


# DPLR3\1057

Darwin Plus Local - Final Report (1)

Officer: Linzi Ogden

 Miss Eloise Springate

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

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### Project Reference Number

This should be the project reference provided in your offer paperwork and not your application number.

DPL00079

### Project Title

*No Response*

### Overseas Territory(ies)

Which UK Overseas Territory(ies) is your project working in?

☒ 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

£18,510.00

### Project Start Date

01 April 2024

### Project End Date

29 November 2024

### Project Leader Name

Eloise Springate

# Project Website/Twitter/Blog etc.

<https://martinoulab.weebly.com/team.html>

## Report Author(s)

Eloise Springate

## Report Date

29 December 2024

## Project Summary

*No Response*

## Project Outcomes

Successful Darwin Plus Local projects must demonstrate measurable outcome in at least one of the themes of Darwin Plus, either by the end of the project or soon after through a credible plan.

Please refer to your original application form/proposal. Please tick which theme(s) of Darwin Plus that you originally indicated your project underpins:

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?

Please select which rating you would give your project using the scale below, where 1 means the project outcome was substantially exceeded and 5 means the project outcome substantially did not meet expectation. Below, you will be asked to give your reasons for the rating and describe what has changed as a result of your project.

## Project outcomes and justification for rating above

Please explain why you have given the rating above. In your answer, you may want to consider:

- i) What has changed as a result of the project? Where possible, concentrate on the actual changes achieved by your project rather than listing a series of activities undertaken. Activity does not necessarily mean a change has occurred.
- ii) Has your project achieved its original objective(s) and outcomes? If you stated success indicators in your original application, have these been met and to what extent have these been met?
- iii) Did you receive any recommended improvements in your feedback letter? If so, please outline how you considered these in your project implementation.

\*Below you will be asked to submit appropriate evidence to support your comments.

The project had a moderate impact on both the local and wider community around the Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs) of Akrotiri and Episkopi. The principal objective of the project was to raise awareness regarding hedgehog conservation in particular their dietary requirements. This goal was primarily achieved through educational outreach. Workshops were held for local primary schools, and events were organised for community groups and neighbourhood patches of the SBAs. Participation in events such as the Akrotiri Spring Festival 2024, Akrotiri Bioblitz 2024, and Royal Entomological Society (Ento2024) were key highlights. After each workshop, feedback forms were provided, with 82.1% of participants reporting a better understanding of hedgehog ecology after attending events. Moreover, 75% of participants expressed interest in learning more in the future, indicating a strong and continued engagement with the species. The project proposal stated that its success would be measured by public outreach and support, which was achieved through meaningful engagement with the Sovereign Base Areas community. Throughout this project, there was an opportunity to engage and collaborate with a diverse group of stakeholders, including military members of the SBAs, residents, naturalists, computer scientists, publishers, early career researchers, schoolteachers, and children from Cyprus and abroad. The collaboration had a strong impact, enabling idea sharing and raising awareness across all stakeholder groups.

The project furthered the aims of the tunnel monitoring program set in Project DPL00056, with the continued monitoring of tunnels throughout the SBA area. A total of 96 footprint sites were utilised to determine the presence or absence of hedgehogs. The data collected can be used for future research efforts as well as long term monitoring schemes. A range of educational materials including leaflets, badges, and notebooks were developed as part of the project, offering engaging and accessible information about the long-eared hedgehog. These resources are now available for use at future events, school visits, and outreach activities. By providing accurate and appealing content, these materials can serve multiple educational purposes moving forward.

Alongside this, the data collected throughout the project expanded knowledge of local wildlife and ecosystems. It also contributed to strengthening the SBA's environmental responsibility, aligning with the Nature and Wildlife Ordinance (2007). The project leader gained a deeper working knowledge of hedgehog ecology and dietary requirements through learning under Dr Kelly Martinou and learned about insect ecology through participation in the Royal Entomological Society Conference 2024. Training provided by the Joint Services Health Unit included skills such as tick identification and microscopy techniques. Moreover, the opportunity to learn and collaborate with other early career scientists enabled

the project lead to gain a deeper understanding of hedgehog conservation issues. This training has proven invaluable, serving as a unique opportunity for personal and professional development. The data collected will be instrumental in future scientific publications, Hedgehog conservation efforts and supporting long-term environmental monitoring.

The project generally achieved its intended outcomes to a moderate extent; most success indicators were met, although some aspects did not unfold as initially planned.


