

## The Darwin Initiative



### What is the DEC looking for?



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



### Who are the DEC?



- A mix of experts from a broad range of fields relevant to the Darwin objectives
- Some lead their own projects
- Currently 20 individuals who review applications
- They have their own workload outside Darwin so be clear, provide all the information needed and make their reviews of your applications easier!

## A strong log-frame!



- Clear, convincing impact statement
- SMART outcome indicators
- Measurable, specific impacts for biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods
- Assumptions that demonstrate an awareness of underlying uncertainties, etc.

## A clear, convincing outcome



### **For example:**

“Community land-care approach enables Bhutan’s semi-nomadic herders and agencies to restore and protect high altitude rangelands, wildlife habitats and watersheds, and to improve livelihoods through sustainable livestock and forest management.”

## SMART outcome indicators



### Examples of what a DEC reviewer might question:

- Species composition and richness of birds and mammals more similar to natural forest in areas with project interventions than in areas without project interventions. *How will this be measured?*
- Retaliatory killing of carnivores, particularly jaguars, reduced by 50% across project communities. *What is the overall population trend? Are there other factors at work that might influence jaguar numbers?*
- At least 200 Miskitu, Mayangna, and campesino families will experience a 50% increase in livestock productivity due to integrated livestock management. *Over what period?*

## Measurable, specific impacts for biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods



### Other questions the DEC may consider:

- What are the species / ecosystems that will benefit from the project?
- What is their current conservation status?
- What changes will the project bring about?
- What improvements will the project generate for the well-being of local people?
- What is their current status?
- How will changes be measured?

## Assumptions demonstrating understanding of project context



- The security situation does not deteriorate
- Continued supportive relationship and close partnership with the relevant Ministry and government in general as appropriate
- Continued high level of local engagement
- Community able to keep records to support project work

## Other factors



- Good mix of partners, expertise and track record
- Does the application tell the whole story (within reason)
- Are there convincing link into international convention frameworks (i.e. beyond box-ticking)
- Is there a sound problem statement showing full understanding of the issues to be addressed
- Does the M&E plan align well with the log-frame