVM process. It has been shown at six workshops across the Caicos Islands in March/April 2024 and will ultimately be made public. It is important that this film is not made public until those who have participated in the process have seen it. **PLEASE OBTAIN PERMISSION FROM MCS BEFORE USNG THIS FILM PUBLICLY**

Image, Video or Graphic Information:

| File Type (Image / Video / Graphic) | File Name or File Location | Caption, country and credit | Online accounts to be tagged (leave blank if none) | Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary) |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 3 minute film | [REDACTED] | East Caicos Film TCI Romello Williams | | N/A |
| CVM Film | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] | | Yes |

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2023-2024

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024 | Actions required/planned for next period |
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| <p>Impact</p> <p>East Caicos, the last remaining wilderness area of the British West Indies is protected and managed for generations by Turks and Caicos Islanders as a treasured, irreplaceable ridge-to-reef complex.</p> | | <p>We are now engaging several communities on this issue and finding that the majority view is for some sort of protection.</p> | <p>To reach more people through further consultation and broadcasting of the CVM film. To produce an advocacy film for this way forward and distribute that. To create a “council” of local people willing to advocate for a Community Conservation Area (CCA) and to bring all our biological, historic and cultural data together in a Management Plan or Vision document.</p> |
| <p>Outcome</p> <p>Participatory natural resource management, sustainable livelihoods, awareness and local capacity helps establish the future protection of the unique cultural, historic and natural heritage values of East Caicos.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. East Caicos management plan produced and adaptively managed and registered as a Community Conservation Area with the IUCN by end of project. 2. East Caicos Community Conservation group comprised of ten people from representative communities established by end of project. 3. By end of project, East Caicos heritage values receive elevated support amongst 8 local businesses (5 local hotels and 3 tour operators), as measured by new livelihood opportunities | <p>These five outcome indicators are the product of the consultation and engagement over the project’s lifetime. At this stage (end Y2) none have been fully achieved. These will come together and be completed in Y3.</p> <p>Note these five Outcome indicators to be subject of a Change Request in May 2024 (see notes in section 8 above).</p> | <p>Identify, support and if necessary, coach the ten individuals who are prepared to be part of the CCA “council”. Support establishment of this council.</p> <p>Produce Management Plan/Vision statement as directed by CCA council.</p> <p>Submit application to register East Caicos as a Community Conservation Area (CCA) with IUCN</p> <p>Identify and carry out a consultation with local businesses to assess their support for the project, how it has changed and</p> |

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024 | Actions required/planned for next period |
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| | <p>(nature tours led by 5 newly trained guides).</p> <p>4. By end of project, the proportion of Turks and Caicos citizens interviewed that are supportive of maintaining East Caicos as a wilderness area, supporting local livelihoods development, increases by 50% from baseline determined in Yr1.</p> <p>5. At least fifteen areas of critical importance for heritage conservation mapped for future management and protection by end of Yr2.</p> | | <p>their views on opportunities to use East Caicos</p> <p>Interview a sample of TCI citizens to ascertain level of support for project.</p> <p>Identify key conservation areas and incorporate maps of key conservation areas into Management Plan.</p> |
| <p>Output 1: Participatory resource management plan for East Caicos produced via facilitation incorporating local knowledge of priority cultural, historic and ecological heritage values</p> | <p>There has been significant progress towards this output, and we are on course to complete this by end of project. Much of the knowledge necessary has now been captured.</p> <p>1. Three excursions/workshops with relevant local communities and stakeholder groups to carry out participatory GIS mapping, visioning exercises and focus group discussions, capturing the ecosystem services, heritage values and future aspirations for the management of East Caicos by end Y2</p> <p>2. At least 30 filmed Community Voice Method (CVM) stakeholder</p> | <p>1.1 A film was made to replace the excursion for older people as we considered the crossing to and conditions on East Caicos unsafe for them. The film was shown at the workshops on South, North and Middle Caicos to help stimulate discussion. 25 persons attended the workshops and/or were interviewed separately.</p> <p>1.2 23 interviews were filmed on North, Middle and South Caicos and</p> | <p>The focus next year will be to set up the CCA council and produce the management plan.</p> <p>The excursions were incredibly popular and successful in building support for the project and ten more are planned for Y3.</p> |

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024 | Actions required/planned for next period |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | interviews across four inhabited islands – Providenciales, North, Middle and South Caicos – analysed, with representative gender sampling in Yr2Q1; CVM. | Providenciales. The gender split was 58% mm; 42% ff (n=13). | |
| | 3. At least 10 young people equipped with cameras and self-capture views/aspirations towards TCI nature in Yr2 Q1 | 1.3 53 students plus teachers and assistants visited East Caicos through the project | Attendees including students and youths in Y3 (see 1 above) will use GoPro and be further encouraged to film and post on social media. |
| | 4. Analysis of filmed interviews and self-captured footage, and one Community Voice Method documentary film created and screened across four inhabited islands involving with at least 100 mixed-gender, age and background participants by Yr2 Q3 | 1.4 CVM film made (Annex 4 ref). Approximately 75 people attended the six screenings. Of the 53 attendees who signed attendance forms, gender split was 32 male (60%) and 21 female (40%). | Further screenings of the CVM film are planned to end May on Providenciales and on Grand Turk (a recommendation from the stakeholders' workshops) to increase the number of people who see it. Film then to be put on-line for open access. |
| | 5. Creation of digital story maps detailing ecosystem services and heritage values of East Caicos by end of Year 2 to be co-created then shared with communities and stakeholder groups. | 1.5 Not scheduled for this period | Digital story map to be created by RSPB Data Unit in UK in Q3 when all data including from the stakeholders' workshops has been collated and digitised. Story map likely to be made accessible via proposed East Caicos website. |
| | 6. Community Voice Method and mapping outputs inform, via face-to-face consultation with at least 30 selected stakeholders across 4 inhabited islands, a final draft community-led and designed management plan for East Caicos by end of project | 1.6 Not scheduled for this period | The assessment of the stakeholder consultations will be completed in September by which time we hope to have the CCA Council appointed. In Q3 and Q4 the management plan will be completed, and consultation completed by end of project. |

