

DPLR1\1027

Darwin Plus Local - Final Report (1)

Officer: Jessica Magnus

Section 1 - Darwin Plus Local Project Information (Essential)

Project Reference Number

DPLR1\1027

Q1. Project Title

No Response

Overseas Territory(ies)

St Helena, Ascension, and Tristan de Cunha

Lead Organisation or Individual

Ascension Island Government

Partner Organisation(s)

Royal Airforce (RAF), Ascension Island

Value of Darwin Plus Local Grant Award

£8,990.00

Project Start Date

01 April 2023

Project End Date

31 March 2024

Project Leader Name

Dr Diane Baum, Tiffany Simpson

Project Website/Twitter/Blog etc.

No Response

Report Author(s)

Report Date

30 April 2024

Project Summary

No Response

Project Outcomes

Checked	Biodiversity: improving and conserving biodiversity, and slowing or reversing biodiversity loss and degradation;
Unchecked	Climate Change: responding to, mitigating and adapting to climate change and its effects on the natural environment and local communities;
Unchecked	Environmental quality: improving the condition and protection of the natural environment;
Checked	Capability and capacity building: enhancing the capacity within OTs, including through community engagement and awareness, to support the environment in the short- and long-term.

Section 2 - Project Outcomes (Essential)

On a scale of 1 (high – outcome substantially exceeded) to 5 (low – outcome substantially did not meet expectation), how successful do you think your project has been?

4 - Outcome moderately did not meet expectation

Project outcomes and justification for rating above

The overall objective of this project was to build a sense of pride and identity within the island community linked to Ascension's unique biodiversity that is strongly held and projected to all visitors. New displays presented at the Air Terminal were meant to showcase to visitors and returning residents the natural wonders of Ascension and provide meaningful ways to explore and interact with its environment.

This project provided an opportunity for the Ascension Island Government Conservation and Fisheries Directorate (AIGCFD) to do a stocktake of the stunning and high-quality images and videos available for use in design materials. In total, 35 size A1 posters were designed to showcase the unique species and habitats of Ascension Island through vibrant images. These images were carefully selected and formatted to ensure that they would be high quality when printed, consistently sized and fit well within the available space at the Air Terminal. Additionally, six A1 posters were created to present best practice guidelines for exploring the island. These included recommendations for safety while swimming and hiking as well as interacting with wildlife (Figure 1). Four size A0 posters were also designed to be displayed outside of the Arrivals Hall. These informative displays present useful and interesting information about the island including its history, Nature Reserves,

unique habitats and unusual species (Figure 2). Finally, a video has been produced that can be played on a loop on monitors throughout the Air Terminal (Figure 3).


These displays meet the objectives of providing stunning imagery, easily digestible summaries of legislations protecting biodiversity and guidance on how to safely interact with the landscape and wildlife to avoid harm to oneself and the environment.


To ensure that the final product of the printed images were going to meet our expectations, we printed a test image which was displayed at the Blue Belt Symposium in London. This piece was very high quality and received positive feedback from conference attendees. This gave us confidence that the displays would be vibrant and high quality before ordering the entire collection.


Unfortunately, although these beautiful materials have been created and purchased, due to staff turnover and budget restructuring within the RAF, the Air Terminal renovations have not yet been completed within the timeframes of this project. The projected redevelopment of the airhead is now for the 2024-2025 financial year. Therefore, the displays have not yet been installed and the general public have not had the opportunity to view them.


The RAF are still very supportive of this project and intend for the displays to be in place as soon as possible. However, within this project we have not yet been able to measure the success of these displays in changing peoples understanding of biodiversity or measure a decrease in incidents of noncompliance as a result of these displays.

