

# Darwin Plus: Overseas Territories Environment and Climate Fund Annual Report

**Important note** *To be completed with reference to the Reporting Guidance Notes for Project Leaders:  
it is expected that this report will be about 10 pages in length, excluding annexes*

**Submission Deadline: 30 April**

## Darwin Plus Project Information

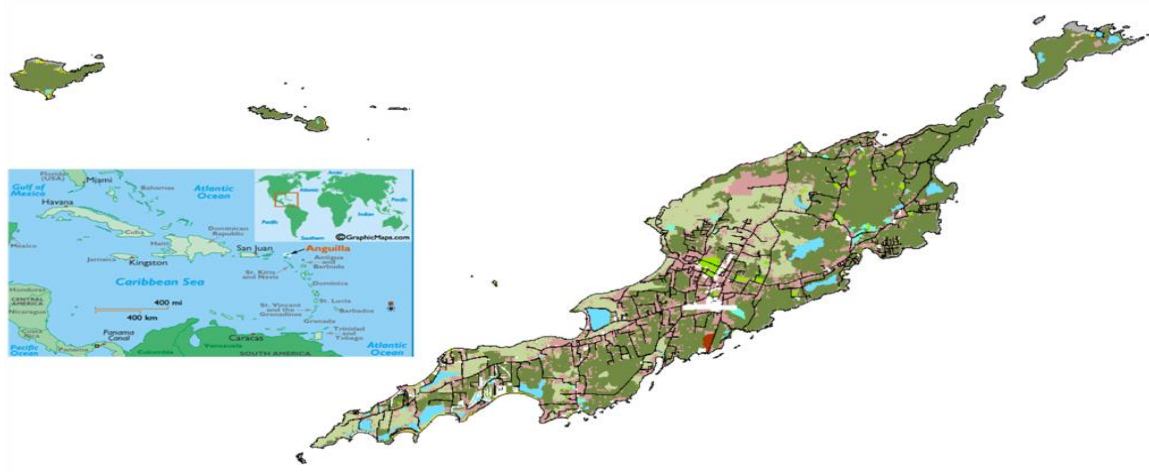
Project Ref Number	DPLUS022
Project Title	Anguilla National Ecosystem Assessment - Towards a Green Economy
Territory(ies)	Anguilla
Contract Holder Institution	Department of Environment, Government of Anguilla
Partner Institutions	Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)
Grant Value	£190,500.00
Start/end date of project	1 April 2014 to 30 March, 2016
Reporting period (e.g., Apr 2015-Mar 2016) and number (e.g., AR 1,2)	1 April 2014 to 30 March 2015
Project Leader	Mr Karim V D Hodge
Project website	<a href="http://www.gov.ai/doe">www.gov.ai/doe</a>
Report author and date	Department of Environment

## 1. Project Overview

Anguilla (Figure 1) is a small UK Overseas Territory in the Eastern Caribbean. Ecosystem sustainability is critical to Anguilla's national economy, individual livelihoods and health. Habitat alterations, storm impacts influenced by land use changes and climate change induced water scarcity are all impacting on the island's ecosystems. Long-term economic prosperity in Anguilla requires healthy ecosystems and effective management of, and responses to these impacts.

This project aims to strengthen existing policies and identify new options to achieve effective environmental management and sustainable growth in Anguilla. It will integrate scientific and social data into scenario development through a participatory process, while changing stakeholder awareness on the value of ecosystems to the economy, and provide evidence to support the implementation of green policies.

The project is designed to develop a national GIS based ecosystem inventory to include the physical nature/distributions of ecosystems, the economic and social value of services provided and the threats to this value. Ecosystem value mapping and threat assessments will provide economic and social arguments and evidence to allow for the integration of ecosystems into physical and economic planning. It will also lead to the development and implementation of alien species and climate change mitigation measures.