## Supporting Evidence - file(s) upload


Please upload supporting evidence here. You may also provide a link to download supporting evidence in the following question. For example, evidence might include photos of the project site before and after, results of surveys, maps, images, new management plans or other tools or outputs created through the project, or even a video documenting the impact the project has had on the environment and community.


Your answers and this evidence will be reviewed by an external reviewer.


***\*Upload files (Max 10 files; Max 20MB per file).***

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 DPL00079 Photos

 20/07/2025

 21:40:03

 pdf 6.51 MB

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

Please provide links to access or download supporting evidence here. For example, evidence might include photos of the project site before and after, results of surveys, maps, images, new management plans or other tools or outputs created through the project, or even a video documenting the impact the project has had on the environment and community.

Your answers and this evidence will be reviewed by an external reviewer.

<https://martinoulab.weebly.com/>

## Project Challenges

Did the project encounter problems, either anticipated or unexpected? If so, what actions did you take to resolve these problems?

The project encountered several challenges, both anticipated and unexpected, which required adaptive responses throughout its implementation. One significant issue involved difficulties with GPS tracking. Due to jamming and limited signal availability in certain areas, accurately tracking the movements of the long-eared hedgehogs proved problematic. This hindered the ability to collect consistent and precise data. Additionally, acquiring suitable tracking devices was itself a challenge. Delays in procurement and limited availability of appropriate equipment affected the original timeline for field monitoring activities. Another major challenge was the organisation and scheduling of outreach events. While the project aimed

to include multiple schools, community groups, and public engagement opportunities, time constraints limited the number of events we were able to deliver during the project period. Coordinating with different institutions and stakeholders also proved more time-consuming than initially expected. To address these issues, the project adapted by prioritising placed greater emphasis on education and awareness-raising activities. A strong foundation was also developed for future work by building partnerships and exploring alternative tracking technologies that could be more reliable in this environment. In hindsight, extending the project timeline would have provided more flexibility to address these issues fully. These challenges have informed recommendations for future phases, including allocating additional time for logistics, considering more locally suitable tracking solutions, and streamlining the coordination process with stakeholders to deliver public engagement events.

## Lessons Learned

Please describe the key lessons learned (administrative, management, technical, monitoring and communications) through the project, considering:

- i) What worked well and why?
- ii) What did not work well and why?
- iii) If you had to do it again, what would you do differently?
- iv) What recommendations would you make to others doing similar projects?

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.

Unforeseen price fluctuations and delays in obtaining custom GPS trackers limited project success. Commercial alternatives were used, but GPS jamming likely due to proximity to a regional conflict further reduced data accuracy. Consequently, the pilot study did not go as expected and did not achieve its intended outcomes and results were not as planned.

To address the challenges encountered during this project, one alternative would be to extend the project's time frame. This would allow more time to develop and refine the techniques required for effectively monitoring the species. While the project was ambitious in scope, a key limitation was the lack of reliable GPS availability in the area, which affected the accuracy of data collection. To improve outcomes in future efforts, it would be preferable to explore alternative tracking systems better suited to the specific conditions and needs of the project. By identifying more appropriate technologies, future monitoring activities could achieve greater precision and reliability.

## Section 3 - Project Finance (Essential)

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### Project Expenditure

Complete the expenditure table below, providing a breakdown of salaries, capital items and explanations of 'Other' costs. If the budget was changed since the project started, please clarify the main differences.

**Explain in full** any significant variation in expenditure where this is +/- 10% of the approved budget lines.

Project Spend (indicative)	Total Grant (£)	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				
	18,510.00	18,510.00	9%	

Please provide a short narrative summary on project finances.

Your comments should describe:

- i) Any difference between the planned and actual expenses and reason(s) for this.
- ii) If co-financing was secured for the project, what was this spent on.

Originally, the budget allocation for capital items was £2,950.00. However, due to unexpected and higher shipping costs for the leaflets, produced as part of the project to raise awareness about hedgehog lifestyles. The shipping cost of £90 was covered by reallocating funds from the "Other Costs" budget. As a result, the capital items budget increased by approximately 9%, while the "Other Costs" budget decreased by the same proportion.

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)

If you can report on one of these indicators for your project, please select the indicator from the menu below and report your corresponding result in the text box below.

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

Please enter your results for the (above selected) indicator and the units. e.g. 10 people from key national and local stakeholder groups completed structured and relevant training.

n/a

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

If you can report on one of these indicators for your project, please select the indicator from the menu below and report your corresponding result in the text box below.

