

# DPLR2\1034

Darwin Plus Local - Final Report (1)

Officer: Eloise Springate

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

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### Project Reference Number

DPL00056

### Q1. Project Title

Hedgehog conservation initiative at the Western SBAs Cyprus

### Overseas Territory(ies)

Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia (on Cyprus)

### Lead Organisation or Individual

Individual

### Partner Organisation(s)

n/a

### Value of Darwin Plus Local Grant Award

£19,998.00

### Project Start Date

02 October 2023

### Project End Date

31 March 2024

### Project Leader Name

Eloise Springate

### Project Website/Twitter/Blog etc.

<https://martinoulab.weebly.com/hedgehog-of-cyprus.html>

### Report Author(s)

## Report Date

30 April 2024

## Project Summary

The aim of the proposed project is to carry out a short survey at different habitats with the Wester SBAs in Cyprus (Akrotiri and Episkopi) and raise awareness regarding the importance of hedgehogs, their threats and the need for their conservation. Furthermore, we will investigate the role of hedgehogs as reservoirs for vector borne diseases such as Leishaniasis by collecting roadkill samples and sending them for screening for pathogens at the University of Thessaloniki, Greece.

## 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?

2 - Outcome moderately exceeded

### Project outcomes and justification for rating above

The project has had an impact on the local and wider community around the Sovereign base area of Akrotiri and Episkopi. The principal objective of the project was to raise awareness regarding hedgehog conservation, a goal that was effectively attained through educational efforts within the local community.

Several workshop events were hosted in collaboration with the Akrotiri environmental centre and local Scout group, focusing on educating young people and their families. Surveys conducted post-event revealed that 83% of participants, that were surveyed, expressed a keen interest in hedgehog conservation issues and noted a significant increase in their knowledge about hedgehogs compared to before attending the events. Furthermore, the One Health workshop, conducted in partnership with DPL00014, facilitated discussions with a diverse range

of experts spanning various fields such as the military, parasitology, education, research, and conservation. This collaborative effort aimed to shed light on the challenges faced by hedgehogs in Cyprus. These workshops not only fostered new collaborations with stakeholders but also paved the way for potential long-term partnerships, promising enduring benefits for the project.

The monitoring of tunnels and analysis of samples have yielded valuable new data for the area. A total of 48 new tunnel footprint sites were utilised to determine the presence or absence of hedgehogs. Furthermore, the examination of hedgehog roadkill samples offered insights into their diets and digestive patterns. Notably, of all of the collected hedgehog samples that could be analysed, various parasites, such as ticks, gastrointestinal nematodes and their eggs were found. This data will be instrumental in future scientific publications aimed at enhancing local biodiversity. This has helped to expand the knowledge of the local wildlife and has helped develop the SBA responsibility to the environment as per the Nature and Wildlife Ordinance (2007)

Educational materials such as leaflets, badges, and notebooks were developed, with a notable focus on leaflets created in partnership with the British Field Studies Council to offer informative content about the species. These resources are presently accessible for upcoming events and can serve multiple purposes in the future.


The training undertaken, significantly contributed to the project's success, particularly through the active training of the project leader, Eloise Springate, who acquired knowledge from various sources. Training provided by the University of Thessaloniki encompassed crucial topics such as parasitology, hedgehog identification and handling management, and management of encountered wildlife. Furthermore, the training offered by the Joint Services Health Unit included essential skills like tick identification and microscopy techniques. This training has proven invaluable, serving as a distinctive opportunity for personal and professional growth.


The project has generally achieved its intended outcomes to a moderate extent. Most success indicators were met, however certain aspects of the project did not unfold as initially planned, including the initial target of 7 workshops, with only 4 being conducted, albeit with significant participation. Verbal feedback (Teachers and Scout Leaders) indicated positive reactions with follow up workshops being requested. Financially, the project concluded as projected, although there were minor discrepancies observed in the budget allocations, as explained in the project finance section.