**Figure 1: Map of Anguilla**

## **2. Project Progress**

### **2.1 Progress in carrying out project activities**

#### **Output 1: Create evidence based of status and terms in ecosystem services**

##### *Activities*

- 1.1** A detailed literature review (Annex 1) was done through consultancy. The DOE worked with the consultant to develop an appropriate questionnaire to complement the literature review and build a baseline on which the project's success can be measured. The literature review was not completed within the one month as scheduled but it was completed within the first quarter as planned.
- 1.2** A framework was developed on how to integrate the economic assessment of goods and services into the national GIS database. This was done collaboratively with the consultants, staff of the Centralised GIS unit and the Department of Environment.
- 1.3** This activity has been completed. One and one interviews with various stakeholders that derive goods and services from specific marine and terrestrial ecosystems were conducted. In addition, information was gathered from relevant Government agencies and the Anguilla Department of Statistics (Annex 2).
- 1.4** A report on Anguilla's Ecosystem Services and Values – A national Asset (Annex 3) was produced and completed within the allotted time.
- 1.5** Research /data on ecosystem values were integrated into the national GIS database (Annex 4). This task was completed within the scheduled time.
- 1.6** Maps were developed to illustrate the values and services of the ecosystems for the national audience (See weblink: <http://www.gov.ai/doe/anea/>). This was done within the allotted timeframe.
- 1.7** The final report (Annexes 3) was presented to all appropriate stakeholders and a copy was made available for public viewing via the DOE's weblink (<http://www.gov.ai/doe/category/anguilla-national-ecosystem-assessment/>). Persons were also encouraged to contact the Department if any additional information was required.
- 1.8** A weblink (<http://www.gov.ai/doe/anea/>) was created for public access via the DOE's website. This allows access to the reports and maps produced.

## **Output 2: Capacity strengthened across agencies (multi-sectoral) e.g no of people participating techniques learned.**

### *Activities*

**2.1** Training was conducted in scenario building in the week commencing on 12 November 2014. The theoretical and practical concepts were further integrated and reinforced in two other key areas; mapping, and the application of models to inform decision making and the management of natural resources (Annex 4).

The morning session of day one was geared towards the political directorate and Permanent Secretaries. This session was chaired by the H.E. Governor. It was an interactive exercise (Annex 8) which allowed them to highlight the areas they would like the ANEA to contribute to. It then focused on another exercise that brought forward their perceptions for the future of Anguilla under five different themes (Annex 5) in relation to environmental management.

**2.2** This session was deferred from the third quarter and was delivered in January 2015 of the fourth quarter. The training was delivered for an entire week by consultants. The outputs in terms of reports are still in draft. Annex 6 highlights the training delivered (material and images).

**2.3** This activity has been deferred as it was deemed more appropriate to be completed at the end of the first quarter of 2015 – 2016 financial year. We have been in the process of determining how collaboratively the various agencies that have been, trained work under this project. Hence, the team's dynamic is testimony to the practicality of producing the said protocol. The skills acquired in areas such as social and ecosystem assessments, building scenarios, facilitating public and focus group meetings, developing scenarios, developing and using maps as a communication tool have further built the capacity in each respective Government Agency which participated.

**2.4** This was completed prior to the scheduled time and was hosted on the DOE's website. It was developed using a Google based programme as well as Survey Monkey to collect and analyse the data (Annex 7). Maps were also posted for the public to provide their options and comments on the values of ecosystem services.

**2.5** All statutory bodies and business associations in Anguilla were briefed on the project through a letter followed by presentations. A small roundtable was established for all public service Heads of Departments and the Permanent Secretaries (Annex 8). This was to ensure that all persons that were required to be involved in the project were briefed with the necessary information. It was also done to ensure that when their agencies' involvement is needed and improve the likelihood of them participating willingly would be greater. Agencies such as the European Union (EU), Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Eastern Caribbean Development Bank and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) which were represented at the Medium Term Economic Strategy Review in March 2014 were all informed of the work associated with the ANEA project (Annex 9).

## **Output 3: Scenario developed through participatory/approach and conducted national ecosystem assessment**

### *Activities*

**3.1** Approximately 10 focus group sessions were conducted with various stakeholders during the period of February to March 2015. These meetings will be continued in May 2015. The traditional town hall approach is quite popular however, given local knowledge and

recent experience, we are aware that the focus group process is most appropriate (Annex 10).

