



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office



Department
for International
Development



Darwin Plus: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2015)

Project Ref No	DPLUS040
Project Title	Securing the future for St Helena's endemic invertebrates.
Country(ies)	St Helena
Lead Organisation	St Helena National Trust
Partner(s)	St Helena Government, The Natural History Museum (London), The Royal Museum for Central Africa (Tervuren, Belgium), Buglife
Project Leader	David Pryce
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	HYR1
Project website	To be confirmed

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) 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) (max 500 words).

The start of the project was unfortunately delayed by four months as the Project Manager was extended for six months in his previous Darwin project.

In August and September the Project Manager visited the collections at the Natural History Museum in London. The purchase of additional high quality macro photography equipment by the Project Manager (as matched funding) allowed the photography to progress more smoothly than expected. A total of just over 12,000 focus stack and specimen label photographs were taken during the eight week visit; these are now being processed. More than 1750 images of 471 species will be generated from this material, creating a virtual museum collection that will facilitate the identification of specimens on island during the remainder of the project and in the future.

A seminar about the project was given by the Project Manager at the Museum. The half hour talk 'St Helena: an island biodiversity hotspot' was attended by 22 staff and was well received. This really raised the profile of the project, the island and the critical issues its endemic fauna is currently facing among the academic community at the Museum.

The Natural History Museum also donated unit trays to house individual species within the invertebrate collection that is being put together on island. This will make the curation of the collection much simpler and save a considerable amount of time later in the project.

Discussions were also held as to how the visits to the island by staff from the Museum would progress in 2017.

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 (max 300 words).

As mentioned above, the delay to the start of the project has caused some a few minor issues; however, a change request has been granted and there should not be any adverse impact on the rest of the project as a result of this.

2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

A change request has recently been submitted to LTS and the changes approved.

Discussed with LTS: Yes

Formal change request submitted: Yes

Received confirmation of change acceptance: Yes

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: £

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:

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 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g., Subject: DPLUSXXX Darwin Half Year Report**