Darwin Plus Main & Strategic: Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the "Project Reporting Information Note"
(https://darwinplus.org.uk/resources/information-notes)

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 20 pages** in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2025

Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line

Darwin Plus Project Information

Scheme (Main or Strategic)	Main
Project reference	DPLUS195
Project title	Protecting Seabirds Across Borders
Territory(ies)	Ascension Island, South Atlantic Ocean
Lead Organisation	Ascension Island Government (AIG)
Project partner(s)	Birdlife International (BI) Global Fish Watch (GFW) Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) Marine Management Organisation (MMO)
Darwin Plus grant value	£273,579.00
Start/end dates of project	01 July 2023 to 31 March 2026
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2024-Mar 2025) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2)	01 May 2024 – 30 April 2025, Annual Report 2
Project Leader name	Tiffany Simpson
Project website/blog/social media	#DPLUS195 www.ascension.gov.ac/conservation
Report author(s) and date	Tiffany Simpson, Annalea Beard, 30 April 2025

1. Project summary

The focus of the DPLUS195 project is in the South Atlantic, principally Ascension Island (Figure 1) but also benefits St Helena Island. Ascension Island Marine Protected Area covers 445,000km2, but many seabirds' range further. Understanding year-round seabird distribution and their interaction with fisheries beyond the MPA boundaries would help integrate the MPA within the wider seascape and improve protections. This project will build on existing data and conduct additional seabird tracking work to fill key data gaps. The results will be used to advocate for targeted regulation of the Atlantic tuna fishery and refocus Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing surveillance efforts.

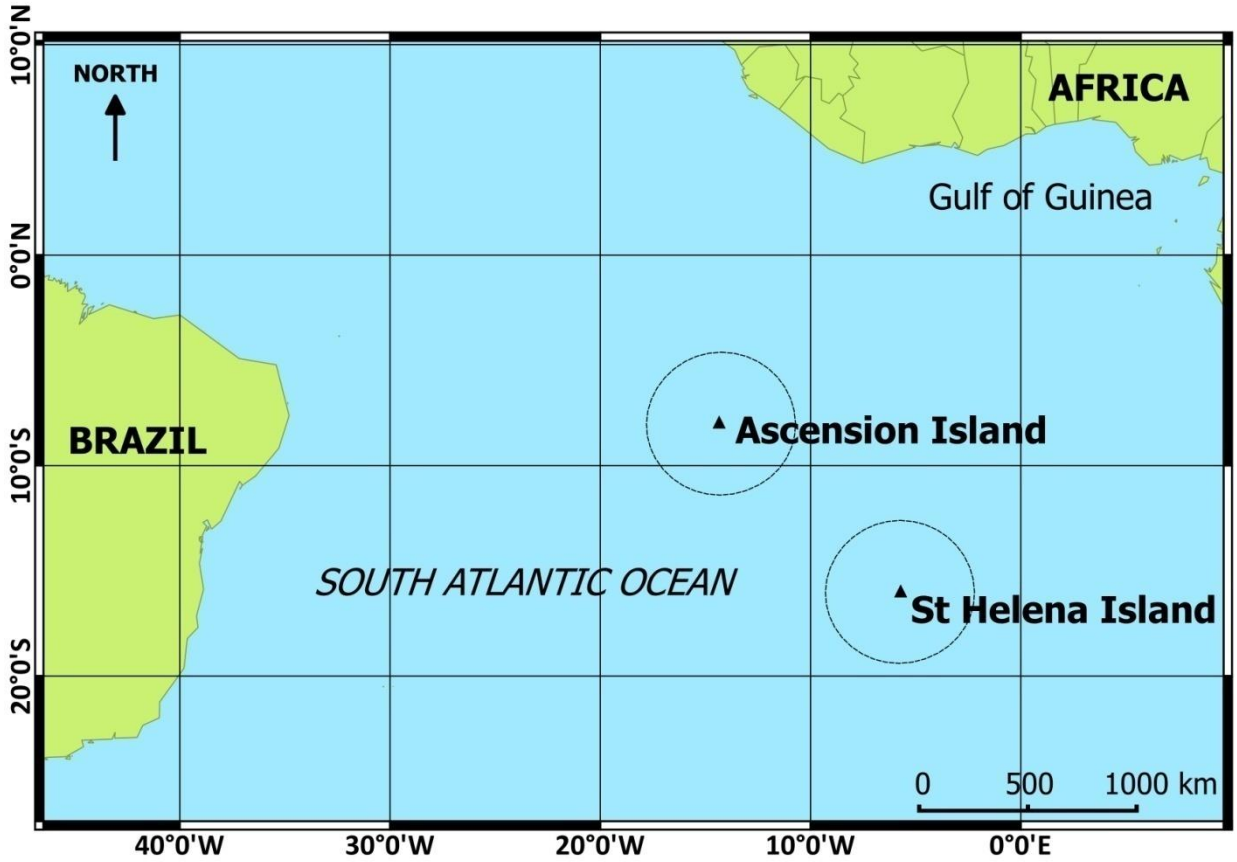


Figure 1. Map showing the location of Ascension Island and St Helena Island in the South Atlantic Ocean. Dashed lines represent the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

2. Project stakeholders/partners

Stakeholder meetings including Ascension Island Conservation (AIG) project staff, BirdLife International, Global Fishing Watch (GFW), Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture (CEFAS) and a representative from the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) have been held quarterly throughout Y2 to facilitate project progress and discussion on project targets. Between meetings, AIG and BirdLife have maintained contact relating to sharing experience on deploying loggers, handling tracking data and deployment metadata. Upon completion, this annual report will be shared with our main stakeholders and partners to ensure they are fully aware of the project progress to date. The resources and skills brought by the team members from different organisations have been very complementary.

