Darwin Plus Main: Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the "Project Reporting Information Note" (https://darwinplus.org.uk/resources/information-notes)

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 20 pages** in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2024

Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line

Darwin Plus Project Information

Project reference	DPLUS120
Project title	Spatial segregation of seabirds at South Georgia
Territory(ies)	South Georgia
Lead Partner	British Antarctic Survey
Project partner(s)	Birdlife International
Darwin Plus grant value	£269,234
Start/end dates of project	March 2021 - 30th July 2026
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2023-Mar 2024) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2)	April 2023 - March 2024, report number 3.
Project Leader name	Victoria [redacted]
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.bas.ac.uk/project/spatial-segregation-of-seabirds-at-south-georgia/
Report author(s) and date	Victoria [redacted] 11April 2024

Note:

- **Please ensure you have selected the correct template for your project and please remove the blue guidance notes from all sections before submission.**
- **Your report will be published on the Darwin Plus website. If there is any confidential or sensitive information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website, please ensure you clearly highlight this.**

All Annual Reports are reviewed by a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) consultant. They will use your original application and logframe (or the most recent approved logframe) as a basis of their review. Therefore, it is important that you refer back to this document when writing this report. The review acts as an independent viewpoint of whether the project is making the progress it states based upon the report and associated evidence submitted**. It is strongly recommended that you submit the means of verification listed in your logframe to support your assertions of progress, clearly labelled as annexes and cross-referenced within your reporting.**

When making statements of progress or impact please ensure you refer as much as possible to sources of evidence including the indicators and means of verification outlined in your project logframe. For example, when reporting training events, some measure of effectiveness is required as well as the numbers participating and duration. In order to comment on quality of work it is useful to share with the reviewer project documentation such as training manuals, meeting reports, training feedback etc.

Please note: Major changes in the logframe (e.g., Output and Outcome level changes) must be approved by NIRAS. You can do this through submission of a Change Request form which can be found here.

Submission of changes to the project design in the Annual Report does not constitute notification. Changes requiring formal approval include, but are not restricted to: a delay or change in project implementation causing a re-budget; staff changes (relating to CVs provided at application stage); changes in Outputs or Outcome; project termination. If not clear whether a change requires formal approval please check with BCF-Reports@niras.com.

Report formats: This report should be sent in MS Word only (if you have concerns about layout you may submit a PDF but this is in addition to a Word version). If you have already answered a question in one section, do not repeat the information in another section, but refer back to the section number.

Each section contains questions to guide the completion of the report.

Not all guiding questions have to be answered - Project Leaders should exercise judgement as to those most relevant to the project.

The assumption is that project partners will play an active role in writing the report.

1. Project summary

Despite measures to minimise bycatch of South Georgia's globally important populations of seabirds, albatross and petrel populations are still declining, and at different rates across the archipelago. We are using biologging devices to track albatrosses and petrels from different colonies. We aim to characterise variation in colony-specific overlap of birds with fishing fleets, identify high-risk areas, and inform a more focussed approach to engaging with fisheries to better understand and address impacts of bycatch on these threatened species.

2. Project stakeholders/partners

We engaged with the project partners (Birdlife International) via email and informal catch ups. The purpose of these was to update the project partners about the amended timescales and logistical aspects of the project. The key role of the project partners is to disseminate the results, and to engage with fisheries, focussing management efforts on the relevant fishing fleets. As such, most of this activity will take place once we have definitive results.

We also engaged frequently with the Government of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI) who are our main stakeholders. We presented our results at the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Marine Protected Area 5-year Review Symposium (14 June) and engaged in informal discussions as the project has progressed.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Activity 1.1. We successfully tracked white-chinned petrels (WCP) from Cooper Island and Bird Island, and wandering albatrosses from Bird Island and Prion Island in the 2021/22 breeding season using GPS devices or satellite transmitters. We were unable to access grey-headed albatross colonies safely in that season, which is why subsequent analyses have focused on the data from wandering albatrosses (described and justified in annual report 2022).

Activity 1.2. Habitat models linking the distribution of wandering albatrosses from Bird Island and Prion Island to environmental variables during the breeding season were developed, and the distributions for all individuals were predicted (see Annex 4).

