



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



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Development



Darwin Plus: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2015)

Project Ref No	DPLUS 027
Project Title	Marine Spatial Planning for the Falkland Islands
Country(ies)	Falkland Islands
Lead Organisation	South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute
Partner(s)	Falklands Conservation, BirdLife International, British Antarctic Survey, Falkland Islands Government, Shallow Marine Survey Group
Project Leader	Dr Paul Brickle and Dr Amélie Augé
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	29/10/15 HYR2
Project website	http://south-atlantic-research.org/research/current-research/marine-spatial-planning

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).

The project has progressed successfully according to the agreed baseline timetable during the period April to September 2015. The project started in July 2014 and has fulfilled all expected outcomes and progressed on ongoing progresses on time since:

Output 1. Increased data availability. Data review, identification, collation, storage and curation. (*under progress, to be finalised by end 2015*)

1.1. Creation of metadata catalogue

1.2. Collation, assimilation and creation of project specific geospatial databases

The MSP metadata catalogue is filled in whenever a new dataset is obtained. There are 46 entries. For all new datasets created by the MSP project, a metadata entry form is filled and entered in the IMS-GIS Centre that can be searched online hence increasing data availability.

Output 2 Best Practice Review – *completed previously.*

Output 3. Stakeholder workshop 1 – *completed previously*

Output 4. GIS platform (*under progress, to be finalised by July 2016*)

4.1. GIS platform built to accommodate data identified in the metadata catalogue and stakeholder workshop

4.2. Map examples of specific data that would directly contribute to aims (i.e. coastlines, habitats, resource extraction, tracking data, seabird, mammal and physical data etc.

QGIS is the GIS platform used to produce a GIS project that will easily be used by untrained GIS users to display data. The webGIS is being considered and the local internet company has now agreed to its installation, requiring buying and installing a separate server to store the data to be displayed. A range of maps have been produced (see workshop reports for examples) and will be integrated in the webGIS.

Output 5. Data analyses (*under progress, to be finalised by March 2016*)

5.1. Re-examination of satellite track and logging data from seabirds and mammals to gain

new data on ecologically important areas coastally and in open ocean

5.2. Report developed for circulation – develop into a peer-review paper

All datasets have been gathered with a high rate of from data owner (95% have provided their data for the study). There are 72 datasets available for analyses. The workshop has provided the platform to connect with data holders and define appropriate usage of their data, design the analyses and discuss best approach. Analyses are in progress.

Output 6. Stakeholder workshop 2 (*completed during the last 6 months*)

6.1. Workshop report produced and circulated for comment, workshop report posted on website

A series of two very successful workshops took place in April 2015 in Cambridge over one week. One was in relation to Output 5 to gather data holders and design best analyses. The second one was on MSP. The two workshop reports are available for download on the project webpage.

Output 7. Second main phase of data analysis (*under progress, to be finalised by July 2016*)

7.1. Map current and newly acquired data to provide a “bioregionalisation” of the Falkland Islands EEZ.

The analysis of data continues, as well as mapping (e.g. shipping now that one year of data is available as of May 2015). The bioregionalisation will be conducted with a new dataset recently acquired for MSP “seabed morphology” that has been used in other parts of the world as the best indicator for benthic bioregionalisation because it is a proxy for stable biological distributions and physical habitats.

Output 8. Stakeholder workshop 3 (*under progress, to be finalised by May 2016*)

8.1. Workshop report produced and circulated for comment, workshop report posted on website.

The dates for the final project workshop have been set to 6-8 April 2016 following consultation with the steering committee and with the primary invited speakers. It will take place in the Falkland Islands.

Output 9. Final project report and policy paper (*already in progress, due July 2016*)

9.1. Final project report to Darwin and FIG. A policy paper produced to FIG’s Environment Committee, the Policy Department and Executive Council.

The steps towards this output have already been started as explained in the section below.

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).

The workshops were invaluable in developing the project and, particularly, in understanding how to ensure that it provides a strong sustainability for MSP process in the Falkland Islands. It was identified that the project as stated in the original proposal would not achieved this, because it is focussed solely on data and the only communication about sustainability would be done solely at the end of the project. The momentum would therefore be lost. The steering committee agreed in May that Falkland Islands Government’s (FIG) Policy Department and Executive Council should be engaged earlier. Efforts in the last 6 months have been made to produce a submission and to identify how MSP could be implemented within the Falkland Islands and their Government. A report submission was made to FIG’s Environmental Committee in August and a presentation given to the Committee in October. The FIG’s Environmental Committee is supporting the process. A paper submission will be made in December to FIG’s Executive Council to inform them on recommendations and request their support for MSP implementation in the Falklands.

The workshops have also been instrumental in the identification of data gaps and opportunities and ideas to fill some of these through added value during the length of the Darwin project. This

led to a study of mapping whale sightings conducted by a research assistant (fully funded by the Falklands Environmental studies Budget following a successful small grant proposal) and mapping coastal cultural value conducted by another casual research assistant (from the project budget, amount saved from workshop expenses, re-allocated to this with no change in budget and approval obtained). Both studies will provide more data and maps that are critical for MSP and are added value to the project.

2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement? The use of funds was approved for the cultural value study and has not impacted the budget.

Discussed with LTS: Yes/No

Formal change request submitted: Yes/No (no change needed)

Received confirmation of change acceptance: Yes/No

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

Yes No Estimated underspend: £ n/a

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?

An unexpected slowdown of the project occurred as the Project Manager had to go on medical leave for a month in September. However, as the project was well under way and was significantly ahead of what was expected towards most outcomes, there was no impact of this event on the project's progress.

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**