



Darwin Initiative Annual Report



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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

Darwin Project Information

Project Reference	20-006
Project Title	A sustainable marine and fisheries management plan for the Pitcairn islands
Host Country/ies	Pitcairn Islands
Contract Holder Institution	University of Dundee
Partner institutions	Natural Resources Division, Government of Pitcairn Island, Zoological Society of London, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Sea-Scope Marine Environmental Consultants
Darwin Grant Value	£249,946
Start/end dates of project	September 2013 – September 2016
Reporting period (eg Apr 2013 – Mar 2014) and number (eg Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	September 2013 – March 2014 Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	Professor Terence Dawson
Project website	http://www.zsl.org/regions/uk-and-overseas-territories/pitcairn-islands-marine-conservation
Report author(s) and date	Terry Dawson, Heather Koldewey, Robert Irving, Michelle Christian

1. Project Rationale

Given their extremely isolated location and difficulties of access, the Pitcairn Islands' marine habitats are one of the UKOTs least known ecosystems (Figure 1). Scientific evidence for fisheries management of Pitcairn's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) remains insufficient for decision-making, as highlighted by the PEMP report (Smyth, 2009) and confirmed by our Challenge Fund report (2012). Global fishing pressures on migratory species, especially tuna and billfish, have resulted in commercial fishing fleets increasingly approaching the Pitcairn Government to lease their fishing rights. Further, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) proposed that the Pitcairn community develop commercial reef fisheries for export to neighbouring Mangareva. The environmental and economic sustainability of such proposals are unknown. Crucially, the small local community relies on fishing for food, and together with tourism, providing income support. Considering these challenges with socio-political and economic pressures, our project will facilitate informed decision-making by the Pitcairn Government for sustainable marine resource use by (1) underpinning the scientific evidence-base; (2) developing local capacity for fisheries and environmental assessments; (3) developing a marine management plan with the Pitcairn community and UK Government for fisheries and the proposed marine reserve; (4) enhancing tourism opportunities; and (5) increasing awareness of Pitcairn's importance in meeting the UK's biodiversity targets. A key development within this project is to work closely with the Pew Charitable Trust and the Pitcairn

Island Council to support the establishment of a Marine Protected Area, and to provide the underpinning management protocols and scientific evidence-base to ensure a sustainable future for Pitcairn's marine resources.

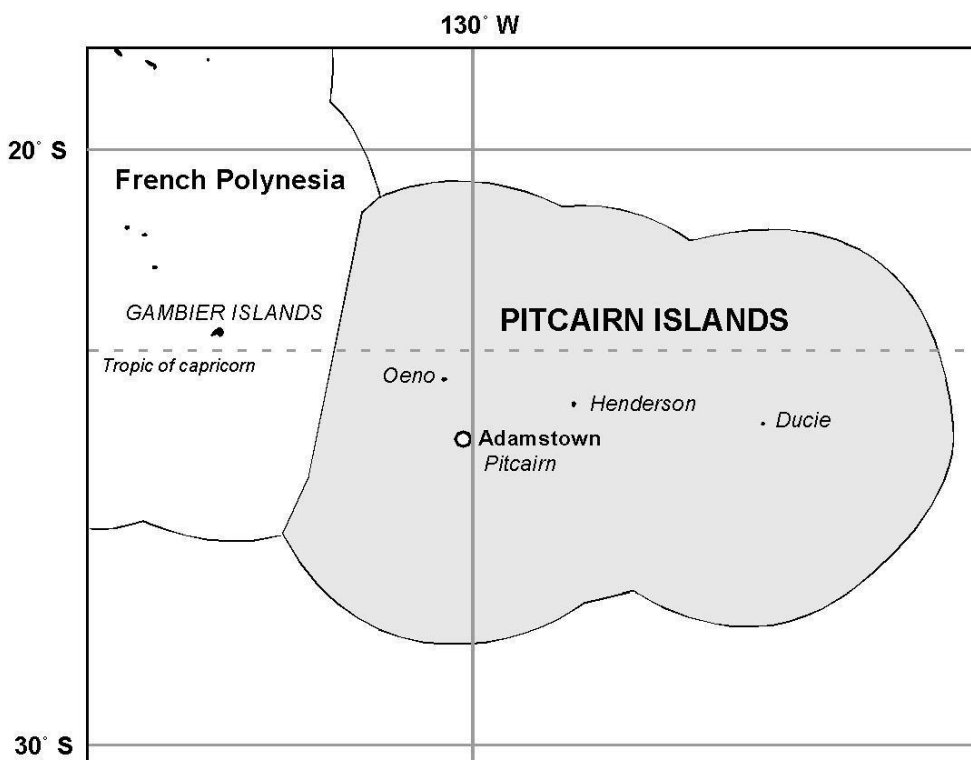


Figure 1. Map of the Pitcairn EEZ and islands.

2. Project Partnerships

The UK based partners (Dundee University, Sea-Scope, the Zoological Society of London) have liaised frequently since the project's inception on 1st September 2013. Meetings have been held via Skype and in person. A MoU has been agreed between Dundee University and ZSL, and between Dundee University and Sea-Scope.

Skype meetings have been held with Michele Christian, Head of the Natural Resources Division, Government of Pitcairn Island. Terry Dawson (Dundee Univ.) and Heather Koldewey (ZSL) visited Pitcairn in November/December 2013 during which time meetings were held with Michele Christian and the Pitcairn Island Council, as well as the incoming Mayor, Shawn Christian (from 2014). Meetings were also held with the incoming British Government Representative on Pitcairn, Pete Smith and with Martin Longden, Deputy Director of the Overseas Territories Department at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. There have been on-going and regular email exchanges between Michele Christian and the project's UK partners.

Collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) through email exchanges is on-going between Terry Dawson and the SPC (Michel Blanc) (see section 3.1. below).

A Pitcairn Environment (Stakeholders) Group (PEG) was established in May 2013, hosted by the Pew Trusts, London – to support the exchange of knowledge and activities being conducted on Pitcairn. Meetings have been convened on 20th May 2013, 15th August 2013, 9th October 2013 (attended by Pitcairn islanders Simon Young, Deputy Mayor and Melva Warren Evans) and 4th February 2014 (see Figure 2 below). All of these meetings were attended by the UK Darwin project team. The Darwin project was presented and discussed on each occasion as

part of a regular update. Pitcairn islanders involved in the Darwin project (Michele Christian and Darralyn Griffiths) attended the February 2014 meeting by conference call.



Figure 2. Group photo of the 4th Pitcairn Environment Group meeting on 4th Feb 2014.

L-R, Top Row: Heather Bradner (Pew Trusts), **Henry Duffy (Imperial College London)**, **Ana Pinto (ZSL)**, **Heather Koldewey (ZSL)**, **Fiona Llewellyn (Marine Reserves Coalition)**, Naomi Kingston (Dublin University), Jon Slayer (independent), Felix Driver (Pitcairn Historical Society), Elisabeth Whitebread (Pew Trusts) & Paul Rose (National Geographic).
L-R, Bottom Row: **Robert Irving (Sea-Scope)**, Richard Nimmo (Blue Ventures), **Terry Dawson (Dundee University)**, Tania Paschen (Pew Trusts), Alistair Gammell (Pew Trusts) & Jonathan Hall (RSPB). (Those involved in the Darwin project in bold).

3. Project Progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project activities

The letters in red cross reference to the relevant section in the project logframe.

The project officially started on 1st September 2013.

Subject to the challenges outlined in section 8, many of the principal Darwin focused activities are (and will be) conducted during the visits that have been made to (and from) the Pitcairn islands, with the first visit being undertaken from 28 Nov to 8 Dec 2013. Terry Dawson and Heather Koldewey had a very productive engagement with the island community. The following principal activities were undertaken while on the island:

29 Nov: A public consultation (with nearly all islanders present) was led by Martin Longden, FCO representative. The discussion focused around the medium to long-term sustainability of the island community, with particular reference to demography (aging population and emigration) and economic challenges. (A)

01 Dec: Meeting with David Brown, Museum curator, for a visit of the Library and Cultural Centre (recently housed in the HM Government buildings) and Museum. From this, a draft outreach report has been created, led by Heather, to evaluate the strategies for stakeholder outreach and other public and media engagement. (B)

01 Dec: Meeting with Michele Christian, Manager, Natural Resources Division, Government of Pitcairn to discuss overall Darwin project aims and objectives, and to discuss activities to achieve project outcomes and outputs. Drafting of job description for the appointment of a fisheries officer. (C)

02 Dec: Fishers meeting and Training Workshop. Terry and Heather led a full morning training Introductory workshop and discussion meeting to introduce the objectives of the Darwin project, presentations: *The state of the world's fisheries (1 hour)*; *Introduction to fisheries management (monitoring and regulation) (3 hours)*, and proposal of various protocols for individual fisheries

regulations for Pitcairn, initially focusing on the lobster species. This was a well-attended event (20 participants) and generated a large amount of debate and discussion. However, in principle, the fishers agreed that the long-term sustainability of their fisheries was predicated upon the adoption of local regulations, especially in the light of new fish trading opportunities with French Polynesia. (D)

03 Dec: Meeting with Pete Smith, the new Governors' on-island representative. Discuss Darwin project objectives, and to investigate island facilities for long-term accommodation as a mechanism to support visiting scientists. (E)

04 Dec: Presentation at the Pitcairn Island Council meeting. This was another formal introduction of the Darwin project aims and objectives to the Pitcairn Island Council members, to ensure their full support for the project. Positive feedback and endorsement of the project was received. (F)

05 Dec: A fortuitous visit of the cruise ship *MS Hanseatic* with 122 passengers onboard enabled Heather to go aboard and have discussions with staff and the resident tourist guides, as well as assessing their on island tourism experience. The information was recorded in the draft outreach report. (G)

06 Dec: Meeting with Michele Christian to discuss the establishment of a visitors' science lab/resource within the new Natural Resources Division building. It was agreed that both office and laboratory space would be made available, together with secure storage facilities for equipment and materials. This facility will provide access to internet and include freezers, diving and ecological monitoring equipment storage for the Darwin project scientists as well as create a long-term space for other visiting scientists. (H)

06 Dec: Meeting with Heather Menzies, Pitcairn Island Tourism Coordinator. A number of issues were discussed including the islands tourism action plans and drawing upon (and revising) the draft outreach report. (I)

Engagement has been established and is on-going with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) through email exchanges between Terry and the SPC (Michel Blanc) with respect to advice on other Pacific nations fisheries regulations and by-laws (Oct-Nov 2013), and to support the negotiation of a fish trading agreement with French Polynesia (Dec 2013). SPC provided a number of publications relating to the management/conservation of the lobster species, which was selected as the first target species for fisheries management, as well as information on reef fish. Terry developed some draft guidelines for presentation to the island fishers in December 2013 (J). A provisional commitment to a fish trade agreement was successfully achieved through an online conversation between Terry, Michel Blanc (SPC) and Patrice Perrin, Directeur des affaires économiques, Polynésie française, with specific details to be developed at a later date between Patrice and Michele Christian. (K)

From 21-27 October 2013, Pitcairn islanders Simon Young and Melva Warren Evans, together with Heather Koldewey and Darwin project collaborators from Pew Trusts and National Geographic attended the *3rd International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC3)* held in Marseilles, France. This event attracted 1,200 attendees from 90 countries, including key ministers and decision makers. Martin Longden from the FCO attended this event and enabled Heather and the Pitcairn islanders to discuss some of the marine resource management plans for Pitcairn. The team had many opportunities to represent the Pitcairn islanders support for the establishment of a marine protected area in the Pitcairn islands, with a particular highlight being a workshop entitled "MPAs in a Changing World: Island Challenges", where Heather Bradner (Pew) presented the Protect Pitcairn initiative. Simon Young also presented at the IUCN Global Island Partnerships (GLISPA) Island Challenges event on 24 Oct. (L)

On October 30th 2014, there was a Parliamentary Briefing of the All Party Group's UK Overseas Territories and Marine Biodiversity sub Groups at the House of Commons, attended by two Pitcairn Islanders, Simon Young and Melva Warren Evans, and Heather Koldewey together with other members of the Pitcairn Environment Group. The meeting, chaired by Sir Andrew Stunell MP, was convened to brief Parliamentarians on the marine ecosystem that surrounds the Pitcairn islands and the benefits of establishing a marine protected reserve within the exclusive economic zone. (M)

3.2 Progress towards project outputs

A number of outputs are on-going and there have been some achievements, in particular:

An initial web-site has been established (N) at:

<http://www.zsl.org/regions/uk-and-overseas-territories/pitcairn-islands-marine-conservation>

A series of 'blogs' on the November/Dec visit to Pitcairn was initiated by Heather Koldewey (O) with several entries on the Marine Reserves Coalition website, also shared via social media (Facebook and Twitter):

<http://www.marinereservescoalition.org/2013/12/02/pitcairn-a-long-way-from-anywhere/>

<http://www.marinereservescoalition.org/2013/12/11/pitcairn-talking-lobsters-in-the-rain/>

<http://www.marinereservescoalition.org/2013/12/13/wild-pitcairn/>

<http://www.marinereservescoalition.org/2013/12/17/my-pitcairn-history/> (This blog examines Heather's own personal family history relating to the Pitcairn Islands).

<http://www.marinereservescoalition.org/2013/12/20/pitcairn-small-islands-big-ocean/>

Policy Publication - A parliamentary policy-briefing has been completed and submitted to Martin Longden, FCO. Written by the UK Darwin Initiative team, the report entitled *The Pitcairn Islands – The case for protecting their marine environment* by Robert Irving, Terence P. Dawson & Heather Koldewey is currently under review and will be sent up to Ministers (Outcomes - Indicator 5) (P)

Media - A newspaper article arising from the IMPAC3 Congress has been published in *Le Monde*, France's most respected daily newspaper, entitled: A Pitcairn, la bataille des descendants de la "Bounty" (*translated as From Pitcairn, the battle of the descendants of the "Bounty"*) (online at: http://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2013/10/25/a-pitcairn-la-bataille-des-descendants-de-la-bounty_3502980_3244.html, last accessed on 26/04/14). (Q)

Newsletter – A Darwin Initiative project article "The Darwin Project" was published with photographs in the December 2013 Edition of *Dem Tull* (Pitcairn News), Volume 7, Number 12. Available at: <http://www.demtullpitcairn.com/>. (R)

As at April 2014, there have been some initial progress in the development of the following materials and documents:

- CONSTITUTION OF PITCAIRN FISHERS ASSOCIATION, which will provide a mechanism for the implementation of fisheries regulations and bylaws, set by the association membership. (S)

- Revision of the Pitcairn laws relating to fisheries legislation. The relevant part of the Pitcairn laws of the current Pitcairn Constitution has been identified and reviewed and the Darwin team are in the process of establishing negotiations with Danielle Kelly, assistant to the Attorney General, Government of Pitcairn Island, who is currently overhauling the existing Constitution. (T)

A Fisheries and Marine officer, Brian Young, was recruited from project funds in March 2014 for a period of two years in the first instance. (U)

An abstract "Establishing the largest Marine Protected Area in the world: Scientific justification and management challenges for the Pitcairn Islands", based upon the policy document submitted to the FCO (see above) has been accepted as an Oral presentation at the 3rd International Marine Conservation Congress in Glasgow, Aug 2014 where Terry will present the research. (V)

Initial plans have been put in place for the publication of a book on the natural history of the Pitcairn Islands (working title: "A Natural History of the Pitcairn Islands – exploration and conservation in action"). This is being led by Robert Irving, who will be the main author/editor of the publication. He is in the process of inviting a selection of academic colleagues, researchers

and some of the islanders to contribute. Additional funding is currently being sought from a number of organisations. It is envisioned publication will be Winter 2015. (W)

3.3 Progress towards the project Purpose/Outcome

The purpose-level assumptions of our project remain. The UK and Pitcairn Governments, together with the Island Council, are fully committed to developing a more sustainable livelihoods strategy for the island community, as evidenced by the visit of the FCO to Pitcairn in Nov/Dec 2013. It is recognised by the whole community that tourism and near-shore fisheries currently represent the primary mainstays of the local economy (excluding offshore activities, such as Philately). Establishing a marine management plan that is ecosystem-based and sustainable is crucial to secure a future for the unique marine biodiversity of the Pitcairn Islands and community. Activities from section 3.2 relating to measured project Outcomes are:

Indicator 1: Monitoring protocols in place, a quayside weigh-station is established and a central database of marine monitoring data is maintained. (C) (D) (U)

Indicator 2: Fisheries management plans in place for spiny and slipper lobsters, coral trout and other groupers. (C) (D)

Indicator 3: Marine management plan legally ratified that includes a globally significant MPA. (F) (S) (T)

Indicator 4: Tourism and outreach package in place on visiting cruise ships and at the Pitcairn heritage museum and through the Internet. (B) (J)

Indicator 5: References to Pitcairn in Parliamentary questions, Google ranking for project websites. (A) (N) (O) (P)

3.4 Goal/ Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty alleviation

Currently, Pitcairn relies on budgetary aid from the UK government for over 90% of its income. Fishing is an important livelihood strategy for the Pitcairn Island community with most households having one or more fishers. We are already developing and/or have initiated activities that will:

1. Provide social and ecological information through research that is directly and primarily relevant to the problems of Pitcairn.
2. Build capacity in Pitcairn, through training of community members, the promotion of the museum and strengthening research infrastructure and capability (educational and laboratory material and equipment, outreach training, marine conservation).

4. Project support to the Conventions (CBD, CMS and/or CITES)

The focus on biodiversity assessments over the next six months will include the collection and review of information on species listed under CITES and CMS. The ongoing input of the project team into plans for a large marine protected area around Pitcairn has the potential to make a significant contribution to the UK government's support for CBD targets of 10% marine protection by 2020.

5. Project support to poverty alleviation

Activities relating to the development of economic opportunities are on-going. In particular, the negotiation of a trade agreement with French Polynesia is progressing, with support from SPC. (K)

Other short-term economic benefits arising from the project are local community employment opportunities, including the appointment of a part-time fisheries and marine officer for 2-years in the first instance (U). We have also recruited some of the island engineers to build five special underwater frames for mounting our underwater stereoscopic monitoring cameras (Baited Remote Underwater Videos - BRUVs), and these, together with local boat-owners who will help to deploy the BRUVs and scientific divers for underwater assessment and monitoring of fisheries sites, will be paid salaries through the Pitcairn Government Office.

6. Monitoring, evaluation and lessons

It was recognised from our first visit in Nov-Dec 2013 that the monitoring of activities at a local (island) level would need to be implemented by a committed interested party, hence the recruitment of the Fisheries and Marine Officer became paramount to ensure satisfactory recording of fishing activity on a day-to-day basis. We are planning for a trial 'live' monitoring of fishing effort to take place in May/June, when the next team of Darwin scientists arrive.

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

Not applicable.

8. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Due to the infrequency of the boat schedules (Claymore II) to Pitcairn Island (four times per year), and limits to the number of passengers that can be carried (12 berths), we have already encountered problems due to the unavailability of berths to visit Pitcairn Island. This was because there have been a number of medical evacuations for off-island treatment of the Pitcairn islanders, as well as a special visit and reunion of Pitcairn families from Norfolk Island in February 2014. In addition, there have been official visits from government, a new government representative and changeover of the professional non-local staff (doctor, teacher, police officer). Terry and Heather were shortlisted for the November/December 2013 trip, which was the first one possible since the project started – and were fortunate that a cancellation enabled them both to visit on that occasion. However, attempts to obtain berths on the February 2014 trip was unsuccessful (all places were fully booked), hence the next UK project member visits to the island will occur in late May/June. This has inevitably resulted in delays to achieving some of the activities and outputs within our original timetable as many of the island-based activities will now start in May/June 2014 rather than the originally-planned Feb/Mar 2014. We are revising the list of outputs and reorganising activities to ensure that we can achieve all our aims within the overall time-scale of the project. It is likely that we will be asking for a no-cost extension for the project, however, with an expectation to finish within the same financial year (from Sep 2016 up to Mar 2017).

9. Sustainability

With respect to the long-term sustainability of the project, much of the Darwin Initiative activity is working towards constitutional change to the Pitcairn laws with respect to fisheries and marine management practices, the training of the local community in sustainable management of marine resources, diversification of livelihood opportunities based on the unique wildlife of Pitcairn and the establishment of a long-term trade agreement with French Polynesia for the supply of marine resources.