Activity 1.3. Core foraging areas of wandering albatrosses were identified for both colonies of wandering albatrosses and overlap was calculated (see Annex 4).

Activity 2.1. and 2.2. AIS data on fisheries in the area were collected and information on all fishing activity mapped (see Annex 4).

Activity 2.3. Spatial overlap between wandering albatrosses and fisheries was calculated for individuals breeding at both Bird Island and Prion Island (see Annex 4).

Activity 2.4. A series of maps and tables has been produced describing the overlap of wandering albatrosses from both colonies with fishing fleets (see Annex 4).

Activity 2.5. A manuscript has been prepared for submission to the journal *Ecology* (see Annex 4). We are awaiting comments from co-authors prior to submission.

Activity 3.1. Twenty geolocators were retrieved from white-chinned petrels at Bird Island, which provided tracking data for the 2022 nonbreeding season. Cooper Island was visited in January 2023 to recover devices but although all burrows were located, many were empty or the partner was present, and only one device was recovered. Given the remote location of Cooper Island, that was the only possible visit. However, as the project had already been extended because the PI went on maternity leave, and co-funding was available, the Co-I (Richard Philips) deployed 13 geolocators on white-chinned petrels at King Edward Point in December 2022/January 2023, seven of which were retrieved in January 2024. Geolocators were also deployed at Bird Island in 2022/23 and retrieved in 2023/24. Hence the project will also have access to tracking data for the 2023 nonbreeding season from white-chinned petrels at Bird Island and King Edward Point.

In total, 12 geolocators were recovered in January 2023 at Prion Island from our 2nd study species, which is now wandering albatross rather than grey-headed albatross (see above). The focus in the last reporting year in terms of analysing data from the nonbreeding season has therefore been on comparing distribution and fisheries overlap of wandering albatrosses tracked from Prion Island and Bird Island.

Activity 3.2. Locations of wandering albatrosses from both Prion Island and Bird Island during the nonbreeding season have been estimated using geolocator data.

Activity 3.3. No progress in the last reporting period as the focus has been on analyses of fisheries overlap. Development of habitat models may not be necessary to achieve the main project Outputs and Outcome.

Activity 3.4. AIS data on fisheries in the areas used during the nonbreeding season were collated and mapped.

Activity 3.5. Spatial overlaps between wandering albatrosses and fisheries during the non-breeding period were calculated for individuals from both Bird Island and Prion Island.

Activity 3.6. A series of maps and tables has been produced describing the overlap of wandering albatrosses from the two colonies with fishing fleets during the non-breeding season.

Activity 3.7. A manuscript describing the distribution of wandering albatrosses in the non-breeding season and the overlap with fisheries is currently in prep. We have attached the results section in Annex 4 as evidence.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1 has been completed for wandering albatrosses, but not yet for white-chinned petrels.

1.1 Relationships between wandering albatross habitats and oceanographic variables have been identified, maps highlighting their distributions and high-density hotspots during the breeding season have been produced and spatial overlap in high-use areas of birds from different colonies has been quantified. The results have been written up in a draft manuscript

(see Annex 4). We have started the analyses for the white-chinned petrels. The code developed for the wandering albatrosses can be easily adapted for the other species.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

We have made good progress towards the outcome for wandering albatrosses and have produced maps showing high-risk areas at relevant spatial and temporal scales. These will be relatively quick to produce for white-chinned petrels. We have engaged with stakeholders including the Government of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, presenting our results and discussing their importance at the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Marine Protected Area 5-year Review Symposium (14 June). We will disseminate the results to other stakeholders at the next appropriate fisheries management meetings. The final two indicators: 0.3 Commitment to change policy mitigation measures, and 0.4 Steps towards adoption of results into relevant fisheries management frameworks will not be addressed until nearer to completion of the project.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption 1.1 White-chinned petrels and grey-headed albatrosses will be breeding and accessible on Cooper Island and Bird Island. These species breed in large numbers and are tractable for tracking studies.

Comments: In the first field season (2021/22), white-chinned petrels breeding on Cooper Island and Bird Island were accessible, and tracking devices were deployed successfully at both sites. However, colonies of grey-headed albatrosses were considerably smaller than expected and in locations that were dangerous to access. However, we were able to switch our 2nd study species to wandering albatrosses, which has been very successful.

