

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	DPLUS177
Project title	Humpback Whales of the Pitcairn Islands
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Pitcairn Islands
Lead partner	King's College London, UK
Partner(s)	Government of Pitcairn Island
Project leader	Terence Dawson
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	30 Nov 2022 HYR1
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.kcl.ac.uk/research/humpback-whales-of-the-pitcairn-islands

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 are in the early stages of setting up the project.

Initial meetings with all partners (online) over several events/workshops to discuss logistical arrangements for first expedition to the Pitcairn Islands scheduled for August 2023.

Terry Dawson attended the LÍF641M 'Studying marine mammals in the wild' course, Whale Research Station, University of Iceland, Húsavík, Iceland, 12-16 June 2022 (Techniques and methods including Photo-Ids, Passive Acoustic Monitoring, Aerial surveying using drones and Tracking).

Terry Dawson presented a public lecture - "Humpback whales, tourism and management challenges in the Pitcairn Islands", presented on 15 June 2022 at the Húsavík Whale Museum, Húsavík, Iceland (Audience of 40+).

Scientific equipment purchases and specialised electronics for drone blow sampling and hydrophone recorders have been designed and are currently under construction.

Recruitment is currently underway for a PhD student to undertake the scientific research (Expected outcome in January 2023).

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.

N/A - No problems to report at this time.

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/No
Formal Change Request submitted:	Yes/No
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 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**