

# Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2010)

<b>Project Ref No</b>	19-031
<b>Project Title</b>	Mapping St Helena's marine biodiversity to create a marine management plan
<b>Country(ies)</b>	UK OT ST Helena
<b>UK Organisation</b>	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Nature Conservation Division, Environmental Management Department, St Helena.
<b>Project Leader</b>	Dr Tony Weighell
<b>Report date</b>	31 October 2012
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	HYR 1
<b>Project website</b>	na

## 1. Project initiation/progress

The project start date was April 1<sup>st</sup> 2012. Subsequent to the submission of the grant application for the project the St Helena Government recruited a Manager for their new Nature Conservation Division. This manager is a marine biologist and her appointment makes a significant addition to the management capacity for this project and the skills available on the island. JNCC submitted a request to LTS to change the management structure for the project, to recruit a Project Manager only instead of a PM and GIS specialist. JNCC received consent to change the management structure mid year. Recruitment for the new post was not initiated until consent was received and there has been a delay of approximately 2.5 months to the project because of this and the remote location of St Helena which imposed travel restrictions on the individual recruited to the post.

A recruitment process for Project Manager was undertaken during the Summer and a Project Manager, Dr. Judith Brown, has been recruited, and a contract finalised. Dr Brown travels to St Helena to take up her post on 26th November. The remote location of St Helena has also resulted in some additional minor delays in getting a Programme Leader into post. Office accommodation has been secured and computer hardware purchased using Darwin funds. The installation of the PM on the island will represent the effective beginning of project work.

## 2. Problems/changes during reporting period

The only significant change during the last six months, since the project commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> April, was the proposed change to the project management structure as a result of additional personnel with relevant skills becoming available in St Helena since the project plan was submitted. This has had an overall positive impact on the project, by providing additional marine expertise, but required a delay to the recruitment process pending approval. These changes were discussed with LTS/Defra. The delay in recruitment may have budget implications and result in a request for a carry-forward of funds but a final budget for this FY will not be available until late December/Early January 2013. This is referred to below.

<b>Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?</b>	
The proposed management changes were discussed with LTS/Defra. No changes to the agreement were made.	
<b>Discussed with LTS:</b>	Yes, in March 2012
<b>Formal change request submitted:</b>	Yes, in March 2012
<b>Received confirmation of change acceptance</b>	Yes in June 2012

**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 carry forward request: £** Estimate not currently available – see below

#### **4. Other issues**

Due to factors referred to above the new Project Manager will not be in place in St Helena until late November. Until she is in post we cannot finalise the budget for the current FY year but given the initial delays we believe there will be an underspend this FY and we will want to request a carryover. We cannot estimate this at the date of this report but can provide an indication no later than January 11<sup>th</sup> 2013. For the purposes of this report since we have not been able to estimate the requested carryforward we have answered Yes to the question in Box 3 to reflect our current expectations but have not indicated a figure. Advice on how LTS wish to manage the current uncertainty will be welcome but in any event JNCC will provide the necessary budget update within the timescale indicated,

**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](mailto: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**