



Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31 October 2016)

Project Ref No	20-006
Project Title	A sustainable marine and fisheries management plan for the Pitcairn islands
Country(ies)/Territory(ies)	Pitcairn Islands
Lead Organisation	King's College London
Partner(s)	University of Dundee, Natural Resources Division - Government of Pitcairn Island, Zoological Society of London (ZSL), Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Sea-Scope Marine Environmental Consultants, Conservation Sans Frontieres, Marine Reserves Coalition.
Project Leader	Professor Terence Peter Dawson
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	31/10/16 HYR3
Project website/ Twitter/ Blog/ Instagram etc	1. http://www.zsl.org/regions/uk-and-overseas-territories/pitcairn-islands-marine-conservation 2. http://www.marinereservescoalition.org/resources/blog/
Funder (DFID/Defra)	DEFRA

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 made some significant progress in the last 6 months, with many delayed outputs now completed or advanced (see Annexe). Main achievements for this period are as follows:

(1) Underpinning the scientific evidence-base

A new science collaboration with the University of Auckland (Professor Andrew Jeffs) was initiated in August 2016 to collect DNA samples from Easter Island spiny lobsters (*Panulirus pascuensis*) of the Pitcairn Islands (see further information on our response to reviewer, AR3R).

Publications currently being prepared and/or submitted:

- Irving, RA, O'Keefe, S, Warren, P, Koldewey, HJ and Dawson TP, 2016, Confirmation of a new breeding ground for humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) in the central South Pacific, *Journal for Cetacean Research and Management*.
- Irving, R.A. and Dawson, T.P., 2016, A new record of the amphidromic freshwater shrimp *Macrobrachium latimanus* on Pitcairn Island, South Pacific, *Journal of Crustacean Biology*.
- Letessier, T., Duffy, H., Koldewey, H., Dawson, T.P., Irving, R. *et al.*, 2016, Fish assemblage and trophic structure from Gambier to Pitcairn: implications for fisheries management on remote South Pacific islands, in prep.
- Nikitine, J., Dawson, T.P., Wilson, M., 2016, Establishing large, remote no-take marine reserves: An evaluation of the Pitcairn Islands Marine Reserve, in prep.

(2) Developing local capacity for fisheries and environmental assessments

A community workshop was held on Pitcairn Island (22-26 May 2016) hosted by Hugh Govan and Caroline Vieux (SPC) through the Integre/Darwin collaboration entitled 'Participatory marine resource management planning' (14 islanders attended). Presentations were made on coastal management plans - experiences from around the Pacific, and training was provided on drafting a coastal fisheries management plan for Pitcairn. This workshop was followed up by Terry Dawson and Ana Pinto, who visited Pitcairn Island in Aug-Sep 2016 (meetings with the Natural Resources Division – Michelle Christian and Sue O'Keefe - and discussions with individual fishers).

(3) Developing a marine management plan with the Pitcairn community and UK Government for fisheries and the proposed marine reserve

On 14 September 2016, the UK Foreign Office Minister, Sir Alan Duncan, announced at the 'Our Ocean' Conference in the USA that the UK government would be investing £20 million to double the area of ocean under marine protection around the UK Overseas Territories. This commitment included the final designation of the marine protected area around the Pitcairn Islands that the UK Government proposed in 2015, which permanently closes more than 99% of the 840,000 square kilometre maritime zone around the Islands – 40,000 square kilometres more than originally planned.

The 'Pitcairn Islands Marine Protected Area Ordinance 2016' was drafted and became legal in August 2016 (prepared by the Attorney-General, Government of Pitcairn, with contributions from Terry Dawson, Heather Koldewey and Robert Irving as well as the Pitcairn Island Council, in consultation with the island community). This establishes the legal definition and framework for subsequent adoption of the Pitcairn Island Fisheries Management Plan (currently in preparation).

MSc awarded, entitled "Establishing large, remote no-take marine reserves: An evaluation of the Pitcairn Islands Marine Reserve", James Nikitine, Master of Science in Marine Systems and Policies 2015/2016, University of Edinburgh (Terry Dawson, supervisor). A peer-reviewed paper is being prepared.

MSc awarded, entitled "Recommended Actions for the Inshore Marine and Fisheries Management Plan for Pitcairn Island", Kirsty Grey, Master of Science in Marine Systems and Policies 2015/2016, University of Edinburgh (Terry Dawson, supervisor). The material in this dissertation is currently being revised for inclusion in the Pitcairn inshore fisheries management plan, to be submitted to the Natural Resources Division, Pitcairn Government by Dec 2016.

(4) Enhancing tourism opportunities

Following the on-island initial consultation with the tourism staff on Pitcairn (Ana Pinto visited Aug-Sep 2014), the content, images and footage for the tourism materials prioritised in the tourism development plan have been collated from various sources. Following the most recent visit (Ana Pinto visited Aug-Sep 2016), and discussions with the tourism staff regarding design and production details, the following materials are currently being produced/published:

- Visitor leaflet- including self-guided walks information; information on plant and animal species as well as historical information
- Information board for display in Adamstown square- large map of the island highlighting the self-guided trails (link with the leaflet) and additional information (eg. first aid points, post office, shop)

These have been produced to enhance the self-guided activities available for visitors, and to highlight the natural heritage and unique biodiversity of the Pitcairn Islands. They will be shipped to the Islands in the next rotation of the Claymore vessel

- Video to display in cruise ships and the Pitcairn Island Museum- highlighting the local wildlife; information on the marine protected area and featuring scientific and project staff (Heather Koldewey, Robert Irving, Terry Dawson and Ana Pinto) as well as

members of the Pitcairn community.

The video is currently in its production/editing phase and will be sent via USB or web transfer as soon as it is finalised.

(5) Media activities and public outreach:

- Fiona Llewellyn (ZSL, on behalf of the Marine Reserves Coalition) led a Great British Oceans (GBO) strategy meeting in Apr 2016.
- Terry Dawson, Heather Koldewey and Robert Irving attended the 'Great British Oceans Blue Belt Reception' on 25th May 2016 at the Palace of Westminster, hosted by Richard Benyon MP and the Great British Oceans campaign (update on MPAs in the UKOTs).
- A new website from the 'Pitcairn Environment Group' (UK stakeholders) went live in May 2016 at: <http://www.pitcairnenvironment.org.uk> with input from the Darwin project team.
- In August 2016, the book *Britain's Treasure Islands - a journey to the UK Overseas Territories* by Stewart McPherson, was published, following a successful showing on BBC4 of the 3-part documentary of the same name. Robert Irving was invited to co-author the chapter on the Pitcairn Islands and he also co-edited the whole publication. A copy of the book has been sent to the school on Pitcairn, with additional free copies given to several members of the community who contributed to it. Free copies have also been distributed to all secondary schools in the UK.

Public Presentations:

- Robert Irving, 2016, "The Pitcairn Islands - managing their marine resources", South East Group of the Marine Conservation Society, Imperial College, London, April 2016.
- Terence P. Dawson, 2016, "Establishing the largest Marine Protect Areas in the world-management challenges in the Pitcairn Islands", Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management conference "*Protecting marine and coastal areas in the UK and Overseas Territories*", Darwin House, London, 21 September 2016.
- Tom Letessier (ZSL), "Isolated reefs and seamounts represent a last stronghold for oceanic vertebrates", Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management conference "*Protecting marine and coastal areas in the UK and Overseas Territories*", Darwin House, London, 21 September 2016.
- Ana Pinto (ZSL) '*Fostering ocean literacy through conservation in context: the Pitcairn Islands example*' at the EMSEA (European Marine Science Educators Association) conference Titanic Belfast, NI, 4th October 2016
- Heather Koldewey (ZSL). TEDx Truro talk that includes the work of the Marine Reserves Coalition <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lp5Ccer5NM8>
Heather Koldewey (ZSL). Three hour lecture/workshop including Pitcairn example to MSc Conservation and Biodiversity students, University of Exeter. 10th October 2016.

Forthcoming:

- Terry Dawson is to present a seminar on 1st November 2016 at King's College London, entitled "The Pitcairn Islands Marine Reserve – management and science challenges".
- Terry Dawson will make a public presentation on 3rd November 2016 entitled "Large-Scale marine protect areas: what can they achieve for biodiversity, and do they work?" This is part of a special event '*Protecting Paradise: Wildlife Conservation*' as part of the Dundee Science Festival.

Other activities:

- Pitcairn Environment Group – 8th stakeholders meeting was held on 5th May 2016 at the Pew Trusts UK headquarters, 248A Marylebone Road, London (minutes available). Darwin team members present were Terry Dawson, Robert Irving and Ana Pinto, with

Michele Christian connecting through a teleconference link.

- Heather Koldewey (ZSL). Invited with three other scientist/conservationists to give a private briefing to the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee on the UK Overseas Territories. 28th June 2016.

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt 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 – response to earlier delays have been reported below.

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 (e.g., more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £N/A

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully. 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 please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary.

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?

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 e.g., Subject: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**