A publication in the Darwin Initiative's Thematic Review Series:

Review of the Darwin Initiative's Support to Overseas Territories:

with the Falklands Islands as a case study

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defra
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DARWIN INITIATIVE

The Darwin Initiative

The Darwin Initiative (DI) is a UK Government small grants programme which was launched at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. It aims to assist countries rich in biodiversity but constrained by financial resources to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). The Darwin Initiative is funded and managed by the UK Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). This is the UK Government's main support, through funding of collaborative projects that draw on UK expertise, to other countries (including the UK's Overseas Territories) in their implementation of the three biodiversity conventions.

Darwin Initiative Monitoring and Evaluation Programme

The Darwin Initiative has a comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) programme in place which is central to informing on the progress of the Darwin Initiative against its goal – 'to support countries that are rich in natural resources but poor in financial resources to meet their commitments under one or more of the major biodiversity conventions: the Convention on Biological Diversity; the Convention on Migratory Species; and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

The M&E programme supports ongoing projects in their delivery and reporting, in order to identify best practice for biodiversity conservation and project delivery and draw out lessons learned and to demonstrate the gains Darwin Initiative projects have made in conserving biodiversity through partnerships between the UK and recipient countries.

The Darwin Initiative M&E programme is essentially centred on performance monitoring and impact evaluation. The M&E programme assesses legacy and impact at different levels with lessons drawn out from each level:

- At the project level – in terms of host country institutions and local partners and beneficiaries, and in terms of conservation achievements;
- At the national and region level – in terms of host country policies and programmes, and, if relevant, at a cross-boundary and eco-region level;
- At the international level – in terms of emerging best practices, and the conventions themselves;
- At the UK level – in terms of legacy and impact within UK institutions.

Cover Photo: The vegetation landscape of the East Falklands – Nicholas Warren

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ACRONYMS

BIOT	British Indian Ocean Territories
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species
DAC	Darwin Advisory Committee
Defra	Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs
DI	Darwin Initiative
DFID	Department for International Development
FCO	Foreign and Commonwealth Office
GBP	Great British Pound
GIS	Geographical Information System
IDMGB	Inter-departmental Ministers Group on Biodiversity
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
OTEP	Overseas Territory Environment Programme
OTG	Overseas Territory Government
RBGK	Royal Botanical Gardens Kew
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
UKOT	United Kingdom's Overseas Territory
UKOTCF	UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum

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Executive Summary

Introduction

This review examines Darwin Initiative (DI) supported projects taking place in the UK's Overseas Territories (UKOT) with a view to understanding how the Overseas Territories can better access Darwin Initiative funds for biodiversity conservation. The review was commissioned in response to the UK government's strengthened commitment to the UK Overseas Territories (United Kingdom Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy). Key issues covered in this review are as follows.

Biodiversity issues

The biological diversity found in the UK's fourteen OTs is high. Since UKOTs are largely small and remote islands, many of their plant and animal species have evolved in isolation, resulting in a high proportion of endemic species that are found nowhere else in the world. To date, over 340 endemic species are recorded from UKOT compared to about 60 in Metropolitan UK. The biodiversity found in UKOT underpins many of the ecosystem services that provide significant economic and social benefits to local populations, such as tourism, freshwater, and fisheries.

However, the biodiversity of many of the UKOTs is under threat from a range of factors. For example, plant species are threatened from overgrazing, habitat conversion and invasive species. Similarly invertebrates are threatened, by non-native invasives. Marine habitats and species are under stress from uncontrolled exploitation and use, as well as effects of climate change contributing to incidences of coral bleaching and risk of sea-level rise.

Policy and strategic issues

The 1999 UK Government White Paper "Partnerships for Progress and Prosperity: Britain and the Overseas Territories" states an objective common to both the UK and the Territories to use the environment in a sustainable manner, to provide benefits to the residents of the Territories whilst also conserving the natural heritage.

In order to achieve this goal, and to enable the UK and Overseas Territory Governments (OTGs) to meet their international obligations for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Overseas Territories, strategic priorities were identified for all future UK Government's support for biodiversity conservation in the Overseas Territories.

It was also recognised that "there are substantial benefits to be gained from improving the flow of information between Territories, and enabling Territories to access information and expertise within the UK and elsewhere." This clearly reflects the purpose of the Darwin Initiative.