In addition, relationships have been further developed between project partners, namely CEFAS and Birdlife where their expertise has been drawn upon to refine and agree methods for analysing existing collated tracking data and extract relevant ICCAT (International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas) catch data for the analysis and use in the interim report. CEFAS guidance and advice was used to explore options for the analysis given the current quantity and quality of collated data currently available. Furthermore, BirdLife and GFW have been developing their partnership, focusing on seabird-fishery overlap analysis.

The project has also involved technical specialists from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the University of Exeter who collected previous seabird tracking data and approved our requests to use it in this project. We will contact them again for feedback on the results and collaboration for the scientific manuscript.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Activities under Output 1

1.1. Collate previous seabird tracking data from Ascension and St Helena and create database uploaded to the GFW Marine Manager Portal.

In addition to the collated seabird tracking data uploaded online to BirdLife International's Seabird Tracking Database (visible to the public and available to download on request) in Y1, data from eight Masked Booby and 27 Ascension Frigatebird satellite tags collected during the 2023/2024 season have also been uploaded. Historic GPS tracks from three Ascension Frigatebirds collected in 2018 during a project led by the University of Exeter have also been uploaded to the database (See Annex 4.1). All historical GPS tracking data from Ascension Island and St Helena are now on the Seabird Tracking Database. We decided to delay the upload of seabird tracking data onto the GFW Marine Manager Portal until all new data from the 2024/2025 season can be included in one batch in an appropriate format.

1.2. Deploy satellite tags on 35 Ascension frigatebirds and 35 masked boobies.

During the 2024/2025 breeding season 13 Lotek Pin Point Large tags have been deployed onto Ascension Frigatebirds and 35 Telonic TAV-2630 ST-26 ARGOS tags have been deployed onto Masked Boobies. In addition, the UK Government's Blue Belt Programme funded 6 Telonic tags for Masked Boobies and 6 Lotek tags for Ascension Frigatebirds which have also been deployed. This totals 41 individual Masked Boobies and 19 Ascension Frigatebirds tracked during Y2. Thus far the project has tracked a total of 49 Masked Boobies and 46 Ascension Frigatebirds, exceeding the 35 individuals per species target set out in the project outline.

1.3. Download and store data from satellite tags

All tracking data from the 2023/2024 deployments in Y1 have been collated and uploaded to the BirdLife International Seabird Tracking Database (www.seabirdtracking.org). Whilst currently active satellite tags from the 2024/2025 season are still logging locations, all data is stored on the manufacturers preferred ARGOS platform (www.wildlifecomputers.com and www.movebank.org). Once all tags from the 2024/2025 season have stopped transmitting then the data will be formatted and uploaded to the BirdLife database before a single batch upload onto the GFW portal.

Activities under Output 2

2.1 Compile database of AIS data from the Atlantic covering seabird tracking periods.

AIS data available up until December 2024 was released on the 12th March 2025 by GFW (Figure 2) and has been downloaded from the portal (Annex 4.2). This new release includes a re-analysis of all previous years of data with updated vessel information and algorithms, and GWF technical experts recommended that we use this new release for the analysis.

