

Darwin Initiative

What makes a good application?



**BIODIVERSITY
CHALLENGE FUNDS**



Welcome!



Joanna Elliott – Fauna and Flora International

- Global Conservation Director at FFI
- Darwin Expert Committee member



Victoria Pinion – NIRAS

- Programme manager for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds (BCFs) - Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus and Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund (IWTCF)
- Supports applicants and projects across all funds



Rachel Beattie – NIRAS

- Supports applicants and projects across all funds



Agenda & Housekeeping

- Welcome
- Darwin Expert Committee Presentation
- Questions

If you have any questions, please feel free to type them in the Q&A box and upvote any that you are interested in hearing the answer to.



Proposals: What is the Darwin Expert Committee looking for?

JOANNA ELLIOTT
FAUNA & FLORA INTERNATIONAL



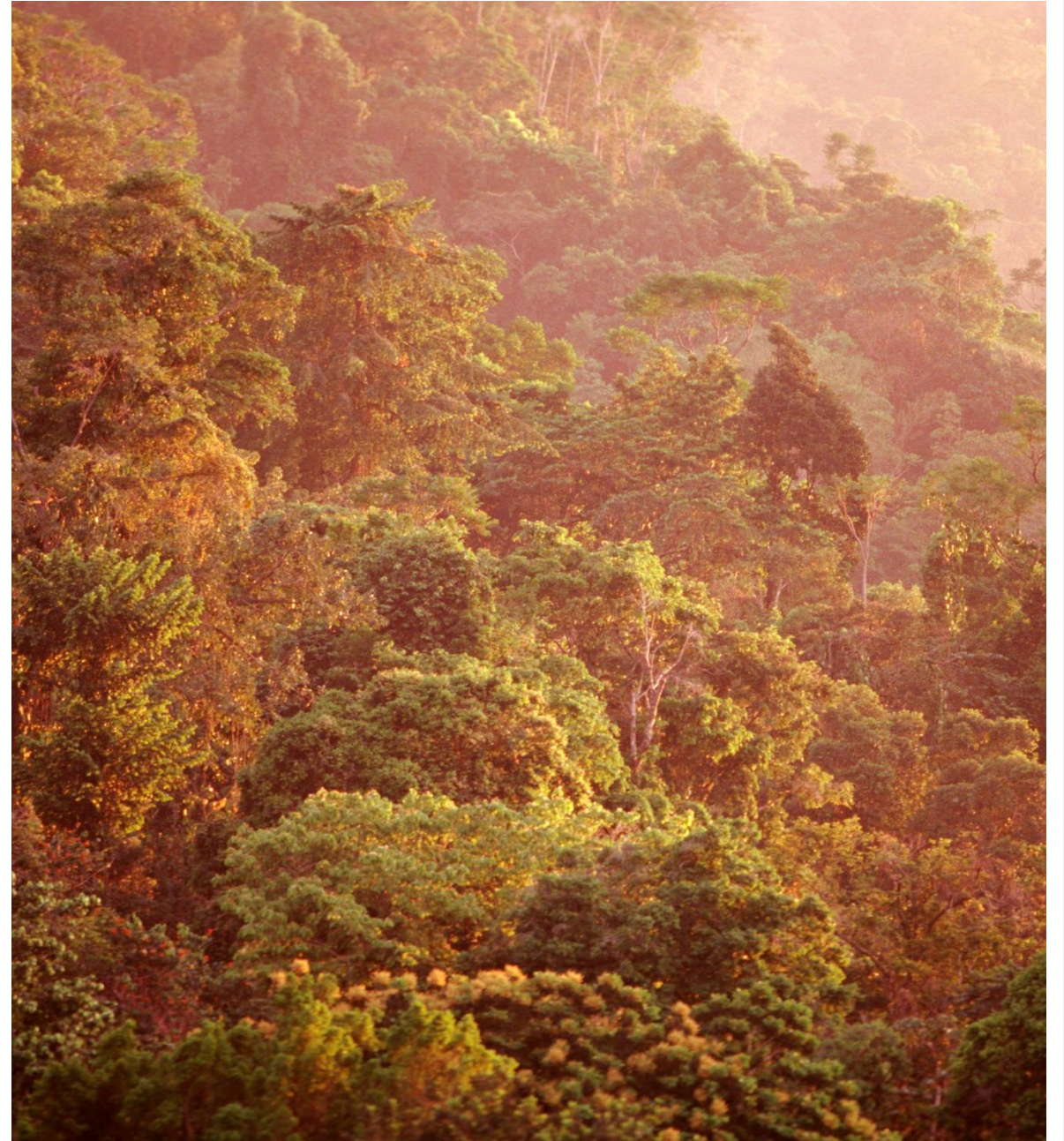
WHO ARE THE DARWIN EXPERT COMMITTEE?