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024 | Actions required/planned for next period |
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| 1.1 RSPB conduct desktop research to compile available information. | | Largely completed. A comprehensive review of published literature and consultation with experts on their unpublished knowledge | Tidy up, incorporate any new data (eg Tropical Important Plan Area information from DPLUS114 if available) and produce an accessible document by end Q1 Y3 |
| 1.2 RSPB, supported by TCNT provide equipment and IT to support daily operations between Middle Caicos and South Caicos. (Vehicle, boat, tablet, external hard drive, tablet, stationary, etc.) | | Completed Y1 | |
| 1.3 RSPB conduct in-house training with current conservation staff in Middle Caicos and new conservation staff in South Caicos that will be recruited on island | | Completed | |
| 1.4 MCS, with support of RSPB and TCNT develop interviewee list of stakeholders for CVM filmed interviews and workshops | | Completed | |
| 1.5 MCS and RSPB develop interview questionnaire, workshop protocols, and consent form | | Completed | |
| 1.6 TCNT Community engagement officer, supported by RSPB/MCS pilots interview questionnaire with community members in South and Middle Caicos, including women and girls, to ensure gender appropriate | | Completed | |
| 1.7 MCS finalise list of participants for filming and workshop across 4 inhabited islands and arrange filmed interviews and workshops | | Completed | |
| 1.8 MCS, with support of RSPB and TCNT, carry out filmed interviews and workshops across Providenciales North, Middle and South Caicos ensuring gender balance | | Completed | |
| 1.9 RSPB, supported by TCNT organise 3 excursions to East Caicos to conduct field walks and oral history interviews with selected knowledgeable elders and youth from the 4 inhabited islands. Field walks to visit and fix the location of as many of the mapped sites as possible using hand-held GPS units. Oral history interviews will document key traditional cultural knowledge about the different biologically and culturally significant sites, including the ethnohistory, traditional stories and songs, placenames, and the resource-use and management strategies associated with each area and its resources | | Youth visits carried out. We found that access to East Caicos for many of the elders was too risky/difficult. A short film (just over 3 mins long – see Annex 4) was made and shown at the Community workshops to stimulate discussion and storytelling | |
| 1.10 RSPB carries out digitisation of ecosystem services and habitats offering nature-based solutions to climate change into GIS maps, analysis of ecosystem | | Largely completed by RSPB Sabbatical Alison Beresford | This will be completed by end Q2 Y3. |

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024 | Actions required/planned for next period |
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| service hotspots, and qualitative transcripts from workshops, interviews and field excursions | | | |
| 1.11 RSPB Data Management Unit collates mapping outputs into a story map about East Caicos | | Project Manager ensured resource at RSPB HQ is available to carry out this work | Story map to be completed and hosted on proposed East Caicos website |
| 1.12 MCS transcribes and analyses filmed interview data (in collaboration with RSPB) and produce analysis summary report | | Completed | |
| 1.13 MCS produce CVM film output | | Completed | |
| 1.14 MCS arrange and promote CVM film screening across four inhabited islands | | Completed | |
| 1.15 MCS Hold 4 CVM screenings (including discussion and feedback) targeting communities across the 4 inhabited islands by the end of Year 2, Q1 | | Completed in March/April 2024 | |
| 1.16 MCS input and analyse CVM screenings and feedback proceedings to produce report and recommended draft management plan (see 5.3) | | Not scheduled. Contingent on completion of 1.15 | To be completed by end Q3 Y3 |
| 1.17 RSPB/MCS with support of TCNT carry out consultations with selected stakeholders to gain feedback on recommended draft management plan (see 5.3) | | Not scheduled | To be completed by end project |
| 1.18 TCNT facilitated community-led production of East Caicos management plan | | Not scheduled | To be completed by end project |
| Output 2: Sustainable, long-term, locally owned and designed small business and nature-based tourism plans developed for East Caicos. | Progress towards this output is slower than anticipated. In planning the project, we overestimated the willingness and speed at which businesses are able to change and take-up East Caicos as a product. Progress has been made towards the output, but the indicators need to be scaled back a stage from implemented business plans to deep support for the project. | | Following the change request, if approved, the focus will be on harnessing and evidencing the support of businesses with a view to achieving this output in the future, essentially on the same track but recognising it will take longer to turn support from business into actualised business opportunities. |

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024 | Actions required/planned for next period |
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| | <p>1. By Q3Yr2, number of sustainable tourism-based business development plans (incorporating at least 3 social, economic, and environmental sustainability goals), prepared by Middle and South Caicos community workshop participants increases to 5 from 0 (pre project), with at least 3 plans implemented by end of Yr3</p> | <p>2.1 Whilst we have engaged several businesses who have expressed an interest none have yet provided evidence for the level of commitment in the indicator</p> | <p>2.1 Likely to be subject of a Change Request to businesses providing letters of support for project and joining a widening partnership.</p> |
| | <p>2. By end of Yr2, 24 citizens including 5 fisherfolk trained by Birds Caribbean as TCI assured registration East Caicos heritage focussed guides from baseline of 0, with at least 30 bookings made by end of Yr3</p> | <p>2.1 24 people trained by Birds Caribbean as certified guides. Despite good promotion no South Caicos fisherfolk attended and so far, none have been trained. The target of bookings is unlikely to be achieved for the reasons stated in various sections above.</p> | <p>2.1 Look at other options to provide training for South Caicos fisherfolk. Indicator will be amended via a Change Request.</p> |
| | <p>3. 10 hotels and eco-lodges that receive training and materials from project in Yr2, each provide 10 of their guests to the local businesses supported by the project from Yr3</p> | <p>2.3 There has not been sufficient interest from hotels particularly on Providenciales. Only three attended the Birds Caribbean workshop. There are no eco-lodges. Materials have not yet been designed.</p> | <p>2.3 Large hotels on Providenciales are not interested. One of the two resorts on South Caicos (Salterra) is interested and we will engage them. It may also be possible (and very appropriate) to engage local Airbnb operations.</p> |
| | <p>4. By end of Yr2, 5 TCI-based tour operators (from baseline of 1) publicly advertise nature based, cultural and historic tours of E Caicos led by 3 of 5 trained guides (baseline = 0) on VisitTCI.com, TCNT and Tourist Boards</p> | <p>2.4 No TCI based tour operators offer this yet.</p> | <p>2.4 This will be the subject of a Change Request. Businesses are unlikely to take on this new product quickly.</p> |

