Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2010)

Project Ref No	DPLUS023
Project Title	Building capacity for habitat restoration in the Falkland Islands
Country(ies)	Falkland Islands
UK Organisation	Falklands Conservation
Collaborator(s)	Falkland Island Government, Stanley Nursery and Royal Botanic Gardens (RGB) Kew
Project Leader	Dr Andrew Stanworth
Report date	1/10/2014
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	1
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).

The pilot study using native seed mixtures to restore eroded soil have been analysed and used to inform the design of a series of experiments across East Falklands (Output 1.1). The design is being finalised and treatment material has been ordered (geotextiles) to establish experimental trials (Output 1.2). Key locations to collect seeds from West Falklands have been identified (Output 2.1). The Native Seed Hub (Output 3) is ready to be planted and volunteers have been mobilised for a weekend in October. The project officer has met interested stakeholders involved in the project including: Falkland Island Government, Falkland Island Land Holding, Stanley Nursery and RGB Kew who will form part of the Steering group (Output 5.1.). Furthermore here has been various communications with farmers via a poster at annual Farmers week and an article in the Woolpress (quarterly rural newsletter) to gauge interest in the project and for being part of the steering group (Output 5.1). Preliminary discussion have started on a community led project involving vulnerable adults to produce and process native seeds on the Falklands (Output 3.5).

2. 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 was a delayed start date for the Project Officer by 3.5 months after the Darwin financial year start. Consequently, this has delayed achieving some of the targeted outputs for the first and second quarter, namely establishing experimental trials (Output 1.2) and may impinge upon the extent of seed collecting on West Falkland and organising a staff member from MSB KEW to visit the Falklands (Output 2). Furthermore, there are concerns that the MSB staff visit may not occur this field season due to large budget cuts at KEW. Nevertheless, we expect that these output will be completed within the project.

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

No

Discussed with LTS: no/yes, in……… (month/yr)

Formal change request submitted: no/yes, in……….(month/yr)
Received confirmation of change acceptance   no/yes in…………(month/yr)

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

Yes   ☒   **No**   ☐

If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible. It would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication of how much you expect this request might be for.

Estimated carry forward request: £12,000

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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 or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with LTS International directly.

Please send your **completed form 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 eg Subject: 17-075 Darwin Half Year Report**