



Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects
Half Year Report
(due 31st October 2020)

Project reference	DPLUS101 Fellowship
Project title	Invasive Non-Native Species are leading to biodiversity loss across the Sovereign Base Areas, Cyprus. The proposed fellowship complements the Darwin Plus funded study “Addressing drivers of ecological change in Lake Akrotiri SBA” by quantifying ecosystem services provided by this important wetland and how different drivers impact these benefits to people.
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Cyprus/Akrotiri
Lead organisation	Centre for Ecology & Hydrology
Partner(s)	Joint Services Health Unit in Cyprus
Project leader	<i>Prof Helen Roy</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)	<i>DPR8F\1009</i>
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).

As a consequence of Covid-19, the planned visit to the UK Centre of Ecology & Hydrology scheduled for the first month, had to be cancelled. As a result, meeting with collaborators at CEH and CABI to agree an approach to documenting ecosystem services has been delayed. However it will be rescheduled as Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

During these two months, the fellow has focused on pollination as an ecosystem service, primarily through the Pollinator Monitoring Scheme of Kýpros (Poms-ký), a citizen science programme that aims to motivate, familiarize and improve the knowledge of the general public on pollinating insects and their importance on terrestrial ecosystems and the ecosystem services they provide while collecting data of pollinating insects in Cyprus. Joanna Angelidou is also organising a public engagement event to increase uptake of Flower-Insect Time Counts across the SBAs, which will take place in Akrotiri wetland in spring 2021. She is currently preparing the first scientific publication based on this work.

Along with these, she is reviewing the literature to gather evidence of ecosystem services relevant to the Akrotiri wetland, but she is also trying to quantify effects of drivers of change.

Finally she has started reading about the expert-based modelling Classifying Ecosystem Services (CICES), Socio-Economic Impact Classification of Alien Species (SEICAT) and Toolkit for Ecosystem Service Site based Assessments (TESSA), in order to understand how they work, and she will start applying the schemes within the next month.

- On the 25 and 26 August 2020

In collaboration with the European Commission, organizing a day to inform teenagers about the importance of pollination and insect pollinators. Recording pollinators in Akrotiri peninsula, through the Poms-ký (Pollinator Monitoring Scheme of Kýpros).

Filming the process of recording pollinators through Poms-ký and the impressions created in teenagers, for the purpose of promotion in other European countries and be adopted by them as well.

Joanna Angelidou has been in contact with other units of the British Bases, and in cooperation with them, will organize an information day for adults (British and Cypriot) in order to raise public awareness and record pollinating insects in Akrotiri peninsula, through Poms-ký.

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months (for Covid-19 specific delays/problems, please use 2b). Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

The project was slightly delayed getting started because of the need to organise contracts but Joanna has worked efficiently to ensure excellent progress. No consequences anticipated.

2b. Please outline any specific issues which your project has encountered as a result of Covid-19. Where you have adapted your project activities in response to the pandemic, please briefly outline how you have done so here. Explain what residual impact there may be on your project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

Covid-19 will prevent the planned travel from Cyprus to the UK but we will use virtual tools to ensure contact and continuity. The visit to the UKCEH scheduled for the first month was cancelled.

Public engagement events with citizen scientists recording pollinators to increase uptake of Flower-Insect Time Counts, had to be postponed. In more detail pollinator recording was divided into two periods. The first period starts in October 2020 until the end of January 2021 (first period) and continues on September 2020 until the end of January 2022 (second period). However this had to be modified to December 2020 until April 2021 (first period), and with the second period starting in November 2021 until March 2022 (second period). Concerning the public engagement events in order to increase uptake of Flower-Insect Time Counts, this will take place in spring 2021, as this period is rich in pollinating insects.

2c. 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 Yes/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** NO Estimated underspend: £0

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. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.

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

None

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 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: 25-001 Darwin Half Year Report**

