

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2010)

Project Ref No	18-020
Project Title	Increasing Local Capacity to Conserve St. Helena's threatened native biodiversity
Country(ies)	St. Helena
UK Organisation:	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Collaborator(s)	
Project Leader	<i>Jodie Mills</i>
Report date	<i>29th October 2010</i>
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	<i>1</i>
Project website	<i>www.nationaltrust.org.sh</i>

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up).

The project has just started following an agreed new start up date. The new project manager Jodie Mills started at the beginning of the October procurement period and the Horticulturalist is due to start mid - November with the Ecologist starting in January. The delay in staff taking up positions has been due to the National Trust needing to re- advertise after a lack of suitable candidates the first time around and hence making sure it has the right people for the job and for the overall benefit of the project. Procurement of project equipment, including a vehicle and field supplies has been taking place over this period of delay.

The project was included in the new St Helena National Trust five year strategy that was successfully launched at the end of September in London.

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments 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 budget is likely to be effected due to the revised arrival date of project personnel. The Darwin Project Manager is currently reviewing the budget and will be in touch with any revised figures in due course. The end date for the project however is still 30th September 2013 and we are confident we will hit all the targets within this timescale due to increased local capacity in the project.

Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Yes, Jamie Roberts the Director of the Trust has kept the LTS informed. No written changes by the Darwin Initiative have been made to the original agreement but the award letter does need to be updated with the revised figures that will be paid to the National Trust.

Discussed with LTS: **no/yes, in June 2010 (month/yr)**

Formal change request submitted: **no/yes, in June 2010 (month/yr)**

Received confirmation of change acceptance **no/yes in June 2010 (month/yr)**

3. Do you expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No Possibly will be in touch asap.

If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible. It would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication of how much you expect this request might be for.

Estimated carryforward request: £

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

No

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with LTS International directly.

Please send your **completed form by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk. The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 17-075 Darwin Half Year Report**