



Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects Half Year Report (due 31st October 2020)

Project reference	DPLUS095
Project title	Strengthening biosecurity for remote Territory communities and their World Heritage
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Pitcairn Island Group, Tristan da Cunha Island Group
Lead organisation	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Partner(s)	Conservation Department, Tristan Government Environmental, Conservation & Natural Resources Department, Government of Pitcairn Islands
Project leader	<i>Andy Schofield; Jonathan Hall</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)	<i>HYR2</i>
Project website/blog/social media	<i>n/a</i>

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 - Practices and policies along the biosecurity continuum reviewed, updated and implemented for the Pitcairn Islands

Activities 1.2.2 & 1.4.2 No equipment has been purchased during the past 6 months due to the difficulties of shipping under Covid-19.

Activity 1.4.2 Planning for interpretation boards is underway.

Activity 1.5.2 The New Zealand based biosecurity expert, Wayne Hartley, has provided a significant amount of technical advice to the UK government, the Environmental, Conservation & Natural Resources of the Pitcairn Government. This includes expert advice on the Pitcairn biosecurity manual and fertilised egg and goldfish importation policy and practices. We are awaiting an update from the Attorney General's office as to the status of the legislation.

Output 2 – Pitcairn-Henderson rat eradication feasibility study

Activities 2.2.1 & 2.3.1 Michele Christian, Pitcairn Government, has provided feedback on the study. Once comments are incorporated, it will be sent to Island Council for consideration; we anticipate this to be at the start of Q4.

Output 3 – Practices and policies along the biosecurity continuum reviewed, updated and implemented for Gough Island World Heritage Site

No activity was planned for Output 3 in Q1-2, as per the revised project timetable.

Output 4 - Improved pre-border biosecurity for the Tristan da Cunha group

No activity was planned for Output 4 in Q1-2, as per the revised project timetable.

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.

A medical emergency resulted in the lead partner of the Pitcairn Government, Michele Christian, leaving the island for a number of months resulting in a delay to the progress of Output 2. We expect to have completed this Output by Q4 and there will be no budgetary changes as a result of the delay.

There was a request from Pitcairn to assist with developing policy and practices relating to the importation of fertilised eggs and goldfish. The RSPB led a collaborative approach with the UK-government and international experts to deliver advice to the Pitcairn government and the Attorney General's office. Being responsive to the needs of partners is critical to developing effective policies and, as a result, the biosecurity for Pitcairn will be strengthened beyond the aims of the project.

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.

Due to Covid-19, travel is currently restricted globally with South Africa implementing some of the strictest border closure measures in the world. Both Tristan and Pitcairn effectively closed their borders to protect their vulnerable populations. Due to the significant impacts the overall Outcome, a project extension to December to 2021 was requested moving all face-to-face activities to after March 2021. All project deliverables remain achievable under the revised timeframe.

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: Yes

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes

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?

N/A

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. 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**