## New Projects Webinar



### Darwin Initiative and Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund







Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs



# Agenda



- Welcome
- Introduction to the schemes
- The role of the Darwin Secretariat & key personnel
- Introduction to project reporting
- Project communications
- Questions

## Objectives



- To provide an introduction to the DI & IWT Challenge Fund
- To 'meet' the Darwin Initiative key people and understand their roles
- To get an insight of the administration and reporting requirements under DI & IWT



## Survey



#### What is your role on the project?

- Project leader/co-leader
- Technical
- Admin/finance
- Other

# Welcome & Congratulations!

#### Main Darwin Round 23:

- 426 main project applications received at Stage 1
- 77 main project applications invited to Stage 2
- 30 new main projects funded
- 10 scoping projects funded, 1 Fellowship, 1 post project

#### Darwin Plus (UK Overseas Territories):

- Round 5 just completed
- 29 applications for Darwin Plus **16 new projects funded**

#### IWT Challenge Fund Round 3:

- 113 IWT applications received at Stage 1
- 37 IWT applications invited to Stage 2
- 13 new IWT projects funded



## Survey



#### What is your history with Darwin and IWT?

- No history
- My organisation has had IWT/Darwin project before but I have not been directly involved
- I have worked on one before
- I have led one before

# The Evolution of the Schemes





# The Evolution of the Schemes



- First announced at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992
- 2017 Marks 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Darwin Initiative
- **2000** M&E begins but more basic than now
- 2002 small schemes (fellowships, scoping and post projects)
- **2009** Overseas Territories Challenge Fund (scoping for UKOTs)
- **2011** DfID co-funding of Darwin begins
- **2012** Darwin Plus scheme for work in the UKOTs funds environment including waste, water and energy
- **2014** Illegal Wildlife Trade established following London Conference
- 2016 Funding for Darwin and IWT to Defra from treasury. Must meet Official Development Assistance (ODA) requirements i.e. deliver economic and wellbeing benefits for developing countries

## The Schemes



Main Projects: Support developing countries to conserve biodiversity and deliver wellbeing benefits

**Post Projects:** To add value to a previously funded Main Project. Must also be working to support poverty alleviation in developing countries

**Scoping Projects:** For applicants new to Darwin to build partnerships and develop a workable proposal

**Fellowship:** Fellowships cover training related to biodiversity conservation over 12-14 months

**Darwin Plus:** Expected to support environment/climate change issues in UKOTs. Not required to have a specific poverty alleviation element. Complex funding arrangements

**IWT:** Projects focused on developing sustainable livelihoods, strengthening law enforcement, and demand reduction of products of IWT

## Snapshot of Successes





# Snapshot of Successes



- UK Government has invested over £140m invested since 1992 in 1,055 Darwin projects working in 159 countries.
- For IWT, there are now 47 projects, a total of £14m.
- Over 2,600 species or habitat management plans have been produced
- Over 2,800 peer review papers have been published
- Around 1,300 species reference collections have been established
- Around £6m value of physical assets handed over to host country(s)
- Over £80m resources have been leveraged as a result of Darwin projects

## Darwin 'Family'



Darwin & IWT Secretariat (Defra)

Darwin Expert Committee (DEC)

Illegal Wildlife Trade Advisory Group (IWTAG)

Darwin Plus Advisory Group (DPAG)

Programme Administrators (LTS International)

Darwin, IWT-CF and D+ projects

## Who's Who?





## Darwin & IWT Secretariat



Claire Millar & Fiona Charlesworth – overall management / strategy of the Darwin Initiative and IWT-CF

Jacqueline Tumwine – Policy Adviser, ODA Team

**Shaluki Perera** – Support on Darwin policy issues including DEC recruitment, events and publicity

**Defra finance team** – Financial administration (payment of claims)

## The role of the Darwin Secretariat



- Overall management and strategy of Darwin Initiative and IWT-CF
- Ministerial advice (PQs, correspondence, briefings)
- Management of LTS International Contract
- Support to the DEC, DPAG, IWTAG
- DEC/DPAG/IWTAG appointments
- Publicity and events involving Ministers

## LTS International







- Simon Mercer
- Technical support to the Darwin Initiative and IWT-CF
- <u>Simon-Mercer@ltsi.co.uk</u>
- Eilidh Young
- Day to day contact with all Darwin projects
- Supports projects and acts as clearing-house for most queries
- <u>Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk</u>
- Victoria Pinion
- Technical support to the Darwin Initiative and IWT-CF
- Day to day contact for IWT queries
- IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk





# Reporting & Accountability

- There are a number of requirements to ensure the high standard of projects is maintained
- These can be divided into:
  - Project technical reporting
  - Project financial reporting
- Broadly consistent process between schemes





## **Expectations of projects**

- High quality and scientific
- Collaborative
- Assist countries to meet their objectives under CBD, Nagoya, ITPGRFA & CITES
- Support countries in pursuing the objectives of the London conference/ Kasane declaration
- Should address poverty alleviation\*





## **Technical Reporting**

DARWIN INITIATIVE

- Projects required to report twice per year for the duration of their grant:
  - Half Year reports
  - Annual Reports
  - Final
- Project reports are posted on the website (minus contact details & financial details)
- Reminder sent 1 month before deadline



## Half Year Reports

- Provide a brief update on project progress
- Opportunity to discuss queries/issues (also available all year round)
- Submitted by 31<sup>st</sup>
  October annually



## **Annual Reports**



- To detail progress against planned activities, outputs & outcome
- Good use of indicators & evidence (means of verification) reduces reporting burden
- Due 30<sup>th</sup> April annually



## **Final Reports**



- Provide information on the overall success of the project against its proposed outcome, outputs and activities
- Good use of indicators and evidence (means of verification) reduces reporting burden



## Survey



#### How is the pace of this webinar?

- Far too slow
- A bit slow
- About right
- A bit fast
- Far too fast

# Reducing the reporting burden



- Report against original application unless changes have been made to logframe
- Significant changes to logframe/design need to be approved





### Indicators



- Indicators are what will be measured to show progress and outcome
- Should be SMART:



# Means of Verification

- Should be submitted in reporting as verification of progress
- Reduces onerous narrative reporting
- In-Report
  - Use of secondary data
  - Illustrative quotes
  - Figures
- Additional Documents
  - Meeting minutes of Committee approving plans
  - Letter formally accepting management plans from Ministry of Environment
  - Photos





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## Reporting Evidence – Do's



• **Provide evidence Demonstrate where claims come from**, for example:

"We are making good progress towards our goal, as demonstrated by data provided in table x"

"Focus groups with local residents about ...., we believe this to be true [insert quote as evidence]"

• Move beyond reporting on outputs - include evidence on what has changed

"The workshop provided X community members with knowledge about sustainable pest management. Evidence from a follow-up survey indicated that chemical pesticide use has declined by 50%, which is expected to have positive impacts in local biodiversity (FAO, 2013). Crop yields for previously affected crops have increased by between 10-30%; thus demonstrating a contribution to poverty alleviation."

# Reporting Evidence – Don'ts

• Write general statements without evidence, for example:

"we are making good progress" "we believe this is true" "we think that this progress is adequate"

- Only list activity outputs e.g. no. of workshops, plans, maps.
- Forget about higher level outcomes and impacts what has changed and how in terms of biodiversity and poverty?

#### Any questions?

### **Financial Reporting Requirements**



- Quarterly advance claims, but Q4 claim is based on actuals and in arrears
- An audit at closure of project
- Defra retain the right to spot check



## **Claims conditions**



- Quarters 1, 2 are advance claims linked to reporting and return of Annual Grant Acceptance Form
- Quarter 3 is a straight advance
- Quarter 4 Actual Claim is not an advance and is dependent on actual expenditure for the year
- A retention is made from the final claim pending a satisfactory final report.

## **Claim Process**



- Hard copy with wet signature
- LTS checks claim total and that related reporting received
- Batched eligible claims to Defra for approval
- Agreed claims then sent for payment
- You will be informed when to expect payment to your account



## **Conditions for Payment**



Claim	Reporting	Financial	Other	
Quarter 1 – advance	n/a	n/a	Year 1 – signed Award Acceptance Form received From Year 2 onwards, signed Annual Grant Acceptance Form received	
Quarter 2 – advance	From Year 2 onwards, prior year annual report received.	From Year 2 onwards, prior year Quarter 4 – actual claim received and verified.	n/a	
Quarter 3 – advance	From Year 2, prior year annual report accepted as administratively complete	n/a	n/a	
Quarter 4 – actual	Annual report received	Quarter 4 – actual claim received and verified.	n/a	
Final claim, less retention	Final report	Final claim form	n/a	
Retention	Final report accepted	Audit letter - <b>where</b> <b>required</b>	n/a	

