

## Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects Half Year Report (due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020)

<b>Project reference</b>	DPLUS071
<b>Project title</b>	Fine scaling the design of Falkland Islands Marine Management Areas
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Falkland Islands
<b>Lead organisation</b>	South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Fisheries Department; Directorate of Natural Resources; Falkland Islands Government (FIG)  Shallow Marine Surveys Group (SMSG)  British Antarctic Survey (BAS).  Falkland Islands Government (FIG) Policy Unit and Environmental Planning Department
<b>Project leader</b>	<i>Dr Paul Brickle</i>  <i>Report prepared by Project Manager: Dr Ander de Lecea</i>
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)</b>	<i>April 2020 – September 2020 (Yr3 Q1 &amp; 2)</i>
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	<a href="https://www.south-atlantic-research.org/research/marine-science/fine-scaling-the-design-of-falkland-islands-marine-management-areas/">https://www.south-atlantic-research.org/research/marine-science/fine-scaling-the-design-of-falkland-islands-marine-management-areas/</a>  @SAERI_FI  @S4ERI

### **1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed project implementation timetable (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).**



The past 6 months have involved significant project progress through intensive consultation, with the focus being on high-level meetings and consultations with senior stakeholders to establish the process toward designating MMAs and build a consensus on the way forward to ensure the delivery of the policy-related elements of the project. The outcomes of these meetings re-enforced broad support for the project and for MMAs in the Falkland Islands. In the context of the project deliverables and timelines, this has resulted in a slight restructuring of the process and delivery times of outputs compared to that originally envisaged. Accordingly, we have also submitted a change request with an updated log frame.

SAERI works closely with the Falkland Islands Government (FIG), to support the development of MMA policy and national planning. FIG are vital to the successful delivery of the policy outputs of the project because they must lead the policy elements of the project. However, FIG have had to priorities resources to support Covid-19 emergency response planning. Nevertheless, we are pleased to have galvanised the support of FIG in developing a process for MMA designation. In the first six months of the year, and since the lockdown ended at the beginning of June, this has involved, among other aspects of the work, 9 high level meetings, and a large number of smaller meetings. Two of the meetings were with the Chief Executive of

FIG Mr Barry Rowland and the eight members of the Falkland Islands Legislative Assembly (MLAs). These meetings were necessary, and recommended by the Director of Policy and Economic Development Mr Andrew Gaule, in order to bring the MLAs up to speed with the process. The Project Management Group (PMG) has also been directly involved in consultations, been provided with updates on these meetings, outcomes etc. Given the complexity of the project, having an agreed process toward MMA designation is both a project milestone and an achievement to be celebrated.

## Why MMAs & why now?

- Locally driven – FIG tailored process to FI needs
- Environmental stewardship
  - e.g., Islands plan(s); biodiversity framework
- Year of the environment (2021/22)
- COP26
- International agreements
  - e.g. CBD, CITES, ACAP, etc

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Figure 1. Slide from the presentation given to the MLAs highlighting the importance of the proposed MMAs in contributing to the delivery of the Islands Plan.

