Darwin Initiative- R30

Stage 2 Webinar:
What Makes a Good Application?

BIODIVERSITY CHALLENGE FUNDS

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

UK International Development

Partnership | Progress | Prosperity

Welcome!

Patricia Mupeta-Muyamwa

- Human Rights in Conservation Director at Equitable Conservation Team
- Darwin Expert Committee member

Eilidh Young - NIRAS

- Senior Administrator for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds (BCFs) - Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus and Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund (IWTCF)
- Darwin Initiative Focal Point

Andy East – NIRAS

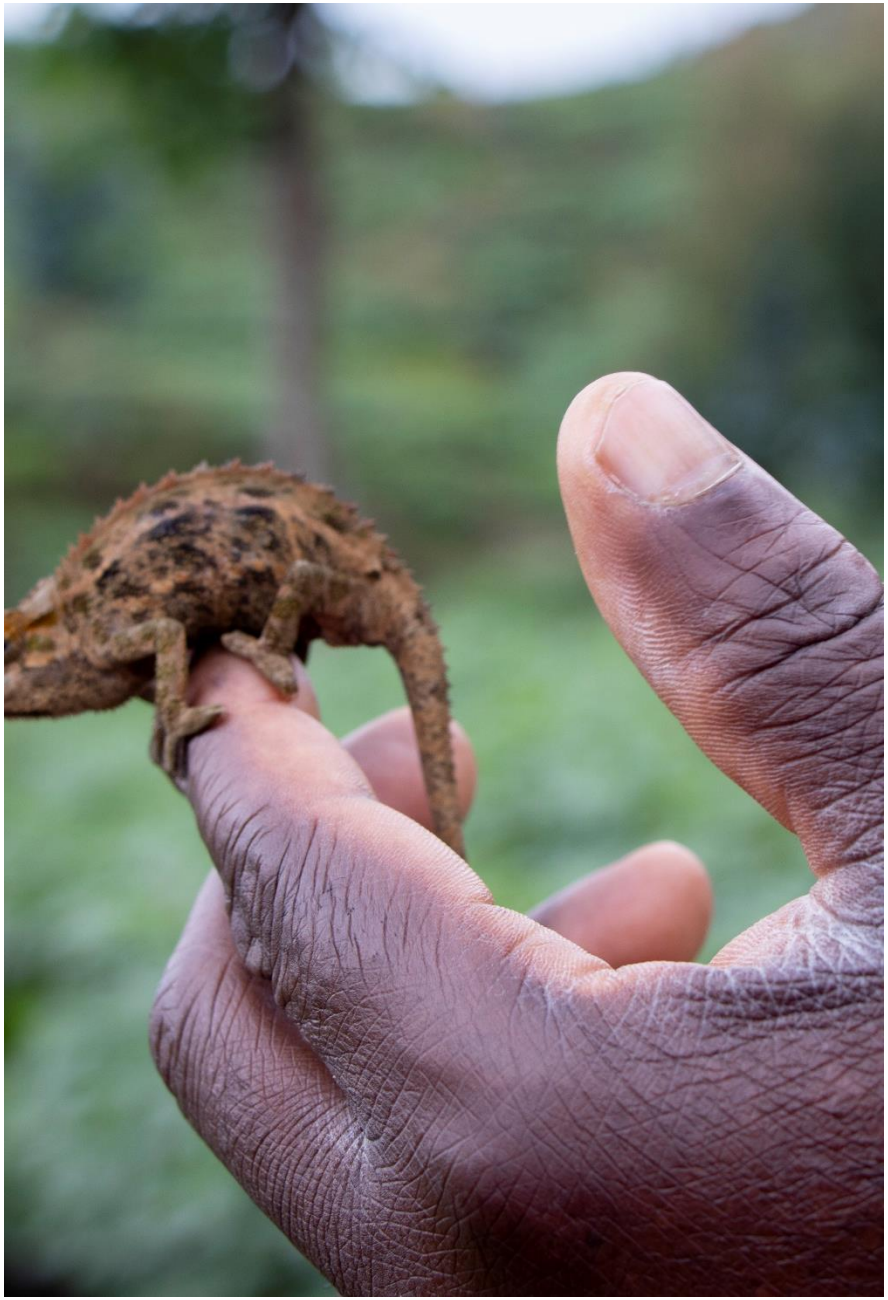
- BCFs Communications & Workshops Lead

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?

