
Darwin Plus Advisory Group (DPAG)

Appointment of Members

Information pack for applicants

The closing date for the receipt of applications is:

12 noon, Friday 18th August 2017



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1. Darwin Plus Advisory Group (DPAG) recruitment process 2017

Introduction

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) seeks applications for members to join its Darwin Plus Advisory Group (DPAG), to assess applications for projects funded under the Overseas Territories Environment and Climate Fund (also known as “Darwin Plus”)

We are particularly seeking individuals who have good knowledge of environmental issues within the UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) including biodiversity conservation and protection, management of the marine environment, and climate change issues affecting the UKOTs.

We are looking for individuals who, as leaders in their field, genuinely want to contribute at the highest levels and are able to support their views with well-argued evidence. You’ll offer sound judgment, excellent interpersonal skills, and the ability to assimilate complex information and preferably have previous committee experience.

This expertise should also ideally be supplemented by knowledge and experience in one or more of the following Darwin Plus priority areas:

- Delivering the UK Government’s commitment to create a Blue Belt of marine protection around the OTs. This includes
 - Improving marine conservation, protection or management, including developing integrated marine management plan
 - Promoting sustainable fisheries including the development of sustainable management plans and development of the fisheries sector, including aquaculture
- Dealing with invasive alien species including prevention through improved biosecurity and/or eradication/control where species have already become established
- Developing approaches to deal with the effects of climate change, including renewable energy schemes
- Developing tools to value ecosystem services to inform sustainable development policies and practices and/or mainstream environmental issues
- Developing ecosystem-based initiatives for the conservation and sustainable use of the terrestrial and marine environments
- Promoting sustainable fisheries within the UKOTs, including the development of sustainable management plans and development of the fisheries sector, including aquaculture
- Developing or improving waste management strategies
- Developing data systems on biodiversity (and human activities affecting biodiversity) to help develop policies and management plans (including baseline survey and subsequent monitoring)

We actively encourage applications from individuals from a wide range of backgrounds, including private sector, academic and professional institutions, non-governmental organisations, and from individuals with minority ethnic backgrounds.

The appointments will commence mid-September 2017.

Darwin Plus

Darwin Plus, established in 2012, funds environmental projects in the UK Overseas Territories. Priorities for funding are reviewed annually and set out in the guidance document linked below. These priorities are based on the Environmental chapters of the annual Joint Ministerial Council (JMC) Communiqué. Projects are expected to meet Territories' environmental priorities.

The Darwin Plus Advisory Group (DPAG) helps to ensure the quality of projects funded by reviewing and scoring applications

Further information on the Darwin Plus: Overseas Territories Environment and Climate Fund is available at: [Darwin Plus](#)

2. Being a member of the Darwin Plus Advisory Group (DPAG)

What is the DPAG?

The Darwin Plus Advisory Group is made up of a mixture of UK Government officials and independent experts from a range of backgrounds non-governmental organisations, scientific and academic institutions. See the list of current members; [Darwin Plus Advisory Group membership](#)

The primary role of the DPAG is to assess the project applications received to enable Ministers to select the highest quality projects for funding.

Description of role

Individual members are responsible for assessing applications for Darwin Plus funding, evaluating each application according to the criteria for grant awards and providing scores and written comments, which will then be discussed by the Group at a sift meeting.

Members will be required to commit to around 3-4 days per annum including assessment of applications (2-3 days), and 1 one-day for a sift meeting which takes place in London.

Members must be willing to travel to meetings within the UK. These are likely to take place in London.

Qualities and experience required

In appointing Members to the Group, the panel will be looking for candidates who have a breadth of experience of projects working in or with UKOTs and can demonstrate a clear understanding of one or more of the DPAG priority areas.

The following selection criteria will be applied:

Criteria

Criterion 1: Proven expertise in or knowledge of one or more of the Darwin Plus priority areas through:

- working on or managing projects in UKOTs; or
- policy development in any of the priority areas

Criterion 2: Experience of working with or within UKOTs and an understanding of the constraints of working in the Territories.

Criterion 3: A good understanding of environmental issues and challenges facing the UKOTs or other small islands or territories.

Criterion 4: Experience of reviewing project applications and justifying views in a challenging forum would be desirable.

Terms and conditions of appointment

Period of appointment

Individuals who have previously been members of the IWTAG are eligible to apply.

Initial appointment will, in most cases, be for 3 years, with the possibility of reappointment for a further 1 year term. The appointments will commence mid-September 2017 with the first application assessments likely to be circulated mid-end October 2017 and the sift meeting likely w/c 4th Dec 2017.

Remuneration

A stipend of £150 per day is available, plus reimbursement of reasonable travel and subsistence costs for attending Sift meetings.

3. Applying for a role

The recruitment process

The Darwin Plus Advisory Group members, appointed by Defra, will be independent appointments made through open competition. They are not classed as formal public appointments.

How to apply

Candidates should submit the following four documents:

- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Statement of suitability
- Conflicts of interest Questionnaire
- Diversity and Data Protection Questionnaire

CV: should include education, professional qualifications and employment history and the names and contact details for two referees. CVs should not exceed two A4 pages (size 12 Arial font).

Statement of suitability: should give evidence of your ability to meet the criteria for the role, as described above. Please provide specific examples to demonstrate how you meet each of the criteria. The statement must not exceed one A4 page (size 12 Arial font).

All completed documents listed above should be returned by email to:
darwin@defra.gsi.gov.uk

The deadline for receipt of completed documents is 12:00 noon on Friday 18 August 2017.

Selection Process

CV Selection Panel

The panel will consist of existing members of the Darwin Plus Advisory Group and Defra officials.

Selections based on CV

The selection panel will determine which candidates' best demonstrate that they have the required qualities and experience based on CVs. It is therefore essential that CVs and statements of suitability give full but concise information/evidence/examples relevant to the appointment.

How we will handle your application

- We will acknowledge receipt of your application documents, via email.
- We will select candidates on the strength of their CV. There will be no interview panel, although we may call you to follow up any queries we have with your application
- Selection will take place week commencing 21 August 2017.
- References will be requested when candidates are selected.
- Successful candidates will be notified in early September.

Equal opportunities

These appointments will be made based on merit with independent assessment and transparency of process. Defra is committed to improving the diversity and welcome applications irrespective of race, ethnic or national origin, sex, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, religion, or belief, age, gender or re-assignment.

Dealing with your concerns

For queries about the application process please e-mail shaluki.perera@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Or telephone Shaluki Perera on 0208 026 4068.