



## Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31 October 2016)

<b>Project Ref No</b>	DPLUS033
<b>Project Title</b>	Enhancing biosecurity and biological control capacity in the Falkland Islands
<b>Country(ies)/Territory(ies)</b>	Falkland Islands, UK
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	CABI
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Falkland Islands Government
<b>Project Leader</b>	Norbert Maczey (CABI)
<b>Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)</b>	4 December 2016 HYR2
<b>Project website/ Twitter/ Blog/ Instagram etc</b>	
<b>Funder (DFID/Defra)</b>	Defra

### 1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) 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 to end September).

#### 1.1 Carry parasitoids to FI and establish rearing cultures

In accordance with the amendments to the methodology provided in the annual report several shipments of pupal stages of *Ocytata pallipes* to Stanley were made in August/September 2016. Flies were successfully hatched, and reared to maturity in a heated environment in Stanley. They then in turn produced a large number of eggs deposited on carrot slices previously exposed to earwigs to acquire their scent. As outlined in the annual report shipment of the second species *Triarthria setipennis* is planned for January 2017.

#### 1.2 Initiate monitoring programme

Monitoring activities were not planned for the last 6 month, when earwigs are not active during the southern Hemisphere winter. However, a protocol to install and run further earwig monitoring stations including the monitoring of the released biocontrol agents has been developed and is currently rolled out in time for the next monitoring period December 2016 to March 2017.

#### 1.3 Make releases of both parasitoid species

More than 1,000 earwigs were exposed and fed with carrot pieces contaminated with eggs of *Ocytata pallipes* in September/October 2016. They were then released at two different locations inside Government House Gardens in Stanley between September and November. A release of the second species *Triarthria setipennis* is planned for January 2017.

#### 1.4 Report and disseminate work

An update on the project progress was given during the Environmental Committee meeting in Stanley August 2016. The local Newspaper, Penguin News, covered this meeting. Progress of the project and the best suitable approaches to continue monitoring activities after the termination of the project were discussed with the environmental planning department and SAERI in September.

#### 2.2 Trained FIG personnel and interested citizens / 3.1 FIG/CABI working group to discuss biosecurity and containment

A 'Pest Risk Assessment' template tailored to the Falkland islands was developed and a training workshop aimed at optimising the initial draft was held in Stanley 29-30/9/16. Invited to the workshop were biosecurity officers of the DoA and interested stakeholders. Via audio and video link biosecurity officers from St Helena and South Georgia took also part in the workshop. Currently, the finalised version of PRA template has been circulated to stakeholders on the Falkland Islands and St Helena for initial usage and further testing.

### 3.3 FIG public awareness programme

The local newspaper, Penguin News, advertised a second open day event at the Government House Gardens held on 28/9/16 to update stakeholders and the general public on the progress of the project and to provide an extended opportunity to discuss biological control in general. This was supplemented by a presentation given to pupils at the secondary school in Stanley. In addition, existing information on biological control is available on FIG EPD website since the start of the project:

<http://www.fig.gov.fk/epd/index.php/environment/biosecurity/earwig-biological-control-information>

A major parts of project related activities during 2016 was the collecting and culturing of earwigs in order to obtain pupae of both tachinid fly species intended for release on the Falklands. These activities were covered through matched funding provided by the FIG.

**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.**

No significant problems have arisen. Lessons have been learned from the failure during the first release trial in November 2015 and the adjustments made and described in detail in the annual report have been very successful so far and have resulted in a successful release of one biological control agent. The release of the second is also on track as planned.

Involving volunteers into a longer lasting monitoring programme, initiated prior to the start of the Darwin + project' is still not taking off to the degree initially anticipated. This has mainly to do with the fact that time for monitoring is required during the short but very busy tourist season on the Falkland Islands. Options to improve current monitoring activities through better incentives and the possibility to link this with a PhD project have been discussed in September and are currently followed up.

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

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.** 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

please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary.

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

No current issues

**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](mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk) . The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g., Subject: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**