

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

<b>Project reference</b>	Darwin Plus116
<b>Project title</b>	Falklands wetlands and aquatic habitats: baselines for monitoring future change
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Falkland Islands
<b>Lead organisation</b>	South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI)
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Falkland Island Government (FIG) – Environment Department (within Directorate of Policy and Economic Development) UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (UK CEH) (Prof. Chris D. Evans) University College London (UCL) – Geography (Prof. Julian R. Thomson) Emeritus Prof. Roger J. Flower (Independent consultant) David Stroud (Independent consultant)
<b>Project leader</b>	Tara Pelembe Report prepared by Dr Steffi Carter
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)</b>	<i>HYR1</i>
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	<a href="https://www.south-atlantic-research.org/research/terrestrial-science/falklands-wetlands-and-aquatic-habitats-baselines-for-monitoring-future-change/">https://www.south-atlantic-research.org/research/terrestrial-science/falklands-wetlands-and-aquatic-habitats-baselines-for-monitoring-future-change/</a> SAERI Twitter: @SAERI_FI SAERI Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/S4ERI/">https://www.facebook.com/S4ERI/</a> SAERI blogs: <a href="https://www.south-atlantic-research.org/news/">https://www.south-atlantic-research.org/news/</a>

**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).**

**WP1 – Project Management**

The project started in July 2020. Since the project started, the project manager (PM) has been recruited and was in post by 8 October 2020 (**Indicator 1.2**). The project [website](#) has been established (Figure 1) and two project management group meetings have been held, one on 2 July 2020 followed by one on 8 October 2020. The meeting notes can be found [here](#) (**Indicator 1.1**).

Because the project only started relatively recently, the above-mentioned indicators are the only logframe indicators that needed to be completed by October 2020. However, overall project progress has also been made in respect to fieldwork planning as well as the literature review and secondary data collation. The PM has engaged with the project partners to identify field equipment and to plan the fieldwork protocol as well as site selection. The PM has also contacted several individuals regarding their previous freshwater related research and data in the Falkland Islands. A start has been made with their collation.

Figure 1: Screenshot of the upper half of the main project website interface. The project website can be viewed [here](#).

**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.**

Not applicable.

**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.**

Because the global Covid-19 situation is lasting longer than initially anticipated, the project partners will not, as originally planned, be able to visit the Falkland Islands for the fieldwork programme and symposium in February / March 2020. A second wave of infections in Europe, which started in the beginning of October 2020, is currently restricting travel and the Falkland Islands current immigration policy and quarantine requirements, which are likely to last well into 2021, make a visit unfeasible.

However, we expect that the impact on the project will only be minimal. The Falkland Islands are Covid-19 free; the PM will be able to carry out the fieldwork as scheduled with field assistants and will be able to receive the relevant training on field data collection requirements from project partners remotely via online meetings. The planned symposium can also take place online.

The costs associated with the project partner's visit to the Falkland Islands are for international travel, local travel, and salary / consultancy payment for their time. We hope that their visit can take place in November or December 2021 and would like to move these funds into project year 2. This has been discussed with LTS and a budget change request is currently prepared.

**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/No

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**