



Darwin Initiative Annual Report

Important note:

To be completed with reference to the Reporting Guidance Notes for Project Leaders: it is expected that this report will be about 10 pages in length, excluding annexes



Submission Deadline: 30 April 2012

1. Darwin Project Information

Project Reference	18-017
Project Title	Developing knowledge to eradicate house mice from UK OT islands
Host Country/ies	Tristan da Cunha, Falklands and South Georgia
UK contract holder institution	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Host country partner institutions	Conservation Department Tristan da Cunha (CD-TDC), Falklands Conservation (FC), The Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI)
Other partner institutions	University of Cape Town
Darwin Grant Value	£253,636
Start/end dates of project	01/04/2010 to 31/03/2013
Reporting period (eg Apr 2010 – Mar 2011) and number (eg Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	Annual Report 2 (April 2011 to March 2012)
Project Leader name	Dr Richard Cuthbert
Project website	www.rspb.org.uk/overseasterritories
Report authors, main contributors and date	Author: Richard Cuthbert Date: 30 April 2012

2. Project Background

The islands of Tristan da Cunha, the Falklands and South Georgia are some of the most important sites for biodiversity within the United Kingdom Overseas Territories (UKOTs), supporting globally significant populations of seabirds, endemic plants, invertebrates and land birds. Several species of very high conservation concern are threatened by invasive species and, in particular, predation by introduced house mice. On the Gough Island World Heritage Site (Tristan da Cunha), predation by house mice on chicks of the Tristan albatross and Atlantic petrel is unsustainable for these populations, and is almost certainly causing rapid population declines of the endemic Gough bunting. Consequently, both the Gough bunting and Tristan albatross are classified as Critically Endangered by the IUCN. Mice on Gough Island are also likely to be causing ecosystem-wide impacts through predation of invertebrates and plants, and alteration of nutrient cycles. Research suggests that the impact of mice is likely to be most severe where they are the sole introduced rodent species. As a result, two other islands within the UKOTs are of real concern: mice are the sole species of rodent on Steeple Jason Island (Falklands) and on some areas of South Georgia. This project will build knowledge towards the eradication of mice from Gough Island, and will determine whether mice on Steeple Jason and South Georgia are having similar biodiversity impacts as on Gough as well as contributing towards their eradication from South Georgia.

3. Project Partnerships

The project's main partners are the Conservation Department on Tristan da Cunha is (CD-TDC) responsible for all research and conservation activities that are undertaken on Gough Island and on islands within the Tristan Group, Falklands Conservation (FC) who are the

Birdlife partner undertaking research and conservation in this island group, and the Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI) whom oversee work at South Georgia. Good relations have occurred between the RSPB and all three main project partners, with face to face meetings taking in the Falklands Islands in February-April 2012. Regular telephone calls and emails are made with the Conservation Department on Tristan da Cunha.

During the second year of the project a new working partnership has arisen between the RSPB and the South Georgia Heritage Trust (SGHT) who, in collaboration with GSGSSI, are the lead organisation planning and undertaking the eradication of rats and mice from South Georgia. This partnership has been essential for the project's recent fieldwork on South Georgia and for ensuring that the project could maximise its objectives for the benefit of the eradication planning.

4. Project Progress

4.1 Progress in carrying out project activities

4.2 Progress towards project outputs

Output 1

1a. Draft Operational Plan for eradication of mice from Gough Island

1b. Key remaining areas of uncertainty identified and steps taken to address these

Activities 1

- 1.1 Employ two experienced eradication operators to visit and produce draft Operational Plan with project manager for Gough Island*
- 1.2 Operational managers identify key remaining steps that need to be addressed prior to an operation*
- 1.3 Produce and disseminate operational plan*
- 1.4 Produce report identifying key outstanding issues and develop work plans to address these*

Activities 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 were all completed during the first year of this project and the draft Operational Plan has been published and disseminated via the RSPB's website and from circulating this among the members of the Tristan Biodiversity Advisory Group (T-BAG) and to other international experts.

