

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2012)

Project Ref No.	18-016
Project Title	Darwin Initiative to Enhance an Established Marine Protected Area System
Country(ies)	Cayman Islands
UK Organisation	Bangor University, Wales (School of Ocean Sciences)
Collaborator(s)	Cayman Islands Government (Department of Environment) (DOE), The Nature Conservancy (USA)
Project Leader	Dr. John Turner, Bangor University
Report date	April –Sept 2012
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	3
Project website	http://www.doe.ky/marine/25-years-of-marine-parks/

- 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).**

Numbers refer to objectives and activities from baseline timetable

6.1 Community Stakeholder Consultation on proposals for new enhanced Marine Protected Area optimal configurations for each island (April 2012): The stakeholder consultation is underway via a series of well publicised district exhibitions and public meetings on Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, and a central exhibit of the proposed enhanced MPA at the Department of the Environment. The meetings have been accompanied by radio and newspaper articles, and a strong web/Facebook campaign for feedback. The consultation is due to close on November 23rd, 2012. Turner (Bangor) attended the first week of campaign in Cayman.

6.2 Steering Group 5: Held 11th September 2012 at Department of Environment Grand Cayman attended by Turner from Bangor, with input via Skype from The Nature Conservancy, USA.

6.3 Marine conservation law modifications: have been considered, and where possible changes to the Marine Protected Area System are being implemented through changes to the Marine Conservation Regulations rather than Marine Conservation Laws. Identification of any required legal changes are being identified for submission to Government.

6.4 Development of MPA management plan, monitoring plans, enforcement plans and education plans: Enforcement, Monitoring and Education have been considered and plans drawn up for their implementation once the new MPA system has been established. Some novel methods will be trialled, including greater efficiencies in enforcement through information technology based reporting and greater public involvement through Information technology based dissemination. New Management Plans have been outlined.

6.5 Presentations at International conferences: Turner (Bangor), Austin & McCoy (Cayman DoE) attended the 12th International Coral Reef Symposium in Cairns, Australia to present 3 papers on results of the project, during July 2012 (see: <http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/newsletter/Darwin%20News%202012-07.pdf> p.15). In addition, the team have continued with 5 more mini-environmental documentaries

(*Environmental Breaks*) on Cayman television on specific activities and results through this half year.

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

Required permission for the second public consultation from Government (Caucus of Cabinet) was delayed due to the priority of other government business at Caucus. The presentation to Caucus was postponed 5 times between June and August, and finally permission was given in late September, following written and ministerial requests. However, the consultation process had been organised in the meantime, and was quickly initiated without further delay, in October 2012. Other activities have continued during the delay period, and a new timetable has been planned for an additional Steering Group meeting for the modification of the MPA system based on analysis of stakeholder feedback on the enhanced MPA (21st January 2013), and submission to Government in second week of February 2013. These changes will not affect the budget, and will put the project back on schedule. Delays were expected during this phase of the project, and adequate flexibility was built into the programme.

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

Discussed with LTS: no

Formal change request submitted: no

Received confirmation of change acceptance no

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

Yes No

If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible. It would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication of how much you expect this request might be for.

Estimated carryforward request: £ n/a

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

No

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

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with LTS International directly.

Please send your **completed form by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk. The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 17-075 Darwin Half Year Report**