## Supporting Evidence - file(s) upload

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 [DPL00056 Photo gallery](#)

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 pdf 8.99 MB

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

<https://martinoulab.weebly.com/hedgehog-of-cyprus.html>

## Project Challenges

This marked a first in project leadership, for the project leader Eloise Springate which presented both new learning opportunities and challenges to navigate. Time emerged as a crucial and unforeseen factor, attributed to the project's tight schedule. In particular, coordinating workshop dates posed a significant challenge due to the numerous variables involved in selecting suitable dates and venues. In order to overcome these challenges, close collaboration with stakeholders in order to plan and organise dates played an important role. Digital tools were used to facilitate communication and coordination, as well as in person meetings to discuss and develop ideas. Moreover communications skills played an invaluable role, in particular with the projects supervisor Kelly

Martinou, who oversaw the development of the workshops and would help develop deadlines and facilitate communication.

Furthermore, arranging training sessions in the UK were not possible due to unexpected course cancellations. To address this, the project lead engaged in discussions with course organisers to reschedule the sessions. This experience served as a valuable lesson in adaptability, underscoring the significance of open communication and cooperation in order to achieve the projects aims.

Unforeseen price fluctuations presented particularly demanding aspects of the project. Challenges arose in the transportation of samples where an initial quote was significantly exceeded when the actual shipment took place. To mitigate this issue, the decision was made to explore alternative price options from various providers. Additionally, monitoring of the budget plan was essential to ensure optimal cost management and adherence to the allocated budget.

## Lessons Learned

Overall, the workshop aspects to the project worked very well with a lot of engagement from participants. This highlights the enthusiasm and promise surrounding the adoption of innovative citizen science methodologies. The hedgehog species, in its entirety, offers a straightforward introduction to conservation efforts that could be utilised by future projects.

The Tunnels aspect to the project was one area which did not go as expected. This is due to only the limited information gained showing only the absence or presence of the animal. The foot markings could also at times be difficult to distinguish meaning that it is not a reliable method for verification. Moreover, the cameras that were used with the tunnel setups did not provide accurate data and were difficult to capture the animals on film.

To enhance the project's effectiveness, extending the timeline is advisable. This adjustment would facilitate the comprehensive collection of data over an extended period. For future iterations of the project, it is suggested to employ an extended timeframe to accommodate unforeseen variables and ensure the thorough completion of all project components. Moreover, it would be advised that in order to collect accurate data, the project would be completed during summer months when hedgehogs are more active and not in hibernation.

## 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)
<b>Staff Costs</b>				
<b>Consultancy Costs</b>				
<b>Overhead Costs</b>				

Travel and Subsistence			
Operating Costs			
Capital Items			
Others			
<b>Total</b>	19,985.00	19,985.00	0

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

In this case, the laptop originally budgeted for had a unit cost of £[redacted] but unfortunately, it was not available for purchase when needed. This unexpected situation led to the decision to purchase a similar laptop that could meet the project requirements, albeit at a higher cost of £[redacted]. To accommodate this alteration, budgets were restructured to address the associated cost adjustment.

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

## Group A Indicator Results

n/a

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

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

## Group B Indicator Results

n/a

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

Unchecked **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.**

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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

n/a

## 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.**

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

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

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## Group D Indicator Results

n/a

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

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### Project Partnerships

N/A

### Wider Impacts and Decision Making

N/A

### Sustainability and Legacy

N/A

## Section 6 - Communications & Publicity


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### Exceptional Outcomes and Achievements


n/a


### 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.

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

0752fc79-0704-4a53-afcd-16443ea0d43b.JPG - Image of hedgehog taken while being rescued from being caught in chicken wire fencing. The animal was checked over and given food before being returned to the area it came from

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.

n/a

## 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

Eloise Springate

Role within Darwin Plus Project

Project Lead



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Email



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Phone

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

No