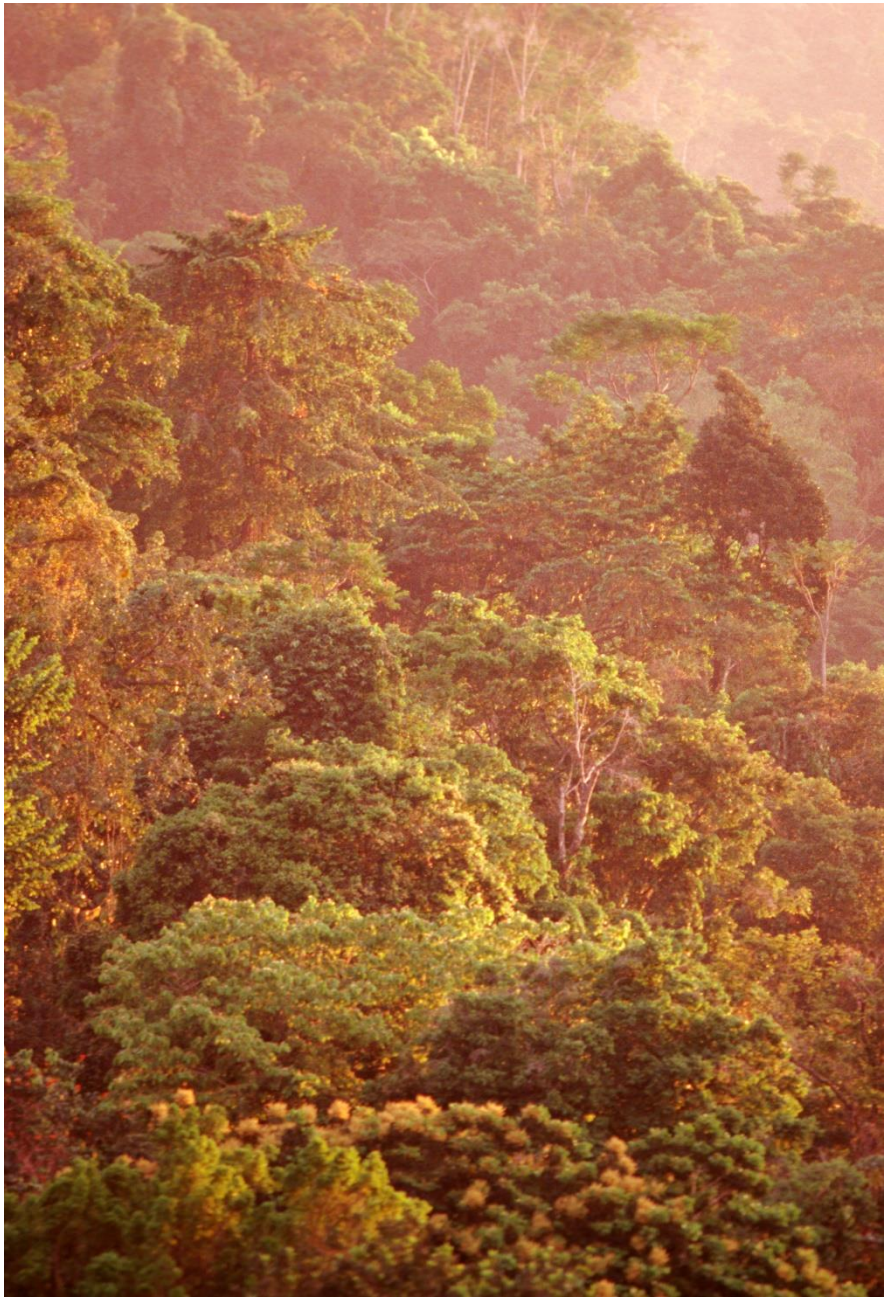


Who are the Darwin Expert Committee (DEC)?

