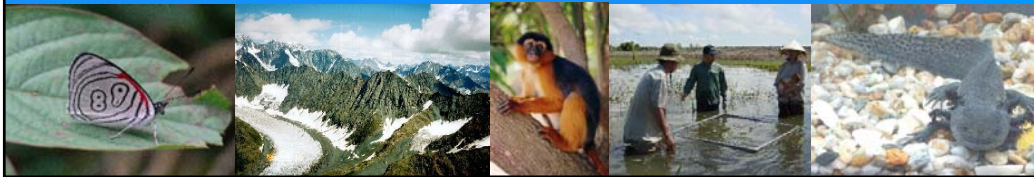




The Darwin Initiative and DEFRA

Eric Blencowe



What is the Darwin Initiative?

The Darwin Initiative was launched in 1992 at the Rio Earth Summit:

- to fund collaborative projects
- which use UK expertise
- to help countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to meet their commitments under the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES); and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)

Darwin Initiative: Facts and Figures



To date:

- £7 million budget per year
- Over £70million committed since its start
- Over 670 projects set up
- Projects run in over 140 countries
- Projects have involved over 200 UK institutions and a far greater number of overseas partner organisations.
- Funding to support 22 Scholars/Fellowships

Darwin projects



There are 4 types of Darwin projects:



1. Main projects
2. Post projects
3. Scoping awards
4. Fellowships

Darwin Governance



Darwin Advisory Committee

Chaired by Professor David Macdonald and attended by 13 other experts in the field of biodiversity conservation. Also 3 Ex Officio representatives from JNCC, DFID and FCO.

LTS

Responsible for the Monitoring and Evaluation of Darwin projects, budget monitoring and processing applications.

Darwin Secretariat

Responsible for overall strategy of Darwin Initiative, liaison with the DAC, overall management of LTS contract, organisation of Darwin lecture, press queries

Darwin Initiative Secretariat



Based within Defra ...

- Within the Natural Environment Group
- Which is part of the Wildlife and Countryside Directorate
- Within the Biodiversity programme board
- We are the International Biodiversity Policy Unit

International Biodiversity Policy Unit



- Focal point for the Convention on Biological Diversity
- Darwin Initiative Secretariat
- GBIF Focal point
- Overseas Territories
- Research

Darwin Initiative Secretariat – our roles



- **Eric Blencowe** – overall management and strategy
- **Stephanie Godliman** – Management of the Darwin administration and M&E contract, support to the Darwin Advisory Committee, contact point for queries
- **Vicki Giles** – Assistance in management of Darwin administration




What we do...

- Overall management and strategy of Darwin Initiative
- Advice Freedom of Information Act
- Publicity and events
- Management of the Darwin and M&E contract,
- Support to the Darwin Advisory Committee,
- Public appointments
- Ministerial relations



Freedom of Information

- Stakeholder leaflet and letter to project leaders
- Project reports and reviews
- Exemptions – to be agreed with project leaders wherever possible
- Final decision on release with Defra
- Contact details



Publicity



- Materials available – contact Secretariat
- Website
- Newsletter
- Annual report
- Publication and Press Guidelines
- **Press contact** Tom Briggs
tom.briggs@defra.gsi.gov.uk Tel 0207 238 6140

Events



- Darwin workshops
- Darwin lectures
- Displays
- Side event

Our best bits!



- Meeting you
- Good news stories
- Spreading the messages



Conservation of the critically endangered Gyps spp. Vultures in India



**Building
Capacities for
Mitigating
Human-Elephant
Conflicts**



Thank you for listening!