- 3.2 Various media forms were developed to keep the public abreast of the ANEA. We have done radio talk shows, press releases, as well as press briefings for the consultants and one on one talks (Annex 10).
- 3.3 Maps depicting land use, land use changes and beach changes from 1990 to 2014 were developed and produced. A descriptor of the current situation was broadly described using current statistics and interviews with selected agencies within the Government of Anguilla to capture the respective current dynamics. This was done for all natural resource areas and various aspects of the economy. This information was shared with the social scientists before they arrived to conduct the subsequent training in social assessments (Annex 11).
- 3.4 This process has started (Annex 12). It is an on-going activity involving focus group sessions with all community groups to allow equal buy-in on where they envision Anguilla in the future. This activity will resume the second week of May 2015. The approach used will be more community oriented and will cover the entire span of the island.
- 3.5 A consultant was sourced to provide training in conducting stakeholder focus group sessions. Public education and sociological skillsets were acquired from the detailed training delivered from 12 to 16 January 2015. The training focused on applied skills for the participatory process and public engagement (Annex 13). It covered the different methods and techniques, how to build and implement a communication strategy, the basics of facilitation and meeting preparation, data collection from focus groups and workshops, ethics and confidentiality, writing copy for press and publicity. The practice exercises used persons from the community and this allowed all training skills to be put into use. This ensured that the participants were equipped to fulfil the objectives on the project and beyond on their own.
- 3.6 These initiative has started but has not been completed. Consequently, it has been deferred for completion in quarter one of Financial Year 2015/2016.

## **2.2 Project support to environmental and/or climate outcomes in the UKOT's**

This project is making significant contributions to the long-term outcomes for the natural environment in the Anguilla. The project enabled locals to gain and refine their skills in the execution of information through an interview process. This has ranged from developing staff capacities across a range of government agencies at the political, senior technical and advisory technical levels in the areas of scenarios development for long-term sustainable growth, while ensuring ecosystem integrity.

The data once analysed will provide insight into how public information should be targeted for the ANEA project. The training received over the last year by UK and EU experts have equipped the local professionals with the skills to lead sessions, develop and refine scenarios based on economic and social values. Members of the locally established Team have boosted their approach to planning programmes. Maps have been produced in the area of ecosystems service values and technical persons were trained in how to develop these maps.

The project has contributed significantly to improving Anguilla's capacity for management of environmental assets in Anguilla through building the technical capacity of staff of various skill

sets across various agencies. Hence, technical persons using the same data to answer or address different challenges which when looked at holistically can provide sound evidence based management decisions. This project will also enable us to create regulations and endorse best practices that take into consideration the impacts that climate change will have as already identified.

## **2.3 Progress towards project outputs**

### **Output 1: Create evidence based of status and trends in ecosystem services**

Much progress has been made towards achieving this output during the year 2014-2015. The desk study and literature review were completed (Annex 1). The literature review incorporated the community's views on the status and trends of ecosystems and their services in Anguilla. A framework for the Economic Assessment and Ecosystem Goods and Services was also developed. In addition, a draft report on Anguilla's Ecosystem Services and Values- A national Asset was produced.

The values acquired focused on coral reefs, fisheries, distribution of livestock and medicinal plant species and more. This data was sourced from the Department of Statistics and was complemented by one on one interviews conducted with stakeholders who directly use services from ecosystems. The values were incorporated into maps (Annex 5) and are now readily accessible from the Centralised GIS database Unit.

### **Output 2: Capacity strengthened across agencies (multi-sectoral) e.g No of people participating techniques learned.**

Extensive preparatory work was done to ensure that the training delivered by the consultants encapsulated and achieved the objectives of this outcome within this financial year. Thus far, these objectives have been adequately achieved.

Training was delivered to over 20 participants from various Government Agencies on two occasions during this financial year. Phase one of the training occurred for one week, 17-21 November 2014. The morning of the first day was geared towards the Political Directorate and Permanent Secretaries, who were informed on the usefulness of Scenario Building. They were also given the opportunity to express the areas they believed the ANEA should focus on. The following training delivered to participant from the various Government agencies, focused on the themes, Scenarios Development, GIS and Mapping, Monetary Valuation Maps, Using Models to inform decision making (STELLA and DEFINITE) (Annex 4). Trainees were given the opportunity to apply the concepts taught to real-life scenarios. The practical exercises reinforced the knowledge gained and ensured that the trainees were adequately prepared to deliver to the various publics.