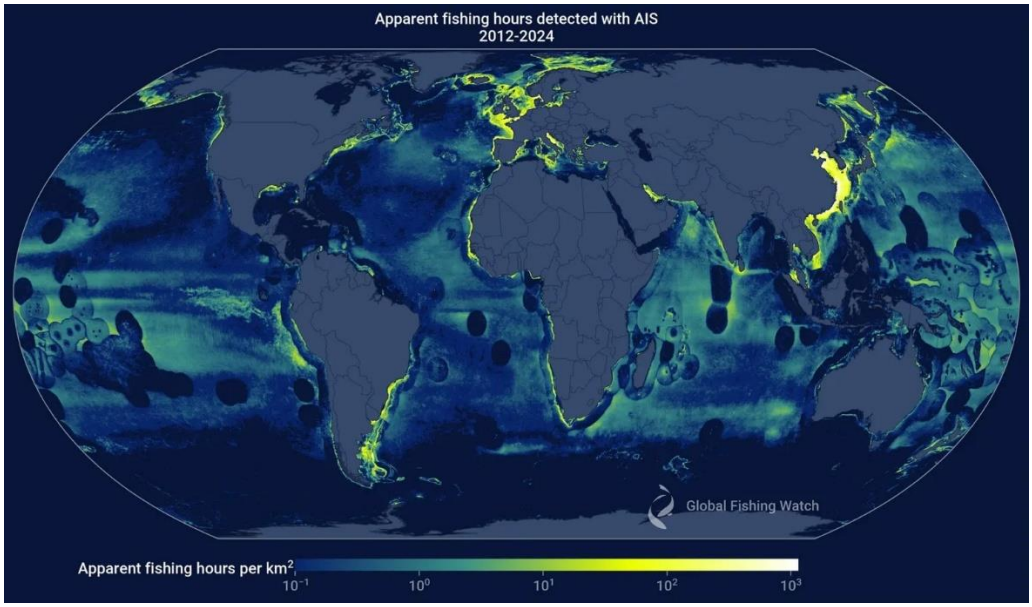


Figure 2. A global map shows apparent fishing hours per square kilometre from the current release of the fishing effort dataset, covering 2012-2024. Available from: Ask the Expert: Amanda Lohmann, Data scientist, vessel tracking and behavior - Global Fishing Watch

2.2 Submit catch data requests to ICCAT for Atlantic tuna fisheries overlapping in time and space with seabirds.

Additional discussions have been held with relevant stakeholders to agree future actions to request data from ICCAT. A plan has been formulated to ensure the appropriate requests are submitted to ICCAT when the necessary data specifications are finalised.

2.3 Compile database of ICCAT catch data.

Freely available datasets from the ICCAT website have been downloaded and limited catch data for the Atlantic has been extracted and compiled up until 2023. (see Annex 4.3).

Activities under Output 3

3.1 Interim analysis on existing data and first year of new tracking completed by Y2Q4.

Initial analysis of existing seabird tracking data and compilation of an interim report (Indicator 3.1) has been completed (see Annex 4.4 Interim Report). The methods have been developed in the R programming language, so that new data can be cleaned, processed and analysed more quickly. The report shows substantial progress towards answering the five key questions identified in the project proposal; collated tracking data clearly shows that whilst some species such as Ascension Frigatebird, Red-billed Tropicbird, Masked boobies and Band-rumped Storm-petrels can travel extensively outside both UKOT's MPA boundaries, some species such as the Brown noddy at St Helena stay within the boundary during the tracking periods (question 1). The influence of breeding stage (incubation and chick rearing) and age (experienced adult or fledglings) on each species distribution and range from the islands have also been identified (question 2).

Activities under Output 4

4.3. Publicise project through accessible social media output and public events on Ascension.

11 Facebook, 10 X (formerly Twitter) social media posts have been published in Y2 (See Annex 4.5).

A public talk and presentation on current seabird conservation projects including DLUS195 was given by Ascension Island Governments Seabird Scientist Laura Shearer on the 6th of February 2025 at the NAAFI cinema on Ascension Island. The event was attended by 48 people (see Figure 3 and Annex 4.6).

Figure 3. Public Presentation on seabird conservation projects given by Laura Shearer at Ascension Island NAFFI in February 2025.

One online article on the project was posted by the BirdLife International project partners (https://www.seabirdtracking.org/tracking-ascension-islands-seabirds-across-borders/) on 26th March 2025. This article was shared on Bluesky, LinkedIn, X and sent to 360 subscribers of the Seabird Tracking Database email newsletter (Annex 4.7).

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1. Existing data on the movements of Ascension and St Helena's seabird species are collated and new tracking work undertaken to fill gaps in knowledge for species outside of the breeding season.

Output 1 is still likely to be fully completed by Y3Q2. Collation of the 2023/2024 seabird tracking completed under this project has been uploaded to a central publicly available location on the BirdLife International Seabird Tracking Database. During the 2024/2025 breeding season 45 satellite tags have been deployed and12 more tags funded by the Blue Belt Programme have been deployed to complement the tracking dataset. Upload to the GFW portal once all tracking data from the current season has been collated together will ultimately provide two publicly available locations online where all data can be viewed, each with a different focus and audience.

Output 2. AIS data is collated to show the location of fishing vessels in the tropical Atlantic throughout the seabird tracking period. Catch data for the period are obtained from ICCAT.

AIS data until December 2024 has now been released on the GFW website which will enable the analysis of tracking data in relation to fishing activity. ICCAT catch data is also now available until 2023 which will help model fishing pressure in relation to any overlapping distributions. Further updates of Catch and AIS data as and when they become available will also be downloaded for the final analysis.

Output 3. Results of data analysis answer the research questions.

Progress towards this output is on target to be achieved by Y3Q4. The interim analysis of existing seabird tracking data including the 2023/24 season collected for this project have made

good progress in answering the five key questions identified in the project proposal (Output 3.1, Annex 4.4 Interim Report).

Output 4. Project outputs are presented to ICCAT Ecosystem Group and public to influence management decisions and used to target IUU fishing surveillance activity outside the Ascension MPA.

During Y2 the project has continued a social media presence as well as publishing an online article on BirdLife International website. A public presentation at Ascension Island incorporating the project has also helped raise public awareness of the project (indicator 4.2, see section 3.1). Progress towards this final output is on target to be achieved by Y3Q4.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Project Outcome: Management of the Atlantic tuna fishery and surveillance of IUU fishing activity incorporates robust knowledge of the year-round distribution and vulnerability of Ascension's seabird populations.

