



Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects Half Year Report (due 31st October 2021)

Project reference	DPLUS143
Project title	What goes thump at night: managing bird-strike in South Georgia
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands (SGSSI)
Lead organisation	Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)
Partner(s)	Government of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI) International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO) Argos Froyanes Ltd (AFL)
Project leader	Dr Megan Tierney
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	HYR1
Project website/blog/social media	N/A – these will be developed as the project progresses.

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).

DPLUS143 is a 2.75-year project which commenced in July 2021. This half-yearly report therefore outlines progress made to date on activities that were scheduled for Y1Q2 (July-September). No deliverables were due in this first three months, and only work under Output 1 was due to commence (see summary of progress of below). The other main areas that the project team focussed efforts on in this reporting period were:

Establishing Project Management Group

- A kick-off meeting with all Project Partners was held in August 2021. At the meeting the following was agreed:
 - The Project Management Group (PMG) would consist of representatives from each of the Project Partners (JNCC, GSGSSI, IAATO, AFL), with the primary purpose of the PMG to monitor and steer the project, ensuring it aligns with the project proposal and that the project is delivered on time and within budget.
 - ToRs for the PMG would be established.
 - MoUs between the lead organisation (JNCC) and each of the Project Partners would be put in place.
- At the meeting, the Partners took the opportunity to make an initial review of the objectives, workplan and timelines. All Partners reaffirmed their commitment to the project and expressed excitement to see it underway.
- Agreement reached to request an extension to the date of the first deliverable (Literature Review) from Y1Q3 to Y1Q4. This will be submitted via a formal Change Request.

Administrative tasks

- Submission of Award paperwork
- Submission of Advance Payment for Y1Q2
- Setting up specific project codes within JNCC Financial System for management of project funds
- Setting up project files and management systems on JNCC system.

Progress against delivery for each project output can be summarised as follows:

Output 1. GSGSSI and key stakeholders have informed overview of the incidence and causes of bird-strike, and the effectiveness of existing mitigation measures to reduce strike rates used in regions/areas outside of SGSSI.

There were no deliverables due for this output during the reporting period, however work on the critical review of incidence of bird-strike in regions/areas outside of SGSSI Maritime Zone (MZ) (Activity 1.1) did begin:

- Literature search (primarily using Google Scholar, also Scopus online database) applying appropriate search terms.
- Focus has been on literature on the incidence of occurrence of bird-strike; next will add search terms to inform SWOT analysis of mitigation methods.
- Google scholar returns a wide range of evidence, including “grey” literature as well as journal publications; Scopus returns largely Elsevier-published journal articles.
- Search terms included: “seabird” “bird” “bird strike” “bird-strike” “birdstrike” “ship” “vessel” “boat” “light” “attraction”. First 15 pages of results mined.
- Storage and classification of search results into Zotero database, allowing categorisation of references according to type of factors identified as influencing incidence (e.g lights used, weather conditions), whether mitigation was investigated, etc.
- Identified cross-over with related but distinct themes which are out of scope, including fisheries bycatch, attraction to and collision with terrestrial structures (buildings, oil/gas platforms, etc).
- Literature review and compilation into summary report ongoing.

Output 2. Standardised bird-strike reporting forms that capture all essential information to enable monitoring and assessment of bird-strike in SGSSI MZ developed and presented to GSGSSI for implementation across fleets operating in SGSSI MZ.

There were no deliverables due for this output during the reporting and no work was due to commence.

Output 3. Standardised data input and storage facilities and guidelines for data returned in bird-strike reporting forms, and which integrates with the existing national information management system of GSGSSI, is developed.

There were no deliverables due for this output during the reporting and no work was due to commence.

Output 4. Easy-to-follow guidelines for non-bird specialists showing how to handle and care for birds that may be injured after striking and landing on vessels developed and presented to GSGSSI for circulation across fleets operating in SGSSI MZ.

There were no deliverables due for this output during the reporting and no work was due to commence.

Output 5. Strategic programme of prioritised research to advance use and/or development of mitigation measures to reduce bird-strike in SGSSI MZ, including identification of resourcing options, is formulated.

There were no deliverables due for this output during the reporting and no work was due to commence.



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.

No significant problems/delays have been encountered in this reporting period; however, we propose to submit a Change Request to extend the timeline for the literature search on incidence and mitigation methods to Y1Q4. This is to reflect a later than planned start to the work and internal time strictures in JNCC in Y1Q2. This will not impact any other part of the work plan.

It should be noted that the Project leader needed to return to Australia on compassionate grounds for the entire reporting period. The Project Leader did continue to work during this period but sometimes at reduced capacity; it also meant that the Project Leader and colleagues in the UK and the Falkland Islands (where some of the GSGSSI project staff are based) were working on vastly different time zones. Together these things impacted on the level of 'face-to-face' (virtual) communications and presented some challenges in forward planning. Communication moved primarily to email and the Project Leader joining key calls. Overall this had minimal impact on progress of the technical aspects of the project, however substantial forward planning was not possible until the Project Leader returned to the Falkland Islands in October. A Change Request is being prepared to capture the changes to project activities, timelines and budget that have been referred to Section 1. Note, LTS were informed of the Project Leader's situation and how it may impact on the project. LTS were very understanding and supportive, which the Project Leader and Partners were very grateful for.

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.

No significant problems/delays related to Covid-19 have been encountered in this reporting period.

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 Intend to submit one by 30 Nov 2021
Received confirmation of change acceptance	Yes/No N/A

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?

N/A

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. 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**