Much of the planning and work identified in activity 1.4 was placed on hold due to the Project Manager's and RSPB's involvement in the rat eradication operation on Henderson Island in the UK Overseas Territory of Pitcairn. While this has delayed activity on some of these activities the experience gained and lessons learned from the Henderson Island operation has been invaluable in further prioritising the outstanding issues for Gough Island. Following the Henderson project (from July to October 2011) a project wash-up meeting was held at the RSPB in December 2011. During this meeting one day was set aside with the two operational managers in order to discuss in detail the best way of resolving the remaining work areas for Gough Island. Both of the operational managers (Nick Torr and Derek Brown from New Zealand) are among the world's leading experts in rodent eradication operations: Nick Torr visited Gough Island in 2010 and co-drafted the operational plan, and Derek Brown visited Tristan da Cunha in 2006 and wrote the feasibility study and draft operational plan for this island. These discussions have helped prioritise and plan the remaining work areas for Gough Island and following this meeting a Project Change Request was submitted to and accepted by the Darwin Initiative. These remaining key issues are:

- (a) Finalise and test plans for the captive husbandry of vulnerable wildlife species that is likely to be impacted by an eradication operation,

- (b) Assess if a better map of Gough Island can be produced to increase the accuracy of the island's area and special treatment areas
- (c) Evaluate if a "switchable" bait-hopper can be manufactured to allow bait to be spread on alternate sides during an eradication
- (d) Undertake a bait uptake trial on the cliffs at Gough Island testing the effectiveness of a helicopter and bait bucket at delivering a target bait application rate.

Further details on the need for these activities are provided within an internal RSPB report, which is included as an appendix to this report.

In support of (a) above the Project Manager and RSPB have utilised funds from a UK Government's Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP) project which undertook captive husbandry trials of Gough Moorhens and Gough Buntings (the two species identified as most at risk from an eradication operation) with fieldwork taking place in 2009-10 and 2010-2011. A husbandry manual has now been produced from this work and is available from the RSPB.

Output 2

2a. Research on conservation impacts of mice on Steeple Jason

2b. Mouse bait acceptance trials, non-target species trials and mice ecology research undertaken on Steeple Jason

Activities 2

- 2.1 Develop and agree research plans for Steeple Jason with Falklands Conservation and Wildlife Conservation Society*
- 2.2 Recruit field biologists to work alongside partners, and train partners in methods studies on mice ecology, bait acceptance trials and mice impacts on high risk bird species*
- 2.3 Organise permits, logistical support and equipment for field research*
- 2.4 Carry out one summer and one winter field season of research on Steeple Jason*
- 2.5 Produce and disseminate research reports from fieldwork*
- 2.6 Incorporate research findings into Feasibility Assessment and produce Draft Operational Plan for mice eradication on Steeple Jason*

Partnerships, training and the summer season of fieldwork on Steeple Jason Island were successfully undertaken with Falklands Conservation during the first year of the project, and a research report from this fieldwork was delivered to Falklands Conservation and the island's owners (the USA based Wildlife Conservation Society).

Recent meetings with the new director of Falklands Conservation were undertaken in April 2012 in order to plan for the third year. Agreed actions include identifying a research biologist to lead the winter season of fieldwork (this person was one of the team on South Georgia during March 2012), fixing dates and shipping schedules for this fieldwork, and planning activities and collaboration with the Wildlife Conservation Society in order to plan the Feasibility Assessment and Draft Operational Plan. A Memorandum of Understanding is now being drafted between the RSPB and Falklands Conservation so that this work can be taken forward.

Output 3

3. Mouse bait acceptance trials and mice ecology research undertaken on South Georgia

During March 2012 a team of five biologists from the RSPB and GSGSSI spent a month on the remote and seldom visited southwest coast of South Georgia. The aim of the visit was to

understand more about the distribution and ecology of house mice in order to assist the South Georgia Heritage Trust with the forthcoming eradication of mice and rats from the island. The team spent two weeks at Cape Rosa camping close to the site of Shackleton's landing point and two further weeks on the neighbouring Nuñez Peninsula. Little is known about mice on South Georgia, which were only discovered on the island in 1976 and the last mouse research on the island was over 30 years ago. The team found very low numbers of mice at both sites, and they were mainly restricted to a narrow strip of tussock habitat close to the coast. Tests of baiting rates using non-toxic pellets indicated mice were eager to consume bait, which combined with their low numbers and limited distribution is encouraging for the prospects of a successful eradication. The finalised fieldwork plans were agreed between the project's main partners (RSPB, GSGSSI and SGHT) and are included as an appendix to this report. A report detailing the full findings of this research is currently being prepared.