Project progress during Y2 is on track to achieve the project outcome by the end of the project timeframe. Specifically, significant progress has been made in collection and collation of seabird movement data (indicator 0.1, see section 3.1) as well as completion of the interim analysis of existing data which will facilitate incorporation into ICCAT EIAs (Indicators 0.2-0.3).

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Outcome assumptions

0.1. Analysis of the data provides evidence of an interaction that is sufficiently robust to influence fisheries management policy.

This assumption remains true. The outcome of the project relies on high quality data collection and undertaking of a robust analysis, results from which should be able to be incorporated into ICCAT EIAs and targeted fisheries surveillance. All project partners have a strong track record in conducting and disseminating similar work. AIG is committed to using the influence it has at an international level to change policy and, along with MMO is able to implement changes to surveillance activity.

Output assumptions

1.1: All owners of existing data allow them to be used. This still holds true. Almost all of the existing data has been shared and uploaded to the BirdLife Seabird Tracking Database. We are continuing to follow up on requests for additional existing tracking data.

1.2: Sufficient seabirds can be caught and tagged. This still holds true. Whilst all tags have been successfully deployed onto Masked Boobies and Frigatebirds, it was dependant on successful breeding seasons and survival of near fledged chicks to be able to catch and deploy tags. If tags fall off and need to be re-deployed then it is still dependant on the availability of suitable birds for re-deployment but this is unlikely at this stage.

1.3: Tag operation and retention is good. This still holds true. Established best practices have been used to deploy the tags onto seabirds and only skilled staff have programmed and deployed the tags, enabling the highest possible retention. There is still some uncertainty about the moulting cycle of juvenile Ascension Frigatebirds at this locality or their behaviour which may affect tag retention rates.

2.1: AIS data for the tracking period is available. This still hold true. There are no foreseen issues in obtaining the AIS data as GWF and MMO have access to AIS providers and experience in evaluating the data.

2.2: ICCAT are willing to provide catch data. This still hold true, ICCAT are committed to public provision of data. Previous AIG and CEFAS requests to ICCAT have been successful. It can take time for data to become available so repeated requests will be made through the project to build up data and allow analysis over time. We plan to investigate interannual variation to decide whether analysis needs to be carried out on data from the same year.

3.1: Sufficient data will be available to undertake the analysis. This still hold true. This is crucial for meeting the project outcome. Existing seabird tracking data and available AIS data provide a strong foundation for analysis. Past experience of tagging work and analytical progress during Y2 provides confidence that sufficient new data will be available for the planned analysis.

4.1: ICCAT are willing to accept the submission. AIG and STH are members of ICCAT and CEFAS have experience of the submission process hence we foresee no issues in requests to ICCAT.

4.2: The Blue Belt Programme continues to fund satellite surveillance and there are sufficient resources to allow coverage of areas outside of the MPA. This still hold true. Whilst the UK government has made a strong commitment to the Blue Belt Programme and fisheries compliance in particular, AIG and MMO decide on the allocation of surveillance resource and are both keen to make changes reflecting the outputs of this project.

4. Project support to environmental and/or climate outcomes in the UKOTs

The DPLUS195 project in Y2 continued to actively contribute to enhancing our knowledge of the Ascensions seabirds, including "movements of seabirds outside the nesting season", which is a high priority research area identified in the Ascension MPA Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Strategy. This will directly help meet objective (1a) in the Ascension Island MPA Management Plan.

The DPLUS195 project will primarily contribute to Ascension meeting targets 1,3 and 5 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Global Biodiversity Framework. During Y2 the project has also made significant gains in working towards targets 20 and 21 of the CBD through continued population of a single database to host all seabird tracking data for Ascension and St Helena. This strengthens the scientific research and monitoring capacity in the South Atlantic through developing a valuable and accessible resource for future research programmes and ensuring the best available data is available to decision and policy makers.

5. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

GESI Scale	Description	Put X where you think your project is on the scale
Not yet sensitive	The GESI context may have been considered but the project isn't quite meeting the requirements of a 'sensitive' approach	
Sensitive	The GESI context has been considered and project activities take this into account in their design and implementation. The project addresses basic needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups and the project will not contribute to or create further inequalities.	
Empowering	The project has all the characteristics of a 'sensitive' approach whilst also increasing equal access to assets, resources and capabilities for women and marginalised groups	x
Transformative	The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	

The nature of this project does not include a focus on gender quality or social inclusion but aims to be sensitive, and empowering where relevant. The project aims to encourage equal

participation of men and women in the project activities and the project outputs will also be fully inclusive. In the last year, there has been leadership and active participation of women in all fieldwork to deploy tracking devices on seabirds under the project. Teaching women in the use of tracking technologies to enhance their skills and empower them in seabird conservation. The interim analysis of existing seabird data and production of the interim report was also led and developed predominantly by women. This project has provided the opportunity for women to lead the projects technical components and increase the representation of women in conservation leadership and science. The inclusion of the data collected on the Seabird Tracking Database means that it is easily discoverable and can be requested by anyone with an internet connection, regardless of ethnicity, age, class, gender, disability and location. Previous projects using data collated through this tool have and specifically aimed to increase representation of data and data owners from the Global South.

