# 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

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| Scheme (Main or Strategic) | Main |
| Project reference | DPLUS208 |
| Project title | Conserving cetacean biodiversity in the Falkland Islands |
| Territory(ies) | Falkland Islands |
| Lead Organisation | Falklands Conservation |
| Project partner(s) | Falkland Islands Government, British Antarctic Survey, Aarhus University, Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme |
| Darwin Plus grant value | £258,416.00 |
| Start/end dates of project | 1 October 2024 to 30 June 2027 |
| Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2024-Mar 2025) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2) | 1 October 2024 to 31 March 2025 (AR1) |
| Project Leader name | Caroline Weir |
| Project website/blog/social media | https://www.facebook.com/FalklandsWhale |
| Report author(s) and date | Caroline Weir, 29 April 2025 |

## 1. Project summary

Targeted cetacean research in the Falklands has increased exponentially over the last decade (through projects including EU BEST 1172, DPLUS042, DPLUS082, DPLUS126), significantly improving knowledge of coastal cetacean biodiversity over a relatively short timeframe. Since 2021, the global importance of Falklands' coastal waters for cetaceans has been highlighted through IUCN spatial tools including:

- The Falkland Islands Inshore Key Biodiversity Area (KBA), first recognised as a feeding ground for Endangered sei whales in 2021 and then also as a winter breeding site for the southern right whale in 2025;
- The North-east Falklands Right Whale Wintering Area Important Marine Mammal Area (IMMA), which hosts a wintering southern right whale breeding aggregation;
- The Falkland Islands Inner Shelf Waters IMMA, which comprises important feeding habitat for sei whales and year-round habitat for a high diversity of marine mammal species; and
- The Sea Lion Islands Group IMMA, which is used intensively by foraging killer whales.

However, legislative and management approaches to protecting cetacean biodiversity in the Falkland Islands have not kept pace with the improving evidence-base. For example, the

Falkland Islands Government (FIG) Species Action Plan for Cetaceans expired in 2018 and has not been renewed or revised to incorporate recent research. If guidelines and policies don't reflect current information highlighting the global significance of Falklands' cetacean populations, threats to species will remain un-managed and organisations will be unable to best target action.

Human activities in the waters around the Falkland Islands continue to increase. Currently, there are proposals and feasibility studies underway to:

- Replace and expand the current Falklands Interim Port and Storage System (FIPASS), which comprises the main commercial port facility in the islands;
- Construct a new marina (aimed at leisure and tourism) for 60 boats in Stanley harbour;
- Commence oil extraction in the offshore licence blocks, with associated coastal infrastructure;
- Develop a marine fish-farming industry; and
- Trial crab-potting, with the goal of developing a commercial fishery.

These activities pose potential threats to cetaceans including habitat loss, injury/mortality from loud impulsive sound sources, increased exposure to disturbance from vessels, injury/mortality from vessel collisions, entanglements in mooring ropes and anti-predator nets, displacement from critical feeding and breeding habitats, and pollution (Richardson et al., 1995; Nowacek et al., 2007; Bath et al., 2023). However, the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) produced for such projects often lack a sound understanding of local cetacean biodiversity and associated risks. Moreover, the mitigation approaches (if any) proposed to protect cetaceans from such activities are inconsistently applied and do not always adhere to global best practice.

This project aims to translate the large and diverse cetacean datasets that have been acquired in coastal waters over the last decade, along with novel data including on the health and threats to sei whales and the seasonal occurrence of dolphins in Stanley Harbour, into a series of evidence-based outputs that will support FIG and relevant stakeholders in protecting and managing cetacean biodiversity and informing policy debate. These outputs include:

- The first national Red List for cetaceans in the Falklands, to highlight the priority species most in need of conservation action;
- Species Action Plans (SAP): Southern right whale data obtained during DPLUS082 and DPLUS126 will be assessed to produce a draft SAP, while the SAP produced for endangered sei whales during DPLUS126 will be updated with the results of a novel photogrammetry study to identify specific anthropogenic impacts;
- Stock assessments: Tissue samples from seven seasons of stranding and biopsy sampling of sei whales and southern right whales will undergo genetic analysis to document population structure and size, with the results submitted to the International Whaling Commission (IWC);
- A comprehensive Technical Report on cetacean occurrence in the area of highest marine activity in the Falklands (Stanley Harbour, Port William and Berkeley Sound) that can be used as a robust basis for future EIAs;
- Development of protocols to provide best practice options for mitigating the impacts of loud activities (e.g. pile-driving, seismic) on the cetacean sensitivities specific to the Falklands; and
- A 5-yr review of the Cetacean Code of Conduct (for minimising the likelihood of vessel strike on cetaceans).

Additionally, this project addresses the lack of cetacean stranding expertise and equipment in the Falklands, which currently limits detailed investigation of the cause of stranding events around the Islands and results in missed opportunities to further identify and manage threats. Output 3 of DPLUS208 seeks to address this deficit and increase stranding capacity by:

- Providing intensive training for the project leader in necropsy techniques (with the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme);

- Training of key stakeholders and community members in the basic sampling of dead cetaceans (via Falklands-based courses with the project leader) and in live animal response training (during a visit by British Divers Marine Life Rescue staff);
- Provision of basic sampling kits to willing community members located in some remote stranding hotspots; and
- Developing decision-making protocols with SMASS and BDMLR to guide future stranding responses.

The project will be managed by the Project Leader, together with other FC staff and the named project partners. Their combined expertise covers all project components except for the live stranding capacity which will be provided by a visit from BDMLR specialists.

Bath, G.E., Price, C.A., Riley, K.L. and Morris, J.A. Jr. A global review of protected species interactions with marine aquaculture. Reviews in Aquaculture, 2023: 1-34. DOI: 10.1111/raq.12811

Nowacek, D.P., Thorne, L.H., Johnston, D.W. and Tyack, P.L. Responses of cetaceans to anthropogenic noise. Mammal Review, 37: 81-115.

Richardson, W.J., Greene, C.R., Malme, C.I. & Thomson, D.H. (1995) Marine Mammals and Noise. Academic Press, San Diego, CA.

## 2. Project stakeholders/partners

DPLUS208 only commenced on 1 October 2024, and consequently this report describes only the engagement between all formal partners and key stakeholders over the initial six months of the project. The DPLUS208 project partners include one based locally in the Falklands, two organisations in the UK, and one based in Denmark. As such, most communications with the UK- and Denmark-based partners are carried out remotely, via email and Zoom calls. However, during Y1, the project leader also visited one of the organisations in the UK for capacity building. Additionally, bi-annual project updates will be produced and distributed to all project partners to ensure that everyone is aware of the varied avenues of work being carried out. During Y1, the first of those updates was distributed on 28 February 2025 (Annex 7.2). Engagement with project partners during Y1 is summarised below.

**Project partners:**

**Falkland Islands Government (FIG)**: The Falkland Islands Government Environment Department (FIG-ED) works on areas related to environmental policy, regulation, enforcement and monitoring across terrestrial and marine activities, and co-ordinates research, climate change response initiatives and habitat preservation/restoration within FIG. The FIG-ED will provide support and guidance throughout the project to optimise the production of cetacean-related outputs (i.e., Red List, SAPs, mitigation protocols) that are most relevant and useful to their wildlife policy work.

During Y1, the project leader met with Eimear Smith (FIG-ED) to discuss the Cetacean Code of Conduct on 19 February 2025 (Annex 5.2). It was also planned to meet with Emma Harte (FIG-ED) during March 2025 for a broader update on project progress and the Red List development, but unfortunately that meeting had to be postponed due to work commitments and weather-related boat work; that meeting was instead carried out on Friday 25 April 2025 and will be reported on in the Y2 annual report.

**British Antarctic Survey**: The British Antarctic Survey (BAS) deliver world-leading interdisciplinary research in the polar regions. BAS have been involved in FC's cetacean research in the Falklands for several years, providing support in: (1) genetic and isotope analysis of tissue samples; (2) equipment support; and (3) logistical support including the transport of samples from the Falklands to the UK and their subsequent storage in Cambridge. The main role of BAS in DPLUS208 is in providing training and support in the analysis of whale tissue samples.

The project leader will visit BAS for five months in Y2 from October 2025 to February 2026 to carry out the analysis of whale tissue samples. Consequently, most communications with BAS

during Y1 were regarding the planning for the forthcoming visit. A Zoom meeting was held with Jen Jackson on 7 March 2025 (Annex 4.3) to discuss that visit, and we have since completed the paperwork to reserve laboratory space at BAS for the work. Communications with BAS will naturally increase markedly during Y2 of the project during the work in Cambridge.

**Aarhus University**: Fredrik Christiansen at Aarhus University is at the forefront of the emerging field of using unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV or 'drone') photogrammetry to quantify marine mammal body volume and condition. His role in DPLUS208 is to provide guidance and advice on UAV equipment selection, field deployment, data analysis, and interpretation of results.

During Y1, Fredrik provided extensive input on the UAV equipment that should be ordered and shipped to the Falkland Islands, with those discussions occurring via email. All equipment successfully arrived in the Falklands in time for the field season, and multiple flights have occurred over sei whales in February and March (see lots of evidence in Annex 4.2). Email discussions with Fredrik also guided the troubleshooting and some settings for the UAV following the initial flights. It is expected that Fredrik's input on DPLUS208 will increase in Y2 when the sei whale imagery starts to be analysed.

**Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme (SMASS)**: SMASS provides a systematic and coordinated approach to the surveillance of Scotland's marine species by collating, analysing and reporting data on all cetaceans, seals, marine turtles and basking sharks that strand on the Scottish coastline, and carrying out postmortem examinations to provide unique insight into metrics such as age structure, sex, body condition, cause of death, pollutant levels, reproductive patterns, diet, disease burden and pathology of the stranded population.

SMASS are providing DPLUS208 with expertise and advice on optimising the response to strandings of dead cetaceans in the Falklands. During Y1 of the project this included the planning and implementation of a month-long visit of the project leader to SMASS in January 2025, to improve knowledge of necropsy techniques and equipment (evidenced in Annex 6.1). SMASS have also provided ongoing remote advice via email, including on the purchase of equipment for the Falklands and on the findings of a necropsy carried out on a Commerson's dolphin in February 2025 (Annex 6.1). It is expected that email correspondence with SMASS will continue throughout the project as cetacean strandings occur in the Falkland Islands.

**Stakeholders:**

DPLUS208 stakeholders were identified in Y1 (see Annex 7.7) comprising key decision-makers (e.g., FIG MLAs, Depart of Mineral Resources, Department of Planning, Maritime Authority), organisations involved with the production of Environmental Impact Assessments (e.g., SAERI Falklands Ltd), and companies/organisations that are users of the marine environment around the Falklands (e.g. fishing companies, oil & gas, aquaculture, tourism).

An introduction to DPLUS208 was provided in a stakeholder update for DPLUS126 in October 2024 (Annex 7.1). A further stakeholder update was distributed in February 2025 describing the early progress of DPLUS208 (Annex 7.2). It is expected that bi-annual stakeholder updates will be produced and distributed throughout the project lifetime. Additionally, in-person meetings with some stakeholders will be scheduled in Y2 and Y3 as part of the consultations for the mitigation guidelines and technical report.

**Local community:**

In addition to the formal project partners and stakeholders, DPLUS208 has engaged with the local community in the Falkland Islands in Y1 as follows:

- Regular updates on the dedicated Falkland Islands Whale Project Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/FalklandsWhale) which is followed and shared by many of the local community including at least one FIG MLA (Annex 7.6);
- Draft articles for the FC magazine (Annex 7.5) and publications in the Penguin News (Annexes 7.3 and 7.4); and

- In person communications between the project leader and local landowners during visits to stranded cetaceans and informally at local social events.

It is expected that community engagement will increase in Y2 and Y3 of the project as the fieldwork components (including training opportunities) develop.

## 3. Project progress

### 3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

**Output 1. Development of evidence-based cetacean management tools and submission to Falkland Islands Government.**

Activities under Output 1 are all progressing to schedule. Activity 1.1.1 was slightly delayed by the project contact at FIG-ED being abroad at a climate meeting and then the Project leader's fieldwork commitments with boat work and strandings, but has been carried out during April 2025 (will be evidenced in AR2). Activities 1.1.2 and 1.1.3 are underway as planned, with the commencement of the National Red List report that has already specifically addressed Activity 1.1.2 (Annex 4.1). Activity 1.3.1 was completed in Y1, with all UAV equipment successfully purchased and shipped to the Islands in time for the field season (Annex 4.2). The research permit (Activity 1.3.2; Annex 4.5) and risk assessments (Activity 1.3.2; Annexes 4.6 and 4.7) were all in place ahead of the 2025 UAV study commencing. The fieldwork for the UAV study of sei whales commenced in February and will continue until May 2025; some images of sei whales acquired in Y1 are provided in Annex 4.2. The remaining Activities under Output 1 are scheduled for later parts of the project in Y2 to Y4.

**Output 2. Development of tools to mitigate specific anthropogenic activities that may potentially injure or kill cetaceans in the Falklands.**

A research permit is in place to cover the dolphin acoustic work that will commence in Y2 (Activity 2.1.1; Annex 4.5). All other Activities for Output 2 are scheduled to occur in Y2 to Y4 of DPLUS208.

**Output 3. Capacity to deal with live and dead cetacean strandings is increased in order to better identify threats and optimise scientific knowledge through sample collection.**

Activity 3.1 was completed in Y1, with the travel of the Project Leader to Scotland to train with the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme (Annex 6.1). Activities 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 have been revised following the mass stranding of southern right whale dolphins in the Falklands on 13 March (Annex 6.5); two carcasses from that stranding have been placed in freezer storage, and it is intended that the training of personnel will now be 'hands on' (rather than a classroom session) and occur when those animals are necropsied in early Y2. This was not originally planned because we did not expect to have any carcasses of small cetaceans available, but it is considered to present a much better learning experience than a lecture and will allow the participants to collect blubber/skin samples themselves. The training will therefore occur in Y2 as planned, but will use the data forms developed under Activity 3.3 (evidenced in Annexes 6.2 and 6.3) and the two dead dolphin carcasses as materials, with the necropsies being carried out at FC's seabird rehabilitation centre facility. The opportunities for training will be advertised in due course, and around weather commitments for the UAV study.

Activities 3.4.1 and 3.4.2 relate to the production of the sampling tool kits for stranded cetaceans. A considerable amount of time was spent in identifying relevant equipment and placing orders during Y1 (Annex 6.4), with all necessary equipment either being purchased in Stanley or successfully ordered. Much of the equipment will arrive into the Falklands in the first half of Y2, after which the five sampling kits will be distributed. A short list of suitable locations for hosting the kits has been produced (Activity 3.4.2), and includes Pebble Island, Spring Point, Hill Cove, Fox Bay, Sea Lion Island, Shallow Harbour and New Island. These are all locations on West Falkland or the outer islands that are more logistically challenging for Stanley-based personnel to get to, and some comprise places where multiple strandings have occurred in recent years. Falklands Conservation has a permit in place to cover the collection of samples from stranded animals (Activity 3.5.1; Annex 6.6). During Y1 there has been a total of seven cetacean stranding events reported to FC (Annex 6.7), of which samples have been collected from five events; the remaining two were a dolphin that live stranded and was re-

floated, and a whale carcass seen drifting at sea and therefore unavailable for sampling. Consequently, Activity 3.5.2 has progressed well, with good attendance of strandings. The remaining Activities for Output 3 are scheduled for Y2 and Y3 of the project.

**Output 4. Outreach and dissemination of project results to target audiences (government, marine users, local community, international scientists).**

Three of the Activities planned for Output 4 (4.3, 4.6 and 4.7) are scheduled for Y2 to Y4 of the project. Activity 4.1.1 was completed in Y1 and is evidenced in Annex 7.7. A stakeholder update was issued on 8 October and included both a progress update on DPLUS126 (which ended in Dec 2024) and the introduction to DPLUS208 (which commenced in Oct 2024) – evidenced in Annex 7.1. The first stakeholder report issued solely for DPLUS208 was distributed on 28 February 2025 (Annex 7.2). Outreach Activities have progressed to schedule, including Penguin News articles (Annexes 7.3 and 7.4), a FC magazine article (Annex 7.5), and numerous social media posts (https://www.facebook.com/FalklandsWhale).

## 3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

**Output 1. Development of evidence-based cetacean management tools and submission to Falkland Islands Government.**

The baseline condition for Output 1 was that while a large amount of cetacean data has been collected in the Falkland Islands to date, relatively little has been translated into easy-to-use tools to manage the various species that occur in the Islands. Consequently, it is desirable to develop several priority tools most applicable to conservation and management, including the first National Red List assessment for cetaceans in the Islands, and the first Species Action Plan (SAP) for the southern right whale. Good progress was made towards accomplishing Output 1 during Y1, including the start of work on the national Red List (RL) assessment for cetaceans which considered ways forward in navigating some of the main challenges with applying global RL criteria to a national RL in the Islands. The progress made on the report to date is provided in Annex 4.1 (noting that this is in draft format and is currently incomplete), and the completion of the draft report is scheduled for Y2. The SAPs for southern right whales (Indicator 1.2) and sei whales (Indicator 1.3) are not due to be developed until Y3 of the project. However, the revision of the existing sei whale SAP will incorporate novel information collected on the species during 2025 using an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV, or 'drone'). Excellent progress was made in Y1 in the purchase and shipping of the UAV equipment and altimeter to the Falklands, and in its use in the field to successfully collect images of sei whales. This is a novel and challenging piece of work on this species, but we have been able to acquire many images suitable to meet the project goals of photogrammetry and scar analysis (evidenced in Annex 4.2). Most of the work towards Indicator 1.4 is scheduled for Y2 of the project, but progress was made during Y1 in discussing the Project Leader's forthcoming 5-month duration visit to BAS to carry out the tissue analysis (Annex 4.3), and provisional travel arrangements were completed to fly to the UK for an October start at BAS (Annex 4.4). All of the Indicators listed for Output 1 have been completed according to the Y1 project work plan, and it is expected that all will be fully achieved by the project completion.

