



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

<b>Project reference</b>	DPLUS079
<b>Project title</b>	Improving sustainability of marine management in Montserrat
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Montserrat
<b>Lead organisation</b>	Cefas
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Government of Montserrat & Waitt Institute
<b>Project leader</b>	<i>Alex Callaway</i>
<b>Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)</b>	<i>31/10/2018 HYR1</i>
<b>Project website/blog/social media etc.</b>	<i>Twitter: @CefasGovUK</i>

### 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 kick-off meeting scheduled for Q1 was attended by five Cefas staff who visited Montserrat from 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> June meeting with Government of Montserrat partners and other local stakeholders.

An open workshop was held over two days to provide an overview of the project aims and gain an understanding of stakeholder concerns and requirements. The work shop was attended by 19 people from 14 departments and local organisations. The project team also visited various departments including the Montserrat National Trust, the Statistics Department, the Director of Education, Montserrat Secondary School, Physical Planning Unit, the Royal Montserrat Police Service and a local business with high engagement with the marine environment, AQUA Montserrat.

During the workshop Rachel Mulholland (EIA work package) discussed the aims and objectives of future EIA workshops as well as key issues to be covered in the training. Key areas highlighted for consideration were mitigation, monitoring and the consideration of Marine Protected Areas in the EIA process. Time was spent during this week discussing Montserrat-specific EIA issues with the relevant staff members to gain a better understanding of how the EIA process works in Montserrat and to enable the future workshops to be better tailored to important issues and country-specific developments. The first workshop was arranged for the second week in October, in line with the project delivery timetable, and will consist of a 2-day wider participation workshop with an estimated 25 attendees, followed by a full day intensive training session with 6 key members of staff from the relevant MATLHE departments.

Jo Smith and Charlotte Jennings (Education work package) met with staff at MSS to propose the inclusion of a marine resource pack within the Geography curriculum. The team also communicated separately with Ms Wade (Aqua Montserrat) to gain a better understanding of how the project could benefit the local community.

There was also a meeting with the Permanent Secretary Eulyn Greaves; Director of the Department of Environment, Ernestine Corbett; acting Director of Land Management, Lavern Rogers-Ryan and the Director of Agriculture, Melissa O'Garro at the Ministry of Agriculture, Land, Housing and the Environment to formally confirm onward partnership between organisations for the project.

The United Kingdom Hydrographic Office provided multibeam echosounder acoustic data during April 2018 enabling small amounts of reprocessing to take place on the backscatter component. These data are now ready for wider use and a ground-truthing survey has been planned.

**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.**

Before the meeting in Montserrat the Police Service had taken delivery of a new patrol vessel. There had been no guarantee that the vessel would be available for the project and so a vessel charter cost was included. The proposal also included camera equipment hire costs. Following viewing the patrol vessel and discussions with project partners we have made a financial change request (17/10/2018) to reallocate funds from vessel charter and equipment hire to equipment purchase and fuel costs. The aim is to increase the capacity building legacy of the project by training Montserrat partners with equipment they will take ownership of and on a platform that will be available for future use enabling monitoring of features that will be mapped during the project.

We are still encountering the traditional issues around timely communication with partners in the Caribbean. Research permits have taken five months to be returned for correction. This is something we plan to address directly with partners in upcoming meetings but there is potential that we will encounter unnecessary delays associated with the resourcing challenges our partners operate under.

**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: £ Financial change request submitted

**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?**

--

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](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: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**