



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Foreign &
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Office



Department
for International
Development



Darwin Plus: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2015)

Project Ref No	DPLUS033
Project Title	Enhancing biosecurity and biological control capacity in the Falkland Islands
Country(ies)	Falkland Islands, UK
Lead Organisation	CABI
Partner(s)	Falkland Islands Government
Project Leader	Dave Moore (CABI)
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	7 October 2015 HYR1
Project website	

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) (max 500 words).

CABI (Dave Moore and Norbert Maczey) and the Falkland Islands Government -FIG (Nick Rendell) have liaised closely via a meeting in London on 21 April and through repeated Skype calls and e-mails.

1.2 Initiate monitoring programme.

Voluntary monitoring programme initiated by Norbert Maczey in March 2015. Low response from the public but monitoring stations established at Mount Pleasant Airport, the Falkland Island Community School and at Government House, the main release site planned for Q3.

1.4 Report and disseminate work

Project discussed in detail at the Environmental Committee meetings in Stanley in May and August 2015. The local Newspaper, Penguin News, covered both meetings and a discussion on biological control. Executive Council approved the importation and release of two tachinid flies for the biological control of the introduced European earwig in June 2015. Subsequently, the Department of Agriculture issued an import permit for these two biological control species in August 2015.

2.1 Improved biosecurity and containment capacity.

A catalogue of minimal requirements for insect quarantine was put together and based on this several options for the establishment of baseline quarantine facilities were assessed during Q2. As a result it was decided to fit an existing building within the grounds of Government House gardens with the required features (electricity supply, sealing, double door entrance, sealing) to function as a baseline quarantine suitable to facilitate the controlled release of arthropods. Works commenced in October 2015 – Q3, and details of this will be subject to the next report.

2.2 Trained FIG personnel and interested citizens

Training to be undertaken in Falkland Islands during visit November 2015, Q3.

3.1 FIG/CABI working group to discuss biosecurity and containment

Initial skype meetings held between FIG Environmental Officer and CABI. Wider steering group on biological control to be formed in November. A separate invasives species control group is established on FI – currently focusing on invasive plants.

3.3.FIG public awareness programme

Just before the start of the project intensive awareness raising activities were conducted in March 2015 to engage stakeholders and the general public with the planned introduction of biological control of invasive species on the Falklands. In addition, existing information on biological control is available on FIG EPD website:

<http://www.fig.gov.fk/epd/index.php/environment/biosecurity/earwig-biological-control-information>

Dave Moore and Norbert Maczey will visit FI between 1-11 November. They will be carrying pupae of the parasitoids and will carry out training as well as attending meetings with relevant officials and the public to further explain the project. The time of conduct of the bulk of this year's activities near the end of 2015 is dictated by the seasonal shift between the northern and southern hemisphere. Parasitoids collected during summer 2015 in the UK will be ready for release only when weather conditions become suitable on the Falklands in November similar to a first hatching period in the UK during May/June.

A major parts of project related activities during 2015 was the collecting and culturing of earwigs in order to obtain pupae of both tachinid fly species intended for release on the Falklands. These activities were covered through matched funding provided by the FIG.

2a. 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 (max 300 words).

No significant problems have arisen. Authority to introduce the parasitoids took longer to obtain than anticipated, but activities continued on the (correct) assumption that the necessary permission would be obtained. No effects on the project are anticipated.

A monitoring programme initiated prior to the start of the Darwin + project has not been well taken up by volunteers of the local community. However, two sites in Stanley and one at Mount pleasant airport have started a pre-release monitoring. The key site at the Government House Gardens has been covered by monitoring which will be beneficial to assess the establishment of the biological control agents. Options to improve current monitoring activities will be discussed during the CABI visit to Stanley in November.

2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

No	
Discussed with LTS:	Yes/No
Formal change request submitted:	Yes/No
Received confirmation of change acceptance:	Yes/No

3a. 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: £

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully as it is unlikely that any requests to carry forward funds will be approved this year. 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 and would like to talk to someone about the options available this year, please indicate below when you think you might be in a position to do this and what the reasons might be:

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 can be discussed in this report but **should also** be raised with LTS International through a Change Request.

Please send your **completed report 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 e.g., Subject: DPLUSXXX Darwin Half Year Report**