- c. 20 experts - academics, conservation practitioners, policy researchers, independent consultants etc
- Contribute to Darwin strategy
- Act as ambassadors for Darwin
- Review and score proposals and make recommendations to Defra

REVIEWING OF APPLICATIONS

- Three DEC reviewers consider each application
- Scoring criteria in Guidance – same for both stages
- Sift meeting discussions on high and mid-scoring and differentials - agree shortlist at Stage 1 and at Stage 2
- DEC recommends a list to Ministers who make the final decision





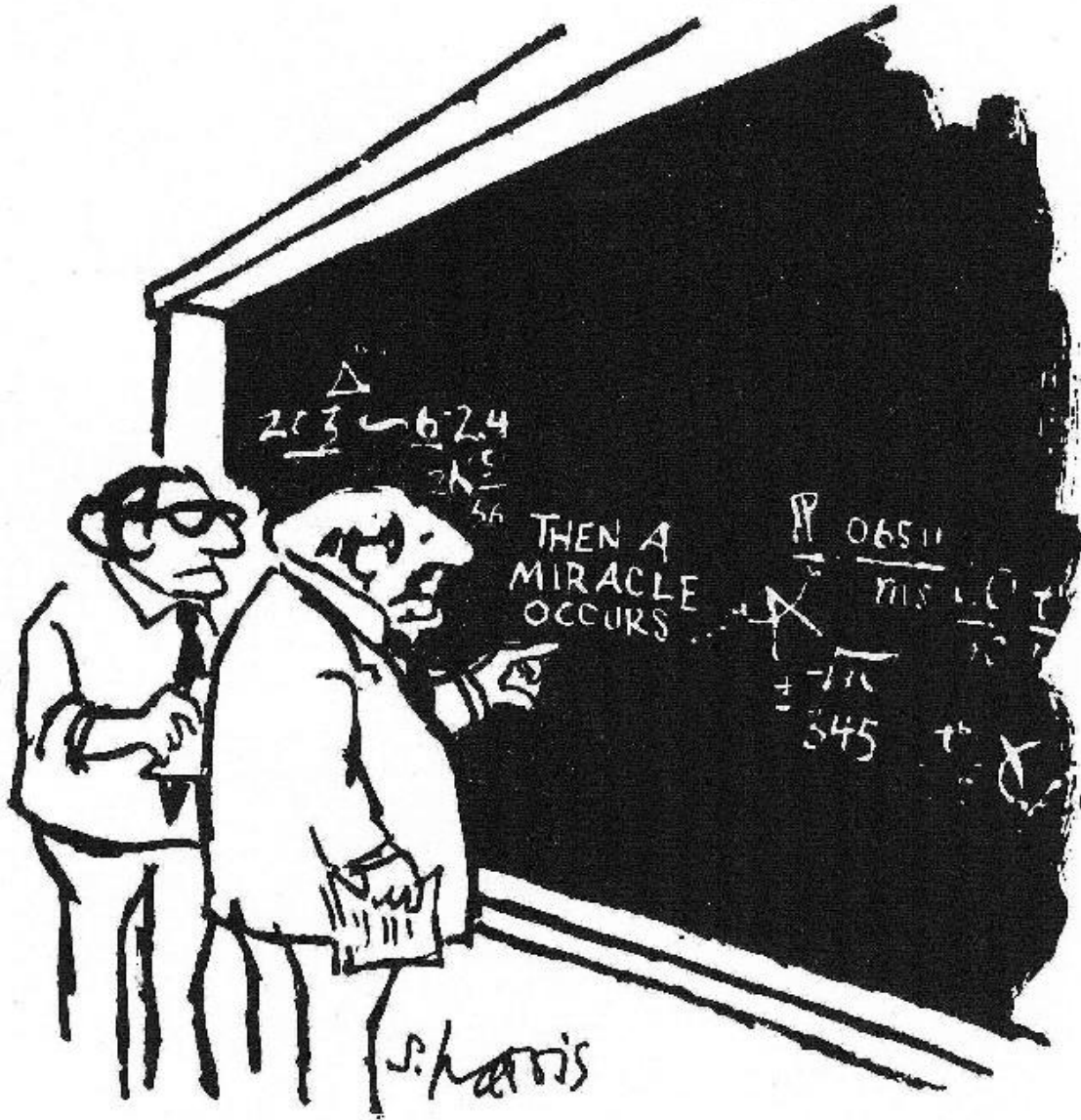
WHAT MAKES A GOOD APPLICATION?



