

Biodiversity Challenge Funds Projects

Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and Darwin Plus Half Year Report

Note: If there is any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website, please ensure you clearly highlight this.

Submission Deadline: 31st October 2022

Project reference	29-003
Project title	Improving livelihoods and protecting biodiversity on Floreana Island, Galápagos
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Ecuador
Lead partner	Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust
Partner(s)	Island Conservation (IC); Jocotoco Foundation; Galápagos National Park Directive (GNPD), Galápagos Conservation Trust (GCT) Ecuadorian Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, (MAG) Universität Wien (UW)
Project leader	Jeff Dawson
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	31 October 2022, HYR1
Project website/blog/social media	

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed project implementation timetable (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).

Output 1 – Six at-risk species successfully held in captivity (≥90% survival) during eradication of invasive predators from Floreana and impact of eradication on five key wildlife groups understood (pre vs post eradication surveys).

An advert for experienced volunteers to support the finch mitigation component in 2023 is being finalised by Durrell and is expected to be out soon.

Activity 1.1: A review of the finch aviaries was undertaken by Durrell’s Mitigation Officer (Roland Digby) and Project Leader in July 2022 whilst on Floreana for a reintroductions workshop and key maintenance activities identified to be undertaken once Roland returns full-time to Floreana in January 2023. Equipment lists for the finch aviaries and capture are being compiled for purchase in Q3Y1.

Infrastructure plans for building a temporary owl enclosure on Floreana have been developed and will be finalised by IC during Q3Y1. Construction materials and a contractor to build the enclosure will be in Q4Y1.

Activity 1.2: IC have secured permit that covers all work to end Q4Y1. Permits with GNPD are done on an annual basis so will be renewed within Q4Y1

Activity 1.12: Monitoring plans for the five non-target species groups - reptiles, water-birds, paint-billed crane, Galapagos petrels, Darwin’s finches - have been nearly completed.

Activity 1.13: Three GNPD staff have received training from IC staff in monitoring techniques for Galapagos petrel, including deployment of songmeters for acoustic data collection and camera

traps for surveying invasive predators (e.g., rodents and feral cats) interactions with the species, alongside data retrieval.

Activity 1.14: IC have begun undertaking baseline surveys for Galapagos petrels which will continue into Q4Y1. Initial results indicate the presence of the species in locations not previously recorded on Floreana Island but also the potential for colony expansion once invasive predators are removed.

Output 2 - Conservation measures (invasive predator eradication and nest treatment) demonstrate a reduction in nest mortality for the Critically Endangered medium tree-finch by end of project.

Activity 2.1: Coordinating with Universitat Wien (UW) staff to conduct an annual nest monitoring for medium tree finches' nests and population estimates during Q4Y1, which includes training GNPD staff. Surveys are usually conducted from January to April when the species is breeding.

Output 3 - Floreana community (46% women) have increased self-sustainability in livestock management, animal feed production and harvest management and have shared lessons with 3 other islands/communities in Galapagos.

Activity 3.1, 3.3, 3.4: Jocotoco in conjunction with technicians from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock have been delivering regular community training on balanced feed preparation. 22 farming households including 14 landowners have been involved in this training (40 people in total). A great achievement of this period was to develop a unique nutritional formula for livestock feed with local resources (inc. corn grain, yucca, guava, sugar cane, elephant grass and Egyptian beans) produced in Floreana Island.

Once the construction of two remaining cattle yards is completed, Jocotoco will execute a second training in "Cattle Nutrition and Semi-stabled systems management" (an expert consultant from Ecuador mainland will be hired). This training is one of the most important for the six-month phase of animal confinement that is required during bait dispersal. We will work to ensure that there are no nutritional problems with the animals and therefore there are no effects on the island's production and supply needs.

Activity 3.2: Irrigation systems will be installed in 12 farms by end of Y1 through Darwin funding. Jocotoco have received quotations and purchase and installation will be done over the coming months. Farms will utilize the irrigation systems for short-term production during ENSO and dry season to supply local and tourism demand.

Output 4 – Floreana community livelihoods become more resilient and food security improved through adoption of sustainable livestock management and improved harvest management practices by ≥75% farmers and eradication of invasive rodents

Activities 4.1, 4.2, 4.3: Currently four of the seven planned piggeries are built – the most recent on the property of Iván Moreno. A fifth is currently under construction.



Piggery built on property of Iván Moreno (left); Piggery under construction on property of Claudio Cruz (right)

Activity 4.4: Baseline surveys of Floreana farmers livestock and harvest management practices and associated costs have been completed by Jocotoco.

2. 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.

As we are in the early stages of the project, we haven't encountered any notable or unexpected developments.

However, we identified the need to expand the Island Conservation team to include additional eradication and stakeholder engagement experience that will allow us to reach our Outputs 1 and 4. This need did not have an impact on annual budget category totals as well as the total grant amount. A change request was submitted to and approved by the Darwin Initiative Committee.

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

Discussed with NIRAS-LTS: Yes

Formal Change Request submitted: Yes

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes

Change request reference if known:

4a. 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: £

4b. 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 re-budget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a re-budget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.

5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

No, not at this point.

If you are a new project and you received feedback comments that requested a response (including the submission of your risk register), or if your Annual Report Review asked you to provide a response 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 NIRAS-LTS International through a Change Request. **Please DO NOT send these in the same email.****

Please send your **completed report by email** to BCF-Reports@niras.com. The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number, followed by the specific fund in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 29-001 Darwin Initiative Half Year Report**