



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office



Department
for International
Development



Darwin Plus: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2015)

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| Project Ref No | DPLUS017 |
| Project Title | Lower Plants Inventory and Conservation in the Falkland Islands |
| Country(ies) | Falkland Islands |
| Lead Organisation | Falklands Conservation |
| Partner(s) | National Museum Wales, Falklands Conservation, FIG Environmental Planning Office, RBGK, University of Bangor |
| Project Leader | Dr Andrew Stanworth |
| Report date and number (e.g., HYR3) | HYR2 10/7/2015 |
| Project website | |

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up) (max 500 words).

Organised the logistics, travel and permission arrangements for 6 weeks fieldwork for October to December 2015. This includes the procurement of 9 international specialists for the fieldwork (Output 1.2). Due to incoming data from the last fieldwork trip, a start has been made on the final updated lists of bryophytes and lichens found in the Falkland Islands (Output 1.3). Regarding the GIS database, a training session has been organised for December 2015 to use BRAHMS software for the GIS Database (Output 1.4). Field guide size and price has been discussed as well as descriptions finished for the mosses and lichens, including photos for the lichens. Still waiting on descriptions and pictures for the liverworts (Output 1.5). Published first paper in the journal *Cryptogammie Bryologie* on the *Bucklandiella* and *Codriophorus* genera. Nearly finished a paper on the Falkland Island *Amblystegiaceae* family (Output 1.7).

A trip for staff training has been scheduled for November 2015 with visiting specialists (Output 2.4). Lichen duplicates from the last fieldtrip have been sent down and are sorted in the Falklands Conservation HQ (Output 3.2). Further specialist contacts have been procured to aid with identifications and dissemination of results. Excluding the nine on the survey team, the specialists include Dr. Maria Morales (University of Murcia, Spain), Dr Barbara Murray (University of Alaska), Dr John Spence (University of Arizona) and Ryszard Ochyra (Krakow University) (Output 3.2). Permanent plots have been recorded at Saladero Farm and Fitzroy Farm. These have been surveyed for percentage coverage of bryophytes and lichens. The plots at Saladero are existing climate change plots and the ones at Fitzroy are habitat restoration plots (Output 3.3).

A stand was created for the Farmers Week expo highlighting importance of mosses and identification characteristics and techniques. A workshop was then conducted in the afternoon for interested parties. There is and up and coming ecosystem services in the Falkland Islands talk scheduled for November 2015, as is a workshop and days out with schools out on West Falkland (Output 4.1). A herbarium guidance booklet for bryophytes and lichens has been written for the FC herbarium and 4 large posters have been created for future workshops that highlight morphological characteristics, identification techniques, information on the project and importance of bryophytes and lichen in the Falkland Islands (Output 4.2).

Two BBC Wales live radio interviews have been completed discussing the project in the Falklands (Output 4.4) and an article for a regional newspaper has been sent in and waiting to be published. Two articles have been published in the FC quarterly magazine with one pending for the end of the field season. A further 1 article for the FC newsletter has been completed (Output 4.5)

2a. 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 (max 300 words).

Possible problem of still receiving results from the last fieldwork trip once the project has officially finished. This would not affect the projects predicted outputs, but needs to be considered as a project legacy. This has been addressed by building up capacity for the herbarium specimens and data to be entered by herbarium curator once project has finished. This would mean that the final species lists for the project will be continuously updated after the end of the project.

There is a slight bottleneck in getting information for the field guide for the liverworts section from a member of the project team. This is purely down to a lack of support and enthusiasm on his part. This could possibly mean that the guide will have to concentrate on the mosses and lichens. The decision as to whether inclusions of the liverworts will be possible will be made within the next month, as printing needs to go ahead. A change request will be submitted as necessary.

2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

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| Discussed with LTS: | No |
| Formal change request submitted: | No |
| Received confirmation of change acceptance: | No |

3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g., more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully as it is unlikely that any requests to carry forward funds will be approved this year. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project and would like to talk to someone about the options available this year, please indicate below when you think you might be in a position to do this and what the reasons might be:

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

No

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also be raised with LTS International through a Change Request.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g., Subject: DPLUSXXX Darwin Half Year Report**