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024 | Actions required/planned for next period |
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| | 5. 50 young people (aged 11- 18) attend at least 3 excursions and educational opportunities (inter-generational learning exchanges, nature-based activities, and interactions with scientists) with 50% demonstrating an improved knowledge of the ecological, cultural and historic values of East Caicos before end of project | 2.5 54 young people attended two excursions from South, Nth and Middle Caicos. Five other school activities (camps, fairs, school talks) engaging a further 224 children (though there will be some duplication with some students attending more than one activity). | 2.5 Although this target has already been achieved, we will take more students and young people to East Caicos in Y3. |
| 2.1 TCNT invite Invest TCI and CED to facilitate workshops aimed to assist small business owners with grants (financial support) | | Despite regular contact at leadership level TCI Invest and CED have not yet been persuaded to host this workshop | We will continue to engage with these two organisations and work towards achieving the workshops |
| 2.2 TCNT support cross-marketing of services/products including authentication stamp authorized by Dept. of Culture, Tourist Board, National Trust, DECR, and Dept of Agriculture) to be displayed by small business. (TCI Assured Authentication) | | Discussion around the issue of TCI Assured Authentication continues. Despite there being an appetite for this, it has not yet been developed. Tourist Board has been abolished and replaced by a DMMO (Destination Marketing and Management Organisation) which has constrained progress on several fronts as the new organisation gets set up and focusses on its strategic priorities. The project through TCNT leadership is advocating for East Caicos' protection and management as part of the new developing TCI brand. | Efforts to develop a cross-sector approach to this authentication to continue. Dept of Culture are becoming increasingly interested in this project particularly as the heritage aspect of East Caicos is developed and promoted through this project. Previously East Caicos has been largely viewed as primarily of natural importance. |
| 2.3 TCNT ensure promotion of local products/services on social media/websites. | | TCNT's staffing capacity issues have restricted progress on this. The project has identified some "easy wins" particularly local accommodation providers on North, Middle and South Caicos whose services are currently difficult to find and therefore access. | We will likely focus on the easy win identified this year and, with local partners, find some way of improving the marketing and promotion of these services. |
| 2.4 TCNT together with MCS engage Fishing Co-op (Mr. Talbot), and DECR to identify fisherman that have set skills and knowledge of historical trails, dive site, | | TCNT has worked with Mr Talbot and has identified many of those fishermen with relevant skills. Several participated in the | |

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024 | Actions required/planned for next period |
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| turtle watching, etc. | | workshops and some featured in the CVM film | |
| 2.5 TCNT draft and implement short curriculum to ensure fisherfolk provide accurate information to tour guests. | | Not carried out yet | Using the materials (natural and cultural) gathered in Y1 and Y2 of the project, TCNT to draft and implement in Y3 |
| 2.6 BirdsCaribbean-led 5-day Caribbean Birding Trail (CBT) Interpretive Bird Guide Training Workshop for current and prospective guides from Providenciales, Grand Turk, Salt Cay and North, Middle and South Caicos. The Workshop will be carried out with support from local partners including the Turks and Caicos National Trust and SWA Environmental Consulting who will carry out activity 3.2 (see below). | | This was successfully completed. 24 participants attended including from North and Middle Caicos. The Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR) and Providenciales Golf Course significantly supported this event. | |
| 2.7 BirdsCaribbean hold a half-day workshop for hoteliers to inform them about how they can benefit from and cater to avi-tourists, including understanding the birding market, what birders need, how to get general adventure/ nature tourists into birding, and how to create bird-friendly gardens and hotel grounds through landscaping with native plants. | | This was completed. Hosted at the Ritz Carlton on Providenciales, unfortunately only three establishments sent representatives. This was likely due to most establishments being very busy with current market demand and not thinking about needing to change their offer AND no establishments in TCI marketing themselves as eco-lodges (or similar). The market is possibly inappropriate for this niche. | |
| 2.8 TCNT set up group monthly meetings to follow-up on training and aptitude testing. | | This has not been done. TCNT are understaffed due to high turnover of staff and difficulties recruiting. | This activity will be the subject of a Change Request in May 2024 suggesting it be removed as it is not likely to be achieved given TCNT resources. |
| 2.9 TCNT supported by BirdsCaribbean and RSPB provide hotel concierge and villas with service package as marketing tool to book tours. | | This has not been done as the demand for this from hotel and villa concierges has not emerged | This activity will be the subject of a Change Request in May 2024 suggesting it be removed as it is not likely to be achieved given TCNT resources. |
| 2.10 TCNT establish an MoU with the Tourist Board, TCNT, and TCHTA to promote service package to tourists wanting an eco-tour experience. | | This has not been done because the Tourist Board was abolished during this period and replaced with <i>Experience TCI</i> . | TCNT has been fully engaging Experience TCI twice a month as Experience TCI develops its strategy and |

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024 | Actions required/planned for next period |
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| | | This new organisation has been finding its feet during this period and this initiative has not featured in its priorities. | program. This engagement has focussed on the higher-level TCI brand development that Experience TCI are leading. TCNTs aim has been to get the ideas around natural and heritage that underlie our project embedded at an early and strategic stage in Experience TCI's brand development eg developing their support for World Heritage Site status for East Caicos. |
| 2.11 TCNT monitors website visitations and collects numbers from partners. (Data collection) | | This has not been done as no businesses to our knowledge have added East Caicos to their offer in the period | This is unlikely to be of value since few businesses are adding East Caicos to their offer within the timescale of this project. This will be the subject of a Change Request. |
| 2.12 TCNT utilize Heritage & Discovery Clubs in the secondary schools (private & public) for students to be engaged and join educational activities. | | Over 200 students have been engaged through a variety of educational clubs this year | Given the success of this TCNT, through the South Caicos based Community Engagement Officer will continue this activity. The difference will be that we will aim to "piggyback" messaging to adults on this activity eg by inviting them to "come along" to film screenings. |
| 2.13 TCNT encourages youth/students to join quarterly expeditions to East Caicos and report on findings through the Youth Reports of the Environment initiative. | | 54 youths/students from South, North and Middle Caicos have visited East Caicos through the project so far. | The plan is do take more youths/students including for the first-time students/youth from Providenciales |
| Output 3: Ecological, cultural and historic baseline established, and presence of non-native species determined and used to inform conservation | | This output has largely been achieved. Our knowledge of the important features of East Caicos is much greater and clearer than it was, its wetland areas have been proposed as a KBA (ie of global significance for biodiversity) and information is available for synthesis into the management plan in Y3. | Focus on completing reports and identifying areas for further work. |

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024 | Actions required/planned for next period |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| management and community empowerment. | <p>1. Desk-based gap analysis of available peer-reviewed research, studies and other research (including grey literature) done on East Caicos completed by Q4 Yr1, informing field study plans</p> | <p>3.1 The desk-based analysis has been largely completed. There is unsurprisingly little published data but several priorities for East Caicos have been identified. Findings have already led to two field studies on Reddish Egrets and American Flamingos which have identified the importance of East Caicos for these species. In the case of Reddish Egret, it is globally important</p> | <p>3.1 Desk based analysis needs tidying up in a single document and any new information especially on plants, incorporating</p> |
| | <p>2. Targeted population level assessments of IBA bird trigger species and other priority (globally threatened and endemic) species completed using robust, repeatable sampling methods completed by Q3Yr3. 4 TCNT conservation staff to participate in bird monitoring to build monitoring and data management capacity.</p> | <p>3.2 The assessment of the Important Bird Area (IBA) has been completed. New criteria have been applied and the wetland area of East Caicos is proposed as a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA). The survey methods used have identified four species as being present in globally important numbers. Two of these species have been identified directly through this project (see 3.1 above). Survey methods have been documented and shared with DECR and are repeatable. A number of staff and volunteers including from TCNT have participated in the surveys.</p> | |
| | <p>3. Quantification and monitoring of nesting sea turtle populations at 5 index sites around East Caicos, completed by end of Yr1, repeated in Yrs 2 and 3</p> | <p>3.3 Sea turtle nesting and foraging areas have been surveyed repeatedly and knowledge and understanding of the areas used have been fed into the management planning process.</p> | <p>Y3 will involve at least three further turtle nesting and foraging habitat surveys to support overall evidence base and inform analytical report/recommendations to be fed into overall management planning process</p> |