Assumption 1.2 Environmental predictors will have sufficient predictive power to predict the distribution of seabirds. There is abundant evidence that seabirds select habitats based on oceanographic cues. Furthermore, extensive experience in this type of modelling, large sample sizes and abundant environmental information will optimise model performance.

Comments: The variables had high predictive power and the seabird distribution models are robust.

Assumption 2. 1 Tracked birds will overlap with fisheries. Tracking studies from birds breeding at Bird Island have shown overlap of both grey-headed albatrosses and white-chinned petrels with both local and international fisheries.

Comments: There was extensive overlap between birds from both colonies at South Georgia and fisheries.

Assumption 3.1 White-chinned petrels and grey-headed albatrosses will be breeding on Cooper Island and Bird Island and will be catchable.

Comments: White-chinned petrels and wandering albatrosses were catchable, and devices were deployed to track distributions during the breeding and non-breeding seasons. Retrieval rates of geolocators were high for both species at Bird Island, and for white-chinned petrels at Bird Island but not Cooper Island (see above). However, we were able to deploy more devices on white-chinned petrels from a third site - King Edward Point – in the 2022/23 season, of which 7 were recovered after a year. As such we will be able to complete this output for both out study species.

4.1 Outputs will be discussed at relevant stakeholder meetings.

Comments: The outputs have already been discussed with The Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI) who are one of our key stakeholders. The issue of bycatch in fisheries is still high on the agenda of our project partners and other stakeholders and as such our results will be relevant to the upcoming fisheries management meetings.

4. Project support to environmental and/or climate outcomes in the UKOTs

Wandering albatrosses breeding on South Georgia are one of just nine High Priority Populations identified by the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP). There is also a South Georgia Conservation Action Plan for this species. By investigating spatial segregation and fisheries overlap we are contributing to achieving the goals of this plan.

In addition, understanding the at-sea distribution and fisheries overlap of white-chinned petrels during the breeding and nonbreeding season is listed as a High priority research need in the GSGSSI research and monitoring plan for the Marine Protected Area. We are in the early stages of this work.

5. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

The PI on the project is a women and has undertaken the majority of the work. The first field season (at Prion Island and Cooper Island) was carried out by two women (the PI and a female PhD student). The second field season (at the Thatcher Peninsula, Prion Island and Cooper Island) was carried out by a male and a female (Co-I Richard Phillips, one male and two female field assistants) as the PI was on maternity leave. Fieldwork at Bird Island in both seasons was carried out by three female and one male field assistant.

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board[1].	1/3. The PI is female and two co-Is are male.
Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women[2].	The Director of BAS is Dame Jane Francis (a woman).

GESI Scale	Description	Put X where you think your project is on the scale
Not yet sensitive	The GESI context may have been considered but the project isn't quite meeting the requirements of a 'sensitive' approach	
Sensitive	The GESI context has been considered and project activities take this into account in their design and implementation. The project addresses basic needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups and the project will not contribute to or create further inequalities.	
Empowering	The project has all the characteristics of a 'sensitive' approach whilst also increasing equal access to assets, resources and capabilities for women and marginalised groups	x

[1] A Project Board has overall authority for the project, is accountable for its success or failure, and supports the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.

[2] Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

Transformative	The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	

As PI on the project I believe the project is empowering. I am an Early Career Researcher and this is the first project which I have been leading. In addition to the ultimate goal of seabird conservation, the project has provided me with many opportunities including planning and budgeting fieldwork, supervising field assistants and leadership skills. The support received from Co-I Richard Phillips has been hugely valuable for the project, and for my development and leadership skills.

6. Monitoring and evaluation

The PI and Co-I at BAS have bi-weekly meetings to discuss progress. The PI takes notes at these meetings. This works very well for this project. The BAS team meet informally every 2 months with the Birdlife team to update them on progress. This also works well. As more results are generated we will engage more with project partners. It is clear that the outputs and activities will contribute to the project outcome as the activities and outputs will identify colony-specific areas of high bycatch risk for the breeding and non-breeding season which is part of the project outcome. The indicators of achievement are maps, tables and reports and these have been successfully developed for the wandering albatrosses. These have been measured by the drafting of a manuscript for publication.