Phase two training occurred from 12 to 16 January 2015. This training focused on applied skills for participatory process and public engagement. It covered the different methods and techniques, how to build and implement a communication strategy, the basics of facilitation and meeting preparation, data collection from focus groups and workshops, ethics and confidentiality, writing copy for press and publicity. This training was complementary to the objectives of the NEA with regards to communication and future scenario building through a participatory process. The concepts taught on scenarios development were reinforced. The practice exercises used persons from the community and this allowed all training skills to be put into use. This ensured that the participants were equipped to fulfil the objectives on the project and beyond on their own.

A letter was distributed to inform all government agencies, statutory bodies, and associations on the project. This was followed by the delivered of a presentation on the project to each body in a round table seminar. This was geared to all public service Heads of Departments and the Permanent Secretaries. Agencies represented at the Medium Term Economic Strategy Review seminar in March 2014 such as the European Union (EU), Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Eastern Caribbean Development Bank and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) were informed on the ANEA project. This was delivered on the third day of the seminar which focused on the natural environment.

The development of the interagency protocol was deferred to the first quarter of 2015–2016 financial year. It is foreseen that this will not have any implication on the project’s timeframe.

### **Output 3: Scenario developed through participatory /approach and conducted national ecosystem assessment**

We have already started to acquire feedback from stakeholders through focus group sessions (Annex 12). During the period of February to March 2015 approximately ten different focus group sessions occurred. These meetings will be continued as scheduled. The conventional town hall approach will be used however, given the wealth of traditional knowledge and experience in the community, the focus group sessions are deemed most appropriate.

The media through print and radio were used to build community support to the project. Various other media forms were developed to keep the public abreast of the ANEA. Radio talk shows, press releases highlighting the public involvement in the stakeholder sessions, press briefings with the consultants who delivered the training and one on one talks were all used to keep the project visual in society.

### **Output 4: Establishment of an integrated Framework towards a national development plan**

The activities to be achieved for this outcome have not started and are due to commence in the next financial year. Nonetheless, the activities that have been undertaken thus far are contributory to the fulfilment of this outcome. Such activities include the training in scenarios development and facilitating stakeholders meetings. The maps, economic evaluations, public’s perceptions gathered and more, are preliminary data that will be used to build the foundation of the Framework for the National Development Plan.

## **2.4 Progress towards the project outcome**

Progress towards the project outcome of greater security for the future of Anguilla’s environment amongst its trust for continued sustainable economic growth has been good:

- I. The majority of the work on the creation of an evidence based of the status and trends in ecosystem services as it relate to Anguilla, is near completion and only requires some refining. However, more data can be collected to continue to inform future decisions as it related to environmental management and economic growth.
- II. The technical Staff in the Government of Anguilla’s Agencies is well equipped to deliver this project based on the level of training received. The group of persons that were trained now form part of the Core Group for the ANEA project. The skills acquired are vast and training was within the project’s budget.

- III. A maximum of five scenarios were developed through a participatory process. Various stakeholders were engaged on different occasions to share their perceptions of Anguilla under the different scenarios. This was done in the form of focus group sessions to ensure that we can receive realistic input as to how the majority of the public foresee Anguilla's future. These findings were then refined and placed under the appropriate theme. This project objective is highly likely to be achieved within the project's timeframe.
- IV. The establishment of an Integrated Framework for National Development will provide policy options and initiate decision making to the development of a National Development. Having to be focused on the environment, this will ensure that environment is recognised in the National Development and mainstreamed. All the other outcomes are complementary to this outcome which will be one mechanism to assist the Government in Anguilla in achieving sustainable development.

