



Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2014)

Project Ref No	DPLUS020
Project Title	St Helena Baseline Assessment: A foundation for effective environmental management
Country(ies)	St Helena
Lead Organisation	St Helena Government – Environmental Management Division
Collaborator(s)	
Project Leader	Isabel Peters
Report date and number (eg HYR3)	HYR1
Project website	

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 past five months have been spent developing the scope of the project and carrying out the preparatory work. This is the first project of its kind for St Helena and we felt it necessary to spend more time (than had been envisaged in the project application) on the planning stage.

It was also decided that due to the necessary skills and expertise available within EMD (but not available at the time of submitting the project application) that some of the activities we had envisaged an environmental monitoring specialist undertaking would be done in-house.

A technical specialist will be recruited to provide remote desk based support in this FY and a visit will be planned as per the project application for year 2 of the project.

The preparatory work has established what is currently available in terms of environmental data collection and analysis, and what from this can be incorporated into this project; what needs to be extended and what new areas will need to be introduced. This has been achieved through direct stakeholder engagement and desk based research of published historic and current data collection and analysis.

From the above the broad environmental parameters have been established. Some refining of the detail on what specifically will be measured in order to meet statutory requirements and the needs of project stakeholders is now in progress for Q3.

Extensive research has been done in-house to identify suitable monitoring equipment to match our requirements. Contact has been made with potential suppliers and in line with SHG procurement regulations we hope to purchase the bulk of the equipment in Q3.

Some work on establishing monitoring sites has been done but this needs to be further developed in Q3.

The data monitoring programme will be set up and executed, with training delivered and data collected from Q4. The detailed planning for the delivery of this has however started and will continue in Q3. Compatibility checks will be incorporated throughout the life of the project utilising in-house expertise.

Through stakeholder engagement some public awareness of the project has been created and this will continue and extend to a wider audience as the project develops.

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.

As noted above, some of the timing of the project activities has slipped back as we needed to spend more time on planning and preparatory activities. Alongside of this we realised that it was not necessary to recruit an Environmental Monitoring Specialist for the scope of activities as outlined in the project application; as many of these activities could be done utilising the skills and experience of staff within EMD. At the time of submitting the project application this expertise was not available.

The changes as outlined above will affect this year's budget as the staff costs will be reduced and no travel or subsistence will be required. We would like to reallocate these budget lines and a request for this will be submitted separately.

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: To be submitted shortly

Received confirmation of change acceptance N/A

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: £10,300

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:

I would like to talk to someone about the options available this year, and can be available from next week to do this. The reason for the underspend relates to the changes proposed as outlined above.

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

None at this stage.

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**