7. Lessons learnt

Generally, the project has worked very well, and we are achieving all that we set out to do in the required timeframe. The one major difference is the switch of focus of our 2nd study species from grey-headed albatross to wandering albatross (see previous reports). Although the wandering albatross was not the original target species, we are able to answer similar questions about fisheries overlap. Wandering albatross populations are also declining at different rates across South Georgia, and it is likely that reflects spatial segregation in their foraging areas, and different degrees of overlap with fisheries. Additionally, the wandering albatross is classed as Vulnerable to extinction by the IUCN, as is our other study species, the white-chinned petrel.

8. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

We amended the log frame as suggested. We changed the wording of the project outputs to read less like an activity, added a timeline as recommended, and relabelled output 3. We also attach evidence in Annex 4 of our progress to date. This includes a draft manuscript describing spatial segregation of wandering albatrosses and overlap with fisheries during the breeding season, the methods and results for a similar analysis for the non-breeding season, a presentation to the International Seabird Group Conference (2022), and to the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Marine Protected Area 5-year Review Symposium (2023).

9. Risk Management

No new risks have arisen in the last 12 months. All of the fieldwork is complete except for recovery of more geolocators at Bird Island and the Thatcher Peninsula. The analyses completed so far for the wandering albatross will be easily adapted for the white-chinned petrels, and therefore the latter is low risk.

10. Sustainability and legacy

The work was discussed at the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Marine Protected Area 5-year Review Symposium (14 June, 2023), and the International Seabird Group Conference in 2022. The PI was also awarded a highly accredited internal award (the Laws Prize) and gave a lecture on her research, which included this project. The Co-I included a slide on the project at a seminar which he gave at University of Liverpool (4 May). The results were also discussed with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office during a workshop in February 2024. We have also submitted an abstract to the forthcoming International Seabird Group Conference (September 2024) to present the work.

The intended sustainable benefits post-project are still valid and the legacy will be as a result of dissemination of the results at relevant fisheries management meetings.

11. Darwin Plus identity

The Darwin Plus Logo is on the project website and was included in all presentations described above. We also acknowledge funding from Darwin Plus in the manuscript, and will continue to do so in future presentations and manuscripts. GSGSSI is very familiar with the Darwin Plus scheme and that it provided funding for our project.

12. Safeguarding

Biodiversity Challenge Funds are committed to supporting projects develop and strengthen their safeguarding capabilities and capacity to prevent, listen, respond and learn. Defra will not automatically penalise projects where safeguarding concerns are identified, but will help projects respond and learn from the experience. We are committed to helping project strengthen their safeguarding approach and if you have any sensitive questions around safeguarding please contact NIRAS separately.

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?		Yes
Have any concerns been reported in the past 12 months		No
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	Yes. BAS HR.	
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?		
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?		25% of BAS staff have been trained. They are primarily staff living and working on a research vessel. More training is planned this year
Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses. The nature of this project means that safeguarding is not a concern. Both BAS and Birdlife International have up-to date safeguarding procedures, particularly including travel to the Antarctich. The majority of the work, and all work left to complete will be carried out from BAS Cambridge or Birdlife International Cambridge and thus safeguarding is not a concern.		

Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so please specify. No
Please describe any community sensitisation that has taken place over the past 12 months; include topics covered and number of participants. N/a
Have there been any concerns around Health, Safety and Security of your project over the past year? If yes, please outline how this was resolved. No

13. Project expenditure

Please expand and complete Table 1. If all receipts have not yet been received, please provide indicative figures and clearly mark them as Draft. The Actual claim form will be taken as the final accounting for funds.

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)

Project spend (indicative) in this financial year	2023/24 D+ Grant (£)	2024/25 Total actual D+ Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs	[redacted]			
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items				
Others (Please specify)				
TOTAL			**19175.84**	**19,175.84**

Highlight any agreed changes to the budget and **fully** explain any variation in expenditure where this is +/- 10% of the budget. Have these changes been discussed with and approved by Darwin Plus?

