



**Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project  
Half Year Report  
(due 31<sup>st</sup>October 2018)**

<b>Project reference:</b>	DPLUS062
<b>Project title:</b>	Securing the future of the Tristan Marine Environment
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies):</b>	Tristan da Cunha
<b>Lead organisation</b>	RSPB
<b>Partner(s) :</b>	
<b>Project leader</b>	Andy Schofield
<b>Report date:</b>	October 2018 HYR1
<b>Project website/blog/social: mediaetc.</b>	

**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).**

BRUV work, and Porge sampling (4.2 & 4.3) was carried out at Inaccessible and Tristan prior to Rob Mrowicki arrival at Tristan. All dive gear and compressors were sent to Cape Town for servicing and arrived back at Tristan on the same vessel as Rob Mrowicki in September.

Due to a very late start of the lobster season at Tristan because of a fishermen's and Process workers strike, the Lobster tagging experiments (Activity 2.2) was carried out on the vessel *Geo Searcher* by Sea Fishery Observers during commercial fishing, instead of at the lobster factory on Tristan.

Rob Mrowicki (Marine Biologist post holder on previous Tristan marine project DPLUS005 and current Project Officer for Falklands marine forests project DPLUS068) has been appointed as Consultant Marine Scientist during September–November 2018, to assist the Tristan Fisheries team in delivering the science objectives of the project.

Work has begun to sample inshore zooplankton communities (Activities 3.2 & 5.4), assess invasive fish species distribution and population status (4.1, 4.2 & 4.3), survey presence of non-native invertebrates (4.4 & 4.5), map kelp forest extent (5.2) and expand the network of subtidal monitoring sites (5.3).

These activities also involve additional training and experience for islanders in field survey methods and data management (1.3, 1.4 & 1.5). Having established the respective protocols, the Fisheries team will be able to continue the surveys and sampling at intervals throughout the remainder of the project,

**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.**

No unexpected problems experience during this period

**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 issues of concern at the moment

**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 R24 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@itsi.co.uk](mailto:Darwin-Projects@itsi.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**