



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

Project reference	DPLUS076
Project title	Reducing South Georgia albatross mortality in High Seas tuna fisheries
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	South Georgia and the South Shetland Islands, Tristan de Cuhna
Lead organisation	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Partner(s)	BirdLife International, British Antarctic Survey
Project leader	<i>Stephanie Winnard</i>
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	<i>HYR1 - 31/10/2018</i>
Project website/blog/social media etc.	

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).

Output 1: Level of night setting by Japanese and Taiwanese tuna vessels determined at start of project (for advocacy purposes) and end of project (to allow impact evaluation), and presented to CCSBT.

Objective 1.1 *Proportion of sets made at night assessed for 2015-2017 through analysis of Global Fishing Watch data and presented to CCSBT and Japan and Taiwanese Fisheries Agencies as a tool for monitoring*

Progress to date: The analysis of night setting data for Japanese and Taiwanese vessels fishing in areas where they are at risk of seabird bycatch has been completed. RSPB worked with Global Fishing Watch (GFW) to undertake this analysis and the results were presented by Steph Winnard (Project Lead) at the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin tuna (CCSBT) Compliance Commission meeting in October 2018. This was the first ever attempted analysis of AIS to determine night setting compliance. We analysed 61,000 fishing sets from over 300 vessels and found that it was possible to determine vessel setting time to within an accuracy of two hours. The results showed that over 85% of sets overlapped with daylight by at least two hours, meaning that a maximum of 15% of sets could be night setting, and possibly far fewer.

The next step is to work with GFW to strengthen the results using more testing data, which we are in discussions with the Australian government to obtain. We will then review our ability to publish the work in a scientific journal.

Timing: we are on schedule with this objective.

Objective 1.2 *Proportion of sets made at night assessed for 2019-early 2020 through follow-up analysis of Global Fishing Watch data*

Progress to date: As planned this activity has not been started yet as it is part of the follow-up to the first analysis

Output 2: Tuna purchasing companies commit to buying tuna only from vessels complying with seabird bycatch mitigation requirements, due to increased awareness of albatross bycatch issues

Objective 2.1 Key tuna purchasing companies identified through supply chain analysis by October 2018

Progress to date: Asia Project lead Yasuko Suzuki has been analysing the tuna supply chain and is in the process of finalising a report. The report is expected to include information on tuna supply in Japan by species and country of origin, descriptions of traditional and un-traditional tuna supply chains, and a list of major tuna purchasers (large-scale trading companies and seafood companies).

Timing: we are slightly behind schedule of finalising the supply chain analysis, primarily due to staff changes in Asia and having a two-month gap between staff members.

Objective 2.2 At least 70% of key companies engage with BirdLife through 1-1 meetings and calls

Progress to date: Since the start of the project BirdLife has engaged with WWF-Japan who hold a roundtable meeting with Japanese tuna purchasing companies that is aimed at increasing sustainability of tuna fisheries and moving the fisheries towards MSC status. We have secured agreement to present on seabird bycatch at the next roundtable, which is in November 2018. During this meeting we will introduce the issue of seabird bycatch and introduce the workshop that we plan to hold next year.

The existence of the roundtable group has meant that rather than having to contact the companies individually to establish relationships, we are able to meet with them en-masse and present on seabird bycatch. This has been a really positive development and will allow engagement to be fast tracked.

Timing: As we are working through the WWF-Japan roundtable group this item has progressing more slowly than initially expected as we have changed our approach, however after the roundtable in November we expect to be fully on track.

Objective 2.3 At least 50% of key companies attend workshop on seabird bycatch issues and thus gain increased awareness of albatross bycatch issues, as shown by surveys before and after workshop

Progress to date: this activity has not yet been commenced as it will occur subsequently to the roundtable meeting. We plan to hold this workshop in 2019.

Objective 2.4 At least 50% of companies attending the workshop provide written declaration of intent to buy tuna only from vessels that can prove compliance with seabird measures.