Supporting Evidence - file(s) upload


 [Figure 1 - Complete A1 posters and pictures-compressed2](#)


 30/04/2024


 14:14:29

 pdf 13.77 MB


 [Figure 2 - Final A0 Posters 2024 compressed2](#)


 30/04/2024


 14:11:26

 pdf 6.66 MB

 [Figure 3 - Welcome to Ascension Island video screenshot](#)

 30/04/2024

 13:25:48

 jpg 3.08 MB

Supporting Evidence - links to published document/online materials

Figures 1 and 2 – PDF images of the displays and posters that have been created through this project

Figure 3 – screenshot from the opening scene of the video reel to play on loop at the Air Terminal

Project Challenges

The biggest problem that this project encountered was the budget restructuring that occurred within the RAF. It was anticipated that the Air Terminal would be refurbished in parallel with this project designing displays and videos to showcase within the newly renovated space. However, the funding was decreased and shifted to the next financial year. This meant that the original designs proposed in the funding application would not necessarily be suitable and they would not be able to be displayed within the timeframe of this Darwin project. To resolve the issue, project staff met with the RAF to rethink the displays that would be suitable for the new reduced Air Terminal design. Originally proposed banners and freestanding displays were eliminated from the design to avoid being damaged by the windy conditions. Artwork was instead designed to be hung from the walls within the Arrivals Hall and just outside near the café. All materials were designed in consultation with RAF staff and ordered in anticipation of eventually being able to install them when the construction and renovation

works are finished. We are still confident that the eventual outcomes will meet the objectives of the project. They will just be delayed beyond the timeframe of this project.

Lessons Learned

- i) Having a well curated media library full of high-quality photographs and videos made it very easy to select beautiful images to use in the design of the displays. These images have been collected over a number of years but they have been organised to be easily searchable with enough information recorded to label and credit each image accurately.
- ii) The final execution of installing the display materials within an expanded and renovated Air Terminal unfortunately was not able to be achieved. This was due to RAF budget constraints and decisions made outside of the control of the project partners.
- iii) Many of the activities of this project were completed. However, the metrics for success were dependent on measuring behaviour change within the public as a result of presenting these displays. It was recognised in the proposal that gauging people’s awareness and enjoyment of the island would be very difficult within the project duration. If repeating this project, we might have chosen more measurable metrics to determine success.
- iv) For others embarking on a similar project, it is important to start early. Plans will change and things will inevitably go wrong but starting early allows an opportunity to adapt and correct for the changing circumstances. Developing good relationships with project partners and suppliers also creates a better working environment for all involved.

Section 3 - Project Finance (Essential)

Project Expenditure

Project Spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2023/24 Grant (£)	2023/24 Total actual Darwin Plus Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff Costs				
Consultancy Costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and Subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital Items				
Others				
Total	8,990.00	5,028.00	45	

Please provide a short narrative summary on project finances.

There were significant differences in the planned and actual expenses for both operating and capital costs. The proposed plan included an expansion and redesign of the Airhead with the display materials designed to accommodate this new space. However, with RAF budget cuts, this architecture was modified and the amount of displays required was no longer so large. We purchased capital items that fit well within in the original space and were approved by the RAF to be suitable going forward. To allow flexibility in installing new materials, the operating costs, including costs of fixtures was also reduced.

Section 4 - Contribution of Project to Darwin Plus Programme Objectives

Please select up to **one** indicator that applies within **each group/indicator list (A, B, C, D)** and report your results for that indicator in the text box underneath. If you do not have relevant results to report for any of the indicators in a particular group, you can leave them blank.

Please also submit some form of evidence (above) to demonstrate any results you list below, where possible.

Group A: Capability and Capacity - Core Darwin Plus Standard Indicators (select one)

Unchecked	DPLUS-A01: Number of people from key national and local stakeholder groups completing structured and relevant training.
Unchecked	DPLUS-A02: Number of secondments or placements completed by individuals of key local and national stakeholders.
Checked	DPLUS-A03: Number of local/national organisations with improved capability and capacity as a result of project.
Unchecked	DPLUS-A04: Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training.
Unchecked	DPLUS-A05: Number of trainers trained reporting to have delivered further training by the end of the project.

Group A Indicator Results

When completed, AIG will have an improved capability of reaching the community to share information about the nature wonders of Ascension. Displays will provide stunning images to inspire visitors. They will also provide information on safely interacting with the environment and avoid causing disturbance to wildlife or non-compliance to legislation.

Group B: Policies, Practices and Management- Core Darwin Plus Standard Indicators (select one)

Unchecked	DPLUS-B01: Number of new/improved habitat management plans available and endorsed.
Unchecked	DPLUS-B02: Number of new/improved species management plans available and endorsed.
Unchecked	DPLUS-B03: Number of new/improved community management plans available and endorsed.
Unchecked	DPLUS-B04: Number of new/improved sustainable enterprises/ community benefits management plans available and endorsed.
Unchecked	DPLUS-B05: Number of people with increased participation in local communities / local management organisations (i.e., participation in Governance/citizen engagement).
Unchecked	DPLUS-B06: Number of Local Stakeholders and Local Communities (people) with strengthened (recognised/clarified) tenure and/or rights.