**Output 2. Development of tools to mitigate specific anthropogenic activities that may potentially injure or kill cetaceans in the Falklands.**

The baseline condition for Output 2 was that no Falklands-specific mitigation tools existed to reduce the impacts of potentially-adverse human activities (e.g. high-amplitude noise from seismic airguns and pile-driving operations) on cetaceans in the Islands, despite the increased international recognition of the Falklands as a globally significant whale habitat. Meanwhile, human activities in the marine environment continue to increase, for example with a proposed new port development, recent plans for a new marina, continued interest in marine fish farming, and a renewed proposal for oil extraction. The use of mitigation guidance from other geographic regions may not take into account the specific sensitivities that occur in the Falklands, for example a seasonal feeding aggregation of Endangered sei whales and the winter breeding activities of southern right whales. Output 2 therefore seeks to develop a number of mitigation tools aimed at minimising the impacts of human activities on cetaceans in the Falklands. Much of the work for Output 2 is scheduled to occur during Y2 and Y3, including Indicators 2.2 to 2.4. However, opportunities to engage on those things sooner have occurred

in Y1, for example the interest by FIG to revise the Cetacean Code of Conduct leaflet (evidenced in Annex 5.2). Good progress was made on Indicator 2.1 in accordance with the project timeframe, comprising the purchase of dolphin acoustic equipment and moorings, and the shipment of the acoustic devices to the Falkland Islands (Annex 5.1). It is expected that these will be deployed on schedule in the early part of Y2. It is anticipated that all of the Indicators listed for Output 2 will be fully achieved by the project completion.

**Output 3. Capacity to deal with live and dead cetacean strandings is increased in order to better identify threats and optimise scientific knowledge through sample collection.**
The baseline condition for Output 3 was that cetacean strandings in the Islands were attended on an informal basis by organisations depending on the interest of individuals. No formal sampling scheme or guidance on the collection of samples were available. Additionally, no protocols were available to guide the decision-making process for handling live stranded cetaceans. Excellent progress has been made towards the Output 3 Indicators, with all time-bound Indicators scheduled for Y1 being completed according to the project timeframe. This has included the visit to the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme in Inverness by the project leader in January 2025, where her capacity to carry out cetacean necropsies was improved by tuition in necropsy procedures and advice on equipment used (Indicator 3.1; Annex 6.1). As a direct consequence, the project leader was already able to complete the necropsy of a Commerson's dolphin in the Falkland Islands to a much greater level of detail than she could do previously (Annex 6.1). A draft guidance protocol and associated data forms for use in the Falkland Islands were also completed during Y1 (Indicator 3.3; Annexes 6.2 and 6.3) and will be finalised during Y2 following feedback from SMASS. A large amount of time in Y1 was allocated to identifying and purchasing equipment for the five sampling tool kits that will be distributed to remoter parts of the Falklands, and for the core sampling kit held in Stanley (Indicator 3.4; Annex 6.4). This equipment will greatly improve both capacity and safety while collecting samples from dead cetaceans in the Islands, and includes suitable protective clothing as well as items such as knives, vials, scalpels, measuring tapes etc needed to sample. Indicators 3.2, 3.5 and 3.6 are all scheduled for later parts of the project in Y2 and Y3. It is currently expected that all of the Indicators listed for Output 3 will be fully achieved by the project completion.

**Output 4. Outreach and dissemination of project results to target audiences (government, marine users, local community, international scientists).**
The baseline condition for Output 4 was that awareness of whales in the Islands is generally good following the completion of two earlier Darwin Plus projects (DPLUS082 and DPLUS126). However, the local community, stakeholders and government have a relatively high turnover of personnel and movement between roles, and therefore the messaging regarding the importance of the Falklands as a global whale hotspot needs to be maintained. Additionally, engagement with several key stakeholders including whale-watching operators, and the government's Environment and Maritime Departments could be more targeted. Indicators relating to outreach (Output 4) are all progressing to schedule. Stakeholder updates have been issued according to the project timeframe (Annexes 7.1 and 7.2). Penguin News and FC Magazine articles have been produced (Annexes 7.3 to 7.5), and the reach of social media posts on the project website have almost always substantially exceeded the stated 1,000 people (up to 65,000 people per post: Annex 7.6). The remaining Indicators (4.2, 4.3, 4.6 and 4.7) are scheduled for the final year of the project. It is expected that all of the Indicators listed for Output 4 will be fully achieved by the project completion.

### 3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

The main stated project Outcome for DPLUS208 is '*Marine stakeholders better understand the species status and management of cetaceans in the Falkland Islands through the provision of evidence-based conservation and mitigation tools, enabling them to minimise potential impacts*.'

The baseline condition is that knowledge of baleen whales has increased in the Falkland Islands in the last decade, primarily as the direct result of two previous Darwin Plus projects (DPLUS082 and DPLUS126). However, although a large amount of data has been collected, there has been relatively little conversion of that data into simple format outputs that decision-makers can use to

protect species and mitigate human activities. This project aims to translate existing datasets into a series of key outputs that will provide a sound basis for effective management of cetaceans in the Falklands, and there are three main Indicators against which to measure the Outcome:

- At least two people from Falkland Islands Government Environment Department (FIG-ED) report an increase in their cetacean knowledge-base and available management tools by project completion **[DP-A07]**.
- Staff from two port authorities (Stanley Harbour and Mare Harbour) acknowledge receipt of mitigation plans and report an increased understanding of cetacean mitigation in relation to coastal development activities by project completion **[DP-A03]**.
- Environmental policy debate in the Falkland Islands incorporates outputs from this project with regard to the status of, and threats to, cetaceans. By project completion and beyond **[DP-C07, DP-D03]**.

DPLUS208 is at a relatively early stage, having only commenced six months prior to this first annual report (i.e. on 1 October 2024). All three of the Indicators are due by project completion. However, important first steps were made in Y1 towards achieving the project Outcome, for example in purchasing all project equipment, attending cetacean strandings, and commencing the sei whale UAV study, which are project components that will underpin the production of management advice. It is expected that Y2 will make significant progress towards the project Outcome with the development of the mitigation guidelines which will require considerable stakeholder engagement. We expect to deliver all of the Indicators by the end of the project, and therefore to successfully achieve the project Outcome.

### 3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

We identified a number of Important Assumptions in our project logframe at the start of DPLUS208 (see Annex 2), and they are summarised below.

**Outcome**
**Assumption 1**: Willingness by FIG to engage in the project.
**Comments:** This risk holds true. However, it has been mitigated to some extent because FIG are the primary project partner. This should ensure buy-in from the project outset and optimise the Outcome.

**Output 1**
**Assumption 1:** Whales are present during UAV fieldwork.
**Comments:** This risk holds true, since whales are highly mobile marine predators and their spatio-temporal occurrence can fluctuate between years. However, the risk is considered minimal because our assumption that sei whales will be present at the time of the UAV study is based on eight previous consecutive years of data confirming that sei whales are reliably found in Berkeley Sound between February and April each year (although their total numbers can fluctuate).

**Assumption 2:** Boat is functioning and available for fieldwork.
**Comments:** This risk holds true. The boat purchased for whale research under DPLUS126 has been stored and maintained to be compliant with marine coding. It is regularly serviced and annual inventories are kept to ensure that sufficient spares are available each year. It is therefore unlikely to be unavailable, unless a major and out-of-the-ordinary issue occurs.

**Assumption 3:** The UAV assessment is dependent on drone function and appropriate weather.
**Comments:** These risks hold true, particularly with the case of weather which is always *the* major limitation to the marine fieldwork carried out around the Falklands. The UAV requires good visibility (i.e. no fog or rain) in addition to calm winds, and is therefore even more sensitive to weather than some of the other fieldwork components. However, the project budget and assessment of what can reasonably be delivered was based on our knowledge of the weather conditions experienced during eight previous whale research seasons, and we expect to achieve sufficient days at sea to operate the UAV. The project leader received training in the specific operation of UAVs over whales by project partner Christiansen, including appropriate weather. The project budget was sufficient to purchase a spare UAV and remote control, so that in the

event of loss or failure of equipment then we have a backup. We believe these measures should reduce the risk and optimise the likelihood of success.

**Output 2**
**Assumption 1:** FPODS are successfully deployed, recovered, and have usable data.
**Comments:** This risk holds true. However, the FPODs have been purchased new for the project which should minimise the likelihood of wear and tear or failure. FC has good experience of deploying and recovering acoustic equipment in the Falklands and in producing moorings that will have high durability and resistance to weather. The FPODs are now able to record for longer durations that we expected when the project was designed, which will limit the number of deployments and recoveries and add-in even greater resistance to potential issues with moorings and weather. Discussion with Chelonia (the FPOD manufacturer) regarding settings will reduce the likelihood of incorrect programming and data loss. Finally, the mooring locations will be discussed with the Maritime Authority to reduce the potential for entanglement with vessel moorings in the harbour.

**Output 3**
**Assumption 1:** Logistics for international travel for experts progress according to plan.
**Comments:** This risk holds true. Travel to the Falklands is quite unpredictable due to weather cancellations. However, the stranding training elements are onshore and therefore very flexible in nature, and some flight delays would not impact the delivery of those elements which could be rescheduled. The main risk would be to the project budget if delays to travel resulted in increased accommodation expenses, and that risk may have to be borne by FC.

**Assumption 2:** Assumes at least one stranding during the project.
**Comments:** This risk holds true. However, even in Y1 of the project we have had seven reported stranding events, and been able to recover three dolphin carcasses for full necropsy. This is a much higher than usual number of small cetaceans, but we would still expect several baleen whale strandings to be reported each year and up to 13 strandings in some recent years. Therefore, we believe this risk is unlikely to be relevant over the project duration.

**Output 4**
**Assumption 1:** Launch companies that conduct whale watching engage with training.
**Comments:** This risk holds true. However, FIG have offered to assist in encouraging the key launch operators to attend training, which will provide good incentive for operators to comply.

