

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Project Title	Empowering the People of Tristan da Cunha to Implement the CBD
Country	Tristan da Cunha
Organisation	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Project Ref. No.	162/12/010
Report date	<i>May – October 2003</i>

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months against the agreed baseline timetable for the project.

Note the workplan summarising project activities and the timeframe they are to be achieved in still has to be completed and agreed with the Project Steering Committee:

0. The project management structure is all in place as according to the workplan:

- A Project Manager was recruited and appointed in August 2003. 10 days were spent at RSPB for training and briefing. A wide range of UK stakeholders including the FCO, JNCC, UKOTCF, Tristan Association, Kew Gardens and Sheffield University were met before departure to Cape Town.
- Equipment, including a satellite email system to ensure communication with Tristan, was procured.
- A logistics and planning meeting was held in South Africa on the 28th August, 2003. The purpose was to inform stakeholders in SA about the project and identify areas where they may be able to contribute. The agenda and list of participants is attached as Annex 1.
- One researcher has been recruited for 3 months to complete detailed habitat maps. To ensure maximal local ownership it was agreed that the second field researcher should be recruited locally. Discussions are currently underway on Tristan. It is hoped that the second researcher will be in place in the next few weeks.
- The Project Steering Committee (PSC) on Tristan is established. Currently it is comprised of the Project Manager, 3 Conservation Officers and the Administrator. It is hoped that other persons will be brought onto the Committee as the project progresses. Sub-groups may be formed to deal with specific issues. A preliminary meeting was held on the 13/10/2003 to discuss the aims of the project and agree the issues that the project should focus on.

1. Knowledge of biodiversity is sufficient for good management:

- RSPB research department and the Percy Fitzpatrick Institute, Cape Town assisted in the collation and review of scientific literature.
- The process of compiling a biodiversity inventory outlining existing information and conducting fieldwork to fill in the gaps has begun.

2. Conservation priorities identified on grounds of livelihoods (utility) as well as science:

- A Stakeholder analysis is completed for the UK and South Africa. It is under preparation on Tristan.

3. Capacity to manage and monitor biodiversity is enhanced:

- For the purposes of the project it has been agreed that the Project Manager will work for the Natural Resources Department on Tristan. The Project Manager will assist Tristan with the Natural Resources section of a strategic plan for the island to ensure it ties in with the Biodiversity

Strategy and Action Plan.

4. **A Programme of work to actively conserve and manage key species and habitats is started:**
 - Will commence in the next 6 months. The Project Manager will work with the Natural Resources Department to prepare further proposal applications.
5. **Project Aims and Results disseminated primarily locally but also internationally:**
 - A release has been sent to Darwin for the newsletter.
 - The project has been presented at the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum South Atlantic Working Group meeting.
 - A project leaflet is under preparation and will be completed by the end of year. It has taken longer than anticipated since the sailing of the Agulhas was delayed by 3 weeks and it was felt that Tristan should have the opportunity to contribute to the leaflet.
 - Discussions were held with Peter Ryan in South Africa regarding the format of the field guide.

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 effect the budget and timetable of project activities. Have any of these issues been discussed with the Department and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

It was agreed with Darwin (letter dated 25/04/2003) that building local ownership was key to the project and there would be a need for a person to facilitate the BSAP process for the duration of the project. In the original proposal it was envisaged that a socio-economist would visit the island for the first season. However, taking into consideration that there are only 300 people on Tristan it could be perceived as patronising to send in a person for a few months to conduct a formal study. At the same time we have recruited a Project Manager experienced in working with island communities who is prepared to spend most of their time until December 2005 on Tristan. Therefore, it makes more sense for the Project Manager to be responsible for exploring socio-economic issues since they will have time to build relationships on island. This would leave two field researchers to undertake the biological surveys for each of the two seasons. One researcher has been recruited externally for 3 months to prepare habitat maps. In slight variance to the original proposal but to ensure maximal local ownership we are trying to recruit the second field researcher locally.

As Darwin is aware, the lack of transport links to the island places constraints on the project. The sailing of the Agulhas was delayed by 3 weeks, which meant that the Project Manager spent longer in Cape Town than planned. This could result in a slight over expenditure in the travel and subsistence budget line. It has meant that the delivery of some of the project outputs (e.g. stakeholder analysis and project leaflet) is delayed.

It was hoped to hold a general meeting with all the islanders but everyone is busy planting potatoes and with the arrival of the Agulhas and other cargo boats. It is now planned for mid November.

For health and safety reasons, it will be necessary to procure a second satellite phone as the radio only works in places of high elevation via a fishing boat. This cannot be relied upon in emergencies.

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