Progress to date: as planned this activity has not yet been started and will be commenced following the workshop.

Output 3: Awareness of bycatch problem, and desire to tackle it, further strengthened in Japan through creation and promotion of South Georgia albatross characters and stories

Objective 3.1 At least five albatross characters developed and cartoons produced, tailored to Japanese audience

Progress to date: we have employed an illustrator in Japan to design seven albatross characters (rather than the five originally planned). Initial designs have been completed and we will have the final designs towards the end of November. The British Antarctic Survey has created a list of potential wandering albatross that could be the focus nests for one of the cameras. The list is comprised of birds likely to return this year to breed (in November/ December), that are some of the oldest birds (>30 years), are successful breeders and preferably ones that have previously been tracked. Once the birds are back, a specific pair will

be selected to the focal characters. The same is to be done for grey-headed albatrosses and will be completed shortly.

Timing: this activity has slightly over run the schedule but is on track to be completed prior to the cameras going live and the start of the stories being publicised.

Objective 3.2 *Characters and cartoons online in Japanese on Wild Bird Society of Japan website and other social media*

Progress to date: Steph Winnard (Project leader) travelled to Japan to meet with the Wild Bird Society of Japan (WBSJ) and Yasuko Suzuki (Asia project lead) to secure agreement that WBSJ will be involved with publicising the albatross stories through social media and their website. Discussions are ongoing on the extent to which their website can be utilised and if the ability is limited we have agreement from BirdLife International Tokyo office to include the albatross stories on their website.

Timing: discussions are on track to deliver online content as detailed in the implementation timeline.

Objective 3.3 *Stories generated throughout 2018 and 2019 South Georgia breeding seasons, making use of webcam footage from Bird Island and aiming for at least one update in Japanese per fortnight*

Progress to date: Two remote cameras have been purchased and are currently on route to Bird Island, South Georgia where they will be installed in early December at both a wandering albatross and a grey-headed albatross nest. Originally, we planned to install a camera that would be able to transmit images by satellite but due to the reasons explained below in 2a we had to instead use trail cams which will have images downloaded by staff on Bird Island on a weekly basis to send back to the UK. On a positive note we now have two cameras rather than just one and so will be able to have more coverage of nests and of two species, rather than one.

Timing: we are on track with the timing for camera deployment and stories will be generated once they are in place as expected.

Objective 3.4 *Albatross stories used and have a positive impact in workshop under Output 2, ongoing engagement with purchasing companies, and media coverage of Global Fishing Watch report*

Timing: this objective is not due to be commenced until the run up to the workshop detailed by objective 2.3.

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.

There was a change in staff with Mayumi Sato (Asia Project Lead) leaving her post in April and Yasuko Suzuki taking her place in June. This led to a two-month delay in work in Asia, particularly in relation to output 2. We do not envisage this having any long-term impacts on the project, but has slightly delayed objective 2.1 and 2.2.

We were unable to obtain a satellite camera to use for our albatross stories. We had secured agreement to purchase a satellite camera that had been used by another scientist on a penguin project in Antarctica, but were subsequently told this option was no longer feasible as there are very few other options available, so we have decided to use trail cameras instead as these are readily available and we secured agreement with BAS to send back images on a weekly basis. Although this isn't ideal, this has meant that there are no changes to the project timetable, as waiting for another satellite camera system would take at least one year due to the shipping schedule.

Using trail cameras has considerably reduced the budget, as instead of costing £, the new cameras have cost less than £. We will be submitting a change request form shortly to utilise

the underspend of approximately £ for another activity under output 3. We hope to use a specialist PR company to assist in creating a social media strategy and assistance with managing social media channels to maximise the reach of the albatross stories. In light of this, we have currently answered 'Yes' to 3a., but hope to submit the necessary Change Request and potential rebudget Change Request as per 3b. shortly in order to clarify the situation.

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 (some have)
Formal change request submitted:	No (but it will be shortly)
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?

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. 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**