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024 | Actions required/planned for next period |
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| | 4. Extent of Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD) mapped and quantified once during Yr2 and once in Yr3 at 8 target sites | 3.4 SCTLD has been mapped and quantified in a series of fixed plots off East Caicos. As a direct result of this survey, monitoring has been increased to take place annually. | |
| | 5. Completed updated assessment of East Caicos against KBA criteria, informed by project field survey results, submitted to KBA Secretariat by end of Yr3 | 3.5 KBA assessment has been completed and is currently with TCI Government for information ahead of submission to KBA Secretariat | |
| | 6. Presence and potential impacts of non-native species assessed by end of Yr2 | 3.6 Work has begun on identification of Invasive non-Native Species (INNS) and it seems likely that all INNS have been identified. Broad scoping of which of these species are an issue and their impacts has been carried out and priorities for further work identified. It is unlikely that in-depth work to quantify numbers, distribution and impact will take place during the life of this project but quotes have been obtained from specialists whilst others are being consulted informally. | Consultation with experts to identify key issues. It is hoped to carry out at least one more in-depth assessment of important INNS in Y3. |
| 3.1 RSPB carries out desk-based research and review of existing studies and grey literature | | Largely completed though awaiting more data from plants | |

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024 | Actions required/planned for next period |
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| 3.2 SWA delivers 1-day training of TCNT staff and North, South and Middle Caicos community members to identify bird and floral species of interest | | Not carried out due to SWA work program elsewhere and shortage of TCNT staff (see details previously) | Training to be carried out by SWA |
| 3.3 SWA, supported by TCNT, updates field studies with updated estimates of IBA trigger species (covering summer and winter migration) and maps key areas for plants (Nov-January after rainy season to ensure priority species are visible) and identifies potential invasive non-native species | | IBA trigger species population estimates carried out (see 3.2 above) | Plant data to be updated and incorporated fully into 3.1 |
| 3.4 MCS identify index nesting sites using existing TCI Turtle Project (TCITP) nesting data and published literature | | Completed in Y1 | |
| 3.5 MCS develop standardised Sea turtle nesting protocol using existing TCITP sampling protocols | | Completed in Y1 and being used to guide surveys. | |
| 3.6 MCS deliver capacity-building workshop for partners and key stakeholders such as DECR on sea turtle nesting monitoring | | Completed in Yr1 and Yr 2 with survey team of early-career scientist and captain. | Refresher training to be provided in Yr 3 |
| 3.7 MCS implement sea turtle nesting surveys in Yr1 nesting season, repeated in Yr2 and Yr3. | | Completed in Yr 1 and Yr 2 that also factored in foraging habitat surveys | At least three surveys to be implemented in Y3 |
| 3.8 MCS Analyse and produce report of nesting data | | Data has been entered and back up. | Analysis of 3 years of data to inform report and recommendations at end of Y3 |
| 3.9 TCRF lead dive expeditions to assess extent of Stony Coral Loss Disease | | 6 day live aboard expedition took place from July 29 th - August 5 th , 2023, Report being written. | |
| 3.10 RSPB-led analysis of field survey results and traditional knowledge to inform KBA assessment of East Caicos | | This has been completed and fed into KBA submission | |
| Output 4: Awareness and appreciation of the cultural, historic and ecological value of East Caicos is increased amongst communities, TCI citizens, the private sector and government stakeholders leading to strengthened | | Progress towards this objective has been slower than expected. Reduced capacity within TCNT particularly on the communications side has limited our ability to do communications work. We have looked at alternative ways of delivering the indicators eg replacing press releases with contracting out social media. | We plan to catch-up on some of the existing targets. A simple communications plan will be developed to prioritise what we can do as capacity will continue to be limited. The main work will be production of the "Heritage Values" film. We will also develop a simple |

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024 | Actions required/planned for next period |
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| support for protected status for E Caicos. | | | website to showcase the films that have been or are planned to be produced. Management of the social media sites to be changed to make them more effective. |
| | 1. 6 Podcasts and radio interviews “speak your mind TCI” and film reach 75% of registered TCI voters (c.7,732) citizens, by end of project | TCNT capacity limited. TAG media employed to set up and manage two social media platforms (Facebook , Instagram). | Main piece of work will be to produce the East Caicos film (BTSW contracted to do this) and make it widely available (eg through film festival and on-line). Make short film and CVM film easily available also to maximise number of citizens reached. |
| | 2. East Caicos nominated as Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network site by end of Yr3. | Analysis of shorebird populations and supporting fieldwork shows East Caicos is not suitable for this designation. This indicator will be subject of a Change Request and removed | |
| | 3. At least two media press releases shared with TCI media outlets per year and at least two articles in TCI news outlets by end of project, plus 12 social media posts per annum, detailing progress of project and community-led efforts to embed protection for East Caicos and create Community Conservation Area | Social media post target greatly exceeded but printed media missed | Communications plan to prioritise what is most effective and can be done. At least one magazine article to be written (eg Times of Island article to be written). Social media to be looked at to be more effective. |
| | 4. >2,000 online views of E Caicos video produced, featuring narration by well-known TCI TV personality by end of Yr2. | BTSW contracted to make film. Project planning (eg film brief) completed. Decision made not to use TCI personality but other local voices. | Film to be made and launched. Website to be developed to host this and other films |

