



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office



Department
for International
Development



Darwin Plus: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2015)

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
Partner(s)	Tristan da Cunha Fisheries Department
Project Leader	Andy Schofield (RSPB)
Report date and number	HYR2
Project website	N/A

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) 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) (max 500 words).

Progress (over this reporting period) was very slow due to the unforeseen difficulties that we encountered mentioned in the last annual report and below. Tristan da Cunha fisheries Dept have continued to work towards key outputs in the absence of the marine biologist and through training that was received last year they have managed to continue gathering data ready for the biologist's return in January. A good solid plan and timescale has been outlined and we are confident that this project will be achieved to a high standard if an extension to the end date of the project can be granted (into 2016/17).

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt 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 (max 300 words).

Due to the unforeseen problems that arose with the marine biologist having to leave Tristan earlier than expected, there were certain aspects and outputs that had to be put on hold whilst he was back in the UK. (Please see amendment request submitted 9th November 2015, extending the end date to March 2016.)

Tristan fisheries Dept have made a great effort with trying to continue the project in the marine biologist's absence and this is testament to the expert training and mentoring that was given to them over the last year.

It is now only possible for the biologist to return to Tristan in January 2016 due to vessel availability. The completion of the outstanding outputs has therefore been delayed and in order to finish these outputs completely we would need another extension to July 2016, including a transfer of some Darwin funds to 2016/17.

We are therefore submitting another change request to the effect (along with this HY report). Due to travel time to and from such a remote location, the time currently available for the marine biologist to do all the necessary work (January to March 2016) would be too restrictive.

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**

Formal change request submitted: **Yes**

Received confirmation of change acceptance: **No**

3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g., 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?

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 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g., Subject: DPLUSXXX Darwin Half Year Report**