## 2.5 Monitoring of risks

<b>28. Risks</b>			
<b>Description of the risk</b>	<b>Likelihood the event will happen (H/M/L)</b>	<b>Impact of the event on the project (H/M/L)</b>	<b>Steps the project has taken to reduce or manage the risk</b>
1. Non participation from Government political factions and / or private agencies and the general public.	M	M	General Elections occurred this year. However, by involving all political delegates from the inception of the project, any major delays were eliminated. Furthermore, all political factions were involved in a round table seminar prior to elections to highlight the project's benefits. It was well received by all who attended.
2. Special interest groups may have a specific agenda that will derail the project.	L	L	A series of two hour seminars with Heads of Departments, Statutory bodies, Associations and other private sector entities at the onset of the project and at the focus group meeting, ensured buy in and more certainly, everyone's ideas included and discussed openly.
3. Inability to sustain the project after project completion	M	M	There were two opportunities to inform regional and sub-regional (international) donor agencies of the project and the work streams that we are doing in relation to the ANEA. They all verbally expressed their support.
4. Natural Disasters ( e.g Hurricanes) ( Low Risks)	L	L	Although arrangements were taken to avoid any activities being affected by hurricane activities, we had planned the training interventions right at the very low an known inactive period of the hurricane season. Anguilla did receive a direct hit from a category three hurricane in October 2014

			which damaged utilities and left questions as to whether our planned training workshop in Mid-November 2014 would occur. However, our pre-planning ensured low risk and our workshop occurred as scheduled.
5. Secure Consultants (Low Risks)	L	L	A network of researchers and key consultants were involved in the on-going work on Anguilla prior to initiating this project. Consequently, we were able to replace a consultant which withdrew with another with similar acumen and maintain the project focus. This mitigated the low risk.

### 3. Project Stakeholders

Our principal stakeholders in this project are the Government Agencies (all its facets of social, natural resources based and political and economics/financial), private sector entities and communities. Support from JNCC in managing the initial start-up meeting and making the connection with the consultants was crucial. The consultancy team that built the local capacity; Environment Systems, EMU Services, DEMOCRA-SEA, FABIS Consulting, and Newcastle University have continued their involvement through remote input via email, Skype, teleconference as well as in country visits and joint meetings when the need is greatest. Draft versions of all documents produced were shared via the ANEA Drop box account managed by the DOE.

Collaborative partners were supported from all Government Ministries as is stipulated in the project document. These included statutory bodies such as the Water Cooperation of Anguilla. The trained individuals were from the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Department of Environment, Tourism Research Unit, Probation Department, Department of Youth and Culture, Department of Physical Planning's GIS Unit and Building Inspectorate Unit, Disaster Management, Department of Lands and Surveys, Department of Disaster Management, Department of Health Protection, Anguilla Water Cooperation, and Department of Infrastructure and Roads Unit (Annex 13).

One of the greatest challenges regarding stakeholders in this project relates to the fragility of ensuring that at the national level, the political realities and issues with regards to senior administrative sensitivities within Government do not impact the invaluable contributions that the ANEA project will bring to all sectors/ministries in Anguilla.

### 4. Monitoring and evaluation

The many reports, maps and minutes from key meetings are a simple and objective means of monitoring the progress of the ANEA data analysis and capacity building programme. Establishing a methodical approach, early on in project meetings with all key project team members including the consultants made for smoother implementation. It is anticipated that the majority of the outcomes will be delivered, however we have observed that in some instances the time-lag between collecting and getting final results can be slightly longer. So far, the approach of recording minutes, producing reports and maps have proven adequate in capturing and tracking the project's progress.



## **5. Lessons learnt**

The establishment and involvement of the project team and consultants at early stages and all subsequent stages of the project implementation proved to be a plus. Also, the involvement of political factions at an early stage regardless of government affiliation also proved to be a good strategy to project continuum. These were also the practices that allowed the UK model to be successful at a time when a change in government administration occurred during the UK's NEA. Noteworthy, it is the project team's ability to enhance the skill sets built across all agencies in an aligned manner, hence we felt it was most appropriate.

Attracting any stakeholder to focus group meetings is a constant challenge and the facilitation workshop definitely pointed out the venues to keep a group's attention. From our media counterparts, the Anguilla context asks for constant and consistent engagement and distribution of project notes, ideas, facts and bite sized information. This should be at a higher frequency than anticipated.

Although the community meetings being impacted upon by hurricane is negligible, planning outside the hurricane season is a precautionary approach. There should always be a back-up plan as hurricanes may strike in one day but their impacts can extend for weeks as was the case in November 2014.