6. Monitoring and evaluation

The M&E component of the project is on track with Outputs and Activities achieved as set out in the project Logframe and Timetable. The SMART indicators incorporated into the Outcome and Output indicators set out in the original Logframe help to meet these objectives. To monitor and evaluate the projects progress against the set timeframe, the project manager set deadlines for certain tasks which helps track progress. Regular meetings have been held between the project lead, project manager and project partners, as well as quarterly stakeholder meetings help to monitor the project progress and assess risks to ensure these are managed proactively.

7. Lessons learnt

Thus far in Y2 there have only been minor issues to learn from. Namely, delays in the release of more recent 2024 AIS data from GFW in March 2025. This impacted the analysis of existing data for the interim report as the planned analysis on recent tracking data from the 2023/34 season could not be included in time. However, it will not affect the final report or project outcome.

Deployment of satellite tags in batches over several weeks worked well as it enabled greater visualization of juvenile behaviour and dispersal from the breeding colony post fledging. It also enabled a valuable learning experience for staff as there were more birds to observe and/or handle.

8. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

The minor queries raised during the review of the Y1 annual report were specifically addressed in the Y2HY report, including attachment of an updated risk register for HPAI risks. We are unable to address the additional comments raised in the Y1 review relating to comments included in the award letter at this time but will contact Darwin directly.

9. Risk Management

No new risks have been identified since the last annual report. Existing risks are regularly reviewed. We remain vigilant of any new risks that arise and will detail them in the next reporting period.

10. Scalability and durability

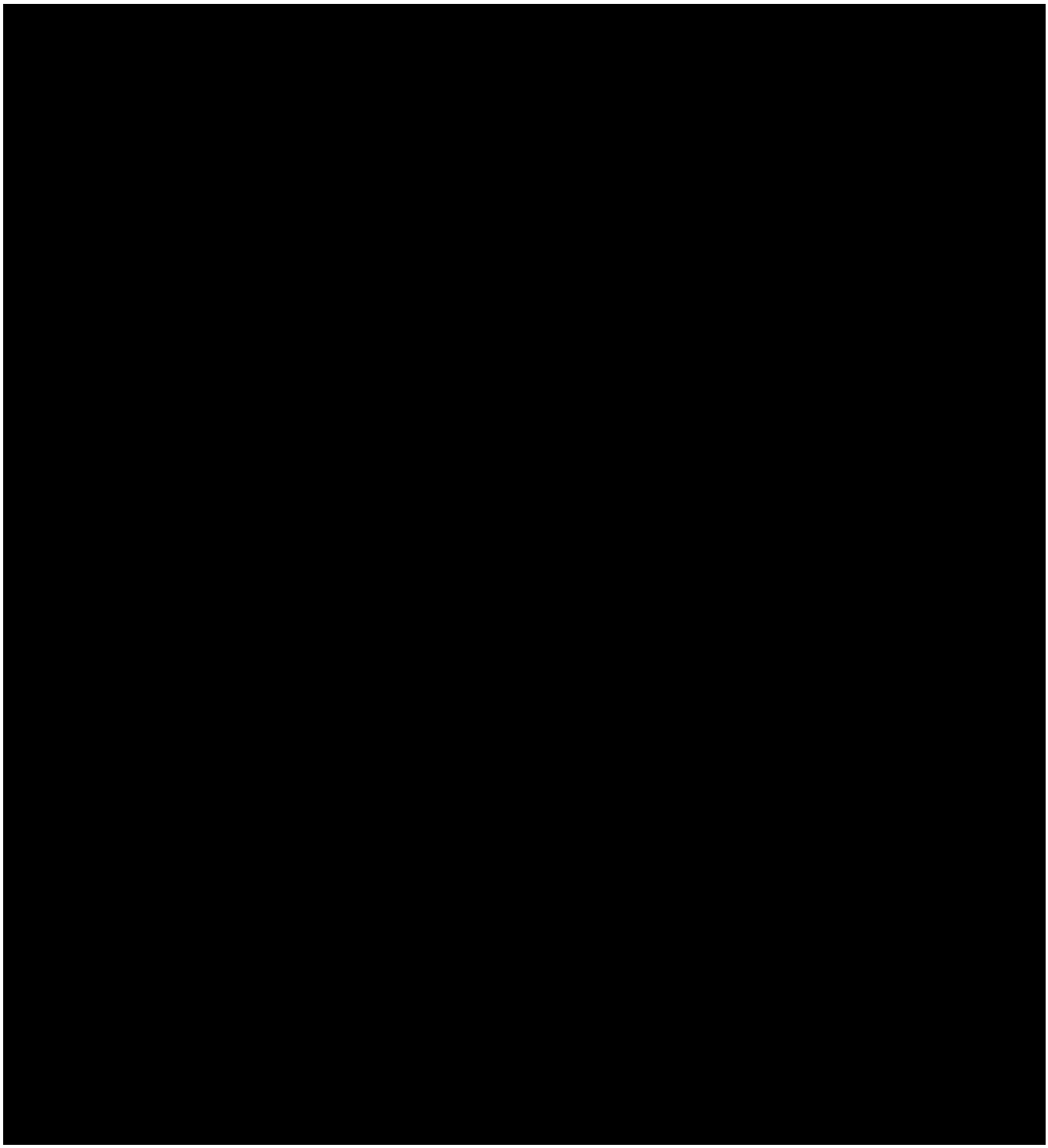
Communication between all stakeholders through regular quarterly meetings has been important to inform on project progress but also to share ideas, knowledge and expertise. This ensures that all stakeholders involved are aware of the processes and activities needed to be completed to reach the project outcome. The new seabird data collected has changed our knowledge of the seabirds breeding on Ascension and St Helena. The cleaning and inclusion of new data on databases means future collaborative work among the project partners and others would be facilitated. The public talk given on Ascension and attended by 48 individuals has improved local knowledge on seabirds, ultimately increasing support of seabird conservation initiatives on the island. The planned engagement with ICCAT is the main method this project hopes to influence policy. We plan to submit the results to a peer-reviewed journal, which would