Darwin Initiative support to UKOTs

To date the Darwin Initiative has committed over GBP 3.8 million towards conservation projects in the UKOT through 19 main projects, 3 post-project grants, 4 scoping awards and 7 challenge funds. This review's comparisons of projects (with case studies from across the portfolio) have been grouped by their response to the Conservation Conventions and to the four priority areas for Darwin Initiative funding.

Supporting obligations under Conservation Conventions

A core support provided by many projects in the DI portfolio has been strengthening the management planning processes towards the commitments and priorities of the Conventions. Often this has involved developing the skills of local people so that they may continue work after the conclusion of Darwin projects.

Excellence in research and technical support

High quality research often increases likelihood of official adoption of project recommendations, participation of the local community, and contribution to the economic development. Delivering groundbreaking research and technical solutions to biodiversity challenges is a key strength of Darwin projects in the UKOTs.

Building effective partnerships and capacity

Logistical problems of remoteness have tended to be an issue for communications in Darwin Initiative projects in UKOTs. This requires consideration of longer periods of input from UK partners. Successful capacity building in UKOTs looks beyond the formal partners and includes local communities, through participatory appraoches.

Training

Training is an important element of knowledge transfer in the Darwin Initiative. Involving the community in the UKOTs is often pivotal to the ongoing conservation and protection of highly endangered species, as mis-information can lead to overexploitation of local resources.

Building support for conservation - communication, education and public awareness

Communication activities are critical to the success of a Darwin Initiative project. They publicise the project and the Darwin Initiative programme, and communities can gain better awareness about conservation of their local resources.

Challenges and opportunities for accessing Darwin funds

The varied environments found across the UKOTs, remoteness of some locations, low human population densities, cultural differences, political status and paucity of academic institutions set the UKOT apart from the majority of other Darwin Initiative project locations. Key issues arising in this study include:

Perceived requirement that UKOT is signatory to the CBD and other Conventions – this is not the case, the project plans can be linked to supporting the UKOT Environment Charter, Environment Action Plan or its equivalent.

UKOT remoteness: It is acknowledged that travel from the UK or elsewhere to the UKOT can be time consuming and expensive. Defra recognises these challenges and accepts that travel costs for a UKOT-based project might incur higher travel costs compared to other Darwin Initiative funded projects.

Capacity within UKOT institutions: Environment related institutions in the UKOTs tend to have limited number of staff, be at risk of high staff turnover, and have limited financial means to support conservation action. Through the Challenge Fund, UKOT applicants can request Darwin Initiative funding to support a full-time post for the duration of a project, or increase travel support to enable more frequent short-term posting of UK based staff to UKOTs. The Darwin Initiative prefers to see matching funds but they are not currently compulsory. The UKOT Biodiversity Conservation Strategy commits to supporting UKOTs to identify alternative funding sources, and Darwin Projects can be innovative in approaching private sector for matching funds (e.g. those dependent on ecosystems or with relevant CSR objectives).

Darwin Initiative Application Process: UKOT and UK institutions have expressed concerns that the application process is complex and favours institutions that have experience and capacity to respond successfully. To resolve their lack of experience, UKOT institutions can partner with UK institutions that have experience with putting together winning proposals to competitive funding schemes.

Recommendations

A set of key findings and recommendations, laid out under support to the Conventions and the 4 Darwin Initiative priority areas, are drawn from the information presented and both interview and questionnaire responses as well as reported experiences in projects reports and reviews.

Introduction to the Review

The purpose of this review is to examine Darwin Initiative (DI) supported projects located in the UK's Overseas Territories (UKOTs) with a view to understanding how the Overseas Territories can better access Darwin Initiative funds for biodiversity conservation. The review was commissioned in response to the UK government's strengthened commitment to the UK Overseas Territories (United Kingdom Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy). The report is intended to inform on the Darwin Initiative's support to biodiversity conservation in UK's Overseas Territories and to assist the Darwin Initiative Secretariat, within Defra, the Darwin Advisory Committee (DAC) and potential applicants to the Darwin Initiative on how to better harness Darwin Initiative resources.