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

Please enter your results for the (above selected) indicator and the units. e.g. 3 new species management plans available and endorsed.

n/a

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

If you can report on one of these indicators for your project, please select the indicator from the menu below and report your corresponding result in the text box below.

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



## Group C Indicator Results

Please enter your results for the (above selected) indicator and the units. e.g. 1 new assessment of habitat conservation action needs published.

n/a

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

If you can report on one of these indicators for your project, please select the indicator from the menu below and report your corresponding result in the text box below.

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

Please enter your results for the (above selected) indicator and the units. e.g. 30 hectares of enriched forest under sustainable management practices

n/a

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

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### Project Partnerships

Please describe the engagement among all formal partners involved in this project. Focus on the following:

i) The roles of the various partners in the project, including in planning and decision making and in implementation.

ii) Was the Government of the Territory/Territories involved in this project? If so, how?

iii) Particular achievements, lessons, strengths or challenges with the partnership(s) and how these have been addressed.

iv) Please also describe how key stakeholders and relevant local institutions, local communities and technical specialists, who are not formally partners in the project, have been involved.

N/A

## Wider Impacts and Decision Making

Has the project influenced wider decision-making or in any way helped embed environmental issues into decision-making? If so, please briefly outline how the project has done this and what the changes are.

N/A

## Sustainability and Legacy

Are there any continuing benefits resulting from the project, now that it has closed? What will happen to the project staff and resources now the Darwin Plus Local funding has ceased?

N/A

## Section 6 - Communications & Publicity

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### Exceptional Outcomes and Achievements

Do you have any excellent or exceptional outcomes or achievements from this project that you would like to showcase? If so, what material can you provide us for communications and publicity to promote Darwin Plus Local and your project?

Please provide a (300 to 400 word) summary and photos/videos/graphics that you are happy for us to use in publicity.

We may use material from this section to promote the achievements of Darwin Plus and the knowledge generated by Darwin Plus projects. This may include publication in the Defra Annual Report, JNCC newsletters and reports relevant to Darwin Plus Local, Darwin Plus promotional material, including to the Biodiversity Challenge Funds social media platforms, or on the Darwin Plus, GOV.UK or jncc.gov.uk websites.

N/A

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

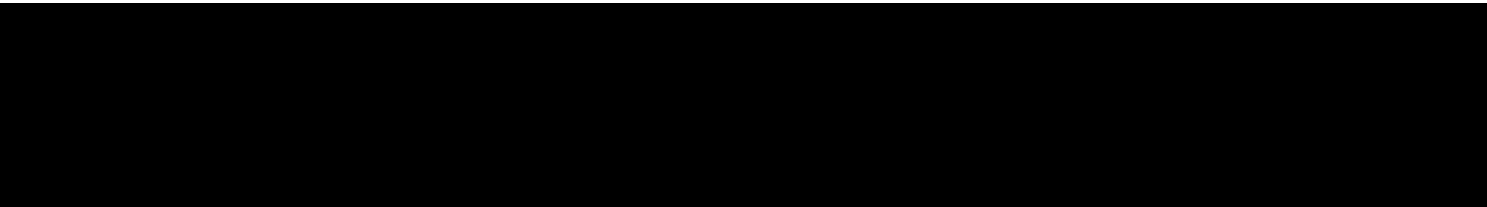
**Please upload at least one relevant and engaging image, video or graphic that you consent to be used alongside the above text in Defra, JNCC or NIRAS communications material.**

By uploading these images, videos, or graphics you confirm that:

- i) any people in the images or videos you share have consented to having their photograph taken.
- ii) file name includes your project reference number and you provide the credits and captions for each photo, graphic or video in the text box below.

If you have content that was created in the course of the project, such as explanatory videos or impact graphics for reports, these can also be used for promotional purposes.

**\*\*Upload photo(s), video(s), etc. - Max 10 files; Max 20MB per file.**



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

Please provide a short descriptive caption for each photograph, video or graphic, including the location (Territory) and photo or video credit in the box below. Please label each clearly with the file name. e.g. FilenameDPLR1 1922 - photo caption/description - location (territory) - photo credit.

N/A

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

Please only select 'no' below, if you really cannot provide any relevant photos, etc, for reasons of sensitivity.

☒ No, I have no project photos for reasons of sensitivity.

**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**

**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
Email	
Phone	
Do you need further sections to provide additional contact details?	<input type="radio"/> No