

## Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31 October 2016)

<b>Project Ref No</b>	DLUS015
<b>Project Title</b>	Strategic management of invasive alien plants on South Georgia
<b>Country(ies)/Territory(ies)</b>	South Georgia
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Kew Gardens
<b>Project Leader</b>	Jennifer Lee
<b>Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)</b>	HYR3
<b>Project website/ Twitter/ Blog/ Instagram etc</b>	@GovSGSSI
<b>Funder (DFID/Defra)</b>	DEFRA

### 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).

The main objectives outlined in the project proposal have been achieved (see Annual Report) with the only outstanding deliverable being a weed guide to be used as part of the early detection, rapid response strategy. An extension has been requested to facilitate this (see below).

Because of the long term nature of control of invasive plants, sustainability was always a vital component of the project. A key deliverable of this project, the 'Non-Native Plant Management Strategy' has raised the profile of this work within GSGSSI and our wider stake-holder group. This was evidenced when at the launch of the strategy a £200,000 funding commitment was made to the project.

Since then, following a competitive tender process GSGSSI has appointed 'Indigena Biosecurity International' to work with GSGSSI to deliver the strategy over the next 5-years. This contract is worth £250,000 as it was felt the bid delivered sufficient quality and added value that the additional £50,000 was worthwhile. In addition to delivering weed control targets and a high level of environmental stewardship in their operation, a key part of the contract with Indigena is to deliver a capacity building programme so skills to manage non-native plants are developed in the region. Indigena will also develop a monitoring programme so the effects of herbicide control can be better understood and if/where needed, environmental impact assessments refined.

**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.**

Because of a family emergency, the principal staff member involved in production of the weed guide has been on compassionate leave and so the date to printers has been delayed. An extension until the end of January 2016 has been requested and approved.

**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 (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.** 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 please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary.

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

No

**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](mailto: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 e.g., Subject: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**