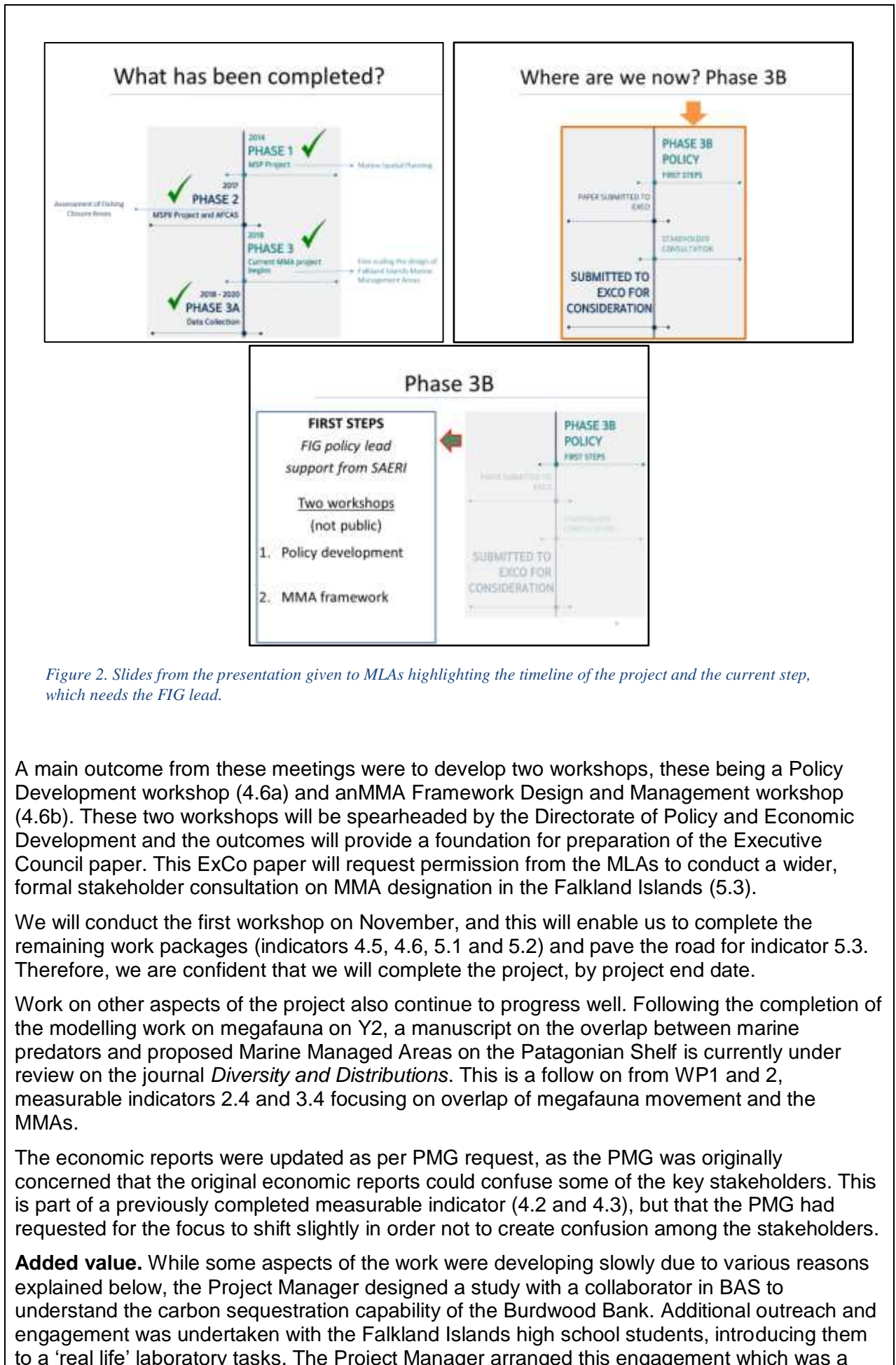


Figure 2. Slides from the presentation given to MLAs highlighting the timeline of the project and the current step, which needs the FIG lead.

A main outcome from these meetings were to develop two workshops, these being a Policy Development workshop (4.6a) and an MMA Framework Design and Management workshop (4.6b). These two workshops will be spearheaded by the Directorate of Policy and Economic Development and the outcomes will provide a foundation for preparation of the Executive Council paper. This ExCo paper will request permission from the MLAs to conduct a wider, formal stakeholder consultation on MMA designation in the Falkland Islands (5.3).

We will conduct the first workshop on November, and this will enable us to complete the remaining work packages (indicators 4.5, 4.6, 5.1 and 5.2) and pave the road for indicator 5.3. Therefore, we are confident that we will complete the project, by project end date.

Work on other aspects of the project also continue to progress well. Following the completion of the modelling work on megafauna on Y2, a manuscript on the overlap between marine predators and proposed Marine Managed Areas on the Patagonian Shelf is currently under review on the journal *Diversity and Distributions*. This is a follow on from WP1 and 2, measurable indicators 2.4 and 3.4 focusing on overlap of megafauna movement and the MMAs.

The economic reports were updated as per PMG request, as the PMG was originally concerned that the original economic reports could confuse some of the key stakeholders. This is part of a previously completed measurable indicator (4.2 and 4.3), but that the PMG had requested for the focus to shift slightly in order not to create confusion among the stakeholders.

**Added value.** While some aspects of the work were developing slowly due to various reasons explained below, the Project Manager designed a study with a collaborator in BAS to understand the carbon sequestration capability of the Burdwood Bank. Additional outreach and engagement was undertaken with the Falkland Islands high school students, introducing them to a 'real life' laboratory tasks. The Project Manager arranged this engagement which was a

great success and the news story can be read in the SAERI blog: <https://www.south-atlantic-research.org/local-students-help-out-with-climate-relevant-research/>

**2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months (for Covid-19 specific delays/problems, please use 2b). Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.**

The project continues to progress towards its final goal of MMA designation, and we continue to work closely with, and galvanise support from key Falkland Islands Government departments on the policy-related elements of the project delivery. However, there have been some unexpected developments. As mentioned above the intensive and detailed discussions with the Falkland Islands Government during the period have led to a change in the order of activities required to deliver the policy-outputs. This, along with an additional step in the process (the submission of an ExCo paper to request a stakeholder consultation) has necessitated a change the delivery dates for some of the project outputs. A (non-financial) change request might need to be submitted in the next month

**2b. Please outline any specific issues which your project has encountered as a result of Covid-19. Where you have adapted your project activities in response to the pandemic, please briefly outline how you have done so here. Explain what residual impact there may be on your project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.**

As with other countries in the world, Covid-19 has become the focus of many governments, ensuring that their populations are safe, but also ensuring that the economies do not collapse. Although the Falkland Islands has been largely Covid-19 free, in response to suspected cases, the islands went into lockdown from mid-March until the end of May 2020. During that period of time the focus of the Falkland Islands Government was contingency planning and keeping the community safe. After the lockdown ended, the Falkland Islands Government was focused on developing an economic stimulus package and introducing new legislation surrounding mandatory isolation period for new arrivals.

Understandably, the Falkland Islands Government legal department and policy department were unavailable to help develop the legal and policy framework for MMAs for much of 2020 due to Covid-19. Furthermore, three Falkland Islands Government Directors that are part of the Project Management Group, were heavily involved with the FIG response to Covid-19. This had project implications because the input and support of the Director of Policy and Economic Development (DPED) is crucial for measurable indicators 4.6a, 4.6b and 5.3.

Now that the Covid-19 response has been formulated, and the Falkland Islands have been Covid free for over 160 days, we can again look to Falkland Islands Government directors for project input and support, necessary for the successful delivery of the policy outputs of the project. We are happy to report that the MMA project is one of the priorities within government, and we are back on track to complete the project.

**2c. 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/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. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.**

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

No

**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 can be discussed in this report but **should also** be raised with LTS International through a Change Request. **Please DO NOT send these in the same email.****

Please send your **completed report by email** to [Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk](mailto: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: 25-001 Darwin Half Year Report**