



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

Project reference	DPLUS113
Project title	CRACAB – Climate Resilience and Conservation of Ascension’s Biodiversity
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Ascension Island
Lead organisation	Ascension Island Government Conservation & Fisheries Directorate (AIGCFD)
Partner(s)	University of Exeter (UoE); French Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA)
Project leader	Dr Diane Baum
Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)	HYR1
Project website/blog/social media	

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).

The project commenced on September 1st 2020 and has therefore only one month of activity to report against for the period. Nevertheless, good progress has been made against all of the outputs scheduled for the first quarter of the implementation timetable. A consultancy agreement has been set up with climate scientists at the University of East Anglia to produce a predictive temperature and precipitation model for Ascension Island, following methods previously applied in the Falklands (**Output 1.1**). The data consolidation phase of this exercise is now largely complete and has brought together all existing meteorological data for Ascension Island for the first time. Modelling elements will commence in the next quarter. Data collation for analyses of climate impacts on seabird productivity is also underway (**Output 2.4**). AIGCFD and partners at the UoE have agreed a template for extracting productivity data from existing seabird monitoring databases. Data are currently being prepared for the two species for which the longest monitoring timeseries are available (masked boobies and Ascension frigatebirds) and will be available for analysis by the end of Q3 of Y1. Initial enquiries have been made to potential web development companies to design and host a project website (**Output 4.1**). The preferred developer will be appointed in Q3 of Y1 and will initially work on constructing a project landing page and content management system to allow partners to upload outputs and edit content as the project progresses.

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.

No problems have been encountered to date.

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.

No specific issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic have been encountered to date, although we continue to monitor the international travel implications closely. Ongoing travel disruption and quarantine regulations may seriously impact our ability to conduct planned fieldwork if they are still in effect during the first half of 2021.

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/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. 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?

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**