Group B Indicator Results

NA

Group C: Evidence and Best Practices - Core Darwin Plus Standard Indicators (select one)

Checked	DPLUS-C01: Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed.
Unchecked	DPLUS-C02: Number of new conservation or species stock assessments published.
Unchecked	DPLUS-C03: New assessments of habitat conservation action needs published.
Unchecked	DPLUS-C04: New assessments of community use of biodiversity resources published.
Unchecked	DPLUS-C05: Number of projects contributing data, insights, and case studies to national Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) related reporting processes and calls for evidence.

Group C Indicator Results

Signboards provide guidelines for safely interacting with the environment while hiking and swimming. They also provide information and legislation for interacting with wildlife and using the Protected Areas. Being eye catching and easily understandable should encourage people to view these products when travelling through the Air Terminal.

Group D: Sustainable Benefits to People, Biodiversity and Climate - Core Darwin Plus Standard Indicators (select one)

Unchecked **DPLUS-D01 Hectares of habitat under sustainable management practices.**

Unchecked **DPLUS-D02: Number of people whose disaster/climate resilience has been improved.**

Unchecked **DPLUS-D03: Number of policies with biodiversity provisions that have been enacted or amended.**

Group D Indicator Results

NA

Section 5 - Project Partnerships, Wider Impacts and Contributions

Project Partnerships

- i) The RAF was an instrumental partner in this project. They were involved in the planning, both in the original renovation design and then again when the Air Terminal renovation plans were changed, providing feedback into designs and safety considerations.
- ii) The Ascension Island Government was the project lead and provided the overall management of the project including the design and procurement of resources, financial management and reporting.
- iii) There were challenges due to the high staff turnover but each of the contacts were supportive of the project. Staff will likely change again by the time the renovations are complete but I am confident they will continue to assist with this project as it provides mutual benefit.
- iv) Key stakeholders in this project include residents and visitors to Ascension Island. Their engagement and feedback on the displays when they are installed will be critical in evaluating the success of this project.

Wider Impacts and Decision Making

This project has not had a direct impact of wider decision-making but we hope that the increased exposure to Ascension's beauty and uniqueness will help in bringing the environment more to the front of people's minds when decisions need to be made in the future.

Sustainability and Legacy

This project will continue beyond the timeframe of the grant to ensure that the objectives are met when the Air Terminal is finally renovated. Benefits will be seen in the future when displays are in place and we hope that there will be an increase in the knowledge that people have about Ascension Island and the value they place on the environment and wildlife.





Section 6 - Communications & Publicity

Exceptional Outcomes and Achievements

NA

Photo, video or graphic to be used for publicity and communications.

Please upload at least one relevant and engaging image, video or graphic that you consent to be used alongside the above text in Defra, JNCC or NIRAS communications material.

-  [1027 Informational signboards to display at the Air Terminal Ascension Island Lorna West](#)
-  30/04/2024
-  13:21:31
-  png 3.53 MB

Photo, video, and/or graphic captions and credits.

DPLR1\1027 - Informational displays to be showcased at the Air Terminal for visitors and returning residents – Ascension Island – Lorna West

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds Secretariat, Administrator, and/or JNCC to publish the content of this section.

- Yes, I agree for the BCFs Secretariat and/or JNCC to publish the content of this section.

Please list any accounts that you would like tagged in online posts here. This can include project pages, partners' pages or individuals' accounts for any of the following platforms: LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram.



AIG Conservation Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/AscensionIslandConservation/>
AIG Twitter Page - @AIGConservation (Twitter)

Section 7 - Darwin Plus Contacts

Please tick here to confirm that you have read and acknowledge the BCF's Privacy Notice on how contact details will be used and stored and that you have sought agreement from anyone that you are sharing personal details with us on their behalf.

- I confirm I have read the Privacy Notice and have consent to share the following contact details

Project Contact Details

Project Contact Name	Tiffany Simpson
Role within Darwin Plus Project	Project Leader
Email	
Phone	
Do you need further sections to provide additional contact details?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
