



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

Project reference	DPLUS069
Project title	Building data resources for 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 (GSGSSI)
Project leader	Susie Grant
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	HYR2 – October 2018
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 has continued well since the last report, with good progress made on the collation and update of prioritised datasets for inclusion in the SGSSI MPA Data Portal (**Activity 1.3**) and on developing map-based visualisations of these datasets, in collaboration with data originators and end-users (**Activity 2.2**). However, unforeseen circumstances have caused a delay in the completion of some activities (see Section 2a).

Project team members (Grant and Trathan) participated in the second SGSSI MPA Review Panel meeting in June 2018, which further considered material included in our report on “*South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands MPA Review: Summary of recent (2013-2017) and planned research and monitoring*”.

In September 2018, work started on activities contributing towards Output 3 – the development of a draft Research and Monitoring Plan (RMPs) for the SGSSI MPA. Preliminary work has included a review of existing RMPs developed by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) in order to inform the design and content of such a plan.

Also in September 2018, the Project Leader was invited to give a presentation to the annual South Georgia Fisheries Science and Industry Meeting (September 2018), on approaches to the development of the SGSSI MPA RMP and associated Darwin Plus project activities.

Following the recommendations of the MPA Review Panel (<https://www.gov.gs/report-of-the-mpa-review-advisory-group-published/>), a one-day workshop will be held in December 2018, to obtain input from scientists and other stakeholders on the development of a draft Research and Monitoring Plan for consideration by GSGSSI. This workshop will involve ~40 participants from a range of organisations, including invited experts bringing experience from the development of Research and Monitoring Plans from other UK Overseas Territories and from French sub-Antarctic MPAs.

As recommended in the review of the project’s first annual report, we have reviewed the project output and outcome assumptions. These remain as originally set out, and the previously

identified risk of key staff resigning (as reported in Section 2a) has been addressed accordingly. However, based on the delay outlined in Section 2a, we may not be able to include the full scope of datasets originally envisaged for inclusion in the MPA data portal/web GIS. An additionally identified assumption is therefore that we will have completed the MPA data portal to a sufficient extent to be able to make it publicly available by the end of the project. At this stage we believe this is achievable; however we will continue to evaluate progress on a regular basis, and have therefore increased the frequency of project update meetings to facilitate monitoring and adjustment of the work plan as required.

We have continued to engage well with GSGSSI following another recent change of government personnel, and we have focused on building this relationship to ensure that the project outputs are appropriate for their needs. During the final phase of the project, we will work to ensure that GSGSSI has the necessary capacity to maintain the systems we have developed, and to manage future data inputs in collaboration with the UK Polar Data Centre (based at BAS). The recent GSGSSI personnel changes mean that some staff are now based partly at BAS, which should facilitate this process.

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 data manager was unable to work for a period of 6 weeks during the June/July 2018, following an accident. She then resigned in September, and we were not able to recruit a replacement until November 2018. This unexpected staff absence has delayed the completion of Activities 1.4 and 1.5 (MPA data portal) and 2.2 and 2.4 (MPA web GIS), however we remain on track to deliver Outputs 1 and 2 by the end of the project. Once the new staff member has settled in, we will re-evaluate the scope of datasets that it will be possible to include in these Outputs, and adjust our assumed outputs accordingly. If some reduction in scope is necessary, then our aim will be to have a functioning and publicly available data portal/web GIS containing fewer datasets, rather than more datasets but an incomplete system.

To allow for completion of the remaining work, we have submitted a change request to move our budgeted salary costs (unspent in September/October 2018 while this post was unfilled) into the next financial year, and to postpone the end date of the project by two months to 30th June 2019.

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/

Formal change request submitted: Yes/

Received confirmation of change acceptance /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?

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 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@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**