

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 2023

Project reference	DPLUS182
Project title	Habitat restoration and species re-introductions on four Falklands' island reserves
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Falkland Islands
Lead partner	Falkland Conservation
Partner(s)	
Project leader	Andrew Stanworth
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	HYR1
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.facebook.com/FalklandsConservation

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.

Output:

1.1 There has been no opportunity to undertake survey visits yet; however, satellite imagery has been secured for digital map production.

1.2 Equipment and supplies required from UK have been ordered with payment yet to be made locally upon delivery. Initial surveys and shanty construction had been scheduled for late winter / spring but has been delayed until more favourable weather over the summer season. This should not impact the main restoration deliverables as long as these preparatory tasks are completed before March 2024.

1.4 Identification and preparation of plant nursery has commenced and first seed collections made (last season's seed to hold as contingency)

4.2 Community engagement in project activities. Consultation has progressed with a variety of stakeholders (landowners with known populations of rare plants, expertise in Cobb's Wren and tussac planting around the islands) and the adjoining landowners (for access and assistance. This a low-key outreach of the project to a wider but more focused interested community. Wider public relations to the general community will occur once physical deliverables begin to be achieved.

Overall, project outputs planned have initiated but not completed within Q1 and Q2, but remain within the planned timeframes. Other work in preparation for other outputs such as sources of expert support for re-introductions and broader discussion have occurred.

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.

The aspiration to be further on than we are at this point has been set back by departures of people leaving on holiday over the austral winter period and this has been compounded by unfortunate timings whereby by the time one person returns the next person has left. This has hampered project momentum and getting decisions made. Whilst this scenario occurs annually, for this specific work it has been greater than estimated in the project timeframe so far. At this point it is not anticipated to impact project delivery.

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:	Not applicable

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 No 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?

No

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. 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**