As well as working towards the mice eradication the project was able to undertake other fieldwork in support of the broader monitoring and research on South Georgia. This included finding evidence of Kerguelen Petrels nesting on South Georgia which increases the island's number of breeding birds from 29 to 30 species, monitoring of nesting success of Wandering Albatross at Prion Island, monitoring for evidence of rats on the Greene Peninsula where rat eradication operations were undertaken in 2011, and attempting to assess that Reindeer will consume toxic bait in the next phase of the rodent eradication. Reports on these findings are included in the appendices of this report.

Output 4

4. Knowledge, capacity and awareness of conservation threat of mice and invasive species increased in Tristan, Falklands and South Georgia and within UK

Activities 4

4.1 Organise training for personnel from Tristan Conservation Department on helicopter safety and bait loading

4.2 Carry out training

4.3 Establish remote networks for bi-monthly updates between the project partners to collaborate on project planning

4.4 Produce educational materials and mouse game for use by UKOT children and visitors, disseminate materials to OTs

Training for Tristan da Cunha (activities 4.1 and 4.2) will be undertaken during the planned baiting trials, at which point a helicopter and bait buckets will be in use on Gough Island which is planned for the third year of the project.

Establishment of remote networks and bi-monthly updates has not been formally established between project partners, as updates and contacts are regularly taking place via email, phone calls, Skype video calls. In addition meetings between the project manager and project partners were made in the Falklands during February-April 2012, as well as a meeting with South Georgia Heritage Trust managers in the UK during 2011.

Educational materials in the form of a "South Atlantic mouse game" were produced during the first year of the project and have now been distributed to Tristan da Cunha and the Falklands Islands.

Output 5

5. Steps taken to ensure the sustainability of research and action directed at eradicating invasive species on UKOTs beyond end of project

The key step taken towards ensuring the sustainability of the research has been the close cooperation with the South Georgia Heritage Trust (SGHT) and GSGSSI. These two organisations (one an independent charity and the second the government) are working closely to plan and undertake the eradication of rodents from South Georgia, and by working in

collaboration with both organisations we have ensured that the outputs of the research on South Georgia will directly feed in to the planning of the rodent eradication operation on the island, the next phase of which is planned for early 2013.

4.3 Standard Measures

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures

Code No.	Description	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Year 4 Total	Total to date	Number planned for reporting period	Total planned during the project
6A	Number of people to receive other forms of education/training	2	3			5	2	10
6B	Number of training weeks to be provided	5	4			9	4	12
7	Number of training materials to be produced for use by host country	0	0			0	0	1
8	Number of weeks to be spent by UK project staff on project work in the host country	14	8			22	8	20
9	Number of species/habitat management plans (or action plans) to be produced for Governments, public authorities, or other implementing agencies in the host country	1	0			1	1	3
11A	Number of papers to be published in peer reviewed journals	0	0			0	1	2
11B	Number of papers to be submitted to peer reviewed journals	0	1			1	1	3
14A	Number of conferences/seminars/workshops to be organised to present/disseminate findings	0	0			0	0	1
14B	Number of conferences/seminars/workshops attended at which findings from Darwin project work will be presented/disseminated.	0	0			0	0	2
15A	Number of national press releases in host country(ies)	0	0			0	1	3
15C	Number of national press releases in UK	0	0			0	0	2
17A	Number of dissemination networks to be established	0	0				0	1
19A	Number of national radio interviews/features in host county(ies)	0	0			0	0	3
19B	Number of national radio interviews/features in UK	0	0			0	0	2
20	Estimated value (£'s) of physical assets to be	£0	£2260			£2260	£1400	£6200

	handed over to host country(ies)						
23	Value of resources raised from other sources for project work	£36K	£250K			£286K	£77,181

Table 2 Publications

Type	Detail	Publishers	Available from	Cost £
Falklands Conservation newsletter	M. Bolton, A. Stanbury & R. Cuthbert (2011). Assessing the impacts of house mice on Steeple Jason.	Wildlife Conservation in the Falkland Islands, issue 16: 4-5.	Falklands Conservation and authors	£0
Scientific paper	Kerguelen petrel (<i>Lugensa brevirostris</i>): A new breeding species for South Georgia (submitted). A. Black, G. Parker, K. Rexer-Huber, E. Sommer and R.J. Cuthbert	Submitted to Antarctic Science	Will be available from authors and RSPB	£0

