

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2012)

Project Ref No.	19-027
Project Title	Strengthening the World's Largest Marine Protected Area: Chagos Archipelago
Country(ies)	British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT)
UK Organisation	Bangor University, Wales (School of Ocean Sciences)
Collaborator(s)	University of Warwick; Zoological Society of London; Foreign and Commonwealth Office BIOT Administration
Project Leader	Dr. John Turner, Bangor University
Report date	April –Sept 2012
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	1
Project website	To be established

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).

Numbers refer to objectives and planned activities in baseline timetable

- 1.1 *Steering Group Meetings to establish Darwin Project and to monitor progress and delivery (inc. preparation) Q1:* The Co-PIs have had meetings every 2 months via Skype to date, and close to daily e mail contact in between.
- 1.2 *Meetings with BIOT section FCO and BIOT Science Advisory Group (inc. Preparation) for monitoring and evaluation Q1:* Regular meetings and contact with BIOT has occurred during the planning stages. Reports have been made to The BIOT Scientific Advisory Group at 2 of their meetings.
- 1.3 *Develop protocols for environmental survey baseline and monitoring sites, including resiliency and functional diversity/response diversity measures, Establishment of GIS and data archiving Q1-3:* Initial plans have been discussed with potential theme leaders, and methods are under development: (involving: Turner, Koldewey, Sheppard, Head, Pratchett, Schelyer, Wagner, Kosaki, Samoily, Price, Meeuwig, Letessier, Graham, Wilson) .
- 1.4 *Develop restoration initiatives for island flora and fauna, erosion and accretion assessment Q1-3:* Initial plans have been discussed with potential theme leaders, and methods are under development (Carr, Clubbe, Florens, Cottam)
- 1.5 *Develop impact matrices and mitigation measures for potential impacts (Q2-3):* To be initiated.
- 1.6 *Scientific planning meetings for field research expeditions (inc. preparation) to cover expedition logistics (Q2):* Underway – expedition 1 planned (February 13th – March 19th).
- 2.1 *Organise & arrange preparation of safe scientific storage facility for/in Diego Garcia, including purchase and installation of diving air compressor, safe storage of boats and engines, and scientific monitoring equipment (Q1-3):* Well underway. Portacabin identified, purchased and currently in transit to Diego Garcia for fitting out on ship deck, with temporary shore pad and store. Equipment identified and ordered, and beginning to be delivered to Diego Garcia via USA/Singapore.
- 3.1 *Planning meetings with Chagossian Societies and Associations to organise workshops and activities to maximise engagement in outreach activities, including meetings with representatives in Mauritius and Seychelles (Q1-2):* Underway. Xavier Harmon appointed as Outreach Officer at ZSL and working with ZSL team on outreach engagement under Co-PI Koldewey (See: <http://www.zsl.org/conservation/regions/africa/chagos-coral/chagos-community,1915,AR.html>)
- 3.2 *Events, activities and workshops for Chagossian communities in UK, Mauritius and Seychelles (Q3):* Ahead of schedule: 2 family orientated Chagos Fun days (London 7th July 2012 and Manchester 21st July 2012) involved approx 600 Chagossians (see:

<http://www.zsl.org/conservation/regions/africa/chagos-coral/chagos-fun-day-2012,161,PS.html>). 9 week Chagos Environment Training Course for 18 trainees began on 18th August 2012 and completes with awards on 15th November 2012, covering modules in Team building, Marine Ecosystems, Terrestrial Ecosystems and Communication (see:<http://www.zsl.org/conservation/regions/africa/chagos-coral/chagos-environment-training-course-blog-2012,1983,AR.html>) and discussions are underway regarding initiatives in Mauritius and Seychelles with an introductory visit being planned.

3.3 *Identification of Chagossian Darwin Fellows for specific training in conservation , and participation in Darwin project bursary and externally funded approved training in diving, survey and practical conservation techniques(Q3 : Underway – 1 fellow identified (Pascal) to date and assistance being provided in foundation courses for tertiary education.*

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.

None

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: no

Received confirmation of change acceptance no

3. Do you expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No

If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible. It would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication of how much you expect this request might be for.

Estimated carryforward request: £n/a

4. 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 planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with LTS International directly.

Please send your **completed form by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.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: 17-075 Darwin Half Year Report**