

# DPLR1\1066

Darwin Plus Local - Final Report (1)

Officer: Linzi Ogden

## Section 1 - Darwin Plus Local Project Information (Essential)

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### Project Reference Number

DPLR1\1066

### 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)

None

### Value of Darwin Plus Local Grant Award

£15,245.78

### Project Start Date

03 April 2023

### Project End Date

29 March 2024

### Project Leader Name

Sunitha Amos

### Project Website/Twitter/Blog etc.

*No Response*

### Report Author(s)

## Report Date

16 April 2024

## Project Summary

*No Response*

## Project Outcomes

Checked	<b>Biodiversity: improving and conserving biodiversity, and slowing or reversing biodiversity loss and degradation;</b>
Unchecked	<b>Climate Change: responding to, mitigating and adapting to climate change and its effects on the natural environment and local communities;</b>
Unchecked	<b>Environmental quality: improving the condition and protection of the natural environment;</b>
Checked	<b>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.</b>

## 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


This project moderately did not meet the outcome expectation. The majority of the activities have been achieved but a change in the lead staff member has meant some of the objectives and outcomes were not delivered within the timeframe (but are still ongoing and will be achieved):


- Seasonal traffic signs with solar powered flashing lights have been bought and the placement of these signs has been put out to public consultation to ensure that they will be placed in the most effective areas to protect crab migration. Following a successful consultation period the signs were due to be installed, but foul weather causing damage to road sides played a role in the delay of sign completion (more details in the 'project challenges section'). Its very likely these road signs will be erected in the next few months at the latest.
- An animation has been created showing road awareness for the land crabs. This has been shown at the local school and aired on social media channels. This film has been approved by the RAF to be played at the Air Terminal to provide entertainment and information to incoming passengers. It has been added to the video reel developed as part of the Darwin Local Project DPL0001 and will begin showing at the completion of the Air Terminal renovation.


- 2 spawning tours were organised with fully booked of attendee numbers on both. A presentation detailing all land crab knowledge was shown prior to the beach tour. Sadly, the March tour had to be cancelled due to severe weather warning. Aprils went ahead successfully with 30 people attending. An additional tour has been scheduled for May and is also fully booked.
  - Social media posts were sent out with crab awareness posters.
  - The local school were taken out on a spawning tour with 11 attendees. They were also shown the animation prior to the tour.
  - New bumper stickers and information leaflets are in the process of being designed and will be distributed when completed. Leaflets will be available at the Airhead, accommodation sites and will be sent out with visa applications. They will also be available in the conservation center and at Green Mountain NP. Bumper stickers will also be available at the conservation center and handed out at our Marine Festival in June.
  - The land crab has successfully been listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List, which will hopefully be published online in late May.
  - Unfortunately, an early questionnaire was not created and distributed so we were unable to produce a final one indicating increased awareness at the end of the project.
- We have noticed a significant reduction in land crab mortality on the island's roads during the 3 months of spawning within this project's timeframe. Once the signs are erected, the leaflets are out and the animation is shown regularly at our airport, we are confident that public awareness will be increased substantially resulting in considerably less road deaths.


## Supporting Evidence - file(s) upload


 [DPLR11066 Land Crab - Bumper Sticker](#)


 25/04/2024


 11:35:12


 pdf 70.9 KB


 [DPLR11066 Land crab tour](#)


 25/04/2024


 10:24:27


 jpg 2.74 MB


 [DPLR11066 Johngarthia lagostoma red listing assessment](#)


 25/04/2024


 10:24:11

 pdf 165.99 KB

 [DPLR11066 Land crab tour poster March 2024](#)


 25/04/2024

 10:23:50


 jpg 351.24 KB


 [DPLR11066 Land Crab Signage Proposal](#)


 25/04/2024


 10:23:21

 pdf 266.77 KB


 [DPLR11066 Land crab awareness poster 2024 on FB](#)


 25/04/2024


 10:23:10

 jpg 397.47 KB


 [DPLR11066 Flashing signage](#)


 25/04/2024


 10:23:00

 jpg 3.53 MB


 [DPLR11066 Animation screengrab](#)


 25/04/2024


 10:22:31

 jpg 146.34 KB

 [DPLR11066 Land crab video on FB](#)

 25/04/2024

 10:22:12

 jpg 189.75 KB

## Supporting Evidence - links to published document/online materials

Evidence uploaded includes: screen grab of land crab animation (the actual animation exceeded 20MB upload allowance) ; screen grab of Facebook animation post; land crab tour poster; land crab bumper sticker artwork; photo of flashing signage; land crab awareness poster; copy of proposal for signage location; IUCN red listing proposal for land crab; and photo of land crab tour.

