

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

Project reference	DPLUS069
Project title	Building data resources for managing the SGSSI Marine Protected Area
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands
Lead organisation	British Antarctic Survey
Partner(s)	Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands
Project leader	Susie Grant
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	HYR1 – October 2017
Project website/blog/social media etc.	https://www.bas.ac.uk/project/building-data-resources-for-managing-the-south-georgia-south-sandwich-islands-marine-protected-area/

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 project started in April 2017, and we successfully recruited a data manager to join the project team in May 2017.

The 'South Georgia MPA Data Prioritisation Workshop' (**Activity 1.1**) was held at British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge, in May 2017, and was attended by 32 scientists and other stakeholders involved in research within the SGSSI region. The aims of the workshop were to:

1. Generate a prioritised list of datasets to be included in the SGSSI MPA database/GIS
2. Determine how these data can be summarised and visualised to provide relevant information for the review and future management of the SGSSI MPA
3. Identify data gaps
4. Ensure appropriate data access/use requirements

The workshop was an important opportunity to engage a broad network of scientists working in the SGSSI region across a range of disciplines. This will be a valuable resource on which to build the second phase of the project on the development of a research and monitoring plan for the SGSSI MPA.

The workshop outputs have been included in a report for the South Georgia Government ("*South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands MPA Review: Summary of recent (2013-2017) and planned research and monitoring*"), which will provide background information to support the forthcoming review of the SGSSI MPA (**Activity 2.3**). The report provides information on key data gaps (**Activity 1.2**) which will be incorporated into the MPA research and monitoring plan and may inform the development of future research activities.

Initial updates have been made to the existing South Georgia GIS (**Activity 2.1**), in order to build a foundation for the new South Georgia MPA database/GIS. Good progress has also been made on collating prioritised datasets (**Activity 1.3**) as identified during the workshop, and on devising the best ways to show map-based visualisations of these datasets (**Activity**

2.2). This has included information on ship survey locations, spatial attributes of biological datasets, oceanographic models and physical habitat data.

Consultation with key scientists is ongoing to determine the most useful datasets to be combined into GIS/database tool that can be used to provide input into the management of the SGSSI MPA.

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.

Software upgrade delays beyond our control have limited progress on the development of the GIS/database web portal structure, however this is due to be resolved in mid-November. While this has required some adjustment to the timetable of activities to allow work to proceed, it will not cause any significant changes to the project outputs.

The new data manager started work on 1st May 2017, however the project budget had planned for this post to be in place from 1st April 2017. We have submitted a change request for this amount to be payable at the end of the project to allow for the final 1 month's salary (April 2019) of this 2-year contract to be paid – however if this is not possible then these costs will be met by the lead organisation.

A change of personnel at the Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI) resulted in government staff being unable to participate in the data prioritisation workshop as initially planned, and international travel funding was therefore unused. Together with reduced workshop hosting costs (lower than anticipated participant travel costs). These funds have not been reallocated to other activities and will not be claimed as part of the Q4 actual claim for 2016/17.

(please see change request form submitted separately for further details on this budget underspend).

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~~ (see change request form)

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: £ 8,951

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.

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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?
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N/A/

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**