Table 2: Project mobilised or matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)

	Secured to date	Expected by end of project	Sources
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£)			
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)			

14. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Due to some unspent finances in the first year we were able to buy more tracking devices to expand the project to other species. As such, in the 2022/23 season, we deployed GPS loggers to tracking foraging trips during the breeding season of southern and northern giant petrels at Bird Island (n = 144 birds tracked mostly with archival loggers for single trips in incubation, brood-guard or post-guard chick rearing), and at the Thatcher Peninsula on mainland South Georgia (n = 28 birds tracked with remote-download loggers for multiple trips from incubation or late brood-guard into chick rearing). In that season, we also deployed 13 satellite transmitters on white-chinned petrels at Bird Island, and 12 satellite transmitters on white-chinned petrels at King Edward Point to track breeding birds in late incubation and chick-rearing. Geolocators were deployed on all three species at both sites in 2022/23 to track distribution during the following nonbreeding season. Recovery rates of geolocators in 2023/24 at the Thatcher Peninsula were high for northern giant petrels (n = 12) and white-chinned petrels (n = 7), but low for southern giant petrels (n = 2) because of restrictions on handling related to the avian flu outbreak. However, more loggers may be retrieved next season. There are extensive data available from geolocators deployed on all three species in previous years at Bird Island.

15. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes.

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds to edit and use the following for various promotional purposes (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

In this section you have the chance to let us know about outstanding achievements of your project or significant strides towards attaining a particular goal so far that you consider worth sharing with the wider Biodiversity Challenge Fund community. This could relate to achievements or considerable progress already mentioned in this report, on which you would like to expand further, or achievements that were in addition to the ones planned and deserve particular attention. We may use material from this section for various promotion and dissemination purposes, including for example, publication in the Defra Annual Report, Darwin Plus promotional material, or on the Darwin Plus website. **Please limit text to 400 words.**

Please also include an engaging high resolution image, video or graphic* that you consent to be publicised alongside the above text. Please ensure:

- that you have left the above agreement clause to indicate your consent. Text without this will not be used
- any images or videos are sent as separate files and not embedded in the body of the report

*If you have no photos or videos for reasons of sensitivity, then please state that clearly and the BCFs Comms team can work to create an alternative graphic.

Image, Video or Graphic Information:

File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)	File Name or File Location	Caption including description, country and credit	Social media accounts and websites to be tagged (leave blank if none)	Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No

				Yes / No

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2023-2024

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024	Actions required/planned for next period
Impact Population declines of white-chinned petrels and grey-headed albatross breeding on South Georgia will reverse, and their conservation status will improve as a result of improved management practices.	We now understand more about the overlap between wandering albatrosses and fishing activities. This will allow us to focus management on the fishing fleets which directly interact with wandering albatrosses.	[redacted]
Outcome Colony-specific areas of high bycatch-risk, during breeding and non-breeding seasons, are identified for white-chinned petrels and grey-headed albatrosses. Initial steps towards modification of mitigation policy incorporating these results.		
Outcome indicator 0.1 Maps indicating spatially and temporally explicit high-risk areas are produced.	Maps indicating spatially and temporally explicit high-risk areas have been produced for wandering albatrosses.	Maps indicating spatially and temporally explicit high-risk areas will be produced for white-chinned petrels.
Outcome indicator 0.2, Engagement with Stakeholders (including relevant Fisheries managements, government stakeholders and NGOs).	We have engaged with stakeholders and NGOS at the South Georgia science symposium.	We will continue to engage with NGOs and stakeholders. We will meet formally with project partners Birdlife International to discuss our results for wandering albatrosses. Birdlife International will present the results at the Fisheries Management meetings.
0.3 Commitment to change policy mitigation measures.	This will happen towards the end of the project	
0.4 Steps towards adoption of results into relevant fisheries management frameworks.	This will happen towards the end of the project	
Output 1. Habitat preferences of white-chinned petrels and grey-headed albatrosses from different colonies, during the breeding season, are identified, and inter-colony variation in their at-sea distributions is characterised		