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

DPLUS208 contributes to several local and international priorities and themes for the natural environment. The production of Species Action Plans (SAPs), IWC stock assessment data, and mitigation guidelines for activities including piling and seismic surveys will fulfil several targets:

- DEFRA's 25 Year Environment Plan which requires 'action to recover threatened, iconic animals and preventing human induced extinction or loss of known threatened species in Overseas Territories.'
- UKOTs Biodiversity Strategy 2014 which requires the advancement of 'delivering Strategic Priorities (i) informing policy and management plans.'
- Falkland Islands Environment Strategy 2021–2040 which has stated goals for the oceans and coasts including;
    - to have healthy, functioning and robust marine and coastal ecosystems in the Falkland Islands through protections and management;
    - sustainably managing human activities which impact our oceans and coasts; and
    - cross-boundary management of marine ecosystems in the South West Atlantic.
- Falkland Islands Biodiversity Framework 2016–2030, which requires that the conservation status of known threatened species has been improved and sustained with

targets including: (1) produce and implement Action Plans for ‘Priority Species’; and (2) implement legal and policy mechanisms to reduce threat levels to ‘Priority species.'

In addition, DPLUS208 will contribute to several international themes including:

- The sei whale is listed as globally Endangered on the IUCN Red List, and its status in the southern hemisphere is particularly unclear and considered a research priority. The Falklands are recognised as a global hotspot for this Endangered species, and therefore measures to maintain or increase the species in the Falklands are likely to favourably contribute to its global status. While the southern right whale is listed as globally Least Concern, an International Whaling Commission (IWC) Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) exists for the south-west Atlantic population which has experienced high calf mortalities in recent years. The IWC-CMP does not currently include recognition of the Falkland Islands, and this project will provide additional impetus for including the region.
- Of the most commonly occurring coastal species in the Falklands, the sei whale, humpback whale and the southern right whale are included on Appendix I (endangered migratory species) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention, 1979), requiring Range States to strictly protect them and conserve their habitats. The sei whale, killer whale, Peale’s dolphin and the Commerson’s dolphin are also included on CMS Appendix II, as species whose conservation status would benefit from international agreements for their conservation and management. This project will provide data and relevant management outputs to protect cetacean species in the Falklands and therefore to help meet the CMS obligations.
- In recent years the waters around the Falkland Islands have been recognised as an IUCN Key Biodiversity Area for sei whales and southern right whales. Three IUCN Important Marine Mammal Areas were also recently designated for cetaceans in the Falklands, including under Criterion D2 relating to diversity of species. The international recognition of Falklands’ cetacean biodiversity by these tools provides good justification for the need for the management outputs proposed by this project.

These points reflect the broader environmental contributions that DPLUS208 is expected to achieve over its timeframe. Currently, the project has only been running for six months and therefore we have few specific points to report at this time beyond putting the groundwork in place to get the project up and running and commence data collection.

## 5. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

There are no specific barriers to gender equality or social inclusion within DPLUS208. The Project Leaders for DPLUS126 at Falklands Conservation consist of one female and one male, with the female Cetacean Ecologist leading most of the practical implementation and delivery of the project and the male Conservation Manager inputting on M&E. Of the 12 staff currently based in the Stanley office of Falklands Conservation, there is an even sex ratio (six females, six males). We also have both female and male leads at our Project Partner organisations. Our core fieldwork team consists of one female (Cetacean Ecologist) and one male (Coxswain), and thus also has an even sex ratio.

No training opportunities were scheduled for Y1 of DPLUS208, but when they occur in Y2 and Y3 they will strive to include 50% female participants by keeping places available for females for as long as possible. While allocating places on training events we are also committed to being aware of, and striving to facilitate, equal representation of ethnicity, class, age, and disability, although some training opportunities will be inherently limited to people over 16 yr of age and requiring a certain level of mobility because of their physical nature (e.g. the live cetacean re-floating training).

We believe that DPLUS208 falls into the ‘Empowering’ category of the GESI scale, because it does not create or exacerbate inequality. Moreover, the Cetacean Ecologist is female and has overall responsibility for the projects successful implementation despite working in capacities that have been traditionally male dominated (i.e., marine boat fieldwork and cetacean research).

| 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 | |

## 6. Monitoring and evaluation

The project logframe provided in Annexes 1 and 2 provides a clear set of Indicators and Outputs against which DPLUS208 can be continuously monitored and evaluated over time. A Change Request was submitted to Darwin Plus in May 2024 (see Section 14) which altered the project timeframe (including the M&E period) to commence and complete three months later than the original timeframe and included some associated minor amendments to the project logframe with regard to the timing of some Indicators and Activities. This revised logframe has been used here in AR1 and now forms the basis for the project M&E.

The Outputs and Activities of DPLUS208 clearly contribute to the overall project Outcome, since the project Outcome (marine stakeholders better understand the species status and management of cetaceans in the Falkland Islands through the provision of evidence-based conservation and mitigation tools, enabling them to minimise potential impacts) incorporates four Outputs focussed on providing specific tools and increasing awareness. Output 1 focuses on the delivery of Red Lists, Species Action Plans, and stock assessments, which have a clear link to managing cetaceans. Similarly, Output 2 focuses on developing mitigation tools for specific activities (e.g., Code of Conduct, seismic guidelines, piling guidelines) which will clearly support improved management. Output 3 focuses on the handling of stranded cetaceans (both live and dead), which feeds into both management and the identification of threats that may require mitigation. Finally, Output 4 relates to increasing awareness and outreach so that the Falklands community has the necessary understanding and enthusiasm to implement management measures for cetaceans. In combination, the Outputs and their Activities have clear links to supporting the project Outcome, and the associated time-bound Indicators allow for straightforward M&E.

Falklands Conservation is the lead organisation for DPLUS208, and there are two project Co-Leads which provides scope for exchange of ideas and M&E discussions. Given the multi-faceted nature of the project, the project partners are each involved in very specific components and are therefore expected to input primarily on their own specialities (as described in Section 2), including related budgeting and logistical concerns. Since DPLUS208 is still at a very early stage, this approach will be amended as needed while the project develops.

While the Cetacean Ecologist has overall responsibility for the project expenditure, FC has three Office Admin staff to ensure that all project finances are properly logged and accounted for.

## 7. Lessons learnt

DPLUS208 has only been running for 6 months, and no major issues have been encountered over that timeframe. This is very much the consequence of the many lessons learnt during two earlier DPLUS funded projects (DPLUS082 and DPLUS126), which has allowed us to plan DPLUS208 carefully to avoid earlier issues. In particular, we factored in a relatively large lead-in time for ordering equipment for the UAV, acoustic and stranding work, to enable it to be purchased and shipped to the Islands in good time for those project components. We have also drawn on eight previous seasons of sei whale fieldwork in the Islands, in order to schedule the DPLUS208 boat work to optimise success. Up until the end of March 2025 (i.e., the timeframe of AR1), DPLUS208 has progressed entirely to schedule and without any significant issues, and consequently we do not have any new lessons learnt to report here. Perhaps the only thing that we would change in hindsight would be to have allowed a longer period for the project leader to work with SMASS in Scotland, because the number of freshly dead animals arriving at SMASS in January 2025 was very low and limited the number of necropsies that were carried out that month. However, this was just unfortunate, because they usually do have more animals in January in other years.

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

Not Applicable. This report relates to Y1 of DPLUS208 and as such there are no previous reviews. We have already responded to the feedback sent to us when our project was funded.

## 9. Risk Management

As noted earlier, DPLUS208 has only been operational for six months. However, a lot of the risks identified for the project related to the logistics of ordering and operating equipment during the field seasons, the successful completion of fieldwork (i.e., whales being present and the boat being operational), and the occurrence of strandings (see Important Assumptions section). None of these risks materialised during Y1, with successful sei whale work being carried out in February and March as scheduled, and all equipment being ordered and shipped in a timely manner. Further, we have been able to attend several cetacean strandings during Y1 (see Annexes 6.1, 6.5 and 6.6). No new risks arose that had not been previously accounted for, and no significant adaptations to the project design have been made in Y1 to address risk.

An updated copy of our risk register has been submitted with AR1.

## 10. Scalability and durability

DPLUS208 builds directly on two previous Darwin-funded whale projects in the Falkland Islands (DPLUS082 and DPLUS126) and is in itself a legacy of those two successful projects and evidence of the engagement with the Falkland Islands Government (a project partner) in supporting ongoing whale research and management outputs. DPLUS208 aims to build on the data collected during those projects, and, together with some novel data collected during the current project, translate all of the last decade of whale data into a series of tangible management-related outputs that are concise and presented in a format that can be easily understood by the target stakeholders (primarily marine users). As such, DPLUS208 itself demonstrates a high level of scalability and durability, building on previous projects to ensure that all available existing data are compiled and made available to manage whales for the foreseeable future.

The combined project outputs will provide a solid evidence-base that will underpin the protection of cetacean biodiversity in the Falkland Islands for decades to come, with targeted conservation actions laid out clearly in Action Plans, mitigation protocols, and Codes of Conduct. This will serve to maintain cetacean biodiversity in the Islands, benefitting the environment through the preservation of keystone species and providing enjoyment to the local community.

The assessments of conservation status, threats and stock (i.e. Red List and stock assessments) will form a baseline against which future comparisons over time can provide information on population trends and threats that are relevant to the wider conservation management of whales by national government, and by local and international conservation bodies.

