



Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2014)

Project Ref No	DPLUS005
Project Title	Sustainable management of the marine environment and resources of Tristan da Cunha
Country(ies)	Tristan da Cunha
Lead Organisation	RSPB
Collaborator(s)	Tristan da Cunha Government (Fisheries and Conservation Departments) and Sue Scott
Project Leader	<i>Clare Stringer</i>
Report date and number (eg HYR3)	<i>HYR2, October 2014</i>
Project website	<i>N/A; some information on www.tristandc.com</i>

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).

Work to continue building the information base for sustainable marine and fishery management (Output 1) has continued during this 6 month period, with dive surveys undertaken at all of the top islands, and on the rig site. Seasearch training was provided on Tristan to staff from the fisheries and conservation departments to facilitate the identification of native and invasive species (2.1). Two local divers (Rodney Green and Norman Glass) are now confident in the water and have built significant experience, however, it has been challenging to get other divers to “reactivate” their skills. The new team (see below) know this is a priority for the next few months of the summer period. Progress has been made in establishing long-term monitoring sites for ongoing climate change assessment (4.1). Outputs 3 and 5 are scheduled to be progressed during the next reporting period.

The two first marine biologist appointees (Holly Latham and Rohan Holt) returned from Tristan in April and July. Two new appointees headed to the island in September: one with significant skills/expertise in fisheries management (Charles Kilgour) and the other with a PhD in marine biology (Robert Mrowicki). These two staff will now remain in post on Tristan for 6-8 months, and will complete the majority of fieldwork associated with the project. In year 3, we will now seek to recruit a senior-level fisheries consultant who will be able to provide additional advice to the Tristan fisheries department.

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.

There have been no significant problems encountered in the last 6 months.

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:	Yes/No
Formal change request submitted:	Yes/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:

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

The annual report reviewer raised a question about recruitment: our revised recruitment plan was reported in the first annual report (section 8) and the advertisement referred to was part of the plan and not due to another failed process. A change request formally setting out our amendments will be submitted later this year (October 2014). We do not anticipate that the proposed changes will have any impact on the total budget requested from Darwin. However, due to the timing of planned spend, we may need to bring some budget (estimated £10,000) forward to 2014/15 from the 2015/16 financial year. We will be in touch with LTSI soon to discuss this and to present a proposed revision to the project logframe.

NB: the other comments made by the annual report reviewer will be addressed in the next annual report as requested.

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also be raised with LTS International through a Change Request.**

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**