The report provides an overview of conservation policies for the UK's Overseas Territories and the subsequent Darwin Initiative engagement in the UKOTs. It also provides an overview of the Darwin Initiative's portfolio of funded projects in the UKOTs and a brief outline of achievements and impact as a result of these projects. Finally, the review provides a brief assessment of unsuccessful project proposals submitted to the Darwin Initiative for funding in order to better understand the challenges facing UKOTs when accessing Darwin Initiative funding.

Methodology

This is an abridged report under the Darwin Initiative Thematic Review series which aims to outline the Darwin Initiative support to biodiversity conservation efforts, identify lessons learned and formulate recommendations on how the Darwin Initiative can best support the biodiversity conservation.

In line with the Terms of Reference (Annex 1), the report was prepared based on the following sources of information:

- Review of a sample of Darwin Initiative funded projects located in UKOTs based on project proposals, project annual and final reports and Darwin Initiative annual and final project reviews.
- Review of a sample of unsuccessful project proposals to the Darwin Initiative.
- Interviews of key informants and analysing twelve responses to a questionnaire completed by respondents of UK and UKOT institutions who have been successful or not successful in obtaining Darwin Initiative funds.
- An Evaluation of Closed Projects (ECP) in the Falkland Islands (Annex 2)

The first section of the report introduces the Darwin Initiative, then the UKOTs, their distribution around the world and the importance of their biodiversity (Section 2). The thematic subsequently summarises the current UK environmental policies in support of the territories (Section 3). The report then focuses on the portfolio of Darwin projects in the UKOTs (Section 4) and then applications for projects in the UKOTs received by the Secretariat (Section 5). Lessons learnt from these and the analyses of a stakeholder consultation are further developed in Section 6, ending with recommendations in Section 7.

1. The Darwin Initiative

The Darwin Initiative was established in 1992 by the UK Government and launched at the Earth Summit to assist countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to meet their obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Subsequently, the Darwin Initiative broadened its scope to support the objectives of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES); and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) in addition to the CBD.

Funding for the first projects was made available in 1993 and, during the nine year period from 1993 to 2002, the Initiative committed GBP 30 million to 280 main projects. In September 2002, a new phase of the Darwin Initiative was announced at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg with a commitment to more than double the money for the Darwin Initiative. Since 2003, the Darwin Initiative annual expenditure is approximately £7 million.

As part of this second phase, additional but smaller funding schemes were made available to complement the **Main Projects.** These smaller funding schemes were:

- **Post-Project** funding provided to a small number of successful Darwin Initiative projects in order to maximize the results of these projects and strengthen their long term impact and legacy.
- **Fellowship** funding targeted at promising members of recent or current Darwin Initiative projects who are from countries rich in biodiversity but poor in financial resources.
- **Scoping Projects** funding for UK staff to travel to host countries in order to develop a Darwin main project application as a collaborative process with host country partners.

In 2009, reflecting the Darwin Initiative's increasing interest in the importance of the UK Overseas Territory biodiversity, a fourth small fund, the **Challenge Fund,** was launched. Its aim is to support the preparation of main project proposals that address biodiversity conservation priorities in a UK's Overseas Territories (UKOT). In doing so, the Darwin Initiative recognises that preparing and implementing field projects in a UKOT can involve specific geographical and resource constraints. The Challenge Fund also resulted in a change of policy regarding UK Overseas Territory institutions – UKOT institutions could act as the UK lead and did not require a Metropolitan UK partner to implement a project.

Since the launch of the second phase, the Darwin Initiative has supported 235 main round projects, 41 Post Projects, 153 Scoping awards, 24 Fellowships and 7 Challenge Funds[1]

Today, projects relevant to the overall goals of the Initiative are approved through a 2-stage competitive process assessed by DAC. All projects eligible for funding under the Darwin Initiative must address at least one of the three biodiversity conventions (CBD, CITES and CMS). All projects are then required to address one or more of the other 4 priority areas as appropriate to the project's objective:

- work to implement the biodiversity related Conventions (CBD, CITES and CMS)
- research and technical support
- institutional capacity building
- training
- environmental education or awareness

These priority areas were used when reviewing the portfolio of applications in Section 5.

[1] At 31 May 2010

2. Biodiversity Status and Priorities of the UK Overseas Territories

The UK's fourteen Overseas Territories are mostly small islands, except for Gibraltar and the and British Antarctic Territories, and are essentially located in the Caribbean, Southern Atlantic Ocean, the Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and the Pacific Ocean.