The capacity for responding to cetacean strandings will be maintained long-term through the continued availability of equipment and the best practice protocols developed during the project's lifetime, by the training of locally-based personnel (especially those living and working in remote locations on West Falkland and the outer islands), and by continued outreach to the developed stranding network to maintain interest. The availability of samples from future strandings will benefit FIG and the wider international scientific community over a much longer timeframe beyond DPLUS208 through improved knowledge of species diversity and threats.

The legacy of all elements of DPLUS208 will be maintained through the free availability of all outputs on the Falklands Conservation website and the provision of metadata summaries to the IMS-GIS centre in Stanley so that everyone can readily understand what data are available from DPLUS208.

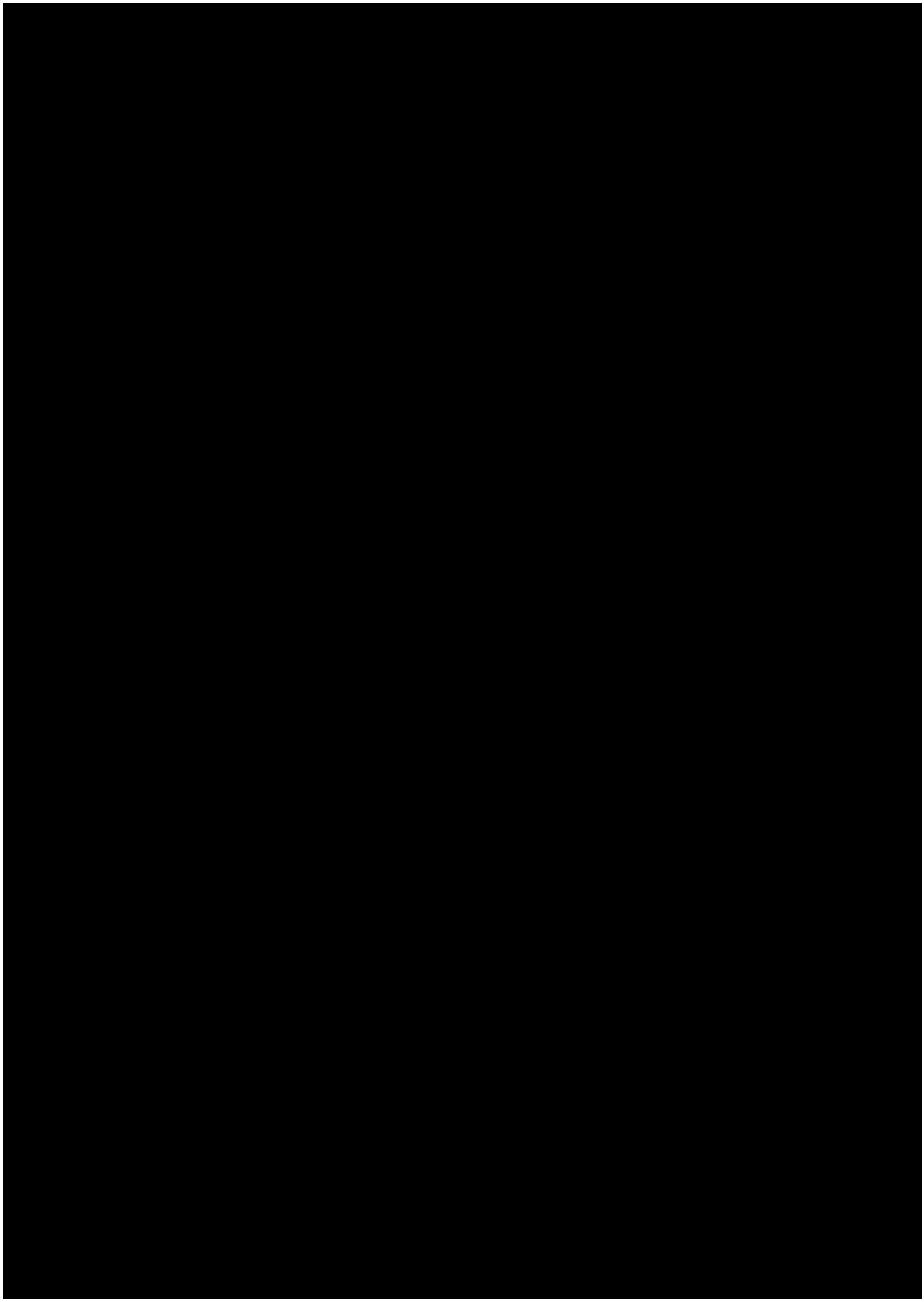
## 11. Darwin Plus identity

There is already a good understanding of the Darwin Initiative and Darwin Plus within the Falkland Islands, as this is one of the main sources of funding for environmental projects in the Islands, including some of Falklands Conservation's earlier whale work (DPLUS082 and DPLUS126).

At the start of DPLUS082 we established a Facebook page for the whale project in the Falkland Islands, and this has been maintained throughout DPLUS126. Currently (April 2025) the page has almost 6,000 followers, and because it has taken time to establish a strong following then we have opted to keep the same page running through DPLUS208. However, the cover banner for the page was recently updated with one of the sei whale images collected using the drone as part of DPLUS208, and the project number was added in addition to the logo (Annex 7.6; https://www.facebook.com/FalklandsWhale). We hope that this serves to highlight the identity of the project and promote Darwin Plus.

DPLUS208 is at a relatively early stage and has focussed predominantly on setting up the project, acquiring equipment, and commencing the 2025 sei whale season. However, the Darwin Plus logo has been used on the few outputs to date, including the updates to the stakeholders (Annex 7.2), the draft Red List report (Annex 4.1), and the draft stranding protocol and data forms (Annexes 6.2 and 6.3). We expect that opportunities to publicise Darwin Plus will increase substantially during Y2 and Y3 of the project, when magazine articles will be published, the sampling kits disseminated, and training events carried out (with media coverage from the local radio and tv stations). Darwin Plus will be mentioned and their logo included at every possible opportunity.

## 12. Safeguarding



## 13. Project expenditure

A change request was submitted to Darwin Plus in May 2024, which slightly changed the project timeframe and some budget lines between years (see Section 14). The budget used in Table 1 are the revised values following the approval of that Change Request. All expenditure was +/- 10% of each budget line. Overall, Y1 of DPLUS208 kept well to the agreed budget and finished with a £56.96 underspend.

**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 (£) | 2024/25 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** | £57,275.00 | £57,218.04 | | |

**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] | | Falklands Conservation, Falkland Islands Government, British Antarctic Survey, Aarhus University, Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme |
| Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£) | | | |

## 14. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

In May 2024 we submitted a Change Request to Darwin Plus that incorporated the following:

(1) Delay to the start of DPLUS208 by three months (from 1 July 2024 to 1 Oct 2024) and a corresponding extension of the end of the project by three months (from 31 March 2027 to 30 June 2027). This meant extending the project into a fourth financial year.

(2) Reallocation of some funding between financial years to account for the reduced amount of time in Year 1 and allow the continuation of DPLUS208 into a fourth financial year.

(3) Revision of the project logframe and work plan to account for the 3-month shift in timeframe. Some of the planned Activities and Indicators could not simply be delayed by three months, because they were scheduled around specific fixed dates. For example, the sei whale field season will still have to be carried out in Feb-May because that is when whale occurrence peaks in the Falklands, and the timing of Conference attendance has to remain the same because the dates are fixed. Consequently, while many of the planned Activities and Indicators were still scheduled for the same financial year as the original project timeframe, some of the less time-restricted deliverables were juggled in order to fit everything into the new project dates.

The Change Request reflected the several months delay in the confirmation of project funding by DPLUS, which meant that key project staff had committed to other work and were no longer available for the original 1 July 2024 start date. The Change Request was approved by DPLUS in June 2024, and the logframe and workplans described here in AR1 reflect the revised timeframe of the project with an end date now scheduled for 30 June 2027.

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

Non-applicable – DPLUS208 has only been running for six months, and therefore we don't have anything outstanding to report here yet, beyond the fact that the project is progressing well and to schedule.

