



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# Defra's International Funds



Forestry Commission  
England



Environment  
Agency

# Thank you for coming

- What we are responsible for in Defra
- Updates and announcements
- Darwin objectives and changes to the fund for R26
- Wider context

# What we are responsible for in Defra

- Overarching strategy
- Liaising with ministers
- Budgets and value-for-money
- Change requests
- Comms and press
- Recruitment to expert groups
- Ensuring the funds support Defra and wider HMG priorities

# Updates and announcements

- SR15 distributed ODA budget more widely across Government Departments, reflecting the range of expertise needed to deliver the objectives of the UK Aid Strategy
- Defra's ODA budget currently includes International Climate Finance, the Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade, and contributions to the environmental conventions
- Last month it was announced that **the Darwin Initiative will triple to £90m** over three years from 2021
- It was also announced that **funding for IWT would be doubled to £30m** over the same period
- The funding package also includes £100 million from both DFID and Defra to a new Biodiverse Landscapes Fund that will help to slow, stop and reverse biodiversity loss in some of the world's most valuable habitats.
- Darwin Plus – Call for Evidence on biodiversity funding in the UKOTs

# Objectives of Darwin

The Darwin Initiative helps developing countries meet their commitments under the following conventions:

- the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);
- the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS);
- the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA);
- the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES);
- the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands;
- the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS);
- **Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**

# Objectives of Darwin

Projects supported should contribute to one, or more, of the following:

- protection or enhancement of ecosystems, species or genetic resources through in-situ or ex-situ conservation or remedying environmental damage;
- integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services within host country development objectives and economic decision making, through institution building, capacity development, strengthening regulatory and policy frameworks or research; or
- assisting host countries' efforts to meet their obligations under at least one of the international conventions/agreements listed above

Darwin projects are expected to address key threats to biodiversity, such as:

- habitat loss or degradation
- climate change
- invasive species
- over-exploitation
- pollution and eutrophication

# Objectives of Darwin

In this round, we are particularly keen to see projects which address the following issues:

- **addressing biodiversity loss, climate change, and land and ecosystem degradation through holistic approaches including nature based solutions**
- securing the benefits of biodiversity for the poorest communities and those most vulnerable to the degradation of the natural environment by tackling issues such as agrobiodiversity, food and water security, and biodiversity and health
- helping prevent the extinction of known threatened species, and improve and sustain their conservation status, **for example through conservation corridors**
- tackling threats to marine biodiversity, such as damage to coral reefs and plastic waste, and building resilience to ocean acidification
- **look at the opportunity for synergies between tackling climate change and halting or reversing biodiversity loss**

# Objectives of Darwin

We are also interested to see projects which:

- use a natural capital approach that emphasises the importance of nature’s contribution to people, their health and prosperity
- are developing new and innovative approaches that could be “gamechanging” in terms of tackling a particular issue, with the potential for a wider application beyond the scope of the project itself
- **could support Countries to deliver against new global targets for biodiversity, expected to be adopted in 2020 under the CBD**
- are working with commercial partners
- are led by organisations local to developing countries

Above all we want good quality projects with a clear focus on protecting and enhancing biodiversity and which can demonstrate that in doing so, they are contributing to sustainable development in developing countries.

# Wider context

## 25 Year Environment Plan – global leadership

- Provide international leadership and lead by example in tackling climate change and protecting and improving international biodiversity.
- Help developing nations protect and improve the environment by providing assistance and supporting disaster planning.
- Support and protect international forests and sustainable agriculture.
- Leave a lighter footprint on the global environment by enhancing sustainability and supporting zero deforestation supply chains.
- Taking action to recover threatened, iconic or economically important species of animals, plants and fungi, and where possible to prevent human induced extinction or loss of known threatened species in England and the Overseas Territories.

**Ministers will expect to see projects reflecting their priorities**

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# Questions?