

**UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies  
Training and Research Programme**

Research Contribution Project Report

**Endangered and Endemic Plant  
Rescue & Research Project**

1 March 2011

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## **PROJECT REPORTING FORM**

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If you have suggestions for improvement of this form, your feedback would be appreciated:

**COUNTRY:** Turks & Caicos Islands

**PROJECT TITLE:** Endangered and Endemic Plant Rescue & Research Project

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✓ (✓ tick if same as APPLICANT)

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** How did the project go? What were the HIGHLIGHTS and OVER-ACHIEVEMENTS of objectives? What CHALLENGES did you encounter? How were these RESOLVED?

#### **HIGHLIGHTS and OVER-DELIVERY**

Primary project aim was to collect ten (10) endangered and endemic species of plants from their native habitat in danger of being destroyed, was significantly surpassed. A total of thirty three (33) endemic and endangered plant species is being grown in the nurseries, with an additional endemic species having been safeguarded by seed collection. Other rare (though not necessarily endangered or endemic) plants were also collected peripherally as practical.

Five species (5) endemic to TCI are growing in nurseries. One (1) TCI endemic species is protected in RBG Kew's Millennium Seed Bank but not yet in nursery propagation.

One (1) species endemic to TCI and Cuba is in nursery propagation.

Fifteen species (15) and one (1) species variety endemic to the Bahamas Archipelago (including TCI) are under nursery propagation.

One (1) species endemic to Bahamas Archipelago (including TCI) and south Florida is under nursery propagation.

Ten (10) native plant species classified as endangered by CITES and/or IUCN are under nursery propagation.

The project has safeguarded a total of 34 species in nursery propagation and has compiled data for propagation protocols for 33 species.

Species-specific propagation methods in nursery were written and will function as propagation protocols for future efforts. Plant Biodiversity Conservation Nurseries were quickly overwhelmed with numbers and species of endangered and endemic plants and

significant standing-out room has been needed to hold plants.

An assortment of the plants was selected for incorporation into the Turks & Caicos National Museum's Botanical Garden, being redeveloped from its largely introduced-plant and long unkempt Arboretum. The Botanical Garden is being developed in phases and will feature zones linked to TCI habitats and focus on TCI and regionally endemic plants. The first assortment of plants, including seven TCI, TCI/ Bahamas and TCI/ Cuba endemic species along with four IUCN or CITES Endangered plants, has already been incorporated into the garden. One of the aim's of this garden is to feature native plant landscaping in the heart of the TCI's political capital to provide a showcase for decision-makers of possibilities in landscaping with native plants.

GIS data for almost all collections was made for incorporation into National Terrestrial Habitat Maps.

#### PROBLEMS and RESOLUTION

There was some initial difficulty in procuring items as there were delays in bills being paid. This was quickly rectified through the intervention of management.

Plans to collect on Big Ambergris Cay were thwarted by island's developer having gone into financial receivership unexpectedly. Project collaborators are monitoring situation to try to get to island in the future as possible.

**OUTPUTS:** With reference to the FUNDS APPLICATION form, did your MAIN OUTPUTS achieve their EXPECTED OUTCOMES?

ACTIVITY	ACTUAL OUTCOME	COMMENTS
1 Collected and/or rescued 10 endemic and endangered terrestrial species from their natural habitat that are in danger of being destroyed.	Collected and/or rescued 33 endemic and endangered terrestrial species from natural habitats in danger of being destroyed.	This is an achievement for the DECR and TCI
2 Locations of rescue-sites are GPS recorded and indicated in the National GIS/Terrestrial Habitat map.	Collected GIS data on locations of rescue-sites for incorporation into National GIS and Terrestrial Habitat Maps.	Ensuring that the Habitat Mapping GIS is continuously updated.
3 Developed species-specific propagation procedures for all rescued plants.	Collected data and developed species-specific propagation procedures for all rescued plants.	Propagation will be easier in future.
4 Grown and raised the rescued plants in the DECR's Plant Biodiversity Conservation Nursery	Grown and raised (and continue to propagate) rescued plants in DECR's Plant Biodiversity Conservation Nurseries; including monthly inventories on plant numbers	

#### ADDITIONAL OUTCOMES

5 Environmental Club was involved in activities	Involved TCI Environmental Club in plant rescues; excellent turnout and volunteer interest and effort. Team now in place to carry out more rescues in future.	Unexpected but welcome outcome of project
6. Collaboration with Royal Botanic Gardens Kew	Collaborated with RBG Kew on collections, particularly seed collections, of plants.	RBG Kew assisted with travel and logistics for collection on some other islands.
7. Extra	Incorporated rescued and nursery-grown plants into National Museum's open-to-public Botanical Garden in TCI's political capital.	Unexpected but welcome outcome of project.

