

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	<i>DPLUS166</i>
Project title	Improving identification of fish bycatch in the Antarctic krill fishery
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	South Georgia, British Antarctic Territory
Lead partner	British Antarctic Survey
Partner(s)	Newcastle University, SAMS, MRAG, GSGSSI
Project leader	<i>Philip Hollyman</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	<i>HYR1</i>
Project website/blog/social media	<i>TBC</i>

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).

This project has only recently started (October 1st) so little progress has been made thus far. We have successfully recruited a post-doc for the project (Lorena Romero Martinez) who has recently started at BAS. She has begun assessing the sample holdings in the BAS archives which are available to the project, these samples will contribute to indicators 1.1, 1.3 and 1.4.

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.

Due to delays with recruitment, Lorena started in post 1 month after the start date of the project. Myself and the Co-Is are in discussions around the best way to deal with this, to either submit a change request to extend the project by 1 month, or to find another justifiable use for the funds within this financial year.

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: No

Formal Change Request submitted: No

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

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**