Table 1 The UK Overseas Territories

Name	Area (km^2)	Population	Density	Location
Anguilla	90	13,500	150	Wider Caribbean
Bermuda	54	64,000	1,185	Wider Caribbean
British Virgin Islands (BVI)	153	27,000	176	Wider Caribbean
Cayman Islands	260	57,009	219	Wider Caribbean
Montserrat	102	4,655	46	Wider Caribbean
Turks and Caicos Islands	430	36,605	85	Wider Caribbean
British Indian Ocean Territory (includes Chagos)	54,000	N/A	N/A	Indian Ocean
Cyprus sovereign bases (include Akrotiri & Dhekelia)	255	14,000	55	Europe
Gibraltar	6.5	28,800	4,431	Europe
Falkland Islands	12,173	2,955	0.24	South Atlantic
Saint Helena (includes Ascension, Tristan da Cunha, Gough)	122	4,000	33	South Atlantic
South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands	4,066	99	0.02	South Atlantic
Pitcairn Islands	4.5	50	11	Pacific
British Antarctic Territory	1,709,400	50	0	South Atlantic

Source: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

As demonstrated by a number of studies (JNCC 1999, UKOTCF 2005), the biological diversity found in UKOTs is considerably higher compared to Metropolitan UK. Since UKOTs are mainly small and remote islands, many of their plant and animal species have evolved in isolation, resulting in a high proportion of endemic species that are found nowhere else in the world. To date, over 340 endemic species are recorded from UKOTs compared to about 60 in Metropolitan UK (Defra, 2009). This includes at least 180 endemic plant species, 54 endemic birds, 39 endemic amphibians and reptiles (RBGK, 2010).

Map 1: Location of UK Overseas Territories

Source: Wikimedia Commons

The UKOTs cover a diverse range of ecosystems and habitats ranging from the ice-fields of the British Antarctic Territory to the coral reefs and tropical forests of the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) and the British Virgin and Cayman Islands. The reefs of the BIOT are described as some of the most pristine and best protected in the Indian Ocean and account for some 1.3% of the world's reefs (Defra, 2009).

Two islands within the UKOT are listed as World Heritage Sites on account of their biodiversity: Henderson Island (within the Pitcairn group) and Gough and Inaccessible Islands (part of the Tristan da Cunha group) are home to important seabird breeding colonies (Defra, 2009).

However, the biodiversity of many of the UKOTs is under threat from a range of factors. Plant species are threatened from overgrazing, habitat conversion and invasive species. Similarly invertebrates are threatened, among others, by non-native invasives. Marine habitats and species are under stress from uncontrolled exploitation and use, as well as effects of climate change contributing to incidences of coral bleaching and risk of sea-level rise.

Table 2: Numbers of globally threatened* species in the UK and its Overseas Territories. (Source: JNCC - IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2009)

Territory	Mammals	Birds	Reptiles	Amphibians	Fish	Invertebrates	Plants	Total
Anguilla	1	0	3	0	15	10	3	32
British Antarctic Territory	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	6
Bermuda	4	1	2	0	12	28	4	51
British Indian Ocean Territory	0	0	2	0	8	65	1	76
British Virgin Islands	1	1	6	2	14	10	10	44
Cayman Islands	1	1	4	0	16	11	2	35
Falkland Islands	4	10	0	0	4	0	5	23
Gibraltar	5	3	0	0	11	2	0	21
Montserrat	3	2	2	1	14	11	3	36
Pitcairn	2	10	0	0	8	15	7	42
Saint Helena **	2	18	1	0	11	2	26	60
South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands	3	7	0	0	0	0	0	10
Sovereign Base Islands on Cyprus	5	5	4	0	16	0	7	37
Turks and Caicos	2	2	4	0	15	10	2	35
Metropolitan UK	5	2	0	0	41	10	14	72

* 'Threatened' is the collective term for species listed as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable
** Including dependencies of Ascension and Tristan da Cunha

The biodiversity found in UKOT underpins many of the ecosystem services that provide significant economic and social benefits to local populations. For example, for several UKOT the tourism sector is dependent on the natural land and marine environments. Montserrat's Centre Hills and its forests serve as a vital catchment and source of fresh water. Similarly the economies of the Southern Atlantic islands are dependent on fisheries.