**INFORMATION:** This final section is, in some ways, the most important part of this form. Provision of this information will enable us to pursue further funding and support for conservation projects in the Overseas Territories.

I ATTACH the following, by way of INFORMATION:

(Please v tick appropriate boxes, and attached necessary information as necessary)

✓ **Brief QUOTATIONS from the Project Manager / individuals involved with this project, which may be used freely by JNCC to promote and publicized the conservation achievements of this project through suitable media:**

**Bryan Naqqi Manco, Caicos Pine Recovery Project Manager, DECR:**  
“This project has allowed DECR to generate interest in native plants through the TCI Environmental Club and the Plant Biodiversity Conservation Nurseries, and showcase native plants in landscaping in TCI’s capital.”

**Jewel Batchasingh, Deputy Director, DECR:**  
“A truly successful project which has ensured the preservation of such an array of species that are native to the Turks and Caicos Islands.”

✓ **PHOTOGRAPHS or VIDEO CLIPS and full details of associated photo-credits, which may be used freely by JNCC and other OTs, to promote and publicized the conservation achievements of this project through suitable media.**

Photos from Eric Salamanca

✓ **A scanned copy and / or web-address of any NEWS ITEMS, PUBLISHED ARTICLES arising from this project.**

1. Photos: Facebook.com Group “TCI Environmental Club”
2. TCI Environmental Club plant rescue press release
3. Duncan and Sally Hutt’s Blog
4. National Museum ArtiFACTS and Astrolabe newsletters
5. GIS press releases

✓ **A copy of any EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS, books, brochures, pamphlets or posters, arising from this project.**

Propagation guidelines

✓ **Details of any WEBSITE or WEBLINKS arising from this project.**

TCI Environmental Club’s Facebook page has been an active venue of discussion and information for plant rescue.

✓

Details of any COLLABORATION or PARTNERSHIP, local or international, which contributed to the success of this project.

TCI Environmental Club members participated in plant rescue and hope to do more.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew facilitated some travel for seed and plant collection on other islands.

Department of Agriculture assisted with advice, labour, and infrastructural support.

Caicos Pine Recovery Project nursery supplied some space for project.

Local retailers donated pallets and plastic sheeting for new standing-out area.

High School Science Club in North Caicos has expressed interest in working with nursery there when second semester resumes.

Several schools visited nurseries as part of their field trips. Acting Governor and Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Environment and District Administration along with members of Interim Government visited North Caicos nursery and expressed interest in hearing continued news of project success.

Donation of support posts and their installment for the Providenciales Plant Biodiversity Conservation Nursery by PPC (electric company) was extremely helpful.

Turks and Caicos National Museum's redevelopment of its Arboretum into a Botanical Garden will house an assortment of plants provided from this project to showcase these plants in the Turks Islands and close to the Government Seat. A Continued partnership with the National Museum will also allow for a safe repository for plant specimens to be held by a private, independently-funded body with an interest in conservation and environmental education. Many of the plants covered in this project have medicinal value in the local ethno-botanical pharmacopoeia, and will be exhibited as such in the garden. Museum's staff members and volunteers assisted in procurement of media for the garden beds, clearance of invasive plants, and planting in of specimen plants from this project.

✓ Details of any other unexpected benefits arising from this project, such as CONSERVATION AWARDS, PUBLIC SUPPORT, VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION or SPONSORSHIP.

Excellent response from TCI Environmental Club for plant rescues and requests to do more were encouraging. Members volunteered time, tools, vehicles, and knowledge for rescues. One member invited club to visit residential landscape made up mostly of rescued native plants. Other community members have assisted in seed and plant collections.