

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	DPLUS175
Project title	Enhancing monitoring and prevention of invasive non-native species across UKOTs
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	All
Lead partner	UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology
Partner(s)	JSHU
Project leader	Helen Roy
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	HYR1
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).

The project has had a successful first four months of delivery with excellent engagement across the UKOTs.

1.1 Compilation and harmonisation of available baseline information on non-native species

55 resources (inc GRIIS datasets) identified across 14 UKOTs with 9 of these datasets now uploaded to the online database including species entered:

St Helena: 1837

Tristan da Cunha: 325

Ongoing data compilation across all UKOTs.

Development of the on-line database including:

- Update to import template to include Catalogue of Life and GBIF ID to increase efficiency of adding species to the website
- Review page updated to include additional database columns and page numbers to allow easier navigation through database entries and focussing on discrete update tasks
- Filter functionality added to review pages to facilitate searches for species updates by content creators
- Page added to enable identification and rectification of duplicate species entries within territory lists.
- Update made to URLs for each Territory page to allow for direct web links to species entries within a territory to be shared
- CSV download facility added to website allowing for complete export of database entries on a per territory basis if required

- Search facility enhanced to include species names within a territory page

1.2 Collaboratively develop an approach for a relevant biodiversity indicator for INNS on each UKOT

Planned delivery Y1Q4 until Y3Q3 but discussions have begun with UKOTs

1.3 Implement approaches to quantifying impacts using current evaluation frameworks

Planned delivery Y1Q4 until Y3Q1

1.3 One workshop for each cluster of UKOTs (six in total) to consider options for updating and maintaining the NNS database (note 1.4, 2.1, 3.1, 4.2 will be scheduled within the same visit)

Planning is at late stage for St Helena and workshops will be delivered in November 2022. Plans for Caribbean workshops underway and likely delivery in February 2023.

2.1 One workshop for each cluster of UKOTs to consider opportunities and challenges for approaches to INNS surveys including citizen science (note 1.4, 2.1, 3.1, 4.2 will be scheduled within the same visit)

Planning is at late stage for St Helena and workshops will be delivered in November 2022. Plans for Caribbean workshops underway and likely delivery in February 2023.

2.2 Collaborative development of relevant surveys informed through the workshop

Ongoing but planned delivery by Y3Q3 with first workshop in St Helena during November 2022

2.3 Implement on-line recording (e.g. using iNaturalist or indicia) for general INNS surveillance

Ongoing delivery until project end

3.1 Expert-elicitation workshop with clusters of UKOT to agree INNS representing greatest threat to the territories through arrival and spread (note 1.4, 2.1, 3.1, 4.2 will be scheduled within the same visit)

Planned delivery by Y2Q4

3.2 Identify data needs to inform climate and spread modelling

Initial discussions underway. Planned delivery by Y3Q1.

3.3 Undertake climate and spread modelling for one selected INNS on each UKOT

Initial discussions underway. Planned delivery by Y3Q3

3.4 Synthesise outcomes from models to inform predictions and mitigation of the risk from biological invasions following extreme weather events

Planned delivery by Y3Q3

4.1 Draft and publish journal article providing descriptive summary of INNS and predictions of future threats from INNS on UKOTS

Planned delivery by Y3Q1

4.2 Demonstration and training workshops on maintaining on-line databases and data flow (note 1.4, 2.1, 3.1, 4.2 will be scheduled within the same visit)

Planned delivery by Y3Q2 but training will be delivered in St Helena through November 2022 with training materials published for reference for all UKOTs and delivery at later date

4.3 Final virtual webinar with all UKOTs to deliver priority training on INNS data flow recognising development needs identified through the workshops on each UKOT alongside dissemination of on-line training materials

Planned delivery by Y3Q3

4.4 Collaboratively write three popular articles and information sheets with information on biosecurity approaches available for download through the project website

Planned delivery by Y3Q3

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 has been excellent engagement across all UKOTs although Ascension has noted lack of resources (staff time) to engage. We are also still trying to arrange meetings with Montserrat and Bermuda. We will continue to update databases for all UKOTs and endeavour to assure relevant staff of low time commitment required from them.

We have held on-line meetings with each of the other UKOTs that we have met separately and will be arranging follow-up meetings in the next two months to demonstrate the online systems and agree next steps for the workshop plans.

We have requested a Change Request to use some of the staff time in the first year for travel to allow us to take advantage of the opportunity to visit and deliver key tasks on St Helena. We have also added two staff members: Steph Rorke and Jim Bacon while Oli Pescott has left the project team. This was submitted 17 October 2022.

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 Yes/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 x 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?

None

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**