4.4 Progress towards the project purpose and outcomes

I consider that the first two years of the project have made significant progress towards the main purpose of the project which is “to investigate the impact of mice on Steeple Jason in the Falkland Islands, produce draft operational plans for the eradication of mice from Steeple Jason and Gough Island, refine operational planning for mouse eradication on South Georgia, and create the capacity to undertake mouse eradication operations on all three islands”. Some delays in the project’s timetable have been incurred due to the two project change requests submitted to Darwin in connection with the large-scale trial on Gough Island, and also because of the involvement of the Project Manager with the RSPB’s Henderson Island rat eradication programme. While these delays are regrettable the involvement with Henderson Island has greatly increased the experience and capacity of the Project Manager and the RSPB, and has helped crystallise the final steps required for Gough Island. The key assumptions of the project purpose all remain relevant and in place to continue with the project’s work in Year 3.

4.5 Progress towards impact on biodiversity, sustainable use or equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits

The project has made some important progress towards securing biodiversity benefits for Gough Island, Steeple Jason and South Georgia, which will be met following the eradication of mice from these islands. While the eradication of mice from these islands is still some way off the production of a draft operational plan for Gough, knowledge of the impacts of mice at Steeple Jason and refined operational plan for South Georgia are all important progress towards the eventual eradication of mice at these sites.

5. Monitoring, evaluation and lessons

Monitoring and evaluation of the project’s progress has been made through regular email exchanges, phone-calls and “Skype” sessions between the project manager and project partners. External evaluation of the project’s output has been undertaken through circulating reports and operational plans amongst international experts.

6. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

Not applicable.

7. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

A project change request was made to Darwin in December 2011 and was approved by the Darwin Initiative in early 2012. The change request was made in order to extend the duration of the project (at no extra cost) and to transfer funds from Year 2 to Year 3 of the budget.

8. Sustainability

The key elements of sustainability that the project has supplied so far are the transfer of knowledge to fieldworkers in Falklands Conservation and with GSGSSI through the field research undertaken in January 2011 and March 2012, and support and funding from Defra for future eradication planning on Gough Island. Two experienced fieldworkers from the RSPB led the research in 2011 on Steeple Jason and helped to train two Falkland Islanders employed through FC. In year 2 the Project Manager led the fieldwork on South Georgia in collaboration with staff from GSGSSI and one staff member from the RSPB, transfer of skills to GSGSSI was made during this fieldwork which has assisted in building capacity for further work of this kind on South Georgia and the Falklands. Further support which will ensure the sustainability of the project was provided by a grant of £250,000 from Defra in January 2012 in support of future actions for the eradication programme on Gough Island.

9. Dissemination

Dissemination of the project's findings to date has been undertaken with project partners and key stakeholders involved with Gough Island, Steeple Jason and South Georgia. This has occurred for the Gough Island operational plan which was circulated to international experts and to Tristan da Cunha, and is freely accessible on the RSPB's website. Further dissemination of the project's finding has occurred following the South Georgia fieldwork where communication of the project's key findings have already been delivered to the Operational Manager of the South Georgia Heritage Trust who are undertaking the eradication. The project's full report will shortly be delivered to SGHT and GSGSSI. Further dissemination of the project's work has been met through articles in partner organisations newsletters and websites.

10. Project Expenditure

Table 3 project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012)

Item	Budget	Expenditure	Variance/Comments
Salaries			
R Cuthbert (RSPB)			
J Millett (RSPB)			
E Sommer (RSPB)			
A Black (GSGSSI)			
G Parker (GSGSSI)			
K Rexer-Huber (GSGSSI)			
Overhead costs			
Travel & Subsistence			

Operating costs	
Capital equipment	
Minor equipment & clothing (GSGSSI)	
Batteries for GPS	
Iridium satellite phone	
AST SIM card for sat phone	
Waterproof clothing	
Live traps and kill traps for mice x 500	
Burrowscope camera repair	
Waterproofs notebooks, pens, minor kit	
Other costs (contracts)	
Other cost (specify)	
Charter of Pharos SG (icebreaker)	
Total budget Year 2	

11. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

I agree for LTS and the Darwin Secretariat to publish the content of this section

The main achievement during the second year of the Darwin project was the successful completion of fieldwork on South Georgia. During a six week expedition a five person team from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Government of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI) spent four weeks on the remote southwest coastline of South Georgia at Cape Rosa and the Nuñez Peninsula: the two areas of the island where house mice are known to occur. During this period the team investigated the ecology and distribution of mice, and tested different rodent bait application rates in order to evaluate the feasibility and optimal baiting strategy for mouse eradication. The results of this work are of direct relevance for the South Georgia Heritage Trust's (SGHT) plans for the 2013 rodent eradication operation and the project is in close contact with SGHT and GSGSSI to ensure the project's conclusion are incorporated in to the eradication planning.