## Change Requests

- Projects looking to make significant changes (both technical and financial) should submit a change request form
- This includes:
  - Virements movement of money between budget lines
  - Re-budgets carry-forwards not allowed
  - Changes to logical framework
  - Staff changes (senior technical staff) including CV
  - Timing changes (e.g. extensions)





## Terms and Conditions



- Confirms how the funds can be used e.g. no UK party political use
- Outlines the rights retained by Defra should grantees not follow requirements e.g. reclaiming of funds, eligibility of future applications
- Requirements re branding/communicating about your project





# Promoting your project

#### **Communication Channels**

- Darwin newsletter
- Twitter account
- Facebook page
- Blog
- Flickr photostream
- Information notes







## Newsletter



- Quarterly
- 1-2 page articles
- Use images to grab attention
- Distributed widely via e-mail, Twitter and internally in Defra
- IWT newsletter on the way
- Darwin-newsletter@ltsi.co.uk





The Darwin Initiative supports developing countries to conserve biodiversity and reduce powerty. Funded by the UK Government, the Darwin Initiative provides grants for projects working in developing countries and UK Overseas Territories (DTs). Projects support: - the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

- the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) - the International Tinaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agricultum (TPGBFA) - the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CTES) / Derwininitiative / Quarwin\_Defra // derwininitiativeuk.wordpress.com



### Twitter



- @Darwin\_Defra
- Tweet us your project updates and blogs
- Over 3,000 followers
- #Nature4Life



#### **Darwin Initiative**

@Darwin\_Defra

A UK government grant fund, the Darwin Initiative assists developing countries to meet their objectives under the biodiversity conventions.

**V** UK

8 darwin.defra.gov.uk

i Joined May 2011

# Blog



- Biodiversity and Poverty
- Monitoring and Evaluation Techniques
- Project Communications
- Newsletter articles
- Guest articles welcome!



#### THE DARWIN INITIATIVE BLOG

Insights and personal musings from the world of biodiversity conservation and development. For more info on the Darwin Initiative see https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/the-darwin-initiative





Ecotourism and biodiversity conservation – experience from Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in Uganda

#### by Lesley King

April 10, 2017 by Victoria Pinion Leave a comment According to the UN, tourism has become 'one of the largest and fastest-growing economic sectors in the world' (UNWTO 2016). Indeed if you look at the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers for many of the countries Darwin projects work in, tourism is RECENT POSTS: THE DARWIN INITIATIVE BLOG

Ecotourism and biodiversity conservation – experience from Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in Uganda Learning from Monitoring and Evaluation, Darwin Initiative project in Nepal Social forestry: new hope or new worry for biodiversity conservation in Andonesia? Managing conflict for conservation and wellbeing

HOME ABOUT

## **Information Notes**



- Used to highlight and promote the Darwin Initiative
- For specific events or occasions
- Thematic
- Heavily reliant on good images and good stories



#### **Information Note: Logical Frameworks**

This information note is intended to help Darwin projects and applicants to understand Logical Frameworks (logframes) and their use. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) is a requirement of all Darwin Projects. The Logframe is the key tool used in Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of Darwin projects. This information note covers:

- Why should Darwin Applicants use a logframe?
- What is a logframe and what are its key components?
- How to develop a logframe.
- How to develop good indicators to measure project success.

It has been observed that Darwin applicants are often intimidated by logframes and struggle with their different components. This note has been developed to help applicants better understand the concept of the logframe and how to develop effective logframes for Darwin applications. It aims to demustify the The Darwin Initiative supports developing countries to conserve biodiversity and reduce poverty. Funded by the UK Government, the Darwin Initiative provides grants for projects working in developing countries and UK Overseas Territories (OTs).

#### Projects support:

- 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 Fauna and Flora (CITES)

# **Other Opportunities**



- CBD Side events
- Workshops
- Lectures
- Conferences
- International Campaigns



# Publicising your project



- Keep us informed of progress
- Please mention the Darwin Initiative and IWT-CF!
- Maintaining a high profile for the Darwin Initiative helps maintain Government funding
- Contact LTS and/or Defra for further info

# Framing your project



- It is important consider how your project may be perceived by others
- Explaining your project to non-technical audiences is becoming more important
- The workshop will look at these issues in more detail and materials will be made available

#### Thanks for listening!

#### Final questions?