

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

Project reference	DPLUS 148
Project title	Climate change resilience in Falkland Islands fisheries and marine ecosystems
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Falkland Islands
Lead organisation	South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute
Partner(s)	Falkland Islands Government, Directorate of Natural Resources, Fisheries Department (FIFD) Falkland Islands Government, Directorate of Policy and Economic Department (DEPD) Falkland Islands Fishing Companies Association (FIFCA) Oregon State University (OSU) British Antarctic Survey (BAS) Shallow Marine Surveys Group (SMSG)
Project leader	<i>Dr Paul Brickle</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	<i>26th October 2021 HYR1</i> <i>Reporting period 1st July 2021 to 31st September 2021 (3 months)</i>
Project website/blog/social media	Organisation: https://www.south-atlantic-research.org/ SAERI Twitter: @SAERI_FI SAERI Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/S4ERI/ SAERI blogs: https://www.south-atlantic-research.org/news/

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).

The project has started less than 6 months ago, therefore the reporting period is just 3 months. There were no measurable indicators to report against for each of the outputs for this period as outlined below:

Output 1: Project Management structure, monitoring and evaluation and communication tools established.

Recruitment is underway and potential candidates are going through selection. Draft partner MoUs have been drawn and will be circulated for comment shortly.

Output 2: New environmental baselines understood and created by the synthesis of local and scientific knowledge surveys conducted (WPK1)

There was only 1 measurable indicator that was due to be delivered by Y1Q2

2.1: At least 20 data sets synthesised to inform current knowledge and informs further data collection Y1Q2,3. – *Due to the late start of the project and the delayed recruitment of the Project Manager this has not yet progressed.*

Output 3: Understanding Physiological tolerances and acclimation responses of FI foundation species with current and projected rates of climate change (WPK2).

There were no measurable indicators to report against for this reporting period. These are due in Y2.

Output 4: An Ecosystem Model for the FI shelf developed in collaboration with local and international expertise (WP3).

There were no measurable indicators to report against for this reporting period. These are due in Y2 +3.

Output 5: EAF adopted by FIG and stakeholders. CCA mainstreamed into fisheries Policy and Governance (WPK4).

There were no measurable indicators to report against for this reporting period. These are due in Y3.

General project updates

The main focus of the project activity has been around recruitment and drafting partner MoUs. Paul Brickle has meet with stakeholders in the Falkland Islands and external partners over this period. Meeting objectives included:

- 1. Meeting with Partners to discuss the formulation of the MoU and the recruitment process*
- 2. Sourcing quotes for the procurement of project equipment*

The Project Manager (Quantitative Marine Ecologist) role has been advertised, and a recruitment panel comprising of both SAERI and partners was formed. The recruitment process is currently at the selection for interview stage.

SEEKING A QUANTITATIVE MARINE ECOLOGIST

Working in partnership with Falkland Islands Government, Falkland Islands Fishing Industry, Oregon State University, British Antarctic Survey and the Shallow Marine Surveys Group, this new strategic role within SAERI will bring together stakeholders and the local community, to understand climate change impacts to Falklands fisheries and marine ecosystems. Ultimately, the role will inform climate change adaptation and resilience.

Salary Band D
Starting from 34,412

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Are you passionate about the marine environment?

SAERI is recruiting a Quantitative Marine Ecologist to help inform climate change adaptation in Falkland Islands fisheries and marine ecosystems. The Falklands coastal landscapes and seascapes are susceptible to climate change but the Falklands have not had an opportunity to assess the impacts that climate change will have on fisheries and marine ecosystems. Therefore, Falklands are unable to mainstream climate change adaptation into Fisheries and Oceans governance.

This newly developed role will:

1. Quantify the ecosystem roles of key species
2. With partners to determine physiological tolerances and acclimation of key species
3. Use an ecosystem model to evaluate consequences of predicted change and to develop tools for ecosystems approaches to fisheries and ocean management

Main Essential criteria:

- ✓ PhD in Marine Sciences/mathematical ecology, related field
- ✓ Numerate with experience with statistical modelling, ideally with experience in ecosystems modelling



Further information can be obtained from Arlene Bowers by emailing abowers@saeri.ac.fk

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By 15 October 2021



Darwin Plus Advisory Group, in their feedback, identified some areas in which our application could have been stronger with a recommendation of making a response in this half year report.

These are outlined below:

- *it is recommended that you consider including a social scientist in the project team since ecological science alone does not normally lead to decision maker change (address in half year report – HYR). We have Prof. Michael Harte from Oregon State University as a project partner. He is a socio-economist with expertise in fisheries and the marine environment and is exploring how we do this with regards to markets, labour supply and impacts to the Falkland Islands economy. We plan to provide more detail on this for the annual report with the added work streams that have been agreed by project partners.*
- *the budget was not consistent with the named staff in the application so it is difficult to see how they correlate (HYR). The project staff names in the application but not in the budget are providing their time in kind.*
- *it was disappointing not to see fisheries co-funding given the importance of this industry (HYR). The fishing industry partners are providing their time in kind and will sit on the PMG and run stakeholder engagement. In addition, we have approached the industry to provide additional funding. This will be in the form of another member of staff to the project (a PhD student) to conduct the inshore survey elements and specifically around zooplankton communities and dynamics. Much of with work will require genomics to identify key species important trophically and to elucidate which commercial species use in the inshore environment as habitat e.g. larval fish and squid.*
- *the links to the Falkland Islands Fisheries or Environment Strategies could be more clearly explained (HYR); A new fisheries science strategy is being develop and climate change resilience and Ecosystem Approaches to Fisheries Management (EAFM) will be featured. The Biodiversity Framework is a threat-based document which outlines the priorities required with regards to the wider Falkland Islands environment. The Framework is underpinned by the implementation of Strategies and Action Plans. Climate change implications run through all elements of the threats identified in the Framework.*

Falkland Island Government have just adopted the Environmental Strategy 2021-2040 and climate change with regards to fisheries and marine ecosystems in the context of sustainable management and an EAFM are specifically mentioned. Note that the

Environmental Strategy 2021-2040 was only adopted after this application was submitted in stage 2.

- *please ensure you show how this project is building on previous Darwin Plus funding (HYR)*; This project builds on a number of previous Darwin Plus funded projects: DPLUS027, through review, analyses and consultation, provided a Marine Spatial Planning framework to enable the FI to holistically manage the sustainable development and conservation of its marine environment and provided tools EAF. DPLUS071 – Marine Management Areas Project - highlighted important linkages between FI inshore and offshore environments crucial to ecosystem function. It also builds on cetaceans work that have added to the ecological baseline of the Falkland Islands and will help inform the development of an ecosystem model (notably DPLUS042: Dolphins of the kelp: Data priorities for Falkland's inshore cetaceans(SAERI lead); and DPLUS082: Conserving Falklands' whale populations: addressing data deficiencies for informed management (Falklands Conservation)).

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.

The recruitment element of the project has fallen behind schedule and this might have an impact on the project activities. The detail of this depends on the availability/start date of the successful candidate which is still to be confirmed. Once we have confirmed this we will revisit the budget and timeline as soon as possible and discuss with LTS international.

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.

There is nothing that has been specific to Covid-19

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?

Not at this stage.

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**