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024 | Actions required/planned for next period |
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| | 5. Annual briefing for Senior TCI Government Ministers, Government Officials and Governor on project progress | Ministers including premier regularly briefed. Private screening and Q&A session held for relevant Cabinet Minister (Hon Connolly) in March 2024. | TCNT Executive Director to continue high level contacts and briefings |
| 4.1 TCNT engage hosts from Uncut, Our TCI, TB Radio Show, Heritage Matters, and other local podcast/radio to promote cultural, historic and ecological value of East Caicos | | Little work carried out on this activity. Not achieved. | Review of comms work to be carried out and a brief comms plan to be written. Aim to “catch up” on this target in Y3. |
| 4.2 RSPB collates and submits WHSRN official nomination information to WHSRN | | Data analysis has shown that East Caicos is not suitable for this designation. | |
| 4.3 TCNT prepare and release media press releases with TC Weekly News, Sun News, PTV, and TCI E News | | Little work carried out on this activity. Not achieved. | Review of comms work to be carried out and a brief comms plan to be written. Aim to “catch up” on this target in Y3. |
| 4.4 Updates provided through Head of Department meetings (monthly) and progress reports to Cabinet (Governor/Ministers) quarterly. | | TCNT Executive Director has kept Government colleagues informed and engaged through official and unofficial briefings. | To continue. Y3 is an election year in TCI. This poses some challenges and maybe opportunities for engagement. |
| 4.5 RSPB contracts Nutshell productions to produce East Caicos heritage values film | | A local TCI firm BSW (not UK based Nutshell) contracted to produce the Heritage Values film. | Film to be produced |
| Output 5: Strengthened capacity of national project partners, TCI citizens and local communities to effectively manage and protect East Caicos wilderness area | Good progress towards this output though most work will occur in Y3. The Community Engagement Officer is in post on Sth Caicos and other current and former TCNT staff have supported the community engagement work. | | Identify individuals able and willing to participate in the CCA Council. Sort governance issues eg relationship of TCNT to the CCA Council. |
| | Partner capacity increased by end of Yr1 through recruitment of a South Caicos-based Community Engagement and Outreach Officer and Heritage Support Officer to TCNT. | Ongoing | Ongoing, no change |
| | Technical assistance from project team to on-island partners and 4 self-appointed leads from within South and Middle Caicos | Some potential individuals identified by Project Team through Consultation and stakeholder work. | Formally invite individuals to participate. Establish how project team, via TCNT, |

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024 | Actions required/planned for next period |
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| | communities enables E Caicos Management plan to meet the IUCN-recognised Community Conservation Area (CCA) Traditional Management Plan standard, by end of project | | supports CCA Council. Set up and launch Council. |
| | Community-based East Caicos conservation area governance system in place with equal gender representation, supported by technical assistance from the project team in Y3. | Not scheduled. | Establish CCA Council. |
| | Environmental Funders Network bid (EFN) funding bid prepared and submitted in Yr3 to embed local capacity | Not scheduled. | If an EFN funding application is not suitable other funding sources will be looked at. |
| 5.1 TCNT, supported by RSPB, advertises and recruits for qualified individuals, (Heritage Sites Support Manager and Community Engagement Officer) building the technical skill capacity. TCNT to source employee internally at TCI level to interview for proposed positions. | | Completed in Y1 | |

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| <p>5.2 RSPB establishes an internal management and stewardship structure, so project staff understand their roles in relation to decision processes and the strategic plan, creating a workplan to link operational activities over the course of the project to meet strategic objectives for the establishment of the CCA.</p> | <p>Completed, ongoing</p> |
| <p>5.3 TCNT based Community Engagement Officer will lead on the preparation and facilitation of a governance framework detailing how decisions will be made, existing community governance bodies and processes to support the CCA, identify and document traditional and natural resource management laws to support the CCA.</p> | <p>Will take place in Y3.</p> |
| <p>5.4 TCNT supports community to develop a traditional land use management plan rooted in traditional laws and informed by science to guide resource use decisions.</p> | <p>Will take place in Y3.</p> |
| <p>5.5 RSPB prepares and submits EFN funding bid</p> | <p>Funding bid will take place in y3</p> |

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

| Project summary | Measurable Indicators | Means of verification | Important Assumptions |
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| <p>Impact: East Caicos, the last remaining wilderness area of the British West Indies is protected and managed for generations by Turks and Caicos Islanders as a treasured, irreplaceable ridge-to-reef complex.</p> | | | |
| <p>Outcome: Participatory natural resource management, sustainable livelihoods, awareness and local capacity helps establish the future protection of the unique cultural, historic and natural heritage values of East Caicos.</p> | <p>2. East Caicos management plan produced and adaptively managed, and registered as a Community Conservation Area with the IUCN by end of project</p> <p>3. East Caicos Community Conservation group comprised of ten people from representative communities established by end of project</p> <p>4. By end of project, East Caicos heritage values receive elevated support amongst 8 local businesses (5 local hotels and 3 tour operators), as measured by new livelihood opportunities (nature tours led by 5 newly trained guides).</p> <p>5. By end of project, the proportion of Turks and Caicos citizens interviewed that are supportive of maintaining East Caicos as a wilderness area, supporting local livelihoods development, increases by 50% from baseline determined in Yr1</p> <p>2. At least fifteen areas of critical importance for heritage conservation mapped for future management and protection by end of Yr2</p> | <p>1. Management plan with vision, baseline informed by local knowledge and field survey results, and objectives for management: IUCN CCA registration submission.</p> <p>2. Meeting minutes, meeting attendance sheets, Community Conservation Area IUCN registration document</p> <p>3. New tour adverts advertised on TurksandCaicosTourism.com, concierge / hotel bookings sheets, Promotional materials for tour packages, booking confirmations, tour confirmations</p> <p>4. Questionnaire results from start and end of project, articles in Times of the Island and TCI, pre- and post-training feedback documents</p> <p>5. Field reports of population level estimates for the IBA trigger species, IBA update submission forms, maps with important foraging, roosting and breeding areas of IBA trigger species, maps of plant</p> | <p>Covid19 does not prevent face to face workshops in Middle and South Caicos. <i>This holds true because TCI Government is now at over 50% vaccination and meeting numbers will not exceed 30, within TCI guidelines for meetings.</i></p> <p>Fisherfolk interested in and keen to diversify livelihoods, participate in training. <i>This assumption holds true as partnership (involving MCS, Amanara Resort, TCI Government) and two South Caicos fishers involved successfully taking Resort guests out on responsible turtle-tagging tourism trips for 5 years in Ramsar site through this tourism model (activity curtailed by Covid19).</i></p> <p>Sufficient investment or loans are available to initiate start-up businesses. <i>This holds true because TCNT will be engaging TCI Invest to invite them to make their small business grants available to support an initial number of small businesses get off the ground.</i></p> |

