



Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2014)

Project Ref No	20-006
Project Title	A sustainable marine and fisheries management plan for the Pitcairn islands
Country(ies)	Pitcairn Islands
Lead Organisation	University of Dundee
Collaborator(s)	Natural Resources Division, Government of Pitcairn Island, Zoological Society of London, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Sea-Scope Marine Environmental Consultants
Project Leader	Terence Peter Dawson
Report date and number (eg HYR3)	31/10/14 HYR1
Project website	http://www.zsl.org/regions/uk-and-overseas-territories/pitcairn-islands-marine-conservation

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) 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 to end September).

The project has been quite productive over the last 6 months, with several project members visiting Pitcairn from ZSL, Sea-Scope and SPC, as well as observing parliamentary activities relating to MPA designation:

Outputs and activities relating to the project implementation timetable, section 25 of original proposal:

- Robert Irving, Dr Tom B. Letessier; and Henry Duffy (MSc student) - Visit to Pitcairn for 18 days (May/June) to oversee construction & deployment of Baited Remote Underwater Video Systems (BRUVs). (**Outputs 1.2, 1.3**) Meetings with various islanders about the project, including the newly-elected Mayor (Shawn Christian); Head of Natural Resources Division (Michele Christian), Tourism Dept. staff (Heather Menzies & Melva Evans); Island Governor (Pete Smith); Store Manager (Steve Christian); and numerous others. Attended two Council Meetings (as an interested party).
- Delphine Leguerrier Sauboua Suraud (SPC and Darwin partner) visited Pitcairn in May/June 2014 to discuss with the team and islanders how SPC can help to support the progress of the fisheries management plan. SPC agreed to provide examples of other Pacific island state fisheries Association constitutions, to facilitate the Pitcairn constitutional framework (**Outputs 4.1, 4.2**)
- Ana Pinto (ZSL) visited the Pitcairn Islands in Aug/Sept 2014 to undertake activities relating to tourism and outreach (**Outputs 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.5, 5.6, 5.8**). A full report is enclosed.
- Robert Irving gave two Powerpoint/Video public presentations at the Public Hall in Pitcairn on the work of the project and the initial findings of the underwater video cameras; and another presentation on management issues comparing the islands of Pitcairn (South Pacific) and Lundy (NE Atlantic). (**Outputs 3.2, 3.2**)
- The project received newly-delivered electric compressor and 4 12l diving tanks. Sourced (where possible) and sorted out on-island dive kit (donated by earlier Darwin Challenge project). Assisted in fitting out of new Dive Equipment facility. (**Output 5.4**)
- May-Sep 2014: Whale recording forms disseminated and collected. Whale sightings recorded and photographed. (**Output 1.3**)
- Fishing catch opportunistically photographed and recorded. (**Output 1.3**)

- Hard copies of visitor surveys disseminated on island to tourists from the Claymore. Link to online visitor survey given to visiting yachts. Link to online cruise ship survey given out on MV Dawn Princess. Slideshow presentation about Darwin Project included in cruise ship lecture onboard (**Output 5.6**).

Other outreach and media outcomes (Output 5):

- Henry Duffy submitted articles on the Darwin Project and the BRUV monitoring study published in June and August editions of Pitcairn Miscellany, the island newsletter and submitted a BRUV project summary to be included in October edition of Pitcairn Miscellany; Article published on Pitcairn tourism website, will also be included in the quarterly tourism newsletter; Presentation about conservation/Darwin Project given at school. Presentation summarising BRUV results given to community.
- Robert Irving submitted an article for the Darwin Newsletter entitled “*Here’s looking at you! Initial findings of underwater video of reef fishes at Pitcairn*”.
- Robert Irving gave a presentation on ‘*Remote islands and their marine provenance – the risks posed by unwanted introductions*’ (with a specific focus on the Pitcairn Islands) at the Marine Invasive Species Workshop, Marine Alliance Science Technology Scotland (MASTS) Conference, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, 3-5 September.
- Henry Duffy completed his MSc thesis ‘*Fisheries Resources of Pitcairn Island: Assessment and Management Challenges*’ which received a distinction from Imperial College London. A paper is now being prepared for peer-reviewed publication.
- Dr Heather Koldewey (ZSL) gave a plenary talk ‘*An overview of building hope and innovation in marine conservation*’ at the *International Marine Conservation Congress in Glasgow, 14th -18th August 2014, Making Marine Conservation Matter* which featured several ZSL Darwin projects including Pitcairn.
- Prof. Terry Dawson presented a paper (authors Dawson T.P., Irving, R. And Koldewey, H., 2014) *Establishing the largest Marine Protected Area in the world: Scientific justification and management challenges for the Pitcairn Islands*. In, Proceedings of the International Marine Conservation Congress, SECC Glasgow, 14-18 Aug 2014.
- Tom Letessier (University Western Australia) spent two weeks at ZSL following his trip to Pitcairn. Tom, Robert Irving and Heather Koldewey spent time reviewing the trip and associated findings.
- A Pitcairn Environment Group meeting (including representatives from Pitcairn) was held to discuss the island visit by the Darwin team and other ongoing projects, that was attended by the Darwin project team. It was agreed that the NGOs working on Pitcairn would work together to produce a newsletter, website and social media that shared information on conservation and research activities.
- Ana Pinto and Sarah Thomas (ZSL Discovery and Learning team) attended an All Party Parliamentary event on zoos and aquariums where they were able to discuss Pitcairn with MPs, notably Andrew Rosindell (chair of the APPG for Zoos and Aquariums). This prompted a parliamentary question (see below) (**Output 5.13**).
- Heather Koldewey, Terry Dawson, Robert Irving attended a parliamentary event hosted by Zac Goldsmith MP to propose 3 UKOTs as marine reserves, including Pitcairn. There is a coordinated approach among the science and conservation community to support this initiative which will be progressed over the next six months, with engagement from the Darwin project team and co-ordinated by project partner the Marine Reserves Coalition. (**Output 5.13**)
- Two parliamentary questions were asked in relation to Pitcairn in the House of Commons (**Output 5.13**) – see Annex 1.

2a. 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.

After recruitment of a Fisheries Officer (Brian Young) in March 2014, he suffered some medical problems in May, which resulted in him being evacuated from Pitcairn Island in June 2014 (to Mangareva and thereafter medivac to Papeete by aircraft). Brian was hospitalised and off-island on sick leave until September 2014. Upon returning to his post, he informed the NRD manager that he will resign his post, so we are currently in the process of re-recruiting a new fisheries officer. As a result of this unfortunate situation, we are delayed in the establishment of a fish catch monitoring programme which is acceptable to the island fishers. Negotiations are on-going, and in principle, a plan has been proposed that involves the recording of catch landing data through a photographic record of selected fish weights and lengths on a flat-bed weigh-scale installed at Bounty Bay quayside, to be collated each week by the fisheries officer. This plan would ensure that fishers remain anonymous, and requires the least effort by them in maintaining record keeping. Robert Irving will visit Pitcairn in November 2014, to agree participation of all fishers so that we can go ahead and purchase and install the appropriate equipment (**Output 2.2**).

A major on-island project – the development of an alternative harbour landing site on Pitcairn island at Tedsid is, to some degree, diverting the attention of the islanders, as this project, started in August 2014, is recruiting most of the able islanders to undertake a fairly busy workload over the forthcoming months. Our team members have reported a reduced enthusiasm in helping us with boat and survey deployments since the alternative harbour project started as the new project jobs became available.

We are also experiencing some delays in the progress of the legislation relating to the fisheries management plan. Correspondence has been established with the Pitcairn Island Government lawyer, who has agreed to review and incorporate our plans into the revision of the Pitcairn constitution. However, despite following up with subsequent emails, we have not made any significant inroads into this process. In the meanwhile, we have submitted to them a draft constitution for a Pitcairn Fisheries Association (PFA), which will act as the legal body for the establishment of the rules and regulations (by-laws) relating to the individual fisheries to be managed. The PFA will be made up of the island fishers, who will have voting rights. The plan is for the Governor’s representative to act as the Chairperson and the Fisheries Officer will be the Secretary. We have also been corresponding with the Secretariat of the Pacific Commission with regard to adoption of appropriate conservation strategies for sustainable fisheries as they relate to other pacific island states (**Output 4**).

The above problems are delays rather than failures in the sense that we anticipate progression will continue to be made, however more slowly than anticipated, to a satisfactory conclusion by the end of the project. They do not have any significant impact on our budget and spending plans.

2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with LTS: Yes/No

Formal change request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/No

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

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully as it is unlikely

that any requests to carry forward funds will be approved this year. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project and would like to talk to someone about the options available this year, please indicate below when you think you might be in a position to do this and what the reasons might be:

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

None.

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 can be discussed in this report but **should also be raised with LTS International through a Change Request.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk . The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 20-035 Darwin Half Year Report**