3 UK Policies in support of Biodiversity Conservation in UK Overseas Territories

The 1999 UK Government White Paper "Partnerships for Progress and Prosperity: Britain and the Overseas Territories" states an objective common to both the UK and the Territories to use the environment in a sustainable manner, to provide benefits to the residents of the Territories whilst also conserving the natural heritage. To achieve this objective, the White Paper called for the preparation and implementation of environmental charters that aimed:

- to promote the sustainable use and management of the natural and physical environment of the UKOTs;
- to protect fragile ecosystems from further degradation, and to conserve biodiversity;
- to promote sustainable alternatives to scarce resources or species which are used for economic purposes;
- to enhance participation in, and implementation of, international agreements in UKOTs.

The White Policy sets out the primary responsibility for biodiversity conservation and wider environmental management as being devolved to the Territory government. Since 1999, UKOT's have prepared medium term plans that draw on available environment and biodiversity information to prioritise actions towards achieving sustainable use of natural resources. These medium term plans have taken on different forms from Environment Charters to more recently, National Biodiversity Strategies.

In addition, the UKOTs have also taken steps to sign up to a number of international conservation conventions (Table 3). All UKOTs are signatories to the Convention on Migratory Species apart from the British Antarctic Territory and Anguilla. Similarly, all are signatory to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands under the UK's ratification of the convention, except for British Antarctic Territory and the Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas.

Table 3 The UKOTs and the International Conservation Conventions

					CMS Agreements		
	CBD	CITES	CMS	Ramsar	Indian Ocean South	EUROBATS Agreement	Agreement on the Cons. of Albatrosses and Petrels
Anguilla				✓			
Bermuda		✓	✓	✓			
British Antarctic Territory							✓
British Indian Ocean Territory		✓	✓	✓	✓		
British Virgin Islands	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Cayman Islands	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Cyprus Sovereign Bases			✓				
Falkland Islands		✓	✓	✓			✓
Gibraltar	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Montserrat		✓	✓	✓			
Pitcairn		✓	✓	✓			
Saint Helena	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands			✓	✓			✓
Turks & Caicos			✓	✓			

In 2009, the UK Government strategy for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Overseas Territories was set out in a paper prepared by the JNCC, with input from officials from Defra, the FCO and DFID, at the request of the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Biodiversity (IDMGB) (Defra, 2009). The paper concluded that the overarching objective was, "to enable the UK and Overseas Territory Governments to meet their international obligations for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Overseas Territories" that include among others:

- Small and sometimes fragile economies;
- Small human populations and consequently limited capacity to undertake environmental projects;
- Limited access to technical expertise;
- Remoteness, which adds to the costs of environmental projects;
- Limited access to financial resources.

In order to achieve this goal, strategic priorities were identified for all future UK Government's support for biodiversity conservation in the Overseas Territories, identified following consultation with Overseas Territory governments, UK Government and selected NGOs. It was also recognised that, "There are substantial benefits to be gained from improving the flow of information between Territories, and enabling Territories to access information and expertise within the UK and elsewhere."

It is of note that this latter point is at the core of the Darwin Initiative programme and, in particular, directly contributes to the UK Government meeting it's pledges in, "promoting the sharing of information and experience between the Overseas Territories and with other relevant bodies, and facilitating access to expertise that is not available in the Territories themselves, e.g. through building links with academic institutions and nature conservation agencies in the UK and elsewhere" and in "encouraging Overseas Territory governments to develop and participate in cross-territory and regional initiatives" (*ibid.*)

The strategic priorities for UK Government's support for biodiversity conservation in the Overseas Territories (*ibid.*) comprise the following:

i. obtaining data on the location and status of biodiversity interests and the human activities affecting biodiversity to inform the preparation of policies and management plans (including baseline survey and subsequent monitoring);
ii. preventing the establishment of invasive alien species, and eradicating or controlling species that have already become established;
iii. developing cross-sectoral approaches to climate change adaptation that are consistent with the principles of sustainable development;
iv. developing tools to value ecosystem services to inform sustainable development policies and practices;
v. developing ecosystem-based initiatives for the conservation and sustainable use of the marine environment.