10. Darwin Identity

All project presentations, websites and publications use the Darwin Initiative logo and highlight the Darwin Initiative financial support. Given the earlier Darwin Challenge fund project in Pitcairn (No. EIDCF003) (2010-2012), the Darwin Initiative is already well known by all members of the island community.

11. Project Expenditure

Submitted earlier.

12. 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 the Darwin Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here)

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2013-2014

See separate logframe document with notes attached

Outputs planned for completion in April 2014 (with current status):

Output 1 Fisheries research reports and appraisals.

- 1.1 In depth review of scientific and fisheries literature relating to Pitcairn species of commercial value **Partially completed, on-going**
- 1.2 Conduct habitat surveys and determine the occurrence and spatial distribution of commercially valued species **Delayed - To start May 2014**
- 1.3 Conduct biodiversity surveys using standardised approaches **Delayed - To start May 2014**

Output 3 Fishers trained in, and utilising, fisheries monitoring and management protocols. Household economic action plans

- 3.1 Development of standardised methods **Design completed, needs writing up.**
- 3.2 Training workshops **Partially completed, on-going**

Output 4 Establishment of a legally-binding fisheries management plan

- 4.1 Consultation workshops for fisheries management plan **Started, needs following up in May 2014**
- 4.2 Development of fisheries management options **Delayed - To start May 2014**

Output 5 Dissemination of information to stakeholders and outreach

- 5.1 Consultation workshops on outreach materials and plan **Delayed - To start Aug 2014**
- 5.2 Outreach training for 2x Pitcairners **Delayed - To start Aug 2014**
- 5.3 Interpretation and outreach plan for the museum **Delayed - To start Aug 2014**
- 5.4 Consultation and design of simple research facilities **Completed**
- 5.6 Consultation with tourism companies and community on enhanced tourism package **Started, on-going**
- 5.7 Production of tourist outreach pack, including film **Delayed - To start Aug 2014**
- 5.8 Website and social media established and articles posted **On-track, on-going**
- 5.11 Webinars with other relevant groups, including Pacific Island nations and Chagossians **On-track, including updates/dissemination to the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (UKOTCF)**
- 5.13 Parliamentary questions tabled in relation to Pitcairn **On-track, Pitcairn Marine Reserve proposal under review, Scientific Policy Briefing submitted**

Annex 2 Project's full current logframe

See separate logframe document

Annex 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
Established codes								
5	Appointment of Marine/Fisheries Officer (Pitcairner)	1						
6A	Sustainable fisheries management training	20						
6B	Sustainable fisheries management training	0.1						
8	Pitcairn visit by Heather Koldewey & Terry Dawson	4						
14B	IMPAC3 Congress	1						
15A	<i>Dem Tull</i> (Pitcairn News) Vol 7, No 12.	1						
17A	<i>Pitcairn Environment Group</i> Established	1						
20	Diving and survey equipment	£262						
23	2 Pitcairn Islanders visit to the UK and France (funded by Pew Trust)	£16,000						
New - Project specific measures								

Table 2 Publications

Type (eg journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (title, author, year)	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (eg contact address, website)	Cost £
Policy Brief for Government Ministers (*)	<i>The Pitcairn Islands – The case for protecting their marine environment</i> , by Robert Irving, Terence P. Dawson & Heather Koldewey, 2014	University of Dundee, Dundee		N/A

Newsletter Article (*)	<i>The Darwin Project</i> , Terry Dawson, 2013	<i>Dem Tull</i> (<i>Pitcairn</i> <i>News</i>) Vol 7, No 12.	www.demtullpitcairn.com	FOC
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Annex 4 Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

This may include outputs of the project, but need not necessarily include all project documentation. For example, the abstract of a conference would be adequate, as would be a summary of a thesis rather than the full document. If we feel that reviewing the full document would be useful, we will contact you again to ask for it to be submitted.

It is important, however, that you include enough evidence of project achievement to allow reassurance that the project is continuing to work towards its objectives. Evidence can be provided in many formats (photos, copies of presentations/press releases/press cuttings, publications, minutes of meetings, reports, questionnaires, reports etc) and you should ensure you include some of these materials to support the annual report text.

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the Subject line.	✓
Is your report more than 10MB? 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.	✓
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 – sent earlier
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	