

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2013)

Project Ref No	DPLUS009
Project Title	Antarctic and sub-antarctic marine protected areas: using penguin tracking data to identify candidate areas
Country(ies)	BAT, SGSSI
Lead Organisation	British Antarctic Survey
Collaborator(s)	BirdLife International and Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research
Project Leader	<i>Philip Trathan</i>
Report date and number (eg HYR3)	<i>21 October 2013 [R1Q3]</i>
Project website	

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).

The project started on 1 July 2013. Since that time we have made progress as planned and as outlined in the original project proposal submission;

- a) An international steering committee was established to help coordinate data input for the proposed penguin tracking database. This comprised individuals from BAS, BirdLife, Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research (SCAR), the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the Royal Society for the protection of Birds (RSPB), and scientists from Europe, North America, South America, Southern Africa, Asia, Australia and New Zealand.
- b) Engagement with the penguin research community has taken place at the CCAMLR Working Group on Ecosystem Monitoring and Management which was held in Bremerhaven, Germany, July 1 to 10. PN Trathan tabled a paper outlining the benefits of the project for enhancing the management of areas in the Antarctic and Sub-Antarctic; this was well received and WG-EMM nominated an individual to sit on the project international steering committee.
- c) Engagement with the penguin research community also took place at the SCAR Biology Symposium which was held in Barcelona, Spain, July 16 to 19. PN Trathan presented a paper outlining the benefits of the project for enhancing the management of areas in the Antarctic and Sub-Antarctic; this was also well received.
- d) Engagement with the penguin research community also took place at the 8th International Penguin Conference which was held in Bristol, UK, September 2 to 6. PN Trathan, B Lascelles, C Small and M Hindell convened a workshop and B Lascelles presented a paper outlining the benefits of the project for enhancing the management of areas in the Antarctic and Sub-Antarctic. The workshop was successful and many researchers (more than 20, from 10 different countries) indicated their willingness to contribute tracking data (more than 1500 tracks of 14 different species) to an international database.
- e) A thorough review of the existing BirdLife tracking database has been undertaken, and a new database design has been created that will allow penguin tracks to be stored in a manner that is compatible with existing data.

f) Some researchers have already submitted data for inclusion in the new database.

So far, there has been considerable support for the proposed tracking database and for the policy objectives that it will help address.

The next phase of project implementation will be to develop the database and to begin to populate it with data.

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.

To date, no unforeseen problems have arisen.

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 N/A

Formal change request submitted: Yes/No N/A

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/No N/A

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

Yes No

3b. If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible through the formal Change Request process. However, it would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication now of how much you expect this request might be for.

Estimated carryforward request: £

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

Not at this time.

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 or budget should not be discussed in this report but 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 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 17-075 Darwin Half Year Report**