Within the overall objective of the Strategy, its focus is to enable the UK and Overseas Territory Governments (OTG) to meet their international obligations for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Overseas Territories. The Strategy outlines a framework for more effective coordination between UK Government Departments and for accessing funds. It calls on Defra, the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), with support from the JNCC, to work in partnership to enable the UK and OTGs to meet their international obligations. A cross-departmental body chaired by Defra, with JNCC as the secretariat, will be established with membership extended to other departments and statutory bodies with interest in biodiversity conservation in UKOTs.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) estimated in 2007 that GBP 16 million per annum was required to address biodiversity priorities in UKOTs whilst in 2008 the JNCC estimated that the total cost for supporting priority biodiversity conservation projects was in excess of GBP 48 million over a 5 year period. The Strategy aims to increase funding to UKOT to at least GBP 2 million per annum and access other funding sources. Current funding is provided through the Overseas Territory Environment Programme (OTEP) with a budget of at least GBP 1 million and administered by FCO and DFID, and the ear-marking of up to GBP 1.5 million for biodiversity projects under the Darwin Initiative (in 2009) which is administered by Defra.

4. Overview of Darwin Initiative's project portfolio support to UK Overseas Territories

To date the Darwin Initiative has committed over GBP 3.8 million to conservation projects in the UKOTs through 19 main projects, 3 post-project grants, 4 scoping awards and 7 challenge funds (listed in Annex 3), mainly located in the Southern Atlantic and the Caribbean, as indicated in the table below.

Table 4 UK Overseas Territories and all Darwin Initiative Projects, Scoping awards and Challenge Funds

Territory	Main Project	Post - project	Scoping Award	Challenge Fund	Location
Anguilla	1				Caribbean
Ascension Island	1				Atlantic
Bermuda	1		1		Caribbean
British Indian Ocean Territory				1	Indian Ocean
British Virgin Islands	2				Caribbean
Cayman Islands	2				Caribbean
Falkland Islands	2	1	2	2	Atlantic
Gibraltar					Mediterranean
Montserrat	2	1			Caribbean
Pitcairn Henderson Ducie & Oeno Islands				1	Pacific
St Helena	2		1	1	Atlantic
South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands					Atlantic
Tristan da Cunha	2	1			Atlantic
Turks & Caicos Islands	1			1	Caribbean
Caribbean (regional)	1				Caribbean
South Atlantic (regional – includes British Antarctic Territory)	2			1	Atlantic

All nineteen Darwin Initiative funded main projects demonstrate elements of success towards biodiversity conservation within UKOTs. As funded projects, their applications demonstrated clear linkages to the priority funding areas of the Darwin Initiative and criteria for funding. Of the thirteen projects that are now completed, their performance and achievements serve to inform UKOTs and UK institutions on how Darwin Initiative funding priorities have been addressed within the context of biodiversity conservation needs and priorities (see Section 3).

The essential criteria of addressing the Conventions, plus the four priority areas for Darwin Initiative funding set at the outset of the fund (described above in the Introduction and in Annex 4), remain in line with the strategic priorities for UK Government's support for biodiversity conservation in the Overseas Territories as set out in the recent Strategy (Defra, 2009).

Comparisons of projects across the portfolio have been carried out looking firstly at their contribution to the 3 conventions and secondly according to the four priority areas for Darwin Initiative funding. .The Darwin Initiative Guidance Notes for Applicants (http://darwin.defra.gov.uk) give information on each of the priority areas and no specific weighting is given to each. However,, the basic requirement that a proposal submitted to the Darwin Initiative must support the implementation of one or more of the biodiversity conservation conventions. During the application process, projects were not required to address all four priority areas (research, capacity building, training and environmental education and public awareness), if one or more is not relevant to their targets. However, there is a requirement that all applications (17th Round of Funding Guidance Notes for Applicants) need to address dissemination of project results and, subsequently, most projects do include additional wider communications, public awareness raising and public education components.

In classification of the projects, the difficulty lay in obtaining sufficient, consistent, documentary evidence. In particular, earlier projects tend to have very little documentation, while more recently there has been the added complication of the project framework evolving in the background. Despite this, common themes have emerged from this review as well as a contrast in projects when compared across the north-south geographic regions of the Wider Caribbean and the South Atlantic. This builds upon the evaluation of closed projects specifically commissioned for the Falkland Islands (Annex 2) as a contribution to this thematic review.

