

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(Due 31 October 2010)

Project Ref No	19-030
Project Title	Darwin Initiative's Falkland Islands raptors – reducing conflicts with rural livelihoods.
Country(ies)	Falkland Islands
UK Organisation	
Collaborator(s)	Falklands Conservation, RZSS,RSPB, Falkland Islands government, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Wildlife Conservation Society, Boise State University and EDM International Inc.
Project Leader	James Fenton
Report date	31 st October 2012
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	1
Project website	N/A

1. Project Officer started work on the project 14th May 2012. Questionnaires to get a view of stakeholders attitudes concerning raptors and their impacts on rural livelihoods have been sent out to the rural community – 46% returns. Interviews with farmers on their views about the impacts of raptors on sheep farming are being carried out as and when opportunities arise. Observations of lambing sheep have been carried out in several locations to ascertain what if any impact raptors have on sheep and new born lambs at this vulnerable time.

Ten days in late July/early August were spent on Saunders Island leg banding and fitting GPS loggers to striated caracaras in conjunction with Keith Bildstein of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. This was used as an opportunity for the project officer to get up to speed with trapping and fitting of equipment to caracaras. Saunders Islands (a sheep farm) has a large winter population of striated caracara, but not known to have any breeding pairs. Some work was carried out on the winter ecology of striated caracaras by a team of three on Steeple Jason Island, a non-farmed island and one of these species strongholds in the Falkland Islands. From early August to early September 2012, seventy striated caracaras were also leg banded with help again from Keith Bildstein. Large numbers of seabirds breed on Steeple Jason which the striated caracaras use as a food source during the summer months, but these leave during the winter months meaning the caracaras have to find an alternative food source.

2. 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/yes, in..... (month/yr)

Formal change request submitted: no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

Received confirmation of change acceptance no/yes in.....(month/yr)

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: £

4. At this time we hope not to have a underspend on the budget by the end of this financial year. However Hawk Mountain Sanctuary is trialling a new tracker on a striated caracara and if this seems to work we would purchase some of this new type. In this case the £9,000 budget for trackers will be spent... But if we have to trial another type of tracker the trial may run over the end of this financial year, meaning we will not have spent the money budgeted for the purchase of trackers.

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**