ensure the projects discoveries has a sustained legacy by being committed into scientific record.

11. Darwin Plus identity

All social media posts (11Facebook, 10 X formerly Twitter) acknowledge the support provided by the Darwin Plus Programme. The high engagement of the posts included thus far 43 shares, 595 likes and 28,146 views (see Annex 4.5) highlighting a positive interest and interaction in the project. The article published on BirdLife's website included logos and web links to the Darwin Initiative to increase engagement (Annex 4.7). The Darwin Plus funding was also acknowledged in a public presentation on island. Awareness of Darwin Plus is high within the Ascension Island community due to previous and ongoing Darwin-funded projects.

12. Safeguarding



[redacted]

13. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025)

Project spend (indicative) in this financial year	2024/25 D+ Grant (£)	202/25 Total actual D+ Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs	[redacted]			
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items				
Others (Please specify)				
TOTAL				

Table 2: Project mobilised or matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025)

	Secured to date	Expected by end of project	Sources
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£)		[redacted]	Blue Belt Programme AIG CEFAS
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best			

14. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

There are no other comments.

15. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes.

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds to edit and use the following for various promotional purposes (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)	File Name or File Location	Caption including description, country and credit	Social media accounts and websites to be tagged (leave blank if none)	Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2024-2025

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
Impact Ascension's seabirds are protected from major threats throughout their lifecycle, providing an exemplar of integrated protection that goes beyond political borders and reflects the actual distribution of species.	Too early to report on project progress.	[redacted]
Outcome Management of the Atlantic tuna fishery and surveillance of IUU fishing activity incorporates robust knowledge of the year-round distribution and vulnerability of Ascensions seabird populations.		
Outcome indicator 0.1 Data on seabird movements and fishing vessel activity in the tropical Atlantic collated by Y3Q1.	Collation of existing seabird movement data and collection of new movement data is underway (section 3.1, Annex 4.1).	Compile AIS and catch data onto appropriate databases.
Outcome indicator 0.2 Analysis of seabird distribution and interaction with fishing vessels completed by Y3Q2.	Interim analysis of 2023/2024 breeding season tracking data and review seabird distribution in relation to the MPA completed (Annex 4.4).	Compile 2024/2025 tracking data with existing data, analyse and summaries in final report.
Outcome indicator 0.3 Results of the analysis incorporated into ICCAT ecosystem impact assessments and used to plan target areas for IUU fishing surveillance by Y3Q4.	Too early to report on progress.	N/A
Output 1 Existing data on the movements of Ascension and St Helena seabird species are collated and new tracking work undertaken to fill data gaps in knowledge for species outside of the breeding season.		
Output indicator 1.1 Single database of all seabird tracking data created and uploaded onto publicly available online GFW Marine Manager Portal by Y2Q1.	In progress. Inclusion of the 2023/204 new tracking data as well as historical tracking data has been uploaded to BirdLife's Seabird Tracking Database (Section 3.1, Annex 4.1)	Download 2024/2025 tracking data and import to the seabird tracking database. Upload all collated tracking data onto the GFW portal.
Output indicator 1.2 Satellite tags deployed on 35 Ascension frigatebirds and 35 masked boobies at the end of the 2023 and 2024 breeding seasons. All tags deployed by Y2Q4.	Completed. Successful deployment of the remaining 45 tags (41 Masked Booby and 19 Frigatebird tags) as well as 12 additional tags funded by the Blue Belt Programme during the 2024/2025 season.	N/A

