



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Defra's Official Development Assistance (ODA) Team



Forestry Commission
England



Environment
Agency

Thank you for coming

- Who we are
- What we are responsible for in Defra
- Darwin and UK objectives: international environmental commitments and wider development objectives
- Defra Ministers

Who?

- Fiona Charlesworth and Claire Millar – head of ODA team (job share)
- Siriol Leach – Darwin policy lead
- Shaluki Perera – Darwin administrative support
- Mukti Mulligan – Darwin Plus policy lead
- Work very closely with LTS International, who remain first point of call for most queries

What?

- SR15 distributed ODA budget more widely across Government Departments
- Reflected range of expertise needed to deliver the objectives of the UK Aid Strategy
- We oversee the ODA budget in Defra
- Defra's ODA budget includes the International Climate Fund, the Montreal Protocol, the Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund and the Darwin Initiative
- Working with LTS International, we manage the implementation of Darwin, Darwin+ and IWT Challenge Fund, which are all funded from ODA

Wider context

- 25 Year Environment Plan – global leadership
- “We will:
 - 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.”
- Ministers will expect to see projects reflecting their priorities

International environment commitments

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)

The UK is committed to achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals**, and the Darwin Initiative can make an important contribution to several of these.

Objectives of the fund

Projects typically try to address threats to biodiversity such as:

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

Priorities for Round 25

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

- **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 agro-biodiversity, food and water security, and biodiversity and health
- helping **prevent the extinction of known threatened species**, and improve and sustain their conservation status
- **tackling threats to marine biodiversity**, such as damage to coral reefs and plastic waste, and building resilience to ocean acidification

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
- are working with **commercial partners**
- are led by **organisations local to developing countries**

UK Aid Strategy

- **Strengthening global peace, security and governance:** tackle the **causes of instability, insecurity and conflict**, and to tackle crime and corruption.
- **Strengthening resilience and response to crises:** . . . more support for ongoing crises including that in Syria and other countries in the Middle East and North Africa region, more science and technology spend on global public health risks such as antimicrobial resistance, and **support for efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change.**
- **Promoting global prosperity:** . . . promote **economic development and prosperity** in the developing world.
- **Tackling extreme poverty and helping the world's most vulnerable:** the government will strive to eliminate extreme poverty by 2030, and support the world's poorest people to ensure that **every person has access to basic needs**, including prioritising the rights of girls and women.

“Economic development and welfare of developing countries”

‘Poverty’ - not just a lack of money. Encompasses a range of diverse issues that are often country and context specific including for example:

- health
- education
- water supply sanitation
- gender and social equality

Many different contributions to poverty alleviation

- direct e.g. through activities that help secure increased income for local communities
- indirect e.g. improving wellbeing through the safeguarding of traditional rights, cultural values, or ecosystem services, or improved security through capacity building of local enforcement agencies
- through practice orientated research e.g. through activities that expand the knowledge base

Defra Ministers

- Clear that environmental standards to stay the same, or better
- Want UK to continue to be a world leader on the environment

Thérèse Coffey - Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Environment and Rural Life Opportunities – the lead Minister on Darwin

Michael Gove, Secretary of State, “We also in the UK fund globally respected schemes such as the Darwin Initiative, which protects biodiversity and endangered species in developing countries and helps them to meet their environmental commitments. This year I am delighted to be able to help celebrate Darwin’s 25 year anniversary. I am also pleased to announce today that the 24th round of the Darwin Initiative, the 6th round of Darwin Plus, and the 4th round of the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund will all open for applications next week” (21 July 2017, the Unfrozen Moment)