

Biodiversity Challenge Funds Projects Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and Darwin Plus Half Year Report

Note: If there is any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website, please ensure you clearly highlight this.

Submission Deadline: 31st October 2022

Project reference	DPLUS 120
Project title	Spatial segregation of seabirds at South Georgia
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	South Georgia
Lead partner	British Antarctic Survey
Partner(s)	Birdlife International
Project leader	Victoria Warwick-Evans
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	HYR2 19/10/2022
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.bas.ac.uk/project/spatial-segregation-of-seabirds-at-south-georgia/

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).

We have made good progress in the last six months. We completed the habitat models for wandering albatrosses from Bird Island and Prion Island and showed there to be marked inter-colony variation in their at-sea distributions (Output 1). We also mapped and quantified the overlap between wandering albatrosses and different fisheries during the breeding season and identified high risk areas where bycatch may be of particular concern (Output 2). We presented the results of these at the 15th International Seabird Group conference in August and are currently writing up a manuscript for submission to a high-impact peer-reviewed journal.

We are currently planning our second field season, and have organised logistics, permits and equipment. The project Co-I will travel to South Georgia in early December to retrieve the tracking devices deployed last year to collect data on distribution and activity patterns during the nonbreeding season, and to deploy more devices. Specifically, we will retrieve the geolocators from wandering albatrosses breeding on Prion Island, and from white-chinned petrels breeding on Cooper Island. The geolocators deployed on these two species at Bird Island will be recovered by the field assistants who are based there. New tracking devices will be deployed on white-chinned petrels and the two species of giant petrels breeding at King Edward Point and Bird Island, to track their at-sea distributions and activity patterns during the breeding season for further comparative analyses. Geolocators will also be deployed at both sites to track their distributions and activity patterns during the non-breeding season.

2. 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.

The Project Lead is now pregnant and will be going on maternity leave at the end of November. We have submitted a change request to pause the project during this time (except for the fieldwork which the Co-I will undertake). This will delay the final outcomes, but as this project is not time-critical it will not impact the project in any other way.

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

Discussed with NIRAS-LTS: Yes

Formal Change Request submitted: Yes

Received confirmation of change acceptance No

Change request reference if known:

4a. 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: £

4b. 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 re-budget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a re-budget 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.

5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

No, we think the project is progressing as planned and will continue to do so.

If you are a new project and you received feedback comments that requested a response (including the submission of your risk register), or if your Annual Report Review asked you to provide a response 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 NIRAS-LTS International through a Change Request. **Please DO NOT send these in the same email.****

Please send your **completed report by email** to BCF-Reports@niras.com. The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number, followed by the specific fund in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 29-001 Darwin Initiative Half Year Report**