



Darwin Initiative Main Project Half Year Report (due 31 October 2015)

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 (e.g., HYR3)	31/10/14 HYR2
Project website/Twitter/Blog /Instagram etc	http://www.zsl.org/regions/uk-and-overseas-territories/pitcairn-islands-marine-conservation
Funder (DFID/Defra)	DFID

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 good progress in the last 6 months, despite a number of major distractions on-island (e.g. the alternative harbour project) and loss of Pitcairn islanders who have been working with us on the project. The main activities completed during this period relating to our objectives (highlighted - from the project proposal) are:

(1) underpinning the scientific evidence-base

Terence Dawson (TPD) and Robert Irving (RI) visited Pitcairn from 22 Aug to 10 Sept 2015, including a 3-day excursion to Henderson Island (in collaboration with the RSPB as part of their invasive rats assessment). Two scuba dive surveys were undertaken as well as Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV) stereo camera drops conducted at Henderson over 3 depths at 3 sites (9 deployments in total) over 2 days. Videos are currently with Henry Duffy and Tom LeTessier for fish community analysis. As the trip was undertaken during the humpback whale visits, a hydrophone bioacoustic monitoring system was deployed for 48 hours to record any whale songs. These will be passed on to the University of St. Andrews (Ellen Garland) for analysis (Output 1, Activities 1.2, 1.3).

(2) developing local capacity for fisheries and environmental assessments

After some deliberation with the islanders, it was decided to supply the fishers with individual portable weigh-scales on request. Two types of fish weigh-scales were delivered to Pitcairn in Aug 2015 for field trials by the island fishers to determine their reliability and robustness (Output 2, Activity 2.1). From September 2014, monthly returns of fish catches have been collated by the Pitcairn Fisheries Officer (recruited and funded under the Darwin Initiative project). It took a while to persuade fishers why they needed to submit records of their catches, but currently 6 of the 12 island fishers have been passing on details of their catches to the Fisheries Officer (50% uptake). We now have 12 months' worth of catch return (Output 2, Activity 2.2; Output 3, Activity 3.1; Outputs indicator 2).

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

- Project meeting (TPD, RI, HK) with Tom Appleby, Academic lawyer and Trustee, Blue Marine Foundation and Jo Royle, Pew Charitable Trust, on 11 Aug 2015 (Output 4. Activity 4.2, 4.3).
- Work has been completed to produce the completed draft of the “Pitcairn Islands Inshore Fishing and Conservation Association” Memorandum of Agreement, prepared by Michelle Crick (Conservation Sans Frontieres). This was presented to the Pitcairn Island Council in Aug 2015. Presentation at a public meeting on Pitcairn Island: *Introduction of procedures. Is there a need for a “Fishers’ Association”, or will new legislation suffice?* The Association proposal is currently being considered by the islanders (Output 4, Activity 4.1).

(4) enhancing tourism opportunities

There has been ongoing work in partnership with the Pitcairn Islands' Tourism Department, the Pitcairn Islands Museum, and other members of the community to enhance tourism opportunities for the Pitcairn Islands. A number of tourist visitor leaflets (e.g. self-guided walking maps) and an Information board are being designed by the graphics team at ZSL, with all the text and photos now being collated (Output 5, Activities 5.3, 5.5).

(5) increasing awareness of Pitcairn’s importance in meeting the UK’s biodiversity targets

- Peer-reviewed Publications:
 - Dawson, T.P., 2015, The UK Government agrees to create the world’s largest marine reserve around the Pitcairn Islands, a UK Overseas Territory in the South Pacific, *Pacific Conservation Biology*, 21 (2), 108-109 (online at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1071/PC14916>).
 - Irving, R.A., Dawson, T.P. and Koldewey, H., 2015, The Pitcairn Islands – The case for protecting their marine environment, *Pacific Conservation Biology* 21 (2), 110-112.
- Terence Dawson was invited by the Natural Resources Division of the Government of Pitcairn to represent the Pitcairn Government at the UKOTCF conference in Gibraltar, 11-16 July, 2015. An oral presentation was given entitled “*Pitcairn Islands: Integrating Research, Conservation Monitoring, Management and Sustainable Development*”. A poster was also presented throughout the duration of the conference highlighting the Darwin project, entitled *A sustainable marine and fisheries management plan for the Pitcairn Islands*.
- Terence Dawson gave public lecture at the D’Arcy Thompson Zoology Museum, Dundee, entitled “Protecting the Real Treasure of the Pitcairn Islands - Challenges to creating the world’s largest marine reserve”, 20 Oct 2015.
- Terence Dawson was invited by Jonathan Sinclair, Governor of Pitcairn, to participate in a Pitcairn Islands focus group meeting, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London, 27 Oct 2015.

Other Media Publications and public outreach:

- BBC Radio 4 programme ‘Costing the Earth’ *Britain Rules the Waves*, Terence Dawson interviewed on the proposed Pitcairn Islands Marine Reserve, broadcast on 15 and 16 Sept 2015 (podcast available).
- Contact Magazine, April 2015: “Clear blue thinking makes an impact on Pitcairn”, article presenting the role that the Darwin Initiative Pitcairn project played in the UK Government designation of the Pitcairns Islands, University of Dundee Press Office, Dundee, Front cover (photograph) and pages 16-17.

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.

There have been some delays in progress due to four reasons:

(1) Increased international visitor activities and medical evacuations has resulted in fewer opportunities to visit Pitcairn over the last 12 months due to lack of berths on the transportation ship;

(2) The alternative harbour project on Tedside has resulted in most of the men spending their time working on this development, which has resulted in a lack of engagement on the fisheries management consultations and their useful input to the plans. Fishing effort is much lower than usual due to the labour demands of the Tedside activities. Fish catch records have therefore been more sporadic than anticipated;

(3) As a result of medical needs, our Fisheries Officer, employed by the project, resigned in April 2014. We were able to recruit a new Fisheries Officer, but they were also recruited to spend 6-months on Henderson Island for the RSPB project. We currently have a temporary Fisheries Officer in place, but the uptake of fish record-keeping has only achieved a 50% level of all fishers (also due reason no. 2) as the effectiveness of local-level encouragement has not been maintained;

(4) An International criminal trial is planned on Pitcairn Island for the Feb/Mar 2016 transport schedule, and all berths are fully-booked. As well, given the historical connection of this trial with 'Operation Unique' that involved all the islanders, the trial will completely dominate the Islanders thoughts and activities over this period, so we will undertake to keep a very low key in our interactions at that time due to local sensitivities.

From the above issues, we would like to apply for a 6-month no-cost extension of the project (from end of September 2016 to end of March 2017). This will take some pressure off the local community at this time, who are struggling to cope with the several projects currently active on the island. The extension will be within the same financial year, so there are no significant budget issues (where affected, all remaining funds will be transferred to partners before the end of the current financial year (2015-16), as nominally agreed by the standard financial scheduling, to be spent in the following year (2016-2017). Project final report and financial statement will be completed in April 2017.

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: £0

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:

See final paragraph 2b.

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: 20-035 Darwin Half Year Report**