## Project Challenges

Yes, the project did encounter minor problems that were unexpected. A change of staff (the lead) half way through the project meant some of the objectives were not addressed and we were unable to achieve these in the allocated time frame. The majority of these are currently being undertaken and will be completed in the coming months.

The weather also created obstacles for the project. We encountered incredibly heavy rainfall at the beginning of the year causing major disruption and damage to our road infrastructure. This meant the signs were not able to be considered until repair works were completed and the roads deemed safe once again.

Severe weather also meant the cancellation of one of our public engagement spawning tours. This tour was fully booked at 30 capacity. Fortunately, we were able to carry out our April tour, with a total of 30 attendees.

## Lessons Learned

The land crab tours were hugely popular as it is such a spectacular event for the local community on island. Both the school tour and the public event were enjoyed considerably with 100% positive feedback. These tours and outreach events were rigorously risk assessed and delivered in a safe manner both in terms of health and safeguarding.

The animation has had an excellent response, both in public arena and on social media.

As indicated by the public consultation, we are hopeful that the road signs will be well received thus ensuring a measurable positive impact on land crab mortality.

If we had to do it again, we would start with the public consultation for the road signs at the very beginning; ensure we had substantial baseline data for crab mortality allowing us to calculate a reduction; and prepare the questionnaire and submit it to the general public at the start of the project. This would ensure that success could be achieved by measurable targets.

With the issue of only one person running the entire project, we have learned that should that staff member leave this can allow for error and elements of the project becoming incomplete. To ensure this doesn't happen for any future projects, another staff member should be allocated as an assistant at the very early stages.

Our recommendation would be to always have a number of persons involved at every stage of the project, where possible, to eliminate the possibility of error.

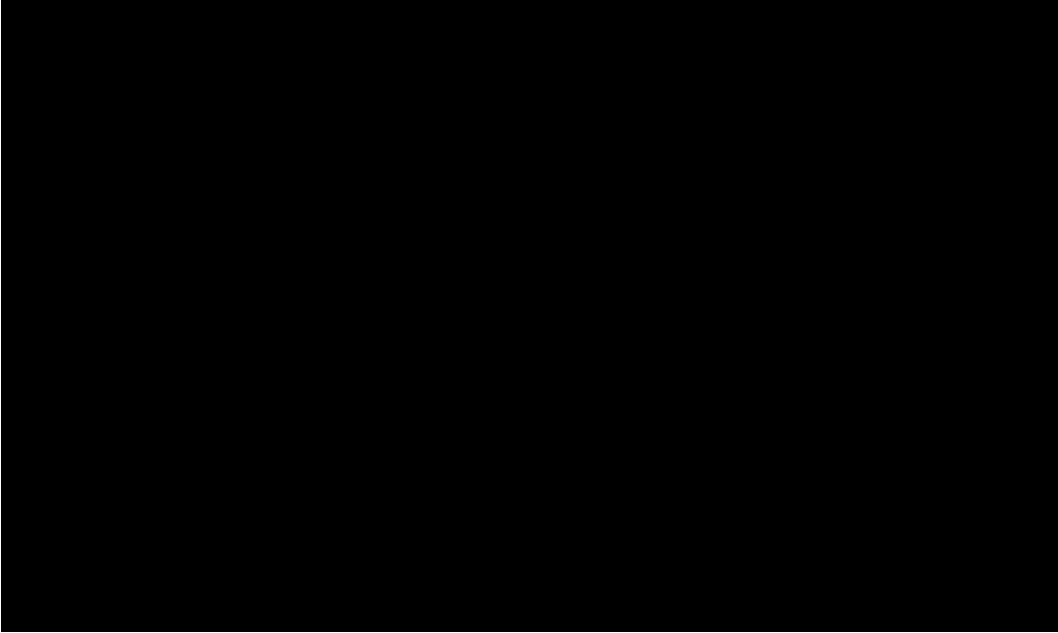
## Section 3 - Project Finance (Essential)

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### 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)
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Staff Costs				
Consultancy Costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and Subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital Items				
Others				
<b>Total</b>	15,515.38	15,591.01	5	

**Please provide a short narrative summary on project finances.**

Additional changes were required to the animation incurring new costs to operating costs.  
 An incorrect amount was calculated on the initial capital items costs for shipping, additional charges occurred.

