# The Darwin Initiative

**Meeting the poverty requirements & an introduction to the SDGs**

DARWIN INITIATIVE

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

UKaid
from the British people

# What are the essential poverty requirements?

1. The application identifies **clearly** how the project will benefit poor people living in developing countries and should meet at least one of the following criteria:

   – advancing knowledge, evidence and impact in developing countries;

   – delivering global public goods benefits by, for example, advancing our understanding of local - global impacts and/or strengthening understanding of/evidence for global dimensions of biodiversity conservation/sustainable use and poverty reduction;

   – making serious and unique research advancements on a critical issue as a result of specific circumstances of the middle income country that could not be made elsewhere.

   IF NO FOR THIS CRITERION, THERE WILL BE A ZERO SCORE FOR THIS WHOLE SECTION.

# Essential poverty requirements cont.

2. will help improve the lives of poor people whilst also contributing to the conservation and/or sustainable use of biodiversity.

3. clearly identifies who will benefit (and how many) and how they will benefit.

4. risks for poor or vulnerable groups will be sufficiently managed.

5. has a strong M&E plan to measure impact and progress.

6. has considered gender in its design and has provided disaggregated indicators by gender where possible.

7. the organisations identified as partners have sufficient expertise and experience to undertake the work identified.

8. the CVs submitted clearly outline the expertise of the team and is relevant to the project.

# Common issues that reduce scores cont.

- Lack of market analysis e.g. handicrafts, produce etc.
- 'Alternative livelihoods' with no explanation
- Poverty as an add-on vs integrated
- VFM – no. of people to benefit & scale of benefit
- Gender – can't just say 'and women'

# Common issues that reduce scores cont.

- Unmeasurable indicators – quantitative or qualitative
- Proposed benefits unmeasurable in the timescale
- Weak assumptions
- Weak theory of change e.g.
  - How does research translate to impact?
  - How will 'capacity building' translate to impact
- Indicators not SMART

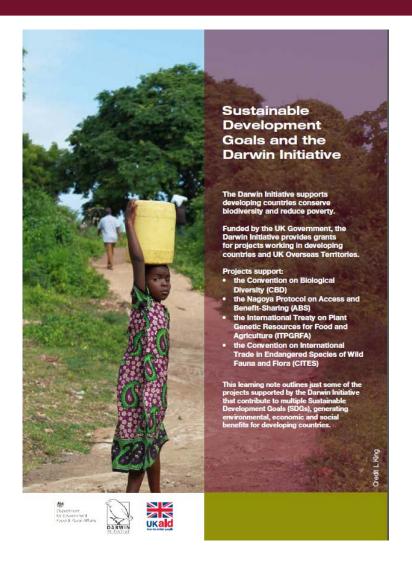# Common issues that reduce scores cont.

- Zero baselines – risky
- Targets with no baselines – how can you predict a change with no baseline?
- Lack of social science on team – or poorly integrated/low % of time allocated
- Many team members 'tbc'

# Sustainable Development Goals or Global Goals



Sustainable Development Goals and the Darwin Initiative

The Darwin Initiative supports developing countries 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.

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)

This learning note outlines just some of the projects supported by the Darwin Initiative that contribute to multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), generating environmental, economic and social benefits for developing countries.

- SDGs to replace the MDGs (17 vs 8 goals)
- Agreed in September 2015
- Provides the framework for aid until 2030
- Environment a much stronger focus than MDGs

# SDGs and Darwin

- In future, expect applicants to demonstrate their knowledge of, and expected contribution of project to SDGs in future

- Not a requirement this year but expect to report against SDGs in future

# Questions?