



Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2014)

Project Ref No	DPLUS002
Project Title	An autonomous seabird monitoring network for the Southern Ocean
Country(ies)	BAT, South Georgia, South Sandwich Islands, Falkland Islands
Lead Organisation	University of Oxford
Collaborator(s)	UCL
Project Leader	Tom Hart
Report date and number (eg HYR3)	HYR2
Project website	www.penguinlifelines.org www.penguinwatch.org

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).

At the time of writing, all of the team are on fieldwork around South Georgia, the South Sandwich Islands and the Antarctic Peninsula, so camera deployments and updates will follow at the end of the field season.

Since the first year report, we have launched the Penguin Watch website on the Zooniverse platform (www.penguinwatch.org). This received 120,000 unique visits in the first week, and at the time of writing had resulted in 540,000 images counted since launch. Due to the redundancy of effort (each image is classified by up to 20 individuals and the results clustered), this represents 20% of the total we anticipate. We estimate the classification of all 200,000 images collected until now to be classified by March 2015. This has received media attention in the press and in the international media

Meanwhile, we have joined expeditions to South Georgia, the South Sandwich Islands and the Antarctic Peninsula. This year, we are expanding the network to close to its desired maximum. We will deploy approximately 20 cameras on penguins and shags around South Georgia as well as the trial sound recorders which will be used to monitor birds that do not have visible nests. By the end of this season we will have exceeded our stated aims for the number of monitored sites around the Southern Ocean. We are also helping to set up similar projects on Ascension Island, Tristan da Cunha and St Helena.



Figure 1: The first Adelie penguins arrive at the Yalour Islands, 15th October 2014, before any vessels are able to visit them (as evidenced by the large amount of sea ice on the horizon).

The prototype satellite cameras deployed on the Yalour Islands have survived their first winter, demonstrating that the system works and that the power requirement calculations were sufficient. While mass production of the satellite camera units has been slow, these are now being delivered, so we will aim to place these on the remotest colonies in the South Sandwich Islands, Elephant Island and the South Shetland Islands in 2015/2016 to ensure that a real time network of cameras can report at times of years when the krill fishery is operating.

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

The launch of www.penguinwatch.org was delayed, but has now been a success and is catching up with the projected timescale.

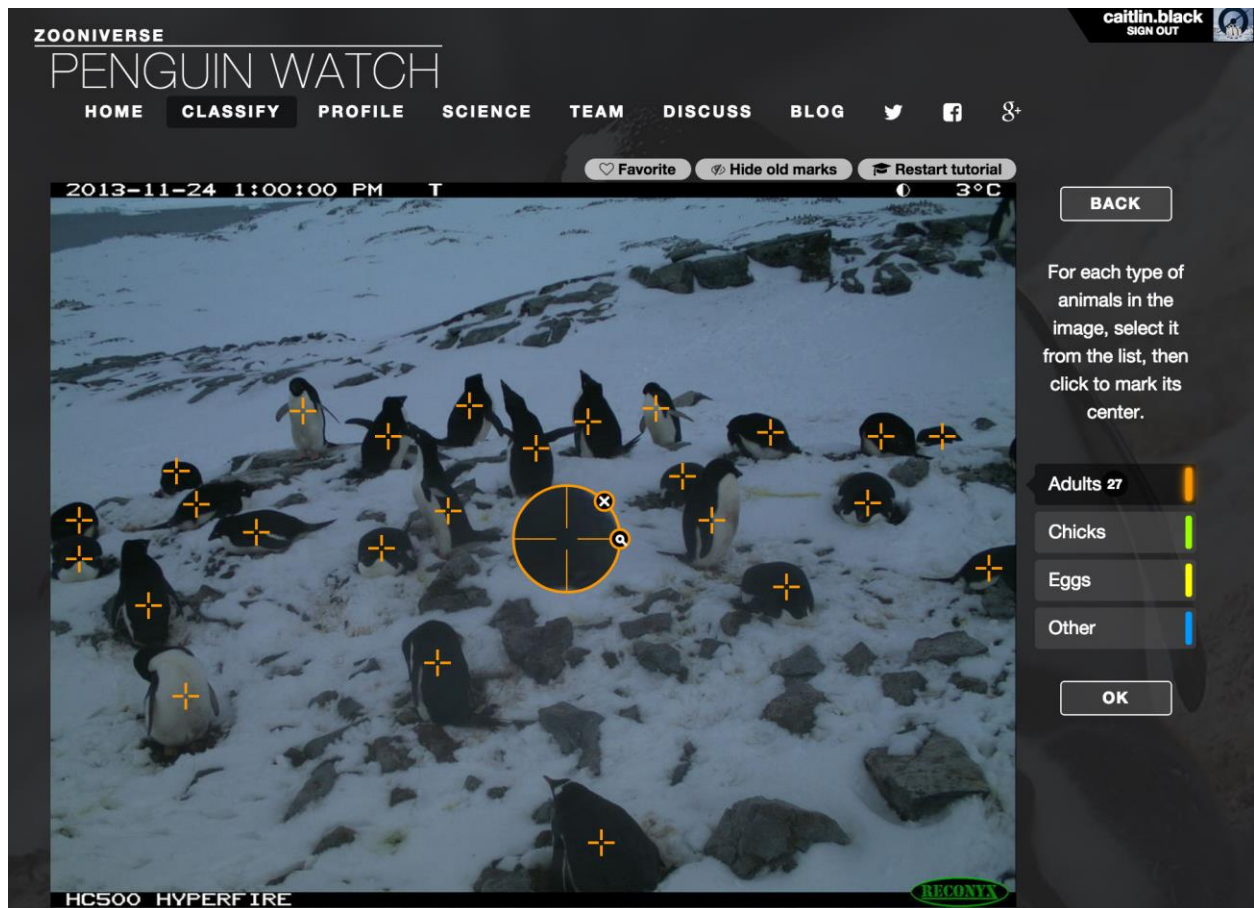


Figure 2: The penguin watch interface to count penguins – at the time of writing, this had 700,000 hits.

2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with LTS:	No
Formal change request submitted:	No
Received confirmation of change acceptance	Yes/No

3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully as **it is unlikely that any requests to carry forward funds will be approved this year.** Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project and would like to talk to someone about the options available this year, please indicate below when you think you might be in a position to do this and what the reasons might be:

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk . The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 20-035 Darwin Half Year Report**