Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2009)

Project Ref. No. EIDP023

Project Title Enabling the people of Tristan da Cunha to implement the CBD in the

Marine Environment

Country(ies) UK, Tristan da Cunha, South Africa

UK Organisation Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Collaborator(s) Tristan da Cunha Conservation Department and the University of Cape

Town

Project Leader Sarah Sanders/Clare Stringer

Report date 31st October 2009

Report No. (HYR

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Project website

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) 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).

Following the postponement of our final visit to Tristan, originally scheduled for January-March 2009, because of unforeseen events on Tristan (destruction of the fish factory, and building work on the harbour), progress on plans and outputs has continued only intermittently because the contractor has needed to pursue other work. However, the project is on track to complete the agreed workplans and outputs by April 2010.

Comments on the annual report were addressed with the reviewer in May/June 2009. Plans for the dive training for Tristanians were amended in discussion with Darwin, and their training course has commenced in Cape Town. Preparations are in hand for the next visit to Tristan in 2010, when the main tasks will be training in marine recording for the Darwin team, including monitoring for introduced species at the rig site and elsewhere.

1. Knowledge of the marine environment on Tristan is enhanced

- Specimens of additional important groups of organisms (sponges, algae) from the diving surveys are being identified by expert taxonomists.
- A paper by Dr Horia Galea on the hydroids of Tristan has been submitted for publication.
 A collection of his identified specimens will be lodged in the Natural History Museum,
 London.
- A poster on the possible effects of introduced mussels on the Tristan Islands has been produced as one of a series on the effects of 'aliens'.
- Reports on the subtidal surveys of Nightingale and Inaccessible islands are being finalised, and will include the results of identifications by experts. Information from all sources is being compiled into a summary report.

2. Technical capacity to survey the marine environment is strengthened on Tristan

- Three Darwin team members are currently being trained to PADI Open Water standard in Cape Town
- A Seasearch Observer course has been arranged for The Tristan Conservation Officer

when he visits the UK in October/November 2009.

 Development of a SEASEARCH manual and teaching materials adapted for underwater recording on Tristan continues.

3. Awareness of the marine environment is raised locally and internationally

- Sue Scott to attend a workshop at RSPB (Nov. 6th) on the management of Gough and Inaccessible for marine input into the management plan formulation process (OTEP funded project)
- 4. Monitoring of threats to biodiversity and marine resources from settlement of alien species and other impacts initiated
 - No progress on this topic in this reporting period because of postponed visit. We plan to continue the monitoring on the visit in 2010, and to train qualified Tristanian divers on these surveys.
- 5. New sustainable income-generating activities based on the marine environment are developed
 - No progress on this topic in the reporting period. Feedback from the cruise ship visits indicates that pressed seaweed keyrings sold well, and that it would be worth investigating further seaweed products. A new Tourism Officer for Tristan has been appointed, and it is hoped that she will be able to provide a focus and momentum for future ideas.
- 2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments 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.

The project leader has moved to a new position at the RSPB so is in the process of handing over responsibility for the project to Clare Stringer (UKOT International Officer).

Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

We agreed the project extension with Darwin in January 2009.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: Yes, January 2009

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: No.

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures? No.

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 <u>planned</u> modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should <u>not</u> be discussed in this report but raised with the Darwin Secretariat directly.

Please send your **completed form email** to Eilidh Young, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme at Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk. The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 14-075 Darwin Half Year Report