



Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31 October 2016)

Project Ref No	DPLUS042
Project Title	Dolphins of the kelp: Data priorities for Falkland's inshore cetaceans
Country(ies)/Territory(ies)	Falkland Islands
Lead Organisation	South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI)
Partner(s)	Falkland Islands Government, Premier Oil, Austral Biodiversity, South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute, Falklands Conservation, Oregon State University, St Andrew's University, Shallow Marine Surveys Group
Project Leader	Brickle Paul
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	31 October 2016, HYR1
Project website/ Twitter/ Blog/ Instagram etc	Website: http://www.south-atlantic-research.org/research/current-research/166-dolphins-of-the-kelp-data-priorities-for-falkland-s-inshore-cetaceans
Funder (DFID/Defra)	Darwin Plus; Premier Oil & Exploration; Falklands Conservation; Oregon State University; SAERI; Austral Biodiversity Ltd; SMRU, St Andrews University; Falkland Islands Government; Shallow Marine Surveys Group

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) 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 to end September).

Due to the later announcement of funding approval the recruitment process was delayed. An extension of six months was therefore asked for and obtained in August 2016. The Project Manager arrived on site on the 20th of October but a project interim manager was contracted in the Falklands to cover for some of the on island organising required to prepare for the field season.

Progress in the past six months (the number in the parenthesis reflect those reported in the adjusted timeframe):

- The steering committee was established and introductory meetings with key stakeholders and project partners in the Falkland Islands and overseas have been carried out (1.1)
- The Project Manager (PM) was appointed and arrived on site on the 20th of October 2016 (1.2/1.3)
- The Project Officer (PO) was selected and is expected to arrive on the site as soon as the work permit is ready. A total of 34 applications were reviewed and 5 candidates were interviewed (1.2/1.3)
- Two interns were selected and are expected to be on site at the beginning of December 2016 for 4.5 months. A total of 40 applications were reviewed and 6 candidates were interviewed (1.2/1.3/1.10)
- The inventory for survey and safety equipment was initiated by each partner involved in the field work. A meeting has been appointed for the first week of November with the aim to generate a common inventory and the protocols for the use of the equipment (1.5)
- The volunteer database has been established. A meeting has been arranged for the first week of November to discuss about the maintenance and expansion of the database (1.6) as well as the development of common training material (1.7)

- A draft of the field guide is ready and will be presented to the volunteers for further improvement during training; the photographic material of the guide is likely to be improved with the data collected during field work (1.7/1.8)
- Data gathering has initiated as well as reviewing of the existing materials (2.1)
- A draft of the field work has been scheduled and it is under discussion; the vessels for both the wide and the focal surveys have been identified and details are now under discussion (2.2)
- Draft of the survey design are under discussion with the scientific partners for possible improvement (2.3/2.4/3.2/3.3)
- Possible areas for the focal study have been identified and are now under discussion (3.1/4/1)

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.

No notable problems have occurred. The recruitment process was expected to last several weeks due to the long procedures and the supporting documents required by the Falkland Government in order to obtain the work permit.

Minor notes are listed below:

- SAERI staffing has changed and Dr. Amélie Augé listed as co-project leader in the application send on the 21th of September 2015 is no longer involved in the DPLUS 042 project. This won't impact the project as the SAERI institutional resource is still committed to delivery
- At the arrival of the PM on site, a review of the adjusted timeframe was carried out revealing some overlapping activities. A new timeframe will be send as soon as possible. Please, note that this modification does not involve a budget change, and will still all sit within year 1 of the project.
- The project webpage on the SAERI website is provisional and will be updated as soon as possible.
- We will be asking for a re-allocation between budget lines (as there is more than 10% shift in capital equipment) because the initial budget for the capital equipment was underestimated i.e. a new camera body is required that will be better suited to the project needs. A separate request will be sent through. Because the project staff will be in place at the end of November the training will be postponed from October to mid-November (1.8)

- Because the PM was on the site only on the 20th of October, the research protocols as well as the safety procedures will be developed in the first two weeks of November to be ready for the first field trip (on the 20 of November) (1.9)

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

Discussed with LTS:	Yes/ No
Formal change request submitted:	Yes/ No (for the 6 month delay)
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. 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 rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary.

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

None

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 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g., Subject: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**