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| | | diversity / endemism, maps of turtle nesting sites, community workshop mapping exercise outputs | |
| <p>Outputs:</p> <p>Output 1: Participatory resource management plan for East Caicos produced via facilitation incorporating local knowledge of priority cultural, historic and ecological heritage values</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Three excursions/workshops with relevant local communities and stakeholder groups to carry out participatory GIS mapping, visioning exercises and focus group discussions, capturing the ecosystem services, heritage values and future aspirations for the management of East Caicos by end Y2 2. At least 30 filmed Community Voice Method (CVM) stakeholder interviews across four inhabited islands – Providenciales, North, Middle and South Caicos – analysed, with representative gender sampling in Yr2Q1; CVM. 3. At least 10 young people equipped with cameras and self-capture views/aspirations towards TCI nature in Yr2 Q1 4. Analysis of filmed interviews and self-captured footage, and one Community Voice Method documentary film created and screened across four inhabited islands involving with at least 100 mixed-gender, age and background participants by Yr2 Q3 5. Creation of digital story maps detailing ecosystem services and | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Workshop sign-in forms, completed qualitative database, completed audio, photographic and written recordings of each workshop 2. Digital footage of all interviews, consent forms 3. Self-captured camera footage, consent forms 4. Interview transcriptions, qualitative database, completed CVM documentary film, audio, photographic and written recordings of each workshop, participant registration sheet, Audio record of consultation interviews, completed consultation questionnaire forms. <p>GIS map outputs and Web-based story maps produced by RSPB Data Management Unit,</p> | <p>Stakeholders agree to participate in CVM process including filmed interviews, self-capture camera exercise, participatory workshops and face-to-face consultations.</p> <p><i>This is likely to hold true as MCS have successfully implemented a previous CVM project in TCI leading to policy change. Through local partnerships, MCS maintain existing and strong links with communities through existing TCI based work.</i></p> <p>Stakeholder engagement activities (CVM, GIS Mapping) adheres to TCI Covid measures (e.g. social gathering numbers, social distancing etc) to promote safe participation and minimise any disruption caused by ongoing pandemic.</p> <p><i>Project partners have long-term and successful experience of developing / implementing environmental management plans in TCI and the region, providing high-level confidence in production of draft East Caicos Management Plan.</i></p> |

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| | <p>heritage values of East Caicos by end of Year 2 to be co-created then shared with communities and stakeholder groups.</p> <p>6. Community Voice Method and mapping outputs inform, via face-to-face consultation with at least 30 selected stakeholders across 4 inhabited islands, a final draft community-led and designed management plan for East Caicos by end of project.</p> | <p>Database/report of no. of communities and stakeholder groups engaged and sharing feedback on visuals.</p> <p>6. Project report, with appendix detailing recommendations for the East Caicos management plan</p> | |
| <p>Output 2: Sustainable, long-term, locally owned and designed small business and nature-based tourism plans developed for East Caicos.</p> | <p>1. By Q3Yr2, number of sustainable tourism-based business development plans (incorporating at least 3 social, economic, and environmental sustainability goals), prepared by Middle and South Caicos community workshop participants increases to 5 from 0 (pre project), with at least 3 plans implemented by end of Yr3</p> <p>2. By end of Yr2, 24 citizens including 5 fisherfolk trained by Birds Caribbean as TCI assured registration East Caicos heritage focussed guides from baseline of 0, with at least 30 bookings made by end of Yr3</p> <p>3. 10 hotels and eco-lodges that receive training and materials from project in Yr2, each provide 10 of their guests to the local businesses supported by the project from Yr3</p> | <p>1. New business plans prepared covering retail, crafts, catering, or adventure tours, published accounts of 3 operational businesses, business advertisements</p> <p>2. Professional guide training certificates issued by trainer and approved by TCI Tourism, copies of tour bookings</p> <p>3. Workshop sign-in sheet, event photos, workshop feedback forms</p> | <p>International tourism picks up to pre Covid19 levels. <i>This holds true because TCI Government has been able to benefit from the UK's development of and access to the Covid19 vaccine, whilst measures are in place for testing and quarantine on arrival (see https://www.visittci.com/travel-info/tci-assured) . New opportunities will also arise through national tourism. TCNT will undertake promotion and outreach to TCI citizens around the heritage values, benefits and attractions available at East Caicos.</i></p> <p>Participants able to agree on small business development opportunity priorities. <i>This holds true because small business options have already been identified through a TCRF-SWA small project and business development workshop held in a previous project</i></p> |

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| | <p>2. By end of Yr2, 5 TCI-based tour operators (from baseline of 1) publicly advertise nature based, cultural and historic tours of E Caicos led by 3 of 5 trained guides (baseline = 0) on VisitTCI.com, TCNT and Tourist Boards</p> <p>5. 50 young people (aged 11-18) attend at least 3 excursions and educational opportunities (inter-generational learning exchanges, nature-based activities, and interactions with scientists) with 50% demonstrating an improved knowledge of the ecological, cultural and historic values of East Caicos before end of project</p> | <p>4. Website ads for tours featuring trainees as lead guides from VisitTCI.com, Turks & Caicos Tourism.com, TCNT website and Tourist Boards.</p> <p>5. Feedback sheets from students, photos of event, signed registration/attendance sheets,</p> | <p>Fisherfolk interested in and keen to diversify livelihoods, participate in training. <i>This assumption holds true as partnership (involving MCS, Amanayara Resort, TCI Government) and two South Caicos fishers involved successfully taking Resort guests out on responsible turtle tagging tourism trips for 5 years in Ramsar site through this tourism model (activity curtailed by Covid19).</i></p> <p>Tour operators willing to accommodate and optimise East Caicos as part of their offering. <i>This holds true because Turks and Caicos Tourism already advertises Snorkelling and Sport fishing tours on its website. The expectation is that diversifying the offering will prove attractive to TCI Government.</i></p> <p>Young people willing and able to event excursions. <i>We believe this holds true as feedback from our on-island appetite for such excursions and a lack of opportunities at present. Feedback also suggests there is a good deal of respect for elders by the younger generation.</i></p> |
| <p>Output 3: Ecological, cultural and historic baseline established, and presence of non-native species determined and used to inform conservation management and community empowerment.</p> | <p>1. Desk-based gap analysis of available peer-reviewed research, studies and other research (including grey literature) done on East Caicos completed by Q4 Yr1, informing field study plans</p> <p>2. Targeted population level assessments of IBA bird trigger</p> | <p>1. Desk-top assessment and gap analysis report with recommendations informing field assessments</p> <p>2. Annual reports; technical report with quantitative data on IBA trigger species; plant</p> | <p>Field survey timings optimised to determine quantitative assessment of priority globally threatened and IBA trigger species. <i>Fieldwork will be led and managed by experienced expertise from within the project partnership and so timings will be carefully chosen to account for seasonality with careful consideration</i></p> |