Output indicator 1.1 Relationships between seabird habitats and oceanographic variables are identified (May 2022).	This is complete for wandering albatrosses.	We will complete this for white chinned petrels.
Output indicator 1.2, Maps highlighting seabird distributions and high-density hotspots during the breeding season are produced (June 2022).	This is complete for wandering albatrosses.	We will complete this for white chinned petrels.
Output indicator 1.3, Spatial overlap in high-use areas of birds from different colonies are quantified (July 2022).	This is complete for wandering albatrosses.	We will complete this for white chinned petrels.
Output 2. Overlap with fisheries during the breeding season and specific high-risk areas from different fishing fleets are identified.		
Output indicator 2.1. A suite of detailed maps and tables describing the overlap between predicted habitat use and different fishing fleets are produced for the breeding season (December 2023).	This is complete for wandering albatrosses.	We will complete this for white chinned petrels.
Output 3. Habitat preferences of GHA and WCP during the non-breeding season are identified, inter-colony variation is characterised, and overlap with fisheries is quantified.		
Output indicator 3.1. Relationships between seabird preferred habitats and oceanographic variables during the non-breeding season are identified (November 2024).	This is complete for wandering albatrosses.	We will complete this for white chinned petrels.
Output indicator 3.2. Maps highlighting seabird distribution and high-density areas during the non-breeding season are produced, and spatial overlap between colonies is quantified (December 2024).	This is complete for wandering albatrosses.	We will complete this for white chinned petrels.
Output indicator 3.3. Maps and tables which describe the overlap between both species and individual fishing fleets are produced (March 2025).	This is complete for wandering albatrosses.	We will complete this for white chinned petrels.

Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Outcome: Colony-specific, areas of high bycatch-risk, during breeding and non-breeding seasons, are identified for white-chinned petrels and grey-headed albatrosses. Initial steps towards modification of mitigation policy incorporating these results.	0.1 Maps indicating spatially and temporally explicit high-risk areas are produced. 0.2 Engagement with Stakeholders (including relevant Fisheries managements, government stakeholders and NGOs). 0.3 Commitment to change policy mitigation measures. 0.4 Steps towards adoption of results into relevant fisheries management frameworks.	0.1 Independent meeting report text discussing the results of the project in a positive light. 0.2 Report text to include the next steps for incorporation into management frameworks.	0.1 Tracked birds will interact with fishing vessels, or overlap with areas used by pelagic or demersal fisheries. Previous tracking studies from Bird Island indicate that the both of these species overlap with fisheries during the non-breeding season. Bycatch records from South Georgia show that white-chinned petrels overlap with the South Georgia toothfish fishery if the season starts early.
Output 1: Habitat preferences of white-chinned petrels and grey-headed albatrosses from different colonies, during the breeding season, are identified,	1.1 Relationships between seabird habitats and oceanographic variables are identified (May 2022). 1.2 Maps highlighting seabird distributions and high-density hotspots during the	1.1 Models will be validated to test their predictive power using recognised statistical techniques. 1.2 Results will be discussed with project partners at bi-annual meetings which will be written up.	1.1 White-chinned petrels and grey-headed albatrosses will be breeding on Cooper Island and Bird Island and will be catchable. These species breed in large numbers and are tractable for tracking studies.

and inter-colony variation in their at-sea distributions is characterised. (May 2022- albatrosses, March 2025 white chinned petrels)	breeding season are produced (June 2022). 1.3 Spatial overlap in high-use areas of birds from different colonies are quantified (July 2022).		1.2 Environmental predictors will have sufficient predictive power to predict the distribution of seabirds. There is abundant evidence that seabirds select habitats based on oceanographic cues. Furthermore, extensive experience in this type of modelling, large sample sizes and abundant environmental information will optimise model performance.
Output 2: Overlap with fisheries during the breeding season and specific high-risk areas from different fishing fleets are identified. (December 2023- albatrosses, March 2025 white chinned petrels)	2.1 A suite of detailed maps and tables describing the overlap between predicted habitat use and different fishing fleets are produced for the breeding season (December 2023).	2.1 Submission of manuscripts for peer-reviewed papers, after quality assessment from co-authors.	2. 1 Tracked birds will overlap with fisheries. Tracking studies from birds breeding at Bird Island have shown overlap of both grey-headed albatrosses and white-chinned petrels with both local and international fisheries.
Output 3: Habitat preferences of GHA and WCP during the non-breeding season are identified, inter-colony variation is characterised, and	3.1 Relationships between seabird preferred habitats and oceanographic variables during the non-breeding season are identified (November 2024). 3.2 Maps highlighting	3.1 Models will be validated to test their predictive power using recognised statistical techniques. 3.2 Results will be discussed with project partners at bi-annual	3.1 White-chinned petrels and grey-headed albatrosses will be breeding on Cooper Island and Bird Island and will be catchable. These species breed in large numbers and are

