



Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2014)

Project Ref No	DPLUS028
Project Title	Assessing the conservation status of the Atlantic yellow-nosed albatross, Tristan da Cunha
Country(ies)	Tristan da Cunha (UKOT)
Lead Organisation	RSPB
Collaborator(s)	Government of Tristan da Cunha
Project Leader	Clare Stringer
Report date and number (eg HYR3)	HYR1
Project website	n/a

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 started on time, and all planning was completed by the RSPB in conjunction with the Tristan da Cunha Conservation Department. RSPB Staff (Alex Bond and Greg McClelland from the Centre for Conservation Science) were deployed to the island as planned in September for the summer field season. However, due to poor visibility and adverse weather conditions, the planned aerial census of albatross nests on Tristan was not able to take place in early October (output 1.1). This means that it will not be possible to produce outputs 1.2-1.4 and 2.2 in the first year of the project.

The team will remain on Tristan as planned until late November, and will conduct ground surveys of albatrosses that will enable improved use of resources in completing the census in 2015. An aerial census of Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatrosses on Gough Island was completed in September (funded by the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, and the South African Department of Environmental Affairs) which will allow for refinement of the techniques and analysis on a smaller island (65 km²) in preparation for the more challenging census at Tristan (96 km²). Advice will also be provided to the Tristan team on their current albatross monitoring programme and on the monitoring that is in place for other species.

As this news is very recent, we are still in the process of assessing the impacts on our original project plan, and we will be in touch with LTSI very soon to discuss in detail.

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.

As above, poor visibility and adverse weather prevented the aerial census of Atlantic yellow-nosed albatrosses taking place in the first week of October. This was a risk we had anticipated, and we have allowed a second field season in the project to enable the census to be carried out in year 2 if necessary. We will be in touch with LTSI very soon to discuss the impact of the delay on the project's logframe.

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:	No
Formal change request submitted:	No
Received confirmation of change acceptance	No

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

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

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:

We do not anticipate an underspend this financial year.

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

No

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 eg Subject: 20-035 Darwin Half Year Report**