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| | <p>species and other priority (globally threatened and endemic) species completed using robust, repeatable sampling methods completed by Q3Yr3. 4 TCNT conservation staff to participate in bird monitoring to build monitoring and data management capacity.</p> <p>3. Quantification and monitoring of nesting sea turtle populations at 5 index sites around East Caicos, completed by end of Yr1, repeated in Yrs 2 and 3</p> <p>4. Extent of Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD) mapped and quantified once during Yr2 and once in Yr3 at 8 target sites</p> <p>5. Completed updated assessment of East Caicos against KBA criteria, informed by project field survey results, submitted to KBA Secretariat by end of Yr3</p> <p>6. Presence and potential impacts of non-native species assessed by end of Yr2</p> | <p>diversity index maps; fieldwork reports and photographs of field activities, photographs of TCI citizen participation; TCNT staff feedback sheets</p> <p>3. Analytical report of turtle nesting distribution and density across index sites</p> <p>4. SCTLD maps; technical report</p> <p>5. KBA assessment produced; copy of submitted assessment to KBA secretariat</p> <p>6. list of presence / absence of invasive species, report on possible impacts of non-natives with input and feedback from DoA and communities;</p> | <p><i>given to potential disruption and associated risks arising from adverse conditions.</i></p> <p>Conditions allow sea turtle nesting monitoring; pandemic does not inhibit travel to East Caicos. <i>This assumption holds true as project partner MCS has been part of local partnerships monitoring sea turtle nesting throughout pandemic.</i></p> <p>Sufficient data generated to enable KBA criteria assessment Communities willing to share local knowledge around plants and wildlife and heritage sites within East Caicos Surveys able to detect presence of non-native species. <i>Some of the reported non-native species being ungulates (donkeys, goats, cattle), should be relatively easy to detect during field surveys. Detection of these and other species (e.g. feral cats) should be possible with camera traps. Extreme weather has potential to disrupt field surveys. However, field surveys can be rescheduled if extreme weather (e.g. hurricanes) affect TCI during the project period.</i></p> |
| <p>Output 4: Awareness and appreciation of the cultural, historic and ecological value of East Caicos is increased amongst communities, TCI citizens, the private sector and government stakeholders leading to strengthened support for protected status for E Caicos.</p> | <p>1. Six Podcasts and radio interviews “speak your mind TCI” and film reach 75% of registered TCI voters (c.7,732) citizens, by end of project</p> <p>2. East Caicos nominated as Western Hemisphere Shorebird</p> | <p>1. podcast and URL links; SoundCloud links to radio interviews; listening figure reports</p> <p>2. Copy of nomination document submitted to WHSRN</p> | <p>People tune in in sufficient numbers to listen to podcasts and interviews. <i>We understand that prior TCNT led podcasts, Facebook Live events and radio interviews were very well received and serve as a solid basis for follow-up outreach work through this project.</i></p> |

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| | <p>Reserve Network site by end of Yr3</p> <p>3. At least two media press releases shared with TCI media outlets per year and at least two articles in TCI news outlets by end of project, plus 12 social media posts per annum, detailing progress of project and community-led efforts to embed protection for East Caicos and create Community Conservation Area</p> <p>4. >2,000 online views of E Caicos video produced, featuring narration by well-known TCI TV personality by end of Yr2</p> <p>5. Annual briefing for Senior TCI Government Ministers, Government Officials and Governor on project progress</p> | <p>3. Copies of news articles in TCI news outlets; social media posts</p> <p>4. newly produced video of E Caicos; screenshot of online view count of video shorts</p> <p>5. Project annual briefing document for officials</p> | <p>WHSRN approve East Caicos nomination. <i>This holds true as there is an existing dialogue with WHSRN around nominating East Caicos as a WHSRN site.</i></p> <p>Project runs smoothly and to plan to enable Green List criteria to be met (Good Governance, Effective Management, Sound Design and Planning, successful conservation outcomes). <i>We are confident this holds true as significant new on island capacity will be recruited and trained on island, with dedicated remote and in-territory support provided by project partners.</i></p> <p>Press releases appeal to media outlets. <i>TC weekly news regularly highlights issues of environmental interest and Times of the Islands have previously published articles by specialists from DECR and elsewhere on a range of environmental issues.</i></p> |
| <p>Output 5: Strengthened capacity of national project partners, TCI citizens and local communities to effectively manage and protect East Caicos wilderness area</p> | <p>1. Partner capacity increased by end of Yr1 through recruitment of a South Caicos-based Community Engagement and Outreach Officer and Heritage Support Officer to TCNT.</p> <p>2. Technical assistance from project team to on-island partners and 4 self-appointed leads from within South and Middle Caicos communities enables E Caicos</p> | <p>1. Job advertisement; terms of reference; work plan; signed recruitment paperwork for both roles</p> <p>2. workshop report detailing priority areas for conservation; CCA signed agreement document; East Caicos management plan; draft submission to IUCN CCA Registry https://www.iccaregistry.org/ or https://www.protectedplanet.net/en/thematic-</p> | <p>Recruitment able to attract sufficient quality candidates from within TCI or wider region. <i>The project team is already aware of a pool of promising young talent from within TCI and the wider region, indicating this assumption holds.</i></p> <p>Community interested and willing to establish a Community Conservation Area for East Caicos. <i>We believe this holds true due to</i></p> |

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| | <p>Management plan to meet the IUCN-recognised Community Conservation Area (CCA) Traditional Management Plan standard, by end of project</p> <p>3. Community-based East Caicos conservation area governance system in place with equal gender representation, supported by technical assistance from the project team in Y3.</p> <p>4. Environmental Funders Network bid (EFN) funding bid prepared and submitted in Yr3 to embed local capacity</p> | <p>areas/indigenous-and-community-conserved-areas</p> <p>3. Signed governance document by relevant parties, images of signing, community forum established members list</p> <p>4. Copy of funding bid submitted to EFN, copy of acknowledgement of receipt from EFN</p> | <p><i>interest in prior initiatives, though these lacked the resources needed to take East Caicos to required level in terms of community driven management and ownership.</i></p> <p>Sufficient community participation, input and ownership of East Caicos management plan. <i>We believe this holds true because the workshops held through Output 1, coupled with the CVM work in Output 3, will enable the community to define what is important and take ownership of East Caicos future.</i></p> <p>An adequately gender- and age balanced governance system can be established. <i>We believe this holds true because of the applied experience held in RSPB's inhouse conservation science team that will be brought to bear through this project.</i></p> <p>EFN funding mechanism for core capacity remains available in 2024-5. <i>We believe this holds true because we understand significant work has been ongoing to establish and launch the fund in late 2021 and early uptake and interest suggest the fund will be a success.</i></p> |
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| <p>Activities</p> <p>Output 1</p> <p>1.3 RSPB conduct desktop research to compile available information</p> <p>1.2 RSPB, supported by TCNT provide equipment and IT to support daily operations between Middle Caicos and South Caicos. (Vehicle, boat, tablet, external hard drive, tablet, stationary, etc.)</p> <p>1.3 RSPB conduct in-house training with current conservation staff in Middle Caicos and new conservation staff in South Caicos that will be recruited on island</p> |
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- 1.4 MCS, with support of RSPB and TCNT develop interviewee list of stakeholders for CVM filmed interviews and workshops
- 1.5 MCS and RSPB develop interview questionnaire, workshop protocols, and consent form
- 1.6 TCNT Community engagement officer, supported by RSPB/MCS pilots interview questionnaire with community members in South and Middle Caicos, including women and girls, to ensure gender appropriate.
- 1.7 MCS finalise list of participants for filming and workshop across 4 inhabited islands and arrange filmed interviews and workshops
- 1.8 MCS, with support of RSPB and TCNT, carry out filmed interviews and workshops across Providenciales North, Middle and South Caicos ensuring gender balance
- 1.9 RSPB, supported by TCNT organise 3 excursions to East Caicos to conduct field walks and oral history interviews with selected knowledgeable elders and youth from the 4 inhabited islands. Field walks to visit and fix the location of as many of the mapped sites as possible using hand-held GPS units. Oral history interviews will document key traditional cultural knowledge about the different biologically and culturally significant sites, including the ethnohistory, traditional stories and songs, placenames, and the resource-use and management strategies associated with each area and its resources
- 1.10 RSPB carries out digitisation of ecosystem services and habitats offering nature-based solutions to climate change into GIS maps, analysis of ecosystem service hotspots, and qualitative transcripts from workshops, interviews and field excursions
- 1.11 RSPB Data Management Unit collates mapping outputs into a story map about East Caicos
- 1.12 MCS transcribes and analyses filmed interview data (in collaboration with RSPB) and produce analysis summary report
- 1.13 MCS produce CVM film output
- 1.14 MCS arrange and promote CVM film screening across four inhabited islands
- 1.15 MCS Hold 4 CVM screenings (including discussion and feedback) targeting communities across the 4 inhabited islands by the end of Year 2, Q1.
- 1.16 MCS input and analyse CVM screenings and feedback proceedings to produce report and recommended draft management plan (see 5.3)
- 1.17 RSPB/MCS with support of TCNT carry out consultations with selected stakeholders to gain feedback on recommended draft management plan (see 5.3)
- 1.18 TCNT facilitated community-led production of East Caicos management plan