Output indicator 1.3: Data from the satellite tags is downloaded between Y1Q4 and Y3Q2.	Ongoing. Data from tags deployed in the 2023/2024 season have been downloaded and stored on the BirdLife Seabird Tracking Database.	Tracking data from the 2024/2025 season to be downloaded onto the BirdLife Seabird Tracking Database once stopped actively logging.
Output indicator 1.4: Seabird tracking data displayed on the GFW Marine Manager Portal.	Not Started. Expected to be completed after the current seasons tracking data has been compiled.	Tracking data from the 2024/2025 season will be downloaded onto the BirdLife Database prior to a single batch upload onto the GFW portal.
Output 2. AIS data is collated to show the location of fishing vessels in the tropical Atlantic throughout the seabird tracking period. Catch data for the period are obtained from ICCAT.		
Output indicator 2.1. AIS data sources identified by Y1Q4. Database of AIS data covering tracking period created by Y3Q1.	In progress. AIS data until December 2024 is available from GFW website and has been downloaded for use in the analysis (Annex 4.2).	Download additional updates once released from GFW portal to cover full tracking period.
Output indicator 2.2. First catch data request submitted to ICCAT by Y2Q2. Database of catch data created by Y3Q1.	In progress. Catch data until 2023 has been downloaded from the ICCAT website (Annex 4.3), awaiting further updates.	Download additional catch data once released from ICCAT to cover as much of the tracking period as possible.
Output 3. Results of data analysis answer the following key questions: Do Ascension and St Helena seabirds range beyond the MPA boundaries? How much time is spent beyond the MPAs and how does this vary between species, age groups and time of year? Are there particular hotspot areas of seabird activity? Is seabird activity correlated with the presence of fishing vessels and the level of catch? Is there species/age/individual variation in any correlation with fishing activity?		
Output indicator 3.1. Interim analysis on existing data and first year of new tracking completed by Y2Q4.	Completed. See Annex 4.4 Interim Report.	N/A
Output indicator 3.2. Final report summarising analysis completed by Y3Q3.	Due in Y3	NA
Output indicator 3.3. Analysis submitted for publication by a peer-reviewed journal by Y3Q4.	Due in Y3	NA
Output indicator 3.4. Data uploaded to the Seabird Tracking Database	Existing data and new data are uploaded. The final data uploads are due in Y3.	NA
Output 4. Project outputs are presented to ICCAT Ecosystem Group and public to influence management decisions and used to target IUU fishing surveillance activity outside of the MPA.		

Output indicator 4.1: Results and recommendations of project presented at ICCAT by Y3Q4.	Due in Y3	NA
Output indicator 4.2: Four social media posts and two events on Ascension raise public awareness of the project.	Ongoing, 21 social media posts published (11 Facebook, 10 X (formerly Twitter). One public talk and presentation given on Ascension Island (Section 3.1, Annex 4.5, 4.6, 4.7)	Ongoing. A minimum of 4 social media posts and one article to be produced.
Output indicator 4.3: Review of Blue Belt Programme fisheries surveillance coverage undertaken by Q3Y4. New surveillance plan including areas outside of the MPA implemented by Y3Q4.	Due in Y3	NA

Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Ascension's seabirds are protected from major threats throughout their lifecycle, providing an exemplar of integrated protection that goes beyond political borders and reflects the actual distribution of species.			
Outcome: Management of the Atlantic tuna fishery and surveillance of IUU fishing activity incorporates robust knowledge of the year-round distribution and vulnerability of Ascensions seabird populations.	0.1 Data on seabird movements and fishing vessel activity in the tropical Atlantic collated by Y3Q1. 0.2 Analysis of seabird distribution and interaction with fishing vessels completed by Y3Q2. 0.3 Results of the analysis incorporated into ICCAT ecosystem impact assessments and used to plan target areas for IUU fishing surveillance by Y3Q4.	0.1 Screenshots of databases and photographs of new tag deployments. 0.2 Final summary report of analysis results. 0.3 Copies of presentation to ICCAT and surveillance plan.	Analysis of the data provides evidence of an interaction that is sufficiently robust to influence fisheries management and policy.
Output 1: Existing data on the movements of Ascension and St Helena seabird species are collated and new tracking work undertaken to fill data gaps in knowledge for species outside of the breeding season.	1.1: Single database of all seabird tracking data created and uploaded onto publicly available online GFW Marine Manager Portal by Y2Q1. 1.2: Satellite tags deployed on 35 Ascension frigatebirds and 35 masked boobies at the end of the 2023 and 2024 breeding seasons. All tags deployed by Y2Q4.	1.1. Screenshot of database and link to online portal. 1.2. Records of tags deployed and photographs of tag deployment. 1.3. Screenshot of database. 1.4. Screenshot and link to online portal.	All owners of existing data allow them to be used. Sufficient seabirds can be caught and tagged. Tag operation and retention is good.

