

## 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: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023**

<b>Project reference</b>	DPLUS 120
<b>Project title</b>	Spatial segregation and bycatch risk of seabirds at South Georgia
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	South Georgia
<b>Lead partner</b>	British Antarctic Survey
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Birdlife international
<b>Project leader</b>	Victoria Warwick-Evans
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	HYR3
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	Project website: <a href="https://www.bas.ac.uk/project/spatial-segregation-of-seabirds-at-south-georgia/">https://www.bas.ac.uk/project/spatial-segregation-of-seabirds-at-south-georgia/</a> News stories: <a href="https://www.bas.ac.uk/media-post/tracking-of-vulnerable-seabirds-reveals-difference-in-foraging-patterns/">https://www.bas.ac.uk/media-post/tracking-of-vulnerable-seabirds-reveals-difference-in-foraging-patterns/</a> <a href="https://www.acap.aq/latest-news/british-antarctic-survey-study-shows-significant-differences-in-feeding-patterns-across-white-chinned-petrel-colonies-in-south-atlantic">https://www.acap.aq/latest-news/british-antarctic-survey-study-shows-significant-differences-in-feeding-patterns-across-white-chinned-petrel-colonies-in-south-atlantic</a>

**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).**

Although we are not looking for specific reporting against your indicators, please use this opportunity to consider the appropriateness of your M&E systems (are your indicators still relevant, can you report against any Standard Indicators, do your assumptions still hold true?). The guidance can be found on the resources page of the relevant fund website.

The PL gave a talk on the project at the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Marine Protected Area 5-year Review Symposium (14 June), and the Co-I included a slide on the project at a seminar which he gave at University of Liverpool (4 May).

Tracking data continued to be collected until 23 April from the satellite transmitters deployed on White-chinned Petrels; see <https://www.bas.ac.uk/project/spatial-segregation-of-seabirds-at-south-georgia/>

We completed the required retrospective reports on the fieldwork for the Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB) and the Regulated Activity Permit (RAP) from Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI). We also completed the BAS Environmental Impact Assessment, AWERB and RAP applications for fieldwork this coming season. We liaised with the field teams and plans are in place for the GLS devices to be retrieved from white-chinned petrels, northern and southern giant petrels, and wandering albatrosses at KEP, Maiviken, Harpon, Prion Island and Bird Island, as appropriate

Analyses have not progressed over the last 6 months as the project leader has been on maternity leave.

**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.**

There have been no unexpected problems or developments in the last 6 months. A change request was granted prior to the project leader's departure on maternity leave.

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

Discussed with NIRAS: No

Formal Change Request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance No

Change request reference if known:

**4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2023 – 30 September 2023)**

Actual spend: ██████████

**4b. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this financial year (ending 31 March 2024)?**

Yes  Estimated underspend: ██████████

**4c. 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.**

**NB: if you expect an underspend, do not claim anything more than you expect to spend this financial year.**

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

We have submitted a change request to move £ to the next financial year. This is an underspend on travel and publication costs because the project lead was on maternity leave.

**If you are a new project and you received feedback comments that requested a response, 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.**

**All new projects (excluding Darwin Plus Fellowships and IWT Challenge Fund Evidence projects) should submit their Risk Register with this report if they have not already done so.**

**Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also** be raised with NIRAS 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](mailto: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**