| 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 October 2024 - March 2025 | Actions required/planned for next period |
|---|---|---|
| ***Impact***<br>**The conservation status of cetacean species in the Falkland Islands is understood, and cetacean biodiversity is protected via informed conservation actions and evidence-based threat mitigation.** | Y1 of DPLUS208 has focussed on acquiring the equipment and carrying out the fieldwork (included the necropsy training and the commencement of the 2025 sei whale season in February and March) that will underpin the deliverables and achievement of the project outcome in the final year of the project. | [redacted] |
| ***Outcome***<br>**Marine stakeholders better understand the species status and management of cetaceans in the Falkland Islands through the provision of evidence-based conservation and mitigation tools, enabling them to minimise potential impacts.** | | |
| Outcome indicator 0.1: At least two people from Falkland Islands Government Environment Department (FIG-ED) report an increase in their cetacean knowledge-base and available management tools by project completion **[DP-A07]**. | N/A, scheduled for project completion. | Liaison with FIG-ED will continue during Y2, including with respect to the Red List, Code of Conduct, mitigation guidelines and strandings. |
| Outcome indicator 0.2: Staff from two port authorities (Stanley Harbour and Mare Harbour) acknowledge receipt of mitigation plans and report an increased understanding of cetacean mitigation in relation to coastal development activities by project completion **[DP-A03]**. | N/A, scheduled for project completion. | Draft mitigation plans will be developed during Y2 and distributed to key stakeholders including port authorities. |
| Outcome indicator 0.3: Environmental policy debate in the Falkland Islands incorporates outputs from this project with regard to the status of, and threats to, cetaceans. By project completion and beyond **[DP-C07, DP-D03]**. | N/A, scheduled for project completion. | N/A, scheduled for project completion. However, opportunities to raise cetaceans during policy updates will be taken whenever possible. |
| **Output 1. Development of evidence-based cetacean management tools and submission to Falkland Islands Government.** | | |
| Output indicator 1.1: FIG-ED receive and comment on a draft national Red List for cetaceans in the Falklands by Yr2 Q1 **[DP-B02, DP-C02]**. | The draft national Red List is due in Y2 of the project. However, a start was made during Y1 in establishing how the global RL criteria could be best applied to a national RL in the Falkland Islands and some initial work was carried out on writing the draft report (evidenced in Annex 4.1). | The draft RL report is due to be completed during Y2 and feedback acquired from FIG-ED. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Output indicator 1.2: FIG-ED receive and provide feedback on a Species Action Plan (SAP) for southern right whales by Y3 Q3 **[DP-B02]**. | N/A – Work towards this Indicator is scheduled for Y3 of the project. | N/A – This Indicator is scheduled for Y3 of the project. |
| Output indicator 1.3: FIG-ED receive and provide feedback on the revised SAP for endangered sei whales produced during DPLUS126, following the incorporation of new information on threats obtained during a novel unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) field study and assessment of boat-based photo-identification images by Y3 Q3 **[DP-B02].** | During Y1, all UAV equipment was purchased and shipped successfully to the Falklands in time for the 2025 sei whale season (Feb-May 2025). By the end of March, 31 UAV flights had been carried out to acquire imagery of individual sei whales (evidenced in Annex 4.2). Work on the analysis and reporting for Indicator 1.3 is scheduled for Y2 and Y3 of the project. | Further UAV imagery will be acquired for the remainder of the 2025 sei whale field season (comprising April and May 2025).<br>Analysis will commence in Y2 on the body measurements and scar analysis of the whales. |
| Output indicator 1.4: Regional understanding of Falklands' whales is improved through the completion of stock assessments for sei and right whales by project completion and their presentation to cetacean scientists and governments at the IWC **[DP-C02].** | This Indicator is scheduled for Y2 and Y3 of DPLUS208. However, an online meeting was held with Jen Jackson of BAS on 7 March to discuss the genetic work that will be carried out in Y2 in support of the stock assessments (evidenced in Annex 4.3). | The Project Leader Caroline Weir will spend five months at BAS at the end of Y2 to analyse all available whale tissue samples from the Falklands for the stock assessments. Associated travel and logistics will be completed to support that visit. |
| **Output 2. Development of tools to mitigate specific anthropogenic activities that may potentially injure or kill cetaceans in the Falklands.** | | |
| Output indicator 2.1: Marine stakeholders have improved access to information on the occurrence of cetaceans in the Falklands through the production of project Technical Report summarising existing and novel information on cetacean species in the highest area of marine user activity in the Falklands (Stanley Harbour, Port William and Berkeley Sound by project completion **[DP-C19].** | The production of the Technical Report is scheduled for Y3 and Y4 of the project. However, progress was made to compile some of the data needed to produce the report, in the purchase and shipping of four acoustic devices (FPODs) to the Falkland Islands and the purchase of mooring equipment to support the year of dolphin acoustic monitoring within Stanley Harbour (evidenced in Annex 5.1). | The FPODs will be deployed by May 2025 (Y2) to acquire a full year of dolphin data. |
| Output indicator 2.2: Marine stakeholders have access to Falklands-specific guidance for the mitigation of seismic activities on cetaceans by Y2 Q4 **[DP-B02]**. | N/A. This Indicator is scheduled for completion in Y2. | The production of draft Falklands-specific mitigation protocols and their submission to FIG-ED is scheduled for Y2. |
| Output indicator 2.3: Marine stakeholders have access to Falklands-specific guidance for the mitigation of piling and construction activities on cetaceans by Y2 Q4 **[DP-B02]**. | N/A. This Indicator is scheduled for completion in Y2. | The production of draft Falklands-specific mitigation protocols and their submission to FIG-ED is scheduled for Y2. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Output indicator 2.4: Marine users are aware of and have access to an updated Cetacean Code of Conduct (first developed in 2020) by Y3 Q1 **[DP-B02]**. | The revision of the Cetacean Code of Conduct has been scheduled for Y3. However, the opportunity arose to meet with the FIG to discuss the Code of Conduct in February 2025 and is evidenced in Annex 5.2. | N/A. This Indicator is not scheduled until Y3. |
| **Output 3. Capacity to deal with live and dead cetacean strandings is increased in order to better identify threats and optimise scientific knowledge through sample collection.** | | |
| Output indicator 3.1: A key Falklands-based organisation has improved knowledge of detailed necropsy methodology aimed at establishing causes of cetacean death by the end of 2025 **[DP-A01].** | In January 2025, Caroline Weir the Cetacean Ecologist for Falklands Conservation visited the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme and was guided through necropsy procedures and shown the equipment used (Annex 6.1). This has improved her capacity for carrying out cetacean necropsies in the Falklands, and one was already carried out on a Commerson's dolphin calf in February 2025 (Annex 6.1). | CW will continue to carry out necropsies in the Falklands as needed, with remote guidance from SMASS. |
| Output indicator 3.2: At least 20 local people in the Falklands (including at least 50% female) have improved capacity to carry out basic stranding sampling methodology by Y2 Q2 **[DP-A05]**. | N/A. This Indicator is scheduled for completion in Y2. However, it is intended that training will include some 'hands-on' experience with two dead dolphins that were collected in March 2025 and are currently frozen and awaiting necropsy. One person was already trained while assisting with the Commerson's dolphin necropsy. | Complete the training of 20 people. |
| Output indicator 3.3: The local community benefits from standardised guidance on the sampling of cetaceans in the Falklands which improves their ability to handle strandings by Y2 Q2 **[DP-A03, DP-C01]**. | A draft guidance protocol (Annex 6.2) and data forms (Annex 6.3) were produced during Y1 and will be distributed for feedback in early Y2. | Acquire feedback om guidance protocol from SMASS, revise and distribute. |
| Output indicator 3.4: The local community benefits from the availability of suitable sampling equipment (including in Stanley and at least five locations on West Falkland and the outer islands) to improve their capacity for handling strandings by Y2 Q2 **[DP-A03]**. | Excellent progress was made in Y1 by the visit to SMASS to see the equipment that they use for sampling (Annex 6.1) and then the ordering of a large amount of equipment that will be used in the five sampling kits (Annex 6.4). That included the purchase of tool boxes, measuring tapes, knives, scalpels, latex gloves etc that will form the sampling kits, as well as core equipment needed in Stanley to improve capacity for sample collection (e.g. overalls, weighing scales, formalin etc). Much of this equipment is yet to arrive in the Islands, but was ordered in good time to achieve the Indicator timeframe. | Once equipment arrives the sampling kits will be put together and distributed to five sites around the Islands. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Output indicator 3.5: The ability of Falklands-based decision makers (including government and NGOs) to implement a decision-making process for the rescue and reflotation (or subsequent euthanasia) of live stranded cetaceans is improved by the provision of expert training to at least 50 local people (including at least 50% female) by Y3 Q1 **[DP-A01, DP-A03],** with subsequent annual refresher course **[DP-A04, DP-A05]** | N/A. This Indicator is scheduled for completion in Y3. | Plan travel arrangements for the BDMLR visit to the Falklands in Y3 for the training.<br>Check the equipment that we have in the Falkland Islands is in good working order. |
| Output indicator 3.6: The ability of Falklands-based decision makers (including government and NGOs) to implement a decision-making process for the rescue and reflotation (or subsequent euthanasia) of live stranded cetaceans is improved by the development of a protocol for decision-making during live stranding events by Y3 Q1 **[DP-C01]**. | N/A. This Indicator is scheduled for completion in Y3. | N/A |
| **Output 4. Outreach and dissemination of project results to target audiences (government, marine users, local community, international scientists).** | | |
| Output indicator 4.1: Key marine stakeholders have heightened awareness of cetacean biodiversity through the dissemination of project results via bi-annual reports in Y1, Y2, Y3 and Y4. | A stakeholder update was issued on 8 October and included both a progress update on DPLUS126 (which ended in Dec 2024) and the introduction to DPLUS208 (which commenced in Oct 2024) – evidenced in Annex 7.1.<br>The first stakeholder report issued solely for DPLUS208 was distributed on 28 February 2025 (Annex 7.2). | Continue with bi-annual stakeholder updates. |
| Output indicator 4.2: Harbour masters and maritime departments have improved understanding of cetacean mitigation plans and the Cetacean Code of Conduct by Y3 Q1 **[DP-A07].** | N/A. This Indicator is scheduled for completion in Y3. | The mitigation plans will be developed during Y2 and will include opportunity for feedback from the harbour masters. |
| Output indicator 4.3: Local whale-watch vessel operators have improved understanding of applying the Code of Conduct by Y3 Q2 through the provision of training and attendance by target representatives from at least two launch companies carrying out whale-watching activities. | N/A. This Indicator is scheduled for completion in Y3. | N/A. |
| Output indicator 4.4: At least 50% of the local community of ~3,000 people is informed of the project goals and results via at least **[DP-C15]**: 1 x Penguin News article per year (Y1, Y2, Y3 and Y4), 1 x FC magazine article per year (Nov '24, Nov '25, Nov '26 and May '27), 1 x Falkland Islands radio interview (by Y2 Q1), and 1 x FITV interview (by Y3 Q1). | Due to the timing of events beyond our control, Penguin News articles on cetaceans were published twice during March 2025 but either: (1) related to outputs from DPLUS126 rather than DPLUS208 (Annex 7.3) or (2) were written by the PN themselves based on one of our social media posts (Annex 7.4). Nevertheless, these continue to highlight the | Produce PN and FC magazine articles, and take advantage of any opportunities for radio and TV interviews. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | work being carried out on cetaceans in the Islands and therefore support Indicator 4.4. A magazine article on the UAV fieldwork on sei whales has been drafted (Annex 7.5) and will be included in the May 2025 issue of the FC magazine. | |
| Output indicator 4.5: The reach of social media posts on the project page extends to an average of over 1,000 local and international people over the project duration **[DP-C12].** | Posts published on the social media page (https://www.facebook.com/FalklandsWhale) during Y1 have almost all had a reach that well exceeded 1,000 people (Annex 7.6). One post on a stranding event had a reach of 65,000 people (Annex 7.6). | Maintain regular social media posts to keep engagement high. |
| Output indicator 4.6: Two journal articles on cetacean occurrence and its relevance to conservation and management in the Falklands are submitted to peer-reviewed journals by Y4 Q1, with at least one reaching publication stage by project completion **[DP-C06, DP-C17]**. | N/A. This Indicator is scheduled for completion by Y4. | N/A. |
| Output indicator 4.7: Attendance, and presentation of project results at, one relevant international scientific conference by project completion [**DP-C17]**. | N/A. This Indicator is scheduled for completion in Y3. | N/A. |

## Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the change request approved by Darwin Plus in June 2024.

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Means of verification | Important Assumptions |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Impact:** The conservation status of cetacean species in the Falkland Islands is understood, and cetacean biodiversity is protected via informed conservation actions and evidence-based threat mitigation. | | | |
| **Outcome:**<br>Marine stakeholders better understand the species status and management of cetaceans in the Falkland Islands through the provision of evidence-based conservation and mitigation tools, enabling them to minimise potential impacts. | 0.1. At least two people from Falkland Islands Government Environment Department (FIG-ED) report an increase in their cetacean knowledge-base and available management tools by project completion **[DP-A07]**.<br>0.2. Staff from two port authorities (Stanley Harbour and Mare Harbour) acknowledge receipt of mitigation plans and report an increased understanding of cetacean mitigation in relation to coastal development activities by project completion **[DP-A03]**.<br>0.3. Environmental policy debate in the Falkland Islands incorporates outputs from this project with regard to the status of, and threats to, cetaceans. By project completion and beyond **[DP-C07, DP-D03]**. | 0.1. Letters/emails from FIG-ED to confirm.<br>0.2. Letters/emails from both harbour authorities to confirm.<br>0.3. Letters/emails from FIG-ED to confirm, and copies of policies where appropriate. | Willingness by FIG to engage in the project.<br>*FIG are the primary project partner in order to ensure buy-in from the outset and optimise the Outcome.* |
| **Output 1**<br>Development of evidence-based cetacean management tools and submission to Falkland Islands Government. | 1.1. FIG-ED receive and comment on a draft national Red List for cetaceans in the Falklands by Yr2 Q1 **[DP-B02, DP-C02]**.<br>1.2. FIG-ED receive and provide feedback on a Species Action Plan (SAP) for southern right whales by Y3 Q3 **[DP-B02]**.<br>1.3. FIG-ED receive and provide feedback on the revised SAP for endangered sei whales produced during | 1.1. Copy of Red List document made available online and data entries recorded at https://www.nationalredlist.org/)<br>1.2. Copy of the SAP and copy of submission email.<br>1.3. Copies of UAV imagery provided in a report of the UAV fieldwork and made available online. Metadata catalogue entry for the UAV dataset on IMS-GIS centre website **[DP-C16].** Updated | Whales are present during UAV fieldwork.<br>*The fieldwork will be scheduled for the months of peak sei whale occurrence (Feb-Apr) to optimise the likelihood of whales being present.*<br>Boat is functioning and available for fieldwork.<br>*The boat purchased under DPLUS126 has been stored and serviced and* |

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Means of verification | Important Assumptions |
|---|---|---|---|
| | DPLUS126, following the incorporation of new information on threats obtained during a novel unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) field study and assessment of boat-based photo-identification images by Y3 Q3 **[DP-B02].**<br><br>1.4. Regional understanding of Falklands' whales is improved through the completion of stock assessments for sei and right whales by project completion and their presentation to cetacean scientists and governments at the IWC **[DP-C02].** | version of the sei whale SAP will be available online.<br><br>1.4. Copy of database with genetic results. Copies of assessment reports made available online and submitted as papers to the International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting in May 2027. | *maintained compliant with marine coding. It is unlikely to be unavailable.*<br><br>The UAV assessment is dependent on drone function and appropriate weather.<br><br>*The project leader will receive training in the specific operation of UAVs over whales by project partner Christiansen, including appropriate weather.* |
| **Output 2**<br><br>Development of tools to mitigate specific anthropogenic activities that may potentially injure or kill cetaceans in the Falklands. | 2.1. Marine stakeholders have improved access to information on the occurrence of cetaceans in the Falklands through the production of project Technical Report summarising existing and novel information on cetacean species in the highest area of marine user activity in the Falklands (Stanley Harbour, Port William and Berkeley Sound by project completion **[DP-C19].**<br><br>2.2. Marine stakeholders have access to Falklands-specific guidance for the mitigation of seismic activities on cetaceans by Y2 Q4 **[DP-B02]**.<br><br>2.3. Marine stakeholders have access to Falklands-specific guidance for the mitigation of piling and construction activities on cetaceans by Y2 Q4 **[DP-B02]**.<br><br>2.4. Marine users are aware of and have access to an updated Cetacean | 2.1 to 2.4. Copies of meeting minutes with FIG-ED during the drafting of the documents. Copies of the final drafts of documents made available online and disseminated to relevant organisations within the Falkland Islands (shown by copies of emails). | FPODS are successfully deployed, recovered and have usable data.<br><br>*FPOD deployments will use suitable benthic moorings and, where possible, additional mooring ropes to adjacent jetties to avoid their loss. Training with Chelonia will reduce the likelihood of incorrect programming and data loss.* |

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Means of verification | Important Assumptions |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Code of Conduct (first developed in 2020) by Y3 Q1 **[DP-B02]**. | | |
| **Output 3**<br>Capacity to deal with live and dead cetacean strandings is increased in order to better identify threats and optimise scientific knowledge through sample collection. | 3.1. A key Falklands-based organisation has improved knowledge of detailed necropsy methodology aimed at establishing causes of cetacean death by the end of 2025 **[DP-A01].**<br>3.2. At least 20 local people in the Falklands (including at least 50% female) have improved capacity to carry out basic stranding sampling methodology by Y2 Q2 **[DP-A05]**.<br>3.3. The local community benefits from standardised guidance on the sampling of cetaceans in the Falklands which improves their ability to handle strandings by Y2 Q2 **[DP-A03, DP-C01]**.<br>3.4. The local community benefits from the availability of suitable sampling equipment (including in Stanley and at least five locations on West Falkland and the outer islands) to improve their capacity for handling strandings by Y2 Q2 **[DP-A03]**.<br>The ability of Falklands-based decision makers (including government and NGOs) to implement a decision-making process for the rescue and reflotation (or subsequent euthanasia) of live stranded cetaceans is improved by:<br>3.5. the provision of expert training to at least 50 local people (including at least 50% female) by Y3 Q1 **[DP-A01, DP-** | 3.1. Photos of the training and details of travel arrangements.<br>3.2. Photos of training events, copies of training course attendance certificates and post-course feedback.<br>3.3. Copy of the document made available online, and copy of its distribution email to local stakeholders.<br>3.4. Copies of order receipts and photos of the equipment in different locations.<br>3.2 to 3.4. Samples are collected from at least 50% of stranding events over the timeframe of the project **[DP-A04, DP-C09];** evidenced by images of sample collection taking place, copies of stranding reports, metadata catalogue entries on IMS-GIS centre website **[DP-C16].**<br>3.5. Photos of the training events, copies of training course attendance certificates and post-course feedback. Copies of travel arrangements for international expert.<br>3.6. Copy of the document made available online, and copy of its distribution email to local stakeholders. | Logistics for international travel for experts progress according to plan.<br>*Travel to the Falklands is quite unpredictable due to weather cancellations. However, the stranding training elements are onshore and therefore very flexible in nature, and some flight delays would not impact their delivery.*<br>Assumes at least one stranding during the project.<br>*Based on the last five years, we expect up to 13 strandings per year, and so the project has a high likelihood of attending strandings.* |

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Means of verification | Important Assumptions |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **A03],** with subsequent annual refresher course **[DP-A04, DP-A05]**; and<br><br>3.6. the development of a protocol for decision-making during live stranding events by Y3 Q1 **[DP-C01]**. | | |
| **Output 4**<br><br>Outreach and dissemination of project results to target audiences (government, marine users, local community, international scientists). | 4.1. Key marine stakeholders have heightened awareness of cetacean biodiversity through the dissemination of project results via bi-annual reports in Y1, Y2, Y3 and Y4.<br><br>4.2. Harbour masters and maritime departments have improved understanding of cetacean mitigation plans and the Cetacean Code of Conduct by Y3 Q1 **[DP-A07].**<br><br>4.3. Local whale-watch vessel operators have improved understanding of applying the Code of Conduct by Y3 Q2 through the provision of training and attendance by target representatives from at least two launch companies carrying out whale-watching activities.<br><br>The local community is made more aware of cetacean biodiversity in the Falklands via:<br><br>4.4. At least 50% of the local community of ~3,000 people is informed of the project goals and results via at least **[DP-C15]**: 1 x Penguin News article per year (Y1, Y2, Y3 and Y4), 1 x FC magazine article per year (Nov '24, Nov '25, Nov '26 and May '27), 1 x Falkland Islands radio interview (by Y2 Q1), and 1 x FITV interview (by Y3 Q1); and | 4.1. Copies of bi-annual stakeholder reports and evidence of their distribution via email.<br><br>4.2. Copies of the distribution of the documents via email to relevant stakeholders, specifically including FIG-ED and port authorities at Stanley and Mare Harbours.<br><br>4.3. Copy of training material, and record of course attendance and course feedback.<br><br>4.4. Copies of all media outputs.<br><br>4.5. Copies of Facebook metrics for the project social media site.<br><br>4.6. Copies of journal confirmation emails. | Launch companies that conduct whale watching engage with training.<br><br>*FIG have offered to assist in encouraging the key launch operators to attend training, which will provide good incentive.* |

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Means of verification | Important Assumptions |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 4.5. The reach of social media posts on the project page extends to an average of over 1,000 local and international people over the project duration **[DP-C12].**<br><br>The wider international scientific community has improved awareness of cetacean biodiversity in the Falklands via:<br><br>4.6. Two journal articles on cetacean occurrence and its relevance to conservation and management in the Falklands are submitted to peer-reviewed journals by Y4 Q1, with at least one reaching publication stage by project completion **[DP-C06, DP-C17]**.<br><br>4.7. Attendance, and presentation of project results at, one relevant international scientific conference by project completion [**DP-C17]**. | | |

**Activities** (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)

**Output 1.**

1.1.1. Meeting with FIG-ED regarding the Red List development.

1.1.2. Identify the criteria to be used in National Red List assessment, and whether it will be IUCN, modified-IUCN or non-IUCN.

1.1.3. Compile existing data on cetacean distribution, population structure, ecology, habitat and threats in the Falklands to carry out Red List assessment.

1.1.4. Liaise with FIG-ED to acquire feedback on draft Red List assessment and subsequent revision.

1.2. Compile existing data on southern right whales in the Falkland Islands, and analyse those data to support a SAP.

1.3.1. Purchase and ship UAV equipment to support sei whale work.

1.3.2. Research permits and risk assessments organised ahead of the sei whale UAV work.

1.3.3. Arrange logistics and conduct field season to obtain high quality unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) imagery of at least 50 sei whales in the Falklands.

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Means of verification | Important Assumptions |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1.3.4. UAV imagery used to assess sei whale body condition (as a proxy for health) between individuals and across the season using standardised photogrammetry methods and included in UAV field report.<br><br>1.3.5. UAV imagery used to identify scar patterns on individual whales consistent with anthropogenic activities (e.g. entanglements, vessel strikes) to inform sei whale SAP **[DP-B02]** and included in UAV field report.<br><br>1.3.6. Evaluation completed of scar types on sei whales, and assigned to anthropogenic vs natural causal factors.<br><br>1.3.7. Re-assess the draft sei whale SAP (produced during DPLUS126) to provide updated information on anthropogenic threats, and issue revised draft **[DP-B02]**.<br><br>1.4.1. Arrange travel, accommodation and logistics for genetic training and analysis period at the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge.<br><br>1.4.2. Complete one month of training in the processing of genetic samples provided at the British Antarctic Survey, followed by four months of work processing all baleen whale tissue samples collected in the Falklands to date **[DP-A02, DP-A03]**.<br><br>1.4.3. Compile available genetic and additional evidence to produce stock assessments.<br><br>**Output 2.**<br><br>2.1.1. Acquire research permits for dolphin acoustic work.<br><br>2.1.2. Deploy 4 x FPODs to collect one year of acoustic data around Stanley Harbour.<br><br>2.1.3. Analyse FPOD and historic CPOD datasets to provide spatio-temporal dataset on dolphin use of Stanley Harbour.<br><br>2.1.4. Compile all existing and available datasets on cetacean species in the wider Stanley Harbour area, produce maps and conduct temporal analysis to produce report to inform EIAs.<br><br>2.2. Draft the seismic mitigation guidance and submit to FIG-ED for feedback and revision.<br><br>2.3. Draft the piling mitigation guidance and submit to FIG-ED for feedback and revision.<br><br>2.4. Meet with FIG-ED to discuss the Cetacean Code of Conduct and any revision needed. Implement revision and distribute.<br><br>**Output 3.**<br><br>3.1. Organise travel, accommodation and logistics for international training in cetacean necropsies.<br><br>3.2.1. Produce training material for basic sampling methods training course in the Falklands.<br><br>3.2.2. Identify venue for training course and publicise.<br><br>3.3. Compile guidance protocol for cetacean stranding sampling in the Falklands and distribute.<br><br>3.4.1. Produce equipment lists for sampling kits, order and ship to the Falklands.<br><br>3.4.2. Identify locations in the Falklands where sampling kits can be stored, and ship them. | | | |

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Means of verification | Important Assumptions |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3.5.1. Ensure research permits are in place to cover sample collection.<br>3.5.2. Organise logistics and attend cetacean strandings whenever they are reported.<br>3.6.1. Organise travel, accommodation and logistics for international training with BDMLR in cetacean rescue and re-flotation.<br>3.6.2. Advertise training opportunity and prepare certificates and database of attendance.<br>3.6.3. Organise and run annual refresher courses in cetacean rescue/re-flotation.<br>3.7. Produce draft protocol for live stranding events and distribute for feedback (FIG-ED, BDMLR etc.).<br>**Output 4.**<br>4.1.1. Identify list of key stakeholders for project updates.<br>4.1.2. Produce and distribute stakeholder updates.<br>4.3. Produce training materials for Code of Conduct training session.<br>4.4 and 4.5. Production and dissemination of outreach activities.<br>4.6. Data analysis and preparation of scientific manuscripts.<br>4.7. Book travel and organise logistics for attendance at scientific conference. | | | |

**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-A01 | Number of people from key national and local stakeholders completing structured and relevant training | 3.1, 3.5 | People | Gender; Stakeholder Group; Training typology; Proportion of trained people employed by their host organisation at the end of the project | 1 | | | 1 | 25 |
| DPLUS-A02 | Number of secondments or placements completed by individuals of key local and national stakeholders | – | People | Gender; Stakeholder group; Training typology | 1 | | | 1 | 2 |
| DPLUS-A03 | Number of local/national organisations with improved capability and capacity as a result of project | 0.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5 | Number of organisations | Organisation type | 1 | | | 1 | 3 |
| DPLUS-A04 | Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training | 3.5 | People | Gender; Stakeholder group; Training typology | 0 | | | 0 | 2 |
| DPLUS-A05 | Number of trainers trained reporting to have delivered further training by the end of the project | 3.2, 3.5 | Number trained | Gender; Stakeholder group | 0 | | | 0 | 1 |

| 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-A07 | Number of government institutions/departments with enhanced awareness and understanding of biodiversity and associated local community issues | 0.1, 4.2 | Government institutions | Government Organisation type | 0 | | | 0 | 2 |
| DPLUS-B02 | Number of new/improved species management plans available and endorsed | 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 | Number | Type | 0 | | | 0 | 6 |
| DPLUS-C01 | Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed | 3.3, 3.6 | Number | Type | 0 | | | 0 | 2 |
| DPLUS-C02 | Number of new conservation or species stock assessments published | 1.1, 1.4 | Number | Species | 0 | | | 0 | 3 |
| DPLUS-C06 | Number of downloads of new peer reviewed publications | 4.6 | Number | Downloads per year | 0 | | | 0 | 100 (on average) |
| DPLUS-C07 | Number of projects contributing evidence to biodiversity conservation or associated community benefits to policy/regulation/standards consultations | 0.3 | Number | National/International | 0 | | | 0 | 1 |
| DPLUS-C09 | Species reference collections made | | Number | Species | 1 | | | 1 | 3 |
| DPLUS-C12 | Social media presence | 4.5 | Reach | By post | 1000 | | | 1000 | 1000 on average |
| DPLUS-C15 | Number of media related activities | 4.4 | Number | Type | 2 | | | 2 | 10 |
| DPLUS-C16 | Number of records added to accessible databases | – | Number | Species occurrence | 0 | | | 0 | 300 |
| DPLUS-C17 | Number of unique papers submitted to peer reviewed journals | 4.6, 4.7 | Number | | 0 | | | 0 | 2 |
| DPLUS-C19 | Number of other publications produced | 2.1 | Number | Typology | 0 | | | 0 | 9 |

| 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-D03 | Number of policies with biodiversity provisions that have been enacted or amended | 0.3 | Number | Type | 0 | | | 0 | 1 |

**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) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

## 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? | Y |
| **Is the report less than 10MB?** If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line. | Y |
| **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. | N |
| **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. | Y |
| **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. | Y |
| 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 | Y |
| Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully? | Y |
| Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report. | |