



**Darwin Initiative/D+ Project  
Half Year Report  
(due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019)**

<b>Project reference</b>	DPLUS074
<b>Project title</b>	Improving biosecurity in the SAUKOTs through Pest Risk Assessments
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	St Helena, Falkland Islands, UK
<b>Lead organisation</b>	CABI
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Environment and Natural Resources Directorate (ENRD) of St Helena; Department of Agriculture, Falkland Island Government
<b>Project leader</b>	<i>Norbert Maczey</i>
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)</b>	30/10/19; HYR2
<b>Project website/blog/social media etc.</b>	

**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).**

The following outputs were scheduled according our baseline timetable:

*Output 2*

*2.1 Existing PRA procedures reviewed and draft for improved procedures developed*

Reviewing of the existing procedures started already in the first project year and during the first project workshop in March 2019 on St Helena a session was dedicated to this subject. As one outcome of the workshop discussions drafts of improved procedure documents were developed over the last 6 months and circulated within the project team on 12 August 2019 prior to a project meeting held on the 16 August 2019. At this meeting a first discussion of the improved documents was held. Finalisation of improved procedure documents is scheduled to take place at the 2<sup>nd</sup> project workshop in December 2019 on St Helena.

*2.2 Draft template for PRA embedded in overall PRA procedures developed (tailored version for each territory) based on template developed during DPLUS033 on the Falkland Islands and circulated to project partners*

A first draft of a generic PRA template to cover a wide range of purposes was developed in the first project year. This was intensively discussed and tested at the first project workshop in March 2019. As a result of these stakeholder discussions it was decided to develop a range of individual PRA templates dedicated to specific purposes (one each for: the accidental introduction of invasive species, the planned introduction of commodities or biological material, the planned introduction of biological control agents, and the risk assessment of species already present and established). On the other hand, it was decided that there isn't the need to have different templates for St Helena and the Falkland Islands. These templates are referred to in updated overall biosecurity procedure documents, which also have been circulated to project partners in August 2019. In addition, for three of the four templates, example PRAs have been conducted and circulated between project partners.

### *2.3 Discussion and amendment of PRA template and PRA procedures at Workshop on St Helena based on results from output 1*

As described above this was covered already at the project workshop at the end of year 1 in March 2019.

#### *Output 3*

##### *3.1 Mechanism developed to integrate horizon scanning tool into PRA procedures of participating Ots*

This has been done as part of the development of updated procedure documents.

##### *3.2 Horizon scanning tool explained and jointly tested during workshop on St Helena*

Training sessions on the use of the CABI HST have been provided during the workshop in March 2019. Comments and suggestions for improvement have been collected during the workshop and forwarded to the compendia team at CABI, responsible for the development of the HST.

#### *Output 4*

##### *4.1 Training to conduct PRAs during workshop on St Helena*

This was a major part of the workshop in March 2019 and several sessions have been dedicated to this subject. As a result of the practical teamwork using a range of different taxa to conduct mock PRAs significant changes have been made to improve the initial draft templates.

##### *4.2 Selection of case study PRAs for each territory to be conducted by trained staff and followed up on these after workshop*

The training at the workshop has been followed up with the development of a draft PRA for the import of strawberry runners by the biosecurity team on St Helena in the weeks after the workshop. The team on the Falklands has equally tested the PRA templates further and used these to assess the potential import of live edible snails. In addition, the biosecurity team from Ascension (not an official project partner) - but included in any online discussions - are also planning to undergo practical training by doing HS and conducting for some of their invasive species. All activities in the participating territories have been supervised by CABI staff. Finalisation of the current PRA drafts will be made in the run up to the second project workshop planned for December 2019.

Notes from all skype meetings, the workshop summary, draft PRA templates and procedure documents have been circulated and shared with the project team as well as with non-project stakeholders such as the biosecurity team on Ascension, GBNNSS and CEH, and are available on request.

### **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.**

Similar to the first year, the only problem encountered was the failure of some participants of the skype meetings to establish a reliable connection. Again, this was dealt with by updating these teams and giving them the opportunity to contribute to all agenda points after the meetings. Despite its limitations, skype worked overall fine and all teams agree to continue to use this form of communication during the upcoming meetings.

The problem that some e-mail messages from St Helena didn't get through also continued. However, our established procedure using double checking with e-mails solved this initial problem.

No significant negative impact has been caused by these communication problems.

A change request form had to be submitted to replace Naomi Baxter, the head of biosecurity on the Falklands presenting the Falkland stakeholders on the project team. Naomi Baxter was leaving the Department of Agriculture and has now been replaced by Daniela Baigorri her successor in this position. There was some overlap in the changeover allowing Naomi and the rest of the team to introduce Daniela to the project. Therefore, no significant negative impact to the project has occurred.

**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: £

**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?**

None at this stage.

**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 R25 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 DO NOT send these in the same email.****

Please send your **completed report by email to [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: 25-035 Darwin Half Year Report**