



## Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects Half Year Report (due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021)

<b>Project reference</b>	DPLUS139
<b>Project title</b>	Improving Falklands marine management effectiveness for marine higher predators.
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Falkland Islands
<b>Lead organisation</b>	SAERI
<b>Partner(s)</b>	JNCC
<b>Project leader</b>	Alastair Baylis
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	<i>HYR1</i>
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	<i>TBC (presently working on the project website)</i>

**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).**

Our project activities to date have focussed on outputs:

**1.1 Recruit the Project Field Assistant**

**Progress to date:** Recruitment of a Project Field Assistant is complete. To more efficiently undertake fieldwork, we are now operating two separate field teams that will deploy tags at different locations over summer. To enable this, we have successfully recruited a Falkland Islands resident with seabird experience to lead the second field team. This is somewhat different from the initial project concept, but will better enable the project to achieve its aims.

**1.2 Organise and undertake intensive fieldwork, and write fieldwork report. Make report available on-line.**

**Progress to date:**

- Research permits to conduct fieldwork on seabirds and seals were submitted to the Falkland Islands Environment Committee. Research permits were approved.
- Site access has been granted and logistics (boat charter and dates) have been finalized.
- Seal tags for 2022 were purchased and built by Wildlife Computers (USA). Tags will arrive in November.
- Seabird tags for 2021/22 were purchased and built by PathTrack (UK). All tags have now arrived in the Falkland Islands and will be used during fieldwork in December 2021. These capital purchases, in advance of project funds being received, were necessary to ensure project fieldwork can proceed as planned.

- Existing satellite tags (in-kind contribution from SAERI) were deployed on fur seals in late October 2021. This data will feed into the project.

**2.1 Review and collate existing data. Combine and analyze all tracking data. Update the Falkland Islands data portal and webGIS with data collated.**

**Progress to date:**

- Global Fishing Watch data (big ocean data) is too large to be downloaded in the Falklands. The data was downloaded overseas and has arrived in the Falklands on an external hard drive.

We are presently working on the project website. We have regularly tweeted project updates.



**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.**

None

**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.**

None

**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**