**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.**

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- Unchecked **DPLUS-A02: Number of secondments or placements completed by individuals of key local and national stakeholders.**

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- Checked **DPLUS-A03: Number of local/national organisations with improved capability and capacity as a result of project.**

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Unchecked **DPLUS-A04: Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training.**

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Unchecked **DPLUS-A05: Number of trainers trained reporting to have delivered further training by the end of the project.**

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## Group A Indicator Results

The outreach materials developed by this project including road signs, animated film, leaflets and stickers has improved the capacity of AIG to increase awareness of the land crab to the general public locally and abroad.

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

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Unchecked **DPLUS-B01: Number of new/improved habitat management plans available and endorsed.**

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Unchecked **DPLUS-B02: Number of new/improved species management plans available and endorsed.**

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Unchecked **DPLUS-B03: Number of new/improved community management plans available and endorsed.**

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Unchecked **DPLUS-B04: Number of new/improved sustainable enterprises/ community benefits management plans available and endorsed.**

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Unchecked **DPLUS-B05: Number of people with increased participation in local communities / local management organisations (i.e., participation in Governance/citizen engagement).**

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Unchecked **DPLUS-B06: Number of Local Stakeholders and Local Communities (people) with strengthened (recognised/clarified) tenure and/or rights.**

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## Group B Indicator Results

None

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

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Checked **DPLUS-C01: Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed.**

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Unchecked **DPLUS-C02: Number of new conservation or species stock assessments published.**

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Unchecked **DPLUS-C03: New assessments of habitat conservation action needs published.**

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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.**

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## Group C Indicator Results

Knowledge products created through this project (leaflets, signs, film) will help to increase awareness of an important land crab species. An assessment of *Johngarthia lagostoma* has been submitted to the IUCN Red List. It has been peer reviewed, accepted and due to be published by mid-year with the classification Endangered.

## 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.**

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## Group D Indicator Results

None

## Section 5 - Project Partnerships, Wider Impacts and Contributions

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### Project Partnerships

There were no formal partners involved with this project. The Ascension Island Government Conservation and Fisheries Directorate was solely responsible for the project management including financial management, delivery of the project, monitoring and evaluation.

### Wider Impacts and Decision Making

The IUCN Red List classification of the land crab as Endangered may increase the urgency in understanding and conserving this species. It may add additional weight to future Environmental Impact Assessments proposed for development in critical land crab habitats and may change the outcomes.

### Sustainability and Legacy

There are a number of continuing benefits resulting from the project. The road signs will be erected and will stay on the islands roads for many years to come, helping reduce land crab mortality. The animation will always be accessible for use in both the public arena and on social media platforms. Our land crab tours will continue to take place annually and the leaflets (when printed) will be distributed throughout the island. Once a screen has become available at the Air Terminal, the animation will be played to all visitors upon arrival.

The IUCN Red listing of 'Endangered' will remain and, as part of ongoing research, the land crab population sizes will continue to be monitored and any significant changes in numbers will be recorded and noted.

## Section 6 - Communications & Publicity


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### Exceptional Outcomes and Achievements


The land crab animation should be showcased and would be a fantastic tool to promote the achievements of Darwin Plus Local. This video exceeds the 20MB upload threshold.


### 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.**

 [DPLR11066 Animation screengrab](#)

 25/04/2024

 11:15:17

 jpg 146.34 KB

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

We would like to send over the entire land crab animation video but it exceeds the 20MB upload threshold.

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.

@AscensionIslandConservation - FB

AIGConservation - Twitter

## Section 7 - Darwin Plus Contacts

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**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 Sunitha Amos

Role within Darwin Plus Project Lead



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Email

Phone



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**Do you need further sections to provide additional contact details?**

No