These lessons learnt will be clearly outlined in what is a very early communication plan for the project. If this project were to be done again, the communication and media pieces regarding project background and outputs would be formulated, completed and suited for the various tiers of focus groups and publics well in advance. Therefore, greater emphasis on the stakeholder types would be addressed earlier on than in this episode.

## **6. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)**

This is the first annual review of the project. A half yearly review of the ANEA report was submitted.

## **7. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere**

The DOE has identified the vast amount of environmental awareness that remains to be shared with the various publics on the state of the environment. Noteworthy, is the number of persons in the focus group sessions that discover something new and are appalled by the many facts and figures regarding the natural environment. What has most appalling, is that this same information would have been distributed using another form of media but has been obviously overlooked or forgotten. The presentations and methodology used in focus group sessions by the ANEA team locally has proven (by observed responses of group participants) to be very informative at the very least.

## **8. Sustainability**

The project has a good profile within Anguilla, and it has been promoted via various channels. The activities surround community meetings and training workshops was circulated via the radio media, press releases, press conferences, with consultants, DOE project team members on

various popular talk programmes such as the ZONE. H.E. Governor Ms Christina Scott chaired the first half day of the opening session of the November 2014 training workshop, which was carried by various media groups and designed for Ministers of Government, the Deputy Governor, Political Advisors and Permanent Secretaries. The ANEA project also features exposure in the Mitigation Newsletter (A quarterly newsletter). There will be a long lasting social legacy with this project in the areas of economic, ecological and social values as it relates to how Anguillians' view the environment and also that nature in its natural form has a value.

## 9. Darwin Identity

In all the opportunity to promote the profile of the project referred to above, the Darwin Initiative was acknowledged as the project funder. Recognition of the project and funder was also received in regional and international conferences where the works have been presented. The Darwin Initiative has a high profile in Anguilla, with Darwin Plus providing funding for a number of other projects currently running, with local media outlets also giving the natural environment a reasonable level of attention.

## 10. Project Expenditure

**Table 1 Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015)**

<b>Project spend (indicative in this financial year)</b>	<b>2014/15 Grant (£)</b>	<b>2014/15 Total actual Darwin Costs (£)</b>	<b>Variance %</b>	<b>Comments (please explain significant variances)</b>
Staff costs				As per the project budget submitted, the Department in kind contribution through staff time has reduced the overall cost of the project during this financial year. Part time staff which was employed to carry out certain activities of the project were only retained for a short time in the earlier stage of the project.
Consultancy costs				There was slight increase adjustment with the need to cover cost associated with executing a consultancy earlier than anticipated.
Overhead Costs				When developing the project budget we anticipated having to pay full cost for use of rental space for training and some meetings for this project. However, thus

				far we were able to negotiate having the space provided free of cost in two instances. This has resulted in a reduced budget.
Travel and subsistence				When developing this budget line, we anticipated having to meet the cost associated with consultants' travel, however all consultants agreed on contracts with fees that had them cover their own cost associated with travel and subsistence. Hence, we acquired the savings.
Operating Costs				This variance in budgeted and actual spending for this budget line was a result of some unforeseen challenges which meant that we were creative with reducing our operating cost. The Department was slated to relocate to a new location which still has been delayed and more recently some of the existing office spaces in its present location cannot be occupied. As a precaution it was decided to limit expenditure related to operations.
Capital items				We secured capital equipment that was absolutely necessary for the project to run efficiently and effectively within this financial year. Also we did a re-assessment of what resources we have access to and we avoided duplication of items for example, "GIS equipment which is already available within government system
Others (Please specify)				There was no need to incur any expenditure on this budget line as yet.
<b>TOTAL</b>	115,000.00	97,112.69	-	<b>15.56</b>

**11. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes**

I agree for the Darwin Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here)

**Checklist for submission**

	Check
<b>Is the report less than 10MB?</b> If so, please email to <a href="mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk">Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk</a> putting the project number in the Subject line.	x
<b>Is your report more than 10MB?</b> If so, please discuss with <a href="mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk">Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk</a> about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
<b>Have you included means of verification?</b> You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	NB: These will be sent to you under separate cover.
<b>Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report?</b> If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number.	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	X
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	