- Clearly written, concise and easily understandable
- Answer the questions
- Ambition and innovation rooted in reality
- Biodiversity and livelihoods outcomes, supporting international Conventions
- Clear route to outcomes and impact
- Compelling partners, CVs, LoS



PROJECT LOGIC



"I think you should be more explicit here in step two."

- Underlying problem statement and project logic are vital
- Should be clear from a strong logframe.....



LOGFRAME

- Central to reviewers' assessment of your application
- Sense check – how will the activities - outputs - outcomes - impact chain work....
- Think about your assumptions and challenge them
- Specific targets and baselines – better to have numbers than loose percentages
- Keep it clear - reviewers will read lots of logframes....

	PROJECT SUMMARY	INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	RISKS / ASSUMPTIONS
Goal	10% increase in the number of Grades 5-6 primary students continuing on to high school within 3 years.	Percentage of Grades 5-6 primary students continuing on to high school.	Comparison of primary and high school enrolment records.	N/A
Outcome	Improve reading proficiency among children in Grades 5-6 by 20% within 3 years.	Reading proficiency among children in Grades 5-6	Six monthly reading proficiency tests using the national assessment tool.	Improved reading proficiency provides self confidence required to stay in school.
Outputs	500 Grade 5-6 students with low reading proficiency complete a reading summer camp	Number of students completing reading summer camp.	Summer camp attendance records.	Children apply what they learnt in the summer camp at school.
Activities	Run five summer reading camps, each with capacity for 100 Grades 5-6 students.	Number of summer camps run.	Summer camp records.	Parents of children with low reading proficiency are willing to send them to the camp.

Handwritten annotations in yellow:

- A circle around the Output description: "500 Grade 5-6 students with low reading proficiency complete a reading summer camp".
- A circle around the Activity description: "Run five summer reading camps, each with capacity for 100 Grades 5-6 students.".
- The word "THEN" written in yellow between the Output and Outcome rows.
- The word "IF" written in yellow between the Activity and Outcome rows.
- The word "AND" written in yellow between the Activity and Risk/Assumptions columns.
- Arrows pointing from the Output and Activity descriptions to the Outcome and Risk/Assumptions cells.

KEY THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Address any feedback from Stage 1
- Title – clear but interesting – get our attention upfront
- Provide enough context - don't assume any prior knowledge
- Demonstrate credibility - partners, expertise, and track record (strong CVs help)
- Stick to word counts and don't rely on additional links or resources



KEY THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Demonstrate links to and knowledge of international Conventions and Treaties
- Explicit biodiversity outcomes - which species/ecosystems will benefit
- Explicit poverty outcomes - tangible improvements in well-being.
- Strong gender considerations



KEY THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Well articulated changes – and explain how will be measured
- M&E plan should align with the log-frame
- Budget – balance between lead and partners, in-country and UK; co-finance
- **Make your application stand out!** How does it differ from the norm? Is it innovative, using new methodology or scalable? *Or is it just really clear and well written....?*



Good luck!



DARWIN
INITIATIVE