



Learning Note: Publications

Key Messages:

- Since 1992 the Darwin Initiative has funded conservation projects in 159 countries worldwide.
- As a science-led programme the Darwin Initiative has produced significant numbers of publications.
- These publications highlight the importance of biodiversity and how we can better manage it.
- This learning note highlights the wealth of work that has been carried out under the Darwin Initiative.

The Darwin Initiative assists countries that are rich in biodiversity but poor in financial resources to meet their objectives under one or more of the three major biodiversity Conventions: the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES); and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), through the funding of collaborative projects.



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Publications record

Darwin Initiative projects are 2-3 years in length. All projects are required to keep a tally of their research outputs. The Final Report produced by projects is particularly useful since it contains a full record of what was produced.

For the purposes of this review we utilised this dataset of all completed projects for those which we had a complete Final Report which was 271 projects.

Due to the nature of research, many publications are not actually produced until after the project has completed. Therefore while the numbers of publications produced is impressive, this is by no means the total number of publications funded by the Darwin Initiative.

Total number of completed projects	615
# of projects that supplied a final report	286
# of projects that did not supply a final report	84
# of projects that supplied details of publications	271
# of projects that did not produce publications (or did not supply details)	151
Ongoing projects that have not yet submitted a Final Report	112

Type of output	Number*	Type of Output	Number*
Journal paper	501	Report	93
Manual	92	Book	75
Article	59	Conference proceedings	34
Book chapter	30	Newsletter	29
MSc thesis	18	Database	12
Action Plan	10	Grey literature	10
PhD Thesis	12	Leaflet	5

*We have only included numbers of articles that could be verified. For example, a project may have reported that it produced 3 peer-review papers but unless the project also supplied details of what these papers were and where we could access them this figure was classed as unverified and discounted from our data set.



Publications produced

We have demonstrated previously how the Darwin Initiative has supported capacity building in developing countries. The contribution of these developing country partners to science and conservation learning is demonstrated in figure 1. The graph disaggregated lead authorship of publications depending on whether the author comes from a Developed or Developing country.

While this demonstrates that the majority of publications are produced by Developed country authors, a significant number of the publications are also authored by Developing country partners.

It would be useful to review how this split has changed over the years. If Darwin is supporting capacity in these countries one would expect the publication record to reflect this in future.

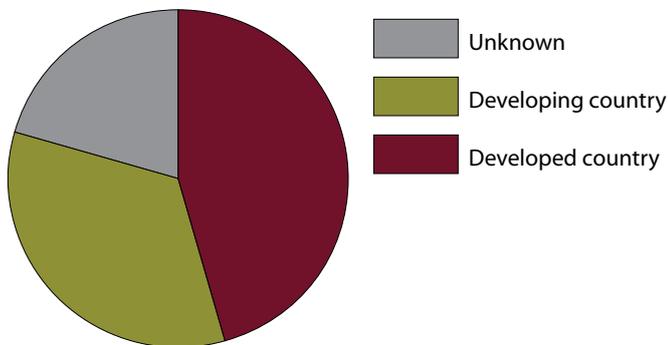


Figure 1: Location of lead authors of Darwin publications

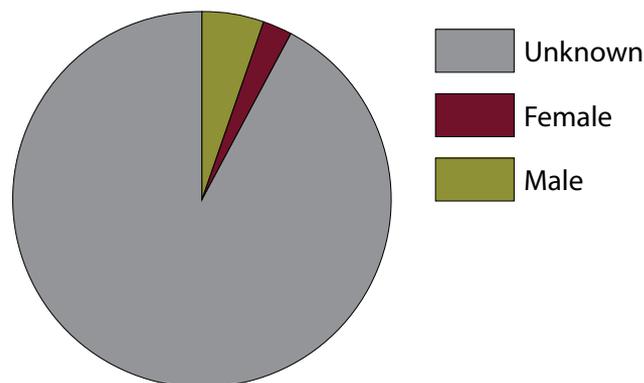


Figure 2: Gender spread of Darwin publication authors

In addition, we have attempted to review the gender balance of publications produced by Darwin projects. Unfortunately as you can see from figure 2 this has been a difficult task, primarily because our dataset has not captured that information. For the future we would like to review the gender balance so we can identify if there are gaps. Women are generally under-represented in science though females tend to be better represented in biological sciences than say physics or chemistry.



Publications from UK Overseas Territories

Since 2008, the UK Overseas Territories have become an express priority for the Darwin Initiative. They are home to unique and important biodiversity. Yet they face the difficult challenges of limited financial and human resources to tackle conservation.

The Darwin Initiative has funded 47 projects in the UK Overseas Territories to date. As 13 of these are on-going our dataset was limited to 34 completed projects.

Despite this low number, the volume of publications produced has been impressive as shown in table 3.

Type of output	Number
Conference proceeding	5
Journal paper	41
Leaflet	1
Manual	2
Newsletter	9
Report	7
Grand total	65

The Darwin Initiative aims to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of resources around the world including the UK's Overseas Territories. The Darwin Initiative projects work with local partners to help countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to fulfil their commitments under the CBD, CMS and CITES. The Initiative is funded by the UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and from 2011 the Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. It is administered by the UK Government's Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). Since 1992, the Darwin Initiative has committed over £97 million to over 835 projects in over 150 countries.

This learning note was produced by LTS International www.ltsi.co.uk

For more information on the Darwin Initiative see <http://darwin.defra.gov.uk>

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