- 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

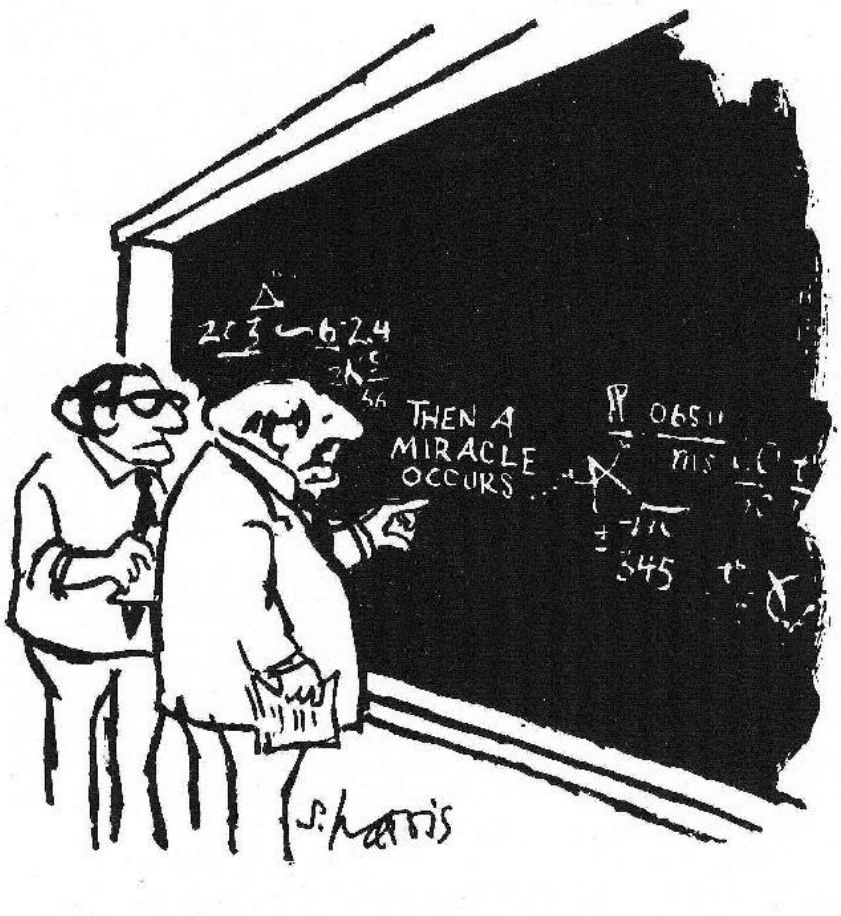
Reviewing Of Applications

- 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?

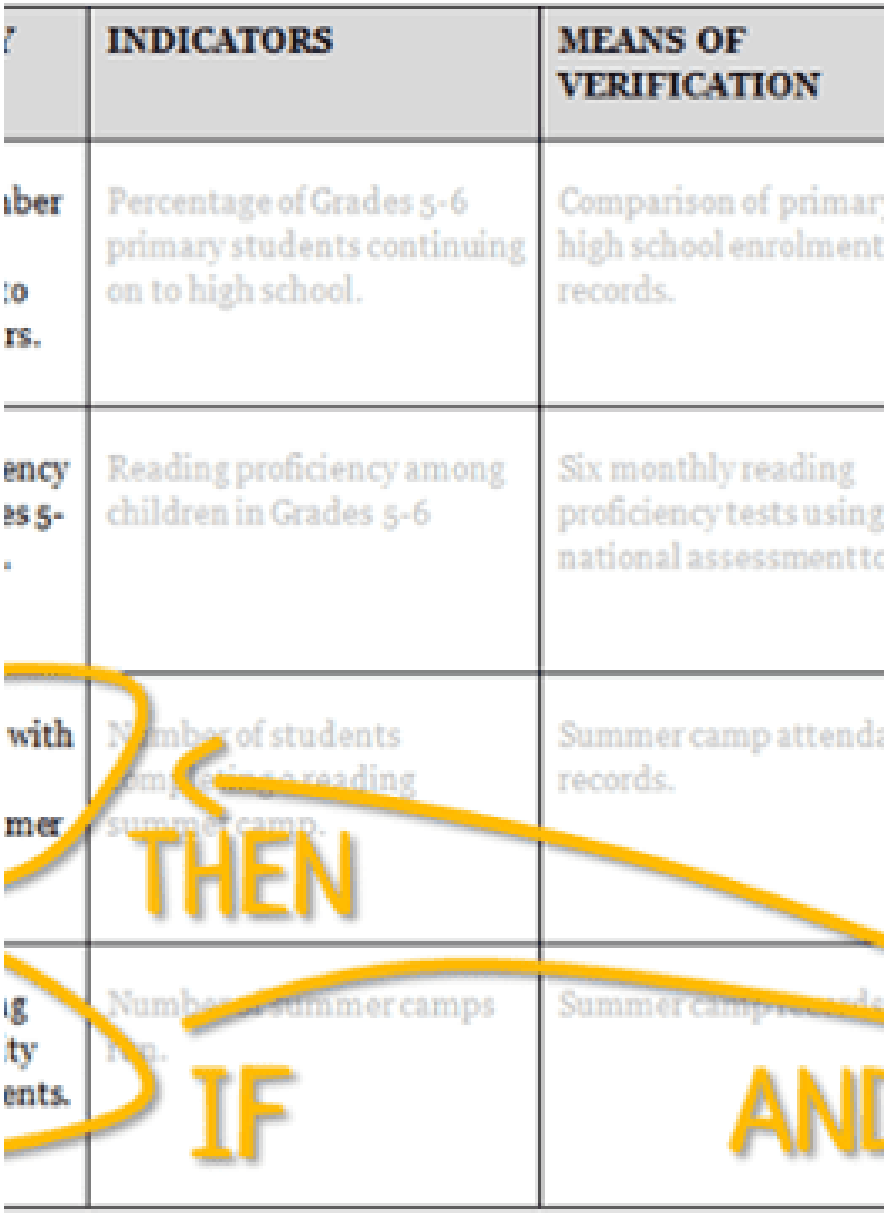
- Clearly written, concise and easily understandable
- Answer the questions
- Ambition and innovation rooted in reality
- Biodiversity and livelihoods outcomes, supporting international Conventions
- Clear route to outcomes and impact
- Compelling partners, CVs, LoS
- Clear and realistic Theory of Change
- Builds off best practices and evidence
- How to embeds equity, gender, youth.



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

Project logic

- 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….

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!