

Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31st October 2017)

Project reference	DPLUS065
Project title:	Mapping Falklands and South Georgia coastal margins for Spatial Planning
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Falkland Islands and South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands
Lead organisation	South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI)
Partner(s)	Oregon State University (OSU); Shallow Marine Surveys Group (SMSG); Falkland Islands Government (FIG); Government of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI); Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)
Project leader	Dr Paul Brickle
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	HY1
Project website/blog/social media etc.	@SAERI_FI

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).

Activities that were scheduled for the period (Q1 and Q2) outlined below with 6 monthly update

1: Project management structure and communication tools established (1.1 – 1.6)

The Project management role was advertised however recruitment proved challenging, and has therefore meant that we have a delayed start for our project manager. Their contract is now signed though and their start date is 1st December 2017. A draft MOU has been circulated to partners who have been working together to progress the project. Project Management group meetings have been held, and a project stakeholders group meeting will be coordinated when the project manager is in office.

Sourcing and processing satellite imagery and producing a South Georgia habitat map (3.1; 3.2; 3.3; 3.4;)

The free/open source satellite imagery has been sourced by project partners and has been analysed and used to inform field data collection on South Georgia.

A field data collection protocol has been established (see attached document) and is being used by the 2 field workers who have travelled to South Georgia on the Pharos to do the ground truthing.

An excellent 'added value' add-on has emerged: one of the South Georgia field workers who has been assigned to the project is a PhD student at the Natural History Museum so an additional partnership has been established. The NHM field worker / PhD student – Carlos Leiva is being fully funded by the NHM and is progressing additional inter-tidal invertebrate research as well as data collection for this DPLUS project. It also has progressed a potential opportunity for one of

our partners organisations (SMMSG) to have their South Georgia invertebrate collection hosted at the NHM.



Fig 1: Carlos Leiva – PhD student checking out SMMSG South Georgia worm collection before going on the Pharos to South Georgia for 6 weeks for DPLUS065

The field data collection trip is part of a wider South Georgia Heritage Trust trip linked to their rat eradication project, and therefore it similarly has provided a good opportunity for expanding the relationships and stakeholder network for this DPLUS project.

Coordination of South Georgia Stakeholders workshop (4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8)

The South Georgia workshop will be coordinated by the Project Manager in the second half of this year, which is arguably better timing in that there will be information to feed into the group from the field work and from the satellite imagery analysis. All project partners including the Government of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands have been active participants of the Project Management group and in the ground truthing preparation and as such are aware of the project development and have been providing invaluable advice and support.

Tasked/purchased satellite imagery (4.9-4.11)

The tasking of satellites will be done after the ground-truthing and therefore has been pushed back to the second half of the year.

Even though recruitment has been delayed, the strong project partnership has meant that we have been able to pool the excellent expertise available, and successfully source and undertake preliminary analysis of satellite imagery to prepare for the South Georgia ground-truthing trip which starts in early November. We currently anticipate that all scheduled activities will still be delivered within this FY.

Field protocols associated with this trip are attached for reference.

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.

Although the project gave a long lead in time for recruitment (learning lessons from previous recruitment to posts) – there were still some challenges that have resulted in the Project Manager arriving later than scheduled. This has meant that the delivery of some activities has been moved to the second half of the year.

We still currently anticipate that all project activities scheduled for this calendar year will be delivered within the calendar year. However there are likely to be some budget changes associated with the delayed recruitment.

Now that the PM start date has been finalised, we will get in touch with LTS in the near future to talk about this.

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: Yes/**No**

Formal change request submitted: Yes/**No**

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: **£tbc**

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.

A change request will need to be submitted

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. Additionally, if you were funded under R23 and asked to provide further information by your first half year report, please attach your response as a separate 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 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**