

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	DPLUS0150
Project title	Ecosystem Sensitivity and Climate Vulnerability for MSP in the BVI
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	BVI
Lead partner	National Oceanography Centre UK
Partner(s)	Joint Nature Conservation Committee Ministry of Natural Resources, Labour and Immigration (BVI Gov)
Project leader	James Strong
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	HYR2
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).

Significant progress has been made on this project over the last 6 months. Some of these advances have also been additional outputs not specified in the original scope of work. The progress made involves:

- 1) All human activities finalised by JNCC and the Gov of the BVI
- 2) All human pressures have been translated to standardised pressures for inclusion in the ES-CV tool
- 3) All human pressures have been linked to a source of spatial data so that all pressures can be represented and operational within the ES-CV tool (new objective)
- 4) All human pressure data has been linked to a set of buffer and intensity rules so that the pressures can be accurately depicted within the ES-CV tool (new objective)
- 5) JNCC have completed the final draft sensitivity assessments. JNCC are now planning to head to the BVI to finalise the sensitivity assessments with key stakeholders in the BVI via a WP2 stakeholder workshop.
- 6) Wood Plc (now WSP) has a draft ES-CV model toolbox created and are working with JNCC and NOC to incorporate the module information as it is completed. WSP have also developed the part of the tool which derives metrics of the pressure features in relation to the marine spatial analysis units (1, 5, 10, and 30 km grids) and exports it to a table (excel format). This will form some of the reporting data and characterise how much of the pressure affects a development area under consideration. The same concept will be applied to the marine habitat to derive metrics of how much each pressure (polygon) intersects with each marine habitat feature.

- 7) WSP have started to work through the pressures data and to plan the flow of data for the creation of tables to create a final assessment. This may be formatted as a report/layout in ArcMap and not as an Excel macro.
- 8) Alignment with DPLUS0152 remains good following the successful completion of the ground-truthing survey for that project.

Overall progress is good and the project schedule is being maintained. This is despite the inclusion of several sizeable additional outputs. These were included as it was apparent that the BVI doesn't have its own spatial data to represent the human pressures active in their waters. This was known about at the being of the project but sourcing or generating this information was thought to be beyond the scope of the project and its available resources. However, it become apparent that the adoption and value of the ES-CV tool would be greatly increased if it was operational on delivery. As such, spatial data, or spatial proxies to represent missing spatial data, has been included in the ES-CV tool. The inclusion of these products transforms the ES-CV tool from a framework, that needed additional inputs from the BVI gov to make it fully operational, to a fully operational product on delivery. This has required a significant addition input from NOC but as been deemed a significant success in transforming the immediate value of the final output from DPLUS150.

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 are no notable problems or unexpected developments from the last 6 months. As indicated above, the NOC has delivered additional deliverables that were not specified in the initial description of work. These have been delivered using existing resource within the project and do not impact on the delivery of existing products.

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: NA

Formal Change Request submitted: NA

Received confirmation of change acceptance NA

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 further issues.

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**