

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31st October)

Project Ref. No.	17-004
Project Title	Building civil society capacity for conservation in the Caribbean UKOTs
Country(ies)	Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Turks & Caicos)
UK Organisation	Commonwealth Foundation
Collaborator(s)	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (project leader Sarah McIntosh)
Project Leader	Vijay Krishnarayan
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Project website	

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

General

There has been little activity during the six-month period except for planning activities, mainly because CANARI received no funding from the Commonwealth Foundation during the period. (Afternote: the Quarter 3 and 4 payments for Year 1 and Quarter 1 payment for Year 2 were sent to CANARI on 6 October 2010).

The Commonwealth Foundation programme officer responsible for this project, Junaid Habib, left the Commonwealth Foundation at the end of July. The project will now be managed by Vijay Krishnarayan, Deputy Director.

In anticipation of these funds being received, the following activities were initiated or completed by CANARI (more details under specific Activities below):

- contracting of a consultant, Gillian Cooper, to coordinate the study visit and produce the related case study;
- contracting of the same consultant, Gillian Cooper, to oversee the small grants programme since applications to date have been disappointing;
- drafting of an issues paper: *Community participation in natural resource management: lessons from Caribbean small island states*, with co-funding from the John D and Catherine T MacArthur Foundation.

A meeting of the UK Advisory Group was held on 10 September 2010 while the CANARI Project Manager, Sarah McIntosh, was in the UK and this also served to introduce UK partners to Gillian Cooper. Regular contact was maintained with the UK partners whose current activities complement those under this project, notably RSPB and JNCC.

There has also been intermittent contact with the Caribbean Action Research and Learning Group, related mainly to:

- soliciting feedback on the March ARLG meeting report and its findings;
- encouraging them to submit small grant applications;
- discussing with National Trust of the Cayman Islands (NTCI) and Turks and Caicos Islands National Trust (TCINT) who they will select as a partner organisation for future ARLGs and other project activities.

Activity 1.1. Mobilise 10 CSOs: Only 8 CSOs attended the March 2010 ARLG meeting but both TCINT and CINT are close to finalising partnership arrangements with Rotaract and Rotary respectively. Since the private sector is inadequately integrated into conservation efforts at present, and indeed in several cases is contributing to its degradation, these partnerships should prove useful

Activity 1.2.: Mobilise partners and establish Technical Advisory Committee and hold inception meeting: The *UK Action Learning Group* met on 10 September, with four UK partners in attendance as well as CANARI and Commonwealth Foundation representatives. The draft minutes of the meeting are attached.

Activity 1.3: Establish project team and refine project workplan: The CANARI project team has been expanded to include former CANARI staff member and now independent consultant based in the UK, Gillian Cooper, to coordinate the study visit, write up the related case study, and oversee the small grants. Since Gillian is based in the UK, she also provides an accessible point of contact for UK partners. At the suggestion of the LTS reviewer, discussions are also underway with NTCI to hold a national stakeholder meeting, similar to the ones held in the other territories. If this comes off, it would mean an adjustment to the workplan, but should be feasible since some savings were made on the first ARLG meeting as a result of not having the full complement of attendees.

2.3 Plan, facilitate and report on second ARLG meeting and training workshop

Participants are being consulted on possible dates in March 2011 and discussions are underway about location and focus. It had been envisaged that the meeting would be held in Montserrat and focus on participatory planning, with Nicole Leotaud, now CANARI Executive Director, co-facilitating, since she was integrally involved in the Centre Hills planning process. Sarah McIntosh will write up the case study on the Centre Hills planning process and will co-facilitate the meeting with Gillian Cooper.

3.2 Study visit to Bermuda

Following consultation with ARLG members, UK partners and the LTS Advisor, it was decided that Bermuda was not the best place for a study visit. It has now been decided that the study visit will focus on the former Netherlands Antilles (in the process of being restructured) and will be conducted in partnership with the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) to examine:

- DCNA's institutional set up - structure, funding and capacity;
- DCNA's role, functions and achievements in the area of conservation;
- the challenges that DCNA and the Netherlands overseas territories face in terms of biodiversity conservation
- how the relationship between the OTs and the Netherlands has helped or hindered biodiversity conservation in the Dutch Caribbean.

There will also be opportunities to meet some of the organisations that form DCNA's membership with a particular focus on the CSOs that are managing or co-managing protected areas.

5.1 Develop communication strategy for the project

Some discussion of this took place at the ARLG but it has not been fully fleshed out. One communication activity (5.7 see below) has been completed. It is anticipated that the full strategy will be completed, including the project webpage and intranet by the end of 2010.

5.7 Develop and print guidelines on civil society development and management

During the period, CANARI drafted and had peer reviewed a publication entitled "*Community participation in natural resource management: lessons from Caribbean small island states*", which was produced with co-funding from the John D and Catherine T MacArthur Foundation under the *Going from strength to strength* project which CANARI is implementing in tandem with this project and using similar methodologies. The paper also draws on lessons from projects funded by the European Commission's Programme on Tropical Forests and other Forests in Developing Countries and the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation's National Forest Programme Facility. This has been published as the first of a new CANARI series of Issues Papers, rather than as a Guideline, with the primary target audience being

