



## Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects Half Year Report (due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021)

<b>Project reference</b>	DPLUS079
<b>Project title</b>	Improving Sustainability of Marine Management in Montserrat
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Montserrat
<b>Lead organisation</b>	Cefas
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Government of Montserrat, Waitt Institute
<b>Project leader</b>	Rachel Mulholland
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	30.09.2021 HYR4
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	Twitter: @CefasGovUK

**1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed project implementation timetable (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).**

**Output 1: Knowledge transfer and capacity building**

Work under this aspect of the project is still temporarily on hold due to the ongoing Covid-related travel restrictions on Cefas staff traveling in-country to host GIS and EIA training events.

We remain in regular contact with the Montserrat Environment Department and Physical Planning Unit and are available if needed to advise on discrete projects; however, the training programme is unable to continue at this time due to the restricted working conditions, unavailability or redeployment of relevant staff, and inability to travel.

**Output 2: Habitat mapping database**

Characterisation data layers for the GIS database were delivered at the end of Year 3. An initial predictive habitat map has been shared with local stakeholders and this database will be refined and finalised in consultation with stakeholders by the end of this year. Discussion has progressed on this aspect of the project remotely during the first half of this year and progress has been made toward achieving this output.

**Output 3: Education**

Consultation activity under this output was due to take place in-person; however, due to ongoing travel restrictions this has not been possible. Adaptations have been made to the workplan to allow online consultation. Unfortunately, due to the sudden death of a key member of the school and project personnel at the end of Year 3, this consultation has been put on hold until a replacement education representative within Montserrat can be confirmed. We are hoping for final consultation and sign off to happen before the end of Year 4.

**2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months (for COVID-19 specific delays/problems, please use 2b). Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.**

N/A

**2b. Please outline any specific issues which your project has encountered as a result of COVID-19. Where you have adapted your project activities in response to the pandemic, please briefly outline how you have done so here. Explain what residual impact there may be on your project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.**

Covid impacts on the delivery of the remaining project activities has been severe as the project is in its final year and the outstanding activities revolve around in-country engagement, delivery of final training workshops and sign off and handover of produced project outputs.

Several planned visits last year were cancelled or delayed at short notice, impacting on delivery of follow-on work and engagement for this year. Training events delayed from last year have still been unable to go ahead due to ongoing restrictions on travel for Cefas staff, and on the hosting of events and large gatherings of people in-country. We are hoping to be able to increase our engagement with stakeholders in the second half of the year; however, we anticipate that we will be unable to deliver the remaining habitat mapping and EIA training workshop during the current year. This is the final year of the project and, as such, if these events are unable to proceed, this will have a significant impact on the achievement of overall project outputs.

We are currently assessing the likelihood of successful delivery of all project outputs during the remaining project timeframe and in discussion on the submission of a change request to Darwin for an extension to the project end date to allow us to deliver the remaining in-country elements of the project next financial year.

**2c. 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

Formal change request submitted: No – currently considering change request

Received confirmation of change acceptance N/A

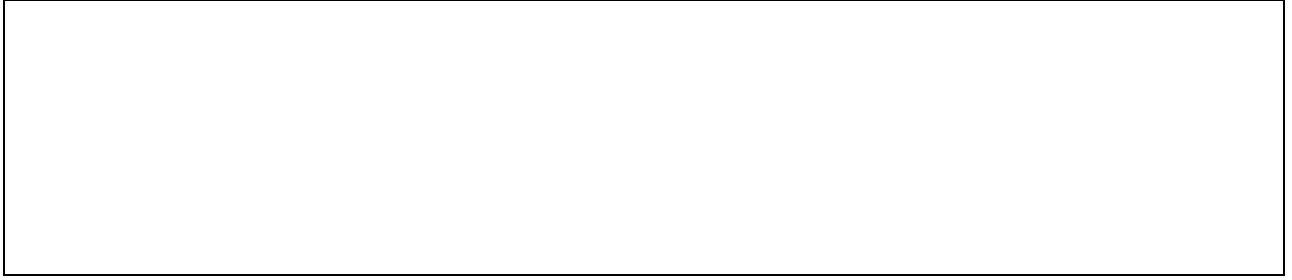
**3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?**

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. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.**

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



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 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: 25-001 Darwin Half Year Report**