



The Darwin Initiative

Frequently asked Questions





Common mistakes – Technical

- Assumption that better environmental mgmt = biodiversity gains
- Poorly related to the Conventions
- New partnerships take time
- Attribution vs contribution and match funding
- Research needs an identified audience



Common mistakes – technical

- Define who the beneficiaries are, how many there are and what will change for them
- Poverty is more than just income
- Poverty as an ‘add on’ vs integrated
- No detail of current market/suitability of approach i.e. tourism or alternative livelihood products



Common Mistakes – M&E

- Weak theory of change presented – leap of faith required
- Failure to present indicators for both biodiversity and poverty
- Incapable of demonstrating how you will measure what has changed as a result of your work
 - Inputs vs outputs vs outcomes
- Untested assumptions that are critical
- Setting a target when there is no baseline
- Not clear *who* will undertake the M&E or *when*



Common mistakes - Team

- Include CVs of team members critical to delivery
- Tailor CVs to ensure skills are clear – avoid long lists of publications.
- Relate CVs presented to budget table i.e. roles or names
- Avoid submitting teams with too many ‘TBC’ posts
- Avoid ‘boiler plate’ letters of support



Common mistakes - Budget

- Does the budget table figure match the application form?
- Capital costs > 10%
- 'Other' – explain
- 'Consultancy costs' – explain
- Submit your Annual report (electronic link) AND 2 years accounts



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