



Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects Half Year Report (due 31st October 2021)

Project reference	DPLUS103
Project title	Saint Helena Climate Change and Drought Warning Network
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	St Helena
Lead organisation	St Helena Government (Environment Natural Resources and Planning Portfolio)
Partner(s)	Connect Saint Helena, Saint Helena Research Institute, Arctium, Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, UK Met Office
Project leader	Darren Duncan
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	<i>HRY 2021</i>
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.arctium.co.uk/dplus103-climate-change-and-drought-warning-network/

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).

1. All climate monitoring equipment has been installed and data is being collected on a regular basis.
2. All water resource monitoring equipment has been installed and data is being collected on a regular basis.
3. Remote training with the Water Resource Monitoring Technician has continued and modified in consideration of Covid-19 international travel restrictions.
4. Development of a historic climate and water resource data set archive is 90% complete – delayed from Year 1 (see 2a).
5. Stakeholder consultation concerning development of island climate data reports has been completed. The results of the consultation are being collected and reported back to stakeholders to agree the final design of the reports.
6. Year 2 fieldwork has been planned for January 2022 in parallel with the FCDO funded project - *Restoring St Helena's Internationally Important Cloud Forest for Wildlife, Water Security & People*.

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.

1. Development of a historic climate and water resource data set archive has been significantly delayed due to local staff health problems. The project team on St Helena have been managing the situation and aim to have all the work completed by November 2021. This was a known risk with the employee tasked with delivering the digital archive, however they had the best skills sets on St Helena so were given the task with plans in place to manage their health problems. The delay will not impact overall project reporting but has delayed completion of the desk study activity from Year 1.
2. The Saint Helena Government Attorney Generals Chambers have had a significant workload on reduced staff numbers. This has had a major impact on getting project partner contracts agreed and signed. The last project contract was agreed in September 2021. The project partners affected by these delays have kindly worked on the project without an agreed contract in order to keep the project on track.

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.

1. All Year 1 & Year 2 fieldwork has either been cancelled or delayed due to continuing Covid-19 international travel restrictions. Due to St Helena's airlink being limited to 1 flight every 3 weeks and requiring inbound visitors to complete 10 days quarantine on arrival, this has significantly impacted international fieldwork that can be completed in Year 2. The project team will be arriving on St Helena on 4th January. The geology and geophysics team have had to re-arrange fieldwork so that the geology mapping work will now be completed in Year 2 and geophysics surveys in Year 3 (requiring project funding to be moved – see accompanying October 2021 change request). Due to quarantine requirements, the team will only have 11 days fieldwork out of a total of 21 days which restricts what can be done. The additional staff time for quarantine has also been reflected in the change request budgets between Year 2 and Year 3.
2. On a positive note, 2 members of the project team will be staying on St Helena for 6 weeks completing tasks for both DPLUS103 and the FCDO parallel project. This will enable a significant catch-up on fieldwork associated with climate data collection, water levels, flows, water quality and enable delivery of local field training activities with project partners. An additional benefit for the project will be access to additional local field staff supporting the FCDO project who will be able to support data collection activities that benefit both projects – climate monitoring data, water level and flows, soil sampling and infiltration testing.

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: No

Formal change request submitted: Yes

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	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Estimated underspend: £
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>				
<p>4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?</p>				
<p>The project will benefit from working in parallel with the FCDO funded parallel project - <i>Restoring St Helena's Internationally Important Cloud Forest for Wildlife, Water Security & People</i>. The FCDO project will be funding additional geology mapping and hydrogeology modelling which will complement the DPLUS103 work and will enable DPLUS103 outputs to be more comprehensive and fund a 4th year of data collection, which will enable more accurate water balances. This parallel project has also funded more climate monitoring equipment to augment the DPLUS103 climate monitoring network.</p> <p>Both the DPLUS103 project team and FCDO project teams have planned their research activities to complement each other, share data and enhance their project outputs and outcomes.</p>				

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**