overlap with fisheries is quantified. (November 2024- albatrosses, March 2025 white chinned petrels)	seabird distribution and high-density areas during the non-breeding season are produced, and spatial overlap between colonies is quantified (December 2024). 3.3 Maps and tables which describe the overlap between both species and individual fishing fleets are produced (March 2025).	meetings which will be written up. 3.3 Submission of manuscripts for peer-reviewed papers, after quality assessment from co-authors.	tractable for tracking studies. 3.2 Environmental predictors will have sufficient predictive power to predict the distribution of seabirds. There is abundant evidence that seabirds select habitats based on oceanographic cues. Furthermore, extensive experience in this type of modelling, large sample sizes and abundant environmental information will optimise model performance.
Output 4: Dissemination and Application (April 2026)	4.1 Results and recommendations shared with stakeholders to inform their conservation and management frameworks (September 2025 – April 2026). 4.2 Data deposited in global databases (April 2026). 4.3 Communication of results at national and international conferences (September 2025 - April 2026).	4.1 Text from independent meeting reports, and meeting minutes will discuss the results and the plans to implement changes to management frameworks. 4.2 Datasets available online. 4.3 Abstracts presented in conference programmes.	4.1 Outputs will be discussed at relevant stakeholder meetings. The decline in populations of WCP and albatrosses is a recognised conservation issue for all stakeholders. As such any measures to mitigate further declines in these populations are a priority for many stakeholders, and a consideration for fisheries management bodies.

Annex 3: Standard Indicators

The Biodiversity Challenge Funds (BCFs) use high quality and accessible Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) to enable scaling, replication and increase the impact of the funds and the projects we support.

By asking project teams to report against a minimum of three indicators with the Darwin Plus Standard Indicators, we aim to increase our contribution to the global evidence base for activities that support biodiversity conservation, benefits to local communities, and capability & capacity.

The tables below are provided to assist project teams in reporting against Standard Indicators. Please report against the Standard Indicators that you have selected specifically for your project in Table 1 below. Refer to the Standard Indicator Guidance & Menu available on the Darwin Plus website for guidance on how to select indicators, as well as how to disaggregate reporting within your chosen indicators.

For projects submitting their first Annual Report, you should complete the Y1 column and also indicate the number planned during the project lifetime. Older projects should copy and paste the information from previous years and add in data for the most recent reporting period.

We recognise that the Standard Indicators in our menu are by nature general. We also ask you to develop your own Project Indicators. These should be more specific and relevant to your project. See our BCF MEL guidance on best practices for selecting and developing Project Indicators.

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

DPLUS Indicator number	Name of indicator	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
E.g. DPLUS-A01	E.g. Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	People	Men	20			20	60
E.g. DPLUS-A01	E.g. Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	People	Women	30			30	60
E.g. DPLUS-B01	E.g. Number of new or improved habitat management plans available and endorsed	Number	New	1			1	2
E.g. DPLUS-B01	E.g. Number of new or improved habitat management plans available and endorsed	Number	Improved	1			1	3

In addition to reporting any information on publications under relevant standard indicators, in Table 2, provide full details of all publications and material produced over the last year that can be publicly accessed, e.g. title, name of publisher, contact details, cost. You should include publications as supporting materials with your report. Mark with an asterisk (*) all publications and other material that you have included with this report.

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)

Annex 4: Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

1. Manuscript describing spatial segregation and fisheries overlap of Wandering albatrosses during the breeding season.

2. Draft of results describing spatial segregation and fisheries overlap of Wandering albatrosses during the non-breeding season.

3. Slides presented at the International Seabird Group Conference (2022).

4. Slides presented at the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Marine Protected Area 5-year Review Symposium (2023).

Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the **correct template** (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and **deleted the blue guidance text** before submission?	
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 15)?	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	