

The Darwin Initiative



Sharing experiences and lessons between projects



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Introduction



- We asked existing projects to share their experiences and key lessons learnt
 - Something you wish you had known from the start
 - Key project strengths
 - Key areas for improvement
 - Top tips for new projects

We wish we had known from day 1



- Financial and administrative
 - Potential sources of future funding
 - Protocols and procedures
- Project set up and logistics
 - Setting up offices and networks
 - Data management



We wish we had known from day 1



- Local Context
 - Bureaucratic challenges
 - Cultural considerations
- Gender
- Communications
 - With project partners
 - With local stakeholders – launch events & managing expectations



Key Project Strengths



- Working with local partners
 - Building on existing knowledge & networks
 - Building local capacity
- Building partnerships
 - With organisations at all scales
- Knowledge of local context
- Communications



Key areas for improvement



- What happens next?
 - Not considered until its too late
 - Funding and...
- Communications
 - Project findings
- M&E of project progress
- Engagement with gender issues



Top tips for new projects



- “try to maximise local involvement”
- “be patient... be flexible”
- “be realistic about how long it will take to set up your project”
- “contact the local British Embassy and as they often have a good contact network and knowledge of other groups/projects working in the country”

Exercise – Top Tips



- What do you wish you had known from day 1?
- What is the greatest strength of your project?
- Key areas for improvement?
- Top tips for other projects?
 - 5 mins to discuss in pairs
 - Record on post its and stick on wall
 - Discuss in groups – identify similarities and differences
 - Identify key guidance for new projects