While this review aims to be as comprehensive as possible, some unintentional biases are unavoidable as a result of the selection of example material. However, the choice of examples from within projects used in this review does not infer any judgement on the quality and value of those aspects of the projects compared to others which have not been mentioned specifically. The central intention has been focused on highlighting achievements, innovations, lessons learned and best practice of the Darwin Initiative in UKOTs for the benefit of those who intend to submit proposals to the Darwin Initiative.

4.1 Support to UKOT obligations under Conservation Conventions

All Darwin Initiative funded projects support the implementation of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD), essentially through a combination of outputs and activities related to Darwin Initiative priorities of research and technical support; partnerships and capacity building; training; and, environmental education and public awareness. Since 2008, the Darwin Initiative also supports implementation of CITES and CMS.

The provisions of the CBD are elaborated in a series of Articles of which seventeen (numbers 5 to 21) are substantive in that they set out ways in which the member States (Parties) to the Convention are expected to act in order to ensure its successful implementation. All Darwin Initiative projects are assumed to contribute to Article 18 on Technical and Scientific Co-operation, but they are asked to indentify which of the other Articles they make a substantial contribution to.

Darwin Initiative projects in the UKOTs have largely centred on:

- Article 6 - General Measures for Conservation and Sustainable use
- Article 7 - Identification and Monitoring
- Article 8 - In-situ Conservation
- Article 12 - Research and Training
- Article 13 - Public Education and Awareness

The development of national strategies which integrate conservation and sustainable use (Article 6 of the CBD) are important processes and documents that draw on biodiversity assessments to prioritise action for conservation by government and partners.

The Darwin Initiative has supported a number of UKOT projects whose objectives were to elaborate a Biodiversity Action Plan (See Box 1). Critical to the success of preparing a BAP is the need to broaden participation of OT institutions having knowledge on the environment and biodiversity, any non-OT research or conservation related partners (i.e. other UK, USA or other international institutions) and engaging with key OT decision makers (e.g. the Governor's Office) and private sector institutions (e.g. Tourism related or others that benefit from biodiversity). Consequently, inclusion of a wide range of institutional partners in the elaboration of the Darwin Initiative project proposal through planning workshops during scoping missions and inclusions of letters of support are important for successful project applications.

Box 1: Biodiversity Action Plans for Anegada (BVI), Cayman Islands, Bermuda and Tristan da Cunha

09-009 – Development of a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Bermuda

Bermuda Zoological Society (BZS) in partnership with Flora and Fauna International and RBG-Kew

12-010 – Empowering the People of Tristan da Cunha to Implement the CBD

RSPB in collaboration with Tristan Island Government, University of Cape Town (RSA) and Birdlife South Africa

12-023 – Darwin Biodiversity Action Plan for Anegada, British Virgin Islands

University of Exeter in partnership with the British Virgin Islands (BVI) Conservation and Fisheries Department, the BVI National Parks Trust, the Office of the Governor of the BVI, H. Lavity Stoutt Community College, the Anegada community, RSPB (UK) and the Royal Botanic Gardens (RBG)-Kew.

14-051 - In Ivan's Wake – Darwin Initiative Biodiversity Action Plan for the Cayman Islands

University of Exeter and the Marine Turtle Research Group in partnership with the Department of Environment and Office of the Governor of the Cayman Islands

The Darwin Initiative has supported UK and UKOT institutions to prepare four biodiversity action plans (BAP) in three Caribbean islands – Anegada of the British Virgin Islands (BVI), Bermuda and the Cayman Islands – and the Southern Atlantic Ocean island of Tristan da Cunha.

In Bermuda, the BZS successfully drew on the experience and expertise of the two UK partners to guide supplementary field assessments of critical flora and fauna, and a participatory process with Government, civil society and private sector stakeholders to elaborate the BAP. A similar successful process was engaged in the Cayman Islands by the University of Exeter and the Marine Turtles Research Group, and by UK and UKOT institutions in BVI and Tristan da Cunha.

Whilst these projects produced BAPs that aimed to prioritise actions to address underlying causes of environmental degradation and biodiversity loss, the process of preparing the BAP was considered to be the most critical aspect of each project. For Tristan da Cunha, