



Darwin Initiative/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31st October 2019)

Project reference	DPLUS079
Project title	Improving sustainability of marine management in Montserrat
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Montserrat
Lead organisation	Cefas
Partner(s)	Government of Montserrat, Waitt Institute
Project leader	<i>Alex Callaway</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)	01/04/2018 – 31/03/2021 - HYR2
Project website/blog/social media etc.	@CefasGovUk

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).

Habitat Mapping: Between 6th – 17th May 2019 the ground-truthing and training survey was carried out. Prior to survey, 100 stations were randomly distributed across the survey area. Following consultation with GoM partners some stations were moved to focus on areas of interest to the GoM. During the course of the two weeks, the survey plan was adjusted due to physical constraints on the system and the addition of further stations to cover more areas of GoM interest. In total, 113 deployments were made over 106 stations. A brief summary is given below:

05/05/2019 - Briefing meeting held with Inspector Courtney Rodney and the Captains of the vessel. The planned stations were discussed, identifying those that may present additional modification and the safety protocols relayed. The Royal Montserrat Police Service (RMPS) fully engaged with the survey, dedicating their support for the upcoming two weeks.

06/05/2019 - 16/05/2019 - Vessel safety induction undertaken highlighting required behaviours on board and locations of life saving equipment. Survey equipment was taken to the vessel and set up carried out alongside in Little Bay port. Some components had been transported in personal luggage which had been delayed in transit. Luggage was received around 12:00 and set up completed before 13:00. A wet test was carried out successfully and the decision was made to begin survey. No GoM staff were present due to the requirement to ensure that coherence in approach and communication was established prior to demonstrating survey protocols to GoM staff. Five stations were successfully targeted and adjustments made to survey approach as familiarity between scientific and vessel crew was increased and capabilities established. From 07/05/2019 GoM staff (Annex 1) were present for each day of survey taking more leading roles as the days progressed (Annex 1). A survey summary and debrief presentation was given at MATLHE on 17/05/2019 before the camera equipment was handed over to GoM. Analysis of imagery data is underway following successful tender applications. Processed data are due for delivery to Cefas by 13th March 2020.

Environmental Impact Assessment: Rachel Mulholland and Karema Randall have been planning and preparing for the second in-country Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Workshop which is to take place from 21st – 24th October 2019. They have had regular

planning meetings with Ernestine Corbett (Director of the Department of Environment) and Jerome Meade (Chief Physical Planner) to finalise the details of the workshop and an additional intensive training day to be held after the workshop with the key EIA staff members from the two departments.

Building on the first workshop, held in October 2018, which gave an introduction to EIA, this second workshop will cover less topics but in more detail. This is based on the feedback received from attendees at the last workshop. In discussion with in-country partners, it has been decided to cover the topics of marine protected areas, cumulative effects, dredging and disposal, coastal processes and water quality, benthic organisms and mobile species. This workshop will be delivered by a mixture of presentation and interactive sessions using local EIA Reports to create relevant, targeted group exercises.

The intensive training day will focus on mitigation and monitoring in the EIA process looking at specific mitigation measures, management plans, license conditions for developments, management and enforcement procedures.

Rachel and Karema have also been working with Lavern Ryan, the key project contact in the Government of Montserrat, to identify the staff members who will take part in the researcher exchange part of the project. These staff members have now been nominated and agreed by the Government of Montserrat; Cefas has been working with them to finalise dates for the researcher exchange trip which is proposed for Spring 2020.

Education: Work has begun on the creation of the draft version of the resource pack (3.4), in collaboration with the Head of Geography at Montserrat Secondary School. A change request is being developed to request moving the delivery of this draft to the end of Qtr1 (Year 3) and the 2nd consultation meeting (3.5) to Qtr2 (Year 3).

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.

Change request submitted 09/09/2019: Currently of the project year 2 budget of £135,884 is allocated for T&S for GoM staff to come to Cefas during 2019-20 to take part in a one-week training programme in the UK. During the proposal writing and submission it was unclear who would be the most appropriate staff members from Montserrat to attend the UK training programme. As such, individuals were not identified by the GoM at the time of submission and it was agreed that this would be determined early in the project. However, it has taken longer than anticipated for the GoM to reach a decision on the individuals to take part in this aspect of the project. Therefore, Cefas was notified of the identified staff members in July 2019, in year 2 of the project rather than early in year 1. Planning for this training visit has now begun but, due to the reduced timeframe, the identified staff members do not have the availability to undertake this visit before the end of this project year. The most appropriate time for them to visit Cefas would be during May 2020 (during project year 3).

Change request in development but not yet submitted: We are required this financial year to complete the draft resource pack and visit Montserrat to gain feedback from all participants for the final version. We are requesting that we postpone the visit to Montserrat by 2/3 months to May/June 2020, depending on availability of the school. This move request is due to the unfortunate loss of Kate Downes from the project, who has been taken seriously ill and will not be returning to work. Kate was bought onto the project in Qtr1 of this year as a backup resource to possibly substitute Charlotte Jennings coming off the project (due to a new leadership role) and Jo Smith (Lead) reducing her working hours to part time. It was forecast that Kate would be available to commit a lot of her time to this so her loss to the project has had an impact and delayed our delivery by two months. We have now been able to source another member of staff (Sam Roslyn) who will have the time available to commit and help Jo Smith move this project forward. This move in delivery will not affect the final deadlines for 2020/21.

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

Change request submitted 09/09/2019 - Discussed with LTS:	Yes
Change request submitted 09/09/2019 - Formal change request submitted:	Yes
Change request submitted 09/09/2019 - Received confirmation of change acceptance:	Yes
Change request in development - Discussed with LTS:	No
Change request in development - Formal change request submitted:	No
Change request in development - Received confirmation of change acceptance:	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: £

3b. 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 rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary.

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

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. Additionally, if you were funded under R25 and asked to provide further information by your first half year report, please attach your response as a separate 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 DO NOT send these in the same email.**

Please send your **completed report** by email to 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: 25-035 Darwin Half Year Report**