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2010-2011

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2011 - March 2012	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Goal: <i>To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources to achieve</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ The conservation of biological diversity, ⇒ The sustainable use of its components, and ⇒ The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources 			
<p>Purpose</p> <p>To investigate the impact of mice on Steeple Jason in the Falkland Islands, produce draft operational plans for the eradication of mice from Steeple Jason and Gough Island, refine operational planning for mouse eradication on South Georgia, and create the capacity to undertake mouse eradication operations on all three islands.</p>	<p>P(1) Knowledge on the impact of mice on Steeple Jason enhanced, and next steps in conservation action initiated by end of project</p> <p>P(2) Produce or contribute to the operational planning for mouse eradication from all three islands</p> <p>P(3) Staff on all three OTs have participated in operational planning and/or training by end of project</p>	<p>P(1) Knowledge of mice impacts now known for Steeple Jason</p> <p>P(2) Operational plan produced for Gough Island</p> <p>P(3) To be undertaken in year 3 of the project</p>	<p>P(1) Publish findings from Steeple Jason and South Georgia in scientific journals</p> <p>P(2) Work towards operational planning on Steeple Jason</p>
<p>Output 1</p> <p>1a. Draft Operational Plan for eradication of mice from Gough Island</p> <p>1b. Key remaining areas of uncertainty identified and steps taken to address these</p>	<p>1a. Key stakeholders agree and sign off draft Operational Plan for Gough Island published by Year 2</p> <p>1b. Report produced by Year 1 and work plan developed to address remaining steps in years 2 & 3</p>	<p>1a Draft operational plan written and produced and published following review from an international group of experts</p> <p>1b Remaining areas identified during drafting operational plan and at a day meeting in December 2011. Continue to progress work in the remaining areas</p>	
<p>Activities 1</p> <p>1.1 Employ two experienced eradication operators to visit and produce draft Operational Plan with project manager for Gough Island</p> <p>1.2 Operational managers identify key remaining steps that need to be addressed prior to an operation</p> <p>1.3 Produce and disseminate operational plan</p> <p>1.4 Produce report identifying key outstanding issues and develop work plans to address these</p>		<p>1.1 Two eradication managers employed on Gough Island Sep-Oct 2010</p> <p>1.2 Key areas identified in plan and from December 2011 meeting</p> <p>1.3 Plan produced and published</p> <p>1.4 Work plans for remaining steps finalised and plans in development</p>	

<p>Output 2</p> <p>2a. Research on conservation impacts of mice on Steeple Jason</p> <p>2b. Mouse bait acceptance trials, non-target species trials and mice ecology research undertaken on Steeple Jason</p> <p>2c. Feasibility Assessment and Draft Operational Plan of mice eradication produced for Steeple Jason</p>	<p>2a&b. Published report and/or scientific papers produced in Years 2 & 3</p> <p>2c Feasibility study published by Year 3, key stakeholders agree and sign off draft Operational Plan for Steeple Jason published by Year 3</p>	<p>2a. Research undertaken in January 2011 and report produced. Plan to publish in a scientific journal in Year 3.</p> <p>2b. Agreement with project partner on timing, dates fixed, MOU for this work being prepared, and fieldwork planned for August/September 2012.</p> <p>2c. To be undertaken in Year 3 of project</p>
<p>Activities 2</p> <p>2.1 Develop and agree research plans for Steeple Jason with Falklands Conservation and Wildlife Conservation Society</p> <p>2.2 Recruit field biologists to work alongside partners, and train partners in methods studies on mice ecology, bait acceptance trials and mice impacts on high risk bird species</p> <p>2.3 Organise permits, logistical support and equipment for field research</p> <p>2.4 Carry out one summer and one winter field season of research on Steeple Jason</p> <p>2.5 Produce and disseminate research reports from fieldwork</p> <p>2.6 Incorporate research findings into Feasibility Assessment and produce Draft Operational Plan for mice eradication on Steeple Jason</p>		<p>2.1. Work plan developed and agreed</p> <p>2.2. Field biologists identified for winter 2012 fieldwork.</p> <p>2.3 Permits, logistics and equipment arranged</p> <p>2.4. Fieldwork in January 2011 completed</p> <p>2.5 Fieldwork report produced and circulated to project partners</p> <p>2.6 To be undertaken in Year 3 of project</p>
<p>Output 3</p> <p>3. Mouse bait acceptance trials and mice ecology research undertaken on South Georgia</p>	<p>3a. Published report and/or scientific papers produced in Years 2 & 3</p> <p>3b Results of trials included in to operational planning for eradication on South Georgia</p>	<p>3a. Fieldwork report currently being finalised. One paper is drafted and a second paper will be prepared for submission.</p> <p>3b. Key findings already delivered to Operational Manager, full report to be delivered in May 2012.</p>
<p>Activities 3</p> <p>3.1 Develop and agree research plans with partners in South Georgia Government and with South Georgia Heritage Trust</p> <p>3.2 Recruit field biologists to work alongside partners on mice ecology and bait acceptance trials</p> <p>3.3 Organise permits, logistical support and equipment for field research</p> <p>3.4 Carry out fieldwork on South Georgia</p> <p>3.5 Produce and disseminate research reports from fieldwork</p> <p>3.6 Incorporate research findings into Operational Plan for mice eradication on</p>		<p>3.1 Fieldwork plans agreed and finalised in late 2011</p> <p>3.2 Four biologists recruited through GSGSSI and RSPB</p> <p>3.3 Permits, equipment and logistics organised Sep-2011 to Feb-2012</p> <p>3.4 Fieldwork completed during March 2012</p> <p>3.5 Currently being written</p>