Output 2

- 2.1 TCNT invite Invest TCI and CED to facilitate workshops aimed to assist small business owners with grants (financial support)
- 2.2 TCNT support cross-marketing of services/products including authentication stamp authorized by Dept. of Culture, Tourist Board, National Trust, DECR, and Dept of Agriculture) to be displayed by small business. (TCI Assured Authentication)
- 2.3 TCNT ensure promotion of local products/services on social media/websites.
- 2.4 TCNT together with MCS engage Fishing Co-op (Mr. Talbot), and DECR to identify fisherman that have set skills and knowledge of historical trails, dive site, turtle watching, etc.
- 2.5 TCNT draft and implement short curriculum to ensure fisherfolk provide accurate information to tour guests.
- 2.6 Birds Caribbean-led 5-day Caribbean Birding Trail (CBT) Interpretive Bird Guide Training Workshop for current and prospective guides from Providenciales, Grand Turk, Salt Cay and North, Middle and South Caicos. The Workshop will be carried out with support from local partners including the Turks and Caicos National Trust and SWA Environmental Consulting who will carry out activity 3.2 (see below).
- 2.7 Birds Caribbean hold a half-day workshop for hoteliers to inform them about how they can benefit from and cater to avi-tourists, including understanding the birding market, what birders need, how to get general adventure/ nature tourists into birding, and how to create bird-friendly gardens and hotel grounds through landscaping with native plants.
- 2.8 TCNT set up group monthly meetings to follow-up on training and aptitude testing.
- 2.9 TCNT supported by Birds Caribbean and RSPB provide hotel concierge and villas with service package as marketing tool to book tours.
- 2.10 TCNT establish an MoU with the Tourist Board, TCNT, and TCHTA to promote service package to tourists wanting an eco-tour experience.
- 2.11 TCNT monitors website visitations and collects numbers from partners. (Data collection)

2.12 TCNT utilize Heritage & Discovery Clubs in the secondary schools (private & public) for students to be engaged and join educational activities

2.13 TCNT encourages youth/students to join quarterly expeditions to East Caicos and report on findings through the Youth Reports of the Environment initiative.

Output 3

3.1 RSPB carries out desk-based research and review of existing studies and grey literature

3.2 SWA delivers 1-day training of TCNT staff and North, South and Middle Caicos community members to identify bird and floral species of interest

3.3 SWA, supported by TCNT, updates field studies with updated estimates of IBA trigger species (covering summer and winter migration) and maps key areas for plants (Nov-January after rainy season to ensure priority species are visible) and identifies potential invasive non-native species

3.4 MCS identify index nesting sites using existing TCI Turtle Project (TCITP) nesting data and published literature

3.5 MCS develop standardised Sea turtle nesting protocol using existing TCITP sampling protocols

3.6 MCS deliver capacity-building workshop for partners and key stakeholders such as DECR on sea turtle nesting monitoring

3.7 MCS implement sea turtle nesting surveys in Yr1 nesting season, repeated in Yr2 and Yr3.

3.8 MCS Analyse and produce report of nesting data

3.9 TCRF lead dive expeditions to assess extent of Stony Coral Loss Disease

3.10 RSPB-led analysis of field survey results and traditional knowledge to inform KBA assessment of East Caicos

Output 4

4.1 TCNT engage hosts from Uncut, Our TCI, TB Radio Show, Heritage Matters, and other local podcast/radio to promote cultural, historic and ecological value of East Caicos

4.2 RSPB collates and submits WHSRN official nomination information to WHSRN

4.3 TCNT prepare and release media press releases with TC Weekly News, Sun News, PTV, and TCI E News

4.4 Updates provided through Head of Department meetings (monthly) and progress reports to Cabinet (Governor/Ministers) quarterly.

4.5 RSPB contracts Nutshell productions to produce East Caicos heritage values film

Output 5

5.1 TCNT, supported by RSPB, advertises and recruits for qualified individuals, (Heritage Sites Support Manager and Community Engagement Officer) building the technical skill capacity. TCNT to source employee internally at TCI level to interview for proposed positions.

5.2 RSPB establishes an internal management and stewardship structure so project staff understand their roles in relation to decision processes and the strategic plan, creating a workplan to link operational activities over the course of the project to meet strategic objectives for the establishment of the CCA.

5.3 TCNT based Community Engagement Officer will lead on the preparation and facilitation of a governance framework detailing how decisions will be made, existing community governance bodies and processes to support the CCA, identify and document traditional and natural resource management laws to support the CCA.

5.4 TCNT supports community to develop a traditional land use management plan rooted in traditional laws and informed by science to guide resource use decisions.

5.5 RSPB prepares and submits EFN funding bid

Annex 3: Standard Indicators

None submitted

Annex 4: Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

Separate zip file submitted.

Checklist for submission

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| Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the correct template (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and deleted the blue guidance text before submission? | Yes |
| Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line. | Yes |
| Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line. | No |
| 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. | Yes |
| If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 15)? | Yes |
| Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors | Yes |
| Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully? | No |
| Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report. | |