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	1.3: Data from the satellite tags is downloaded between Y1Q4 and Y3Q2. 1.4: Seabird tracking data displayed on the GFW Marine Manager Portal.		
Output 2: AIS data is collated to show the location of fishing vessels in the tropical Atlantic throughout the seabird tracking period. Catch data for the period are obtained from ICCAT.	2.1. AIS data sources identified by Y1Q4. Database of AIS data covering tracking period created by Y3Q1. 2.2. First catch data request submitted to ICCAT by Y2Q2. Database of catch data created by Y3Q1.	2.1 Screenshot of database. 2.2 Screenshot of database.	AIS data for the tracking period is available. ICCAT are willing to provide data.
Output 3: Results of data analysis answer the following key questions: Do Ascension and St Helena seabirds range beyond the MPA boundaries? How much time is spent beyond the MPAs and how does this vary between species, age groups and time of year? Are there particular hotspot areas of seabird activity? Is seabird activity correlated with the presence of fishing vessels and the level of catch? Is there species/age/individual variation in any correlation with fishing activity?	3.1. Interim analysis on existing data ad first year of new tracking completed b Y2Q4. 3.2. Final report summarising analysis completed by Y3Q3. 3.3. Analysis submitted for publication by a peer-reviewed journal by Y3Q4. 3.4. Data uploaded to the Seabird Tracking Database	3.1 Copy of interim report. 3.2. Copy of final report. 3.3 Copy of manuscript and evidence of submission. 3.4. Dataset ID,URL and screenshot of database portal.	Sufficient data will be available to undertake the analysis.
Output 4: Project outputs are presented to ICCAT Ecosystem Group and public to influence management decisions and used to target IUU fishing surveillance activity outside of the MPA.	4.1: Results and recommendations of project presented at ICCAT by Y3Q4. 4.2: Four social media posts and two events on Ascension raise public awareness of the project. 4.3: Review of Blue Belt Programme fisheries surveillance coverage undertaken by Q3Y4. New surveillance	4.1 Copy of the presentation. Photographs/screenshot of presentations being delivered. 4.2 Copies of social media posts. Photographs of events and number of attendees. 4.3. Copy of surveillance plan and map of new satellite coverage area.	ICCAT are willing to accept the submission. The Blue Belt Programme continues to fund satellite surveillance and there is sufficient resource to allow coverage of area outside of the MPA.

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	plan including areas outside of the MPA implemented by Y3Q4.		

Activities

1.1 Collate previous seabird tracking data from Ascension and St Helena and create database uploaded onto the GFW Marine Manager Portal
1.2 Deploy satellite tags on 35 Ascension Frigatebirds and 35 masked boobies
1.3 download and store data from satellite tags
2.1 Compile database of AIS data from the Atlantic covering seabird tracking periods.
2.2 Submit catch data requests to ICCAT for Atlantic tuna fisheries overlapping in time and space with seabirds.
2.3 Compile database of ICCAT catch data.
3.1 Undertake interim analysis of existing seabird and fishing data and first year of new tracking data.
3.2 Undertake final analysis of all seabird tracking and fishing data.
3.3 Produce final report summarising analysis.
3.4 Prepare manuscript and submit to a peer-reviewed journal.
4.1 Prepare presentation based on project results for ICCAT.
4.2 Presentation to ICCAT Ecosystem Group.
4.3 publicise project through accessible social media output and public events on Ascension.
4.4 Undertake review of Blue Belt programme IUU fisheries surveillance coverage.
4.5 adopt new IUU fisheries surveillance plan.

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

Please see the Standard Indicator guidance for more information on how to report in this section, including appropriate disaggregation.

DPLUS Indicator number	Name of indicator	If this links directly to a project indicator(s), please note the indicator number here	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DPLUS-A03	Number of local or national organisations with enhanced capability and capacity.	4.3	Number	AIG	1	0		1	1
DPLUS-A04	Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training.	1.2	Number	Female	2	1		3	3
DPLUS-A05	Number of trainers trained under the project reporting to have delivered further training	1.2	Number	Female	1	1		2	2
DPLUS-A06	Number of people participating in community events and activities	4.2	Number	Men & Women	0	43		43	Dependant on Output 4
DPLUS-C03	New assessments of habitat conservation action needs published.	4.3	Number		0	0		0	1
DPLUS-C08	Number of Media related activities.	4.2	Number	Social Media	11	21	8	32	40
DPLUS-C08	Number of Media related activities.		Number	Online article	0	1	1	1	2
DPLUS-C08	Number of Media related activities.	3.3	Number	Peer reviewed journal article	0	0		0	1
DPLUS-C09	Number of records added to accessible databases.	3.4	Number	BirdLife database	211	38			Dependant on Output 1
DPLUS-C09	Number of records added to accessible databases.	3.4	Number	GWF database	0	0			Dependant on Output 1
DPLUS-C10	Number of decision-makers attending briefing events	4.1	Number	ICCAT ecosystems Group	0	0			Dependant on Output 4

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
Tracking Ascension Island's seabirds across borders	Online article	Beth Clark, 2025	Female	British	BirdLife International, Cambridge	https://www.seabirdtracking.org/tracking-ascension-islands-seabirds-across-borders/

Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the **correct template** (checking fund, scheme, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and **deleted the blue guidance text** before submission?	yes
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	yes
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please consider the best way to submit. One zipped file, or a download option, is recommended. We can work with most online options and will be in touch if we have a problem accessing material. If unsure, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	no
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	yes
Have you provided an updated risk register? If you have an existing risk register you should provide an updated version alongside your report. If your project was funded prior to this being a requirement, you are encourage to develop a risk register.	yes
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 15)?	n/a
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	yes
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	yes
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report. no	