South Georgia		3.6 Key findings delivered
Output 4 4. Knowledge, capacity and awareness of conservation threat of mice and invasive species increased in Tristan, Falklands and South Georgia and within UK	4a. Practical training in helicopter safety and bait loading given to 4 personnel from Tristan da Cunha 4b. Remote network and bi-monthly meetings/reports circulated among project partners during operational planning for Gough trial 4c. Educational game and materials produced Year 1 4d. >6 print and/or radio articles produced in OT and UK press Years 2 & 3	4a. To be undertaken in Year 3 of project 4b. Regular email contact between partners, but no formal network established 4c. Educational game and materials produced 4d. 2 articles produced in year 2
Activities 4 4.1 Organise training for personnel from Tristan Conservation Department on helicopter safety and bait loading 4.2 Carry out training 4.3 Establish remote networks for bi-monthly updates between the project partners to collaborate on project planning 4.4 Produce educational materials and mouse game for use by UKOT children and visitors, disseminate materials to OTs		4.1.. To be undertaken in Year 2/3 of project 4.2. To be undertaken in Year 2/3 of project 4.3. Formal networks not established as informal contact is working well for this purpose 4.4 Educational mouse game produced in Year 1
Output 5 5. Steps taken to ensure the sustainability of research and action directed at eradicating invasive species on UKOTs beyond end of project	5a. Funding proposals submitted to support eradication programme after end of project 5b. Conservation strategies promoted to other conservation networks within UKOTs, BirdLife partners and other oceanic islands by end Yr 3	Funding in support of the eradication programme on Gough Island was provided by Defra in January 2012 with a grant of £250,000 awarded to the RSPB To be undertaken in Year 3 of project
Activities 5 5.1 Write and submit funding proposals for supporting full eradication 5.2 Disseminate results of study and trials at workshops/conferences/meetings		To be undertaken in Year 2/3 of project

Annex 2 Project's full current logframe

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Goal:</p> <p>Effective contribution in support of the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), as well as related targets set by countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources.</p>			
<p>Sub-Goal:</p> <p>The restoration of Gough Island, Steeple Jason Island and South Georgia's biodiversity and ecosystem function to a favourable conservation status that is not negatively impacted by introduced House Mice</p>	<p>SG(1) Gough Island, Steeple Jason and areas of South Georgia declared free of House Mice</p> <p>SG(2) Step towards improvement in IUCN threat status of endangered and critically endangered bird species through removal of key terrestrial threat process</p>	<p>Reports to funding agencies document successful eradication of House Mice according to standard criteria for determining success.</p> <p>Revised IUCN Red List assessment document</p>	
<p>Purpose</p> <p>To investigate the impact of mice on Steeple Jason in the Falkland Islands, produce draft operational plans for the eradication of mice from Steeple Jason and Gough Island, refine operational planning for mouse eradication on South Georgia, and create the capacity to undertake mouse eradication operations on all three islands.</p>	<p>P(1) Knowledge on the impact of mice on Steeple Jason enhanced, and next steps in conservation action initiated by end of project</p> <p>P(2) Produce or contribute to the operational planning for mouse eradication from all three islands</p> <p>P(3) Staff on all three OTs have participated in operational planning and/or training by end of project</p>	<p>Scientific reports/papers on impacts of mice produced, Feasibility Assessment produced for Steeple Jason island, Draft Operational Plan for eradication of mice from Gough Island and Steeple Jason produced and favourably reviewed by New Zealand's Island Eradication Advisory Group (IEAG), results of research incorporated in to operational plan for South Georgia</p> <p>Review of Impacts and scientific papers submitted to journals and accepted by peer review,</p>	<p>Major new eradication projects in similar environments do not indicate fundamental obstacles for eradicating house mice</p> <p>No other major new terrestrial conservation threats arise on Gough Island, Steeple Jason or South Georgia</p> <p>Continued local and international support for participation of OT personnel in eradication training programme</p> <p>Staff are available to participate in training</p>

		<p>feasibility studies for mice eradication produced and submitted for review</p> <p>Training reports and activity manuals/handbooks produced</p>	
<p>Outputs</p> <p>1a. Draft Operational Plan for eradication of mice from Gough Island</p> <p>1b. Key remaining areas of uncertainty identified and steps taken to address these</p>	<p>1a. Key stakeholders agree and sign off draft Operational Plan for Gough Island published by Year 2</p> <p>1b. Report produced by Year 1 and work plan developed to address remaining steps in years 2 & 3</p>	<p>1. Draft Operational Plan for Gough distributed and favourably reviewed by ISSG and eradication experts</p> <p>1b. Report circulated to relevant experts and remaining steps approved</p>	<p>Favourable outcome from bait acceptance trials and captive husbandry trials of non-target species on Gough Island</p> <p>Expert opinion continues to view mouse eradication as technically feasible</p> <p>Availability of experienced operational managers to visit Gough Island</p>
<p>2a. Research on conservation impacts of mice on Steeple Jason</p> <p>2b. Mouse bait acceptance trials, non-target species trials and mice ecology research undertaken on Steeple Jason</p> <p>2c. Feasibility Assessment and Draft Operational Plan of mice eradication produced for Steeple Jason</p>	<p>2a&b. Published report and/or scientific papers produced in Years 2 & 3</p> <p>2c Feasibility study published by Year 3, key stakeholders agree and sign off draft Operational Plan for Steeple Jason published by Year 3</p>	<p>2a&b. Report circulated to relevant experts and peer-reviewed papers published</p> <p>2c. Feasibility Study and Draft Operational Plan favourably reviewed by IEAG and eradication experts</p>	<p>Suitable personnel recruited/involved to undertake research on Steeple Jason</p> <p>Berths and logistical support available for research programme</p> <p>Continued support from island owner (WCS) for research and plans</p> <p>Research on conservation impacts of mice justifies eradication operation</p> <p>Favourable outcome from bait acceptance and non-target trials on Steeple Jason</p>
<p>3. Mouse bait acceptance trials and mice ecology research undertaken on South Georgia</p>	<p>3a. Published report and/or scientific papers produced in Years 2 & 3</p> <p>3b Results of trials included in to operational planning for</p>	<p>3a. Report circulated to relevant experts and peer-reviewed papers published</p> <p>3b. South Georgia operational</p>	<p>Suitable personnel recruited/involved to undertake research on South Georgia</p> <p>Berths and logistical support available for research programme</p>

	eradication on South Georgia	plan	Successful progress on initial stages of South Georgia eradication programme (for rats in 2011 and 2012)
4. Knowledge, capacity and awareness of conservation threat of mice and invasive species increased in Tristan, Falklands and South Georgia and within UK	<p>4a. Practical training in helicopter safety and bait loading given to 4 personnel from Tristan da Cunha</p> <p>4b. Remote network and bi-monthly meetings/reports circulated among project partners during operational planning for Gough trial</p> <p>4c. Educational game and materials produced Year 1</p> <p>4d. >6 print and/or radio articles produced in OT and UK press Years 2 & 3</p>	<p>4a. Training reports and photographs published on project partners and RSPB websites</p> <p>4b. Reports, written exchanges and dates of video-conferencing produced and published on project websites</p> <p>4c. Circulation numbers and educational material published on project website</p> <p>4d. Catalogue of published articles and press</p>	<p>NZ organisations continue to support project and allow participation in eradication operation for training</p> <p>Interest from local and national press in project's progress is maintained</p>
5. Steps taken to ensure the sustainability of research and action directed at eradicating invasive species on UKOTs beyond end of project	<p>5a. Funding proposals submitted to support eradication programme after end of project</p> <p>5b. Conservation strategies promoted to other conservation networks within UKOTs, BirdLife partners and other oceanic islands by end Yr 3</p>	<p>5a copies of funding proposals</p> <p>5b Reports taken to meetings, talks given</p>	

Activities (details in work plan) (n.b. Activities 1.1 to 1.6 support Output 1, Activities 2.1 to 2.2 support Output 2, etc)

- 1.5 Employ two experienced eradication operators to visit and produce draft Operational Plan with project manager for Gough Island
- 1.6 Operational managers identify key remaining steps that need to be addressed prior to an operation
- 1.7 Produce and disseminate operational plan
- 1.8 Produce report identifying key outstanding issues and develop work plans to address these

- 2.7 Develop and agree research plans for Steeple Jason with Falklands Conservation and Wildlife Conservation Society
- 2.8 Recruit field biologists to work alongside partners, and train partners in methods studies on mice ecology, bait acceptance trials and mice impacts on high risk bird species
- 2.9 Organise permits, logistical support and equipment for field research
- 2.10 Carry out one summer and one winter field season of research on Steeple Jason
- 2.11 Produce and disseminate research reports from fieldwork
- 2.12 Incorporate research findings into Feasibility Assessment and produce Draft Operational Plan for mice eradication on Steeple Jason

- 4.5 Develop and agree research plans with partners in South Georgia Government and with South Georgia Heritage Trust
- 4.6 Recruit field biologists to work alongside partners on mice ecology and bait acceptance trials
- 4.7 Organise permits, logistical support and equipment for field research
- 4.8 Carry out fieldwork on South Georgia
- 4.9 Produce and disseminate research reports from fieldwork
- 4.10 Incorporate research findings into Operational Plan for mice eradication on South Georgia

- 4.11 Organise training for personnel from Tristan Conservation Department on helicopter safety and bait loading
- 4.12 Carry out training
- 4.13 Establish remote networks for bi-monthly updates between the project partners to collaborate on project planning
- 4.14 Produce educational materials and mouse game for use by UKOT children and visitors, disseminate materials to OTs

- 5.3 Write and submit funding proposals for supporting full eradication
- 5.4 Disseminate results of study and trials at workshops/conferences/meetings

Annex 3 Supplementary Materials

Appendix 1

Final research plans agreed between project partners for the fieldwork on South Georgia during March 2012, “*South Georgia Fieldwork March 2012 – RSPB/GSGSSI*”.

Appendix 2

Report – “*Rat monitoring on the Greene Peninsula: pre-winter wax tag checks*” delivered to GSGSSI and SGHT

Appendix 3

Report – “*Wandering Albatross census on Prion Island, South Georgia, March 2012*” delivered to GSGSSI

Appendix 4

Report – “*Reindeer, bait palatability trials at Corral Bay, April 2012*” delivered to GSGSSI and SGHT

Appendix 5

Report – “*Observations of Kerguelen Petrels at the Nuñez Peninsula*” delivered to GSGSSI

Appendix 6

Internal RSPB Report – “*Remaining steps prior to proceeding with an eradication operation on Gough Island*”

Appendix 7

News article submitted to the South Georgia News website

Appendix 8

Magazine article in Wildlife Conservation in the Falkland Islands title “*Assessing the impacts of house mice on Steeple Jason*”

Appendix 9

News articles related to the project on the website of the Agreement for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels,

29/09/2011 available at: <http://www.acap.aq/latest-news/support-for-the-eradication-of-the-alien-house-mouse-on-gough-island-largest-island-for-a-successful-eradication-of-mice-increases-to-3800-hectares>

03/05/2012 available at: <http://www.acap.aq/latest-news/a-low-count-for-tristan-albatrosses-on-gough-island-adds-to-concern-for-the-species-survival>

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 5MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the Subject line.	Yes
Is your report more than 5MB? If so, please discuss with Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	No
Have you included means of verification? You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	Yes
Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number.	No
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	Yes
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Yes
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	