

# Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	EIDPO 23
<b>Project Title</b>	Enabling the people of Tristan da Cunha to implement the CBD in the Marine Environment
<b>Country(ies)</b>	UK, Tristan da Cunha, South Africa
<b>UK Organisation</b>	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Tristan da Cunha Agriculture and Natural Resources Department and the University of Cape Town
<b>Project Leader</b>	<i>Sarah Sanders</i>
<b>Report date</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> October 2007
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	<i>Half yearly report 1</i>
<b>Project website</b>	

## **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 started on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 and is on schedule according to the agreed workplan. Terms of reference have been prepared, suitably qualified personnel enlisted and survey and travel plans consolidated. Personnel have arrived on Tristan to undertake surveys.

### **1. Knowledge of the marine environment on Tristan is enhanced**

- Research continues on existing information sources
- Scientific literature has been identified, reviewed and copied for lodging on Tristan
- 2004/05 dives have been written up and report prepared

### **2. Technical capacity to survey the marine environment is strengthened on Tristan**

- Survey equipment revised, ordered, constructed, checked and shipped to Tristan
- Risk assessments for diving and shore survey operations completed
- Contract signed with the Tristan Agriculture and Natural Resources department

### **3. Awareness of the marine environment is raised locally and internationally**

- Successful appeal placed in DIVE magazine for wetsuits for project

### **4. Monitoring of threats to biodiversity and marine resources from settlement of alien species and other impacts initiated**

- Identification sheet for alien rig species produced

### **5. New sustainable income-generating activities based on the marine environment are developed**

- To be undertaken in the next 6 months

## **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.**

There were initial problems recruiting suitable personnel to form a diving team which included biologists trained in appropriate biological survey techniques. 'First choice' volunteers, though keen to join the project, were unable to secure sufficient leave from their normal employment for the 2-3 months required for the survey programme. The delays in recruitment meant that initial survey plans had to be modified, including delaying departure to Tristan

from September to October. This has necessitated adjustments to the survey programme. The most significant change that may affect the survey programme is that the option of using the large fishing ship MV Edinburgh to dive the Outer Islands of Nightingale and Inaccessible may no longer be available, and will have to be substituted by day trips using island boats. However, this was always anticipated as an alternative and is budgeted for. There may still be a chance to dive from the MV Edinburgh at the end of November & December when she returns to fishing the Outer Islands.

The problems with recruiting UK personnel resulted in only 2 divers from UK (Sue Scott and Fiona Crouch) travelling to TDC, with the team being made up by 2 divers from South Africa, one of whom (Tim Andrew) will remain for two weeks only. However, he is a key person to be involved in the project, being manager of the environmental consultancy that performed the environmental audit on the stranded oil rig. He has completed previous diving research projects on Tristan so has local knowledge. On the plus side the changes in personnel resulted in savings in the travel budget, and the final team has a good balance of skills. Fiona Crouch is experienced in marine life interpretation, especially with children, while Geoff Fridjhon has wide experience of biological diving and sampling projects, and dived with SS on the stranded rig in September 2006. Both are also qualified diving instructors.

Some of the saved travel budget was diverted to purchase a second compressor for the island, as an essential backup for diving operations. Current and projected expenditure remains within the overall budget.

We are still trying to contact Cameron Hay, based in New Zealand, to write up the Gough 1981 survey. The delay means this activity is unlikely to be completed until the second year of the project.

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

These issues have not been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat as they will not affect the overall project aims and objectives and budget.

**Discussed with the DI Secretariat:            No**

**Changes to the project schedule/workplan:    Yes –** The data from the Gough 1981 survey is unlikely to be written up until mid 2008.

**3. 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 the Darwin Secretariat directly.**

Please send your **completed form email** to Eilidh Young, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme at [Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk](mailto:Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.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: 14-075 Darwin Half Year Report**