

Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31st October 2017)

Project reference	DPLUS042
Project title	Dolphins of the Kelp: Data priorities for Falkland's inshore cetaceans
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Falkland Islands
Lead organisation	South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI)
Partner(s)	Falkland Islands Government, Premier Oil, Austral Biodiversity, South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute, Falklands Conservation, Oregon State University, St Andrew's University, Shallow Marine Surveys Group
Project leader	Brickle Paul
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	31 October 2017, HYR2
Project website/blog/social media etc.	Website: www.south-atlantic-research.org/research/current-research/166-dolphins-of-the-kelp-data-priorities-for-falkland-s-inshore-cetaceans Blog: www.south-atlantic-research.org/blog Twitter: @SAERI_FI Facebook: m.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1854594054830087

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).

In the first half of year two, the project continues with the successes achieved in year one. Progress includes (the numbers in the brackets mirror those reported in the adjusted timeframe):

- The MOU was agreed and signed by the partners on the 29th of June 2017 (1.1);
- The 4th and 5th Steering Committee Meetings were held on the 29th of June and 24th of October 2017, respectively;
- Seven local volunteers have been trained in cetacean identification, survey methodology and safe on-board operations (1.7, 1.8);
- Cetacean ID reference guides have been printed, laminated and distributed to 37 land owners to be placed in the lodges and self-catering houses (1.13);
- The island-wide aerial survey began in March was concluded on the 8th of May (Figure 1); the shift to April and May was due to bad weather conditions, aircraft maintenance and other aircraft commitments (2.5);



Figure 1 – A view of Stanley harbour from the FIGAS aircraft on a very calm day.

- Aerial survey data has been cleaned, the field report written, metadata prepared, and analysis has begun (2.6, 2.7, 2.8);
- The winter focal survey was carried out in June-July 2017 (3.4);
- Winter focal survey navigation and sighting data has been cleaned, the field report written, metadata prepared, and data exploration has begun (3.6, 3.8, 5.5, 5.6);
- The matching of the 22,775 photographs collected during the focal and genetic survey is almost complete (5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4) (Figure 2);



Figure 2 – Photo-identification of Commerson's dolphins observed until October 2017 resulted in about 600 individuals identified.

- 5 C-pods were deployed on the 16th April 2017 (Figure 3); C-Pods were serviced on the 11th of July 2017; two units donated by Premier Oil were lost during a strong storm that also affected the Premier Oil buoy in Berkeley Sound (4.1, 4.2);



Figure 3 – C-PODs and anchoring system are prepared for the deployment.

- Cetacean Awareness Day was carried out on the 29th of July (Figure 4); an article was published on the Penguin News; one interview was given to Falkland Islands TV (1.11, 1.12);



Figure 4 – Cetacean-related activities carried out with children during the cetacean awareness day.

- Genetic analysis is almost complete for Commerson's dolphins and is being carried out for Peale's dolphins (6.3, 6.4). Preliminary results suggest that the Commerson's dolphins living in the waters around the Falkland Islands are a separate population to that of South America and do not have any relationship to the subspecies found in the Kerguelen Islands.

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.

The project registered an underspend from Year 1 as at the 31st of March 2017 due to issues outlined such as the delay in conducting aerial surveys. This resulted in a large pocket of funding needing to be deferred to Year 2. This has impacted the timing of the future surveys where we will endeavour as much as possible to minimise field activity occurring close to the end of the financial year. The associated change request was approved, and the overall budget did not change.

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.

Not applicable

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

None

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. Additionally, if you were funded under R23 and asked to provide further information by your first half year report, please attach your response as a separate 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 e.g. Subject: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**