



**BIODIVERSITY
CHALLENGE FUNDS**



Biodiversity Challenge Funds Projects Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and Darwin Plus

Half Year Report

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 2-3 pages** in length.

If there is any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website, please ensure you clearly highlight this.

Submission Deadline: 31st October 2025

Please note all projects that were active before 1 October 2025 are required to complete a Half Year Report.

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

Project reference	DPLUS216
Project title	Supporting Atlantic Territories Invertebrate Conservation
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Anguilla, Ascension, Bermuda, and the Falkland Islands
Lead Organisation	Buglife
Partner(s)	Anguilla National Trust, Government of Anguilla, Ascension Island Government Conservation & Fisheries Directorate, The Bermuda National Trust, The Government of Bermuda, Falkland Islands Government, The Species Recovery Trust,
Project leader	Jamie Robins
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	31/10/2025, HYR2
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.buglife.org.uk/projects/supporting-atlantic-territories-invertebrate-conservation/

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed project implementation timetable (if your project started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end of September).

Specimens collected in Y1 by our partners Myles Darrell (Bermuda National Trust) and Mark Outerbridge (Bermuda Government), supplemented with help from talented local high school students, has resulted in a good collection of invertebrates being amassed for Bermuda, which are now in the UK and undergoing identification. Similarly, our partners on the Falklands plus a contractor have collected specimens, now in the UK which are also now sent for identification. Over 3000 specimens collected in Anguilla during Y1 have now been identified, including over 1000 specimens by the Project Manager Danni Sherwood (expert arachnologist), and 2000 specimens by a freelance entomologist. Several scientific papers are in progress with local partners.

Anguilla and the Falklands have received training courses on general ecology and conservation, through workshops led by Danni Sherwood and Vicky Wilkins (Species Recovery Trust), these sessions were held virtually and well-received, and follow up questionnaires were sent out on 31st October.

<p>The project continues to collect and analyse records from iNaturalist and has now engaged local users on Anguilla, Bermuda, and the Falklands, with plans to further expand usage through promotion to the public.</p> <p>A major achievement is that the methodology for Important Invertebrate Areas (IIAs) has now been perfected for small islands and all Ascension Island mapping and IIAs now completed. With this methodology, which will be written up into a scientific paper with local colleagues, we will now be able to start the process for other islands. The next island to receive IIA analysis will be Bermuda, in December 2025, followed by the Falklands and Anguilla in early Y3.</p>	
<p>2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.</p>	
<p>A lesson learnt was that the ease of collecting and richness of samples varied on each island, meaning we had to modify our approach in a custom way for each island. We have managed therefore to get good samples from all three islands where this was required. In future though, we now know that approaches may need to vary with each island to ensure maximum results.</p>	
<p>3. Have any of these issues been discussed with NIRAS and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?</p>	
Discussed with NIRAS:	Yes/ No
Formal Change Request submitted:	Yes/ No
Received confirmation of change acceptance:	Yes/ No
<p>Change Request reference if known: <i>If you submitted a financial Change Request, you can find the reference in the email from NIRAS confirming the outcome</i> N/A</p>	

<p>4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2025 – 30 September 2025)</p> <p>Actual spend: [REDACTED]</p>	
<p>4b. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this financial year (ending 31 March 2026)?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Estimated underspend: £</p>	
<p>4c. If you expect and underspend, then you should consider your project budget needs carefully. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.</p> <p>If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project, please submit a re-budget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a re-budget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes to your project if necessary. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.</p> <p>NB: if you expect an underspend, do not claim anything more than you expect to spend this financial year.</p>	
<p>5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?</p>	
<p>No.</p>	

6. Please use this section to respond to any feedback provided when your project was confirmed, or from your most recent annual report. If your project was subject to an Overseas Security and Justice Assistance assessment please use this space to comment on any changes to international human rights risks, and to address any additional mitigations outlined in your offer letters. Please provide the comment and then your response. If you have already provided a response, please confirm when.

Checklist for submission

For New Projects (i.e. starting after 1 st April 2025)	
Have you responded to any additional feedback (other than caveats) received in the letter you received to say your application was successful which requested response at HYR (including safeguarding points)? You should respond in section 6, annexes other requested materials as appropriate.	
If not already submitted, have you attached your risk register ?	
For Existing Projects (i.e. started before 1 st April 2025)	
Have you responded to feedback from your latest Annual Report Review ? You should respond in section 6, annexes other requested materials as appropriate.	X
For All Projects	
Include your project reference in the subject line of submission email.	X
Submit to BCF-Reports@niras.com .	X
Have you clearly highlighted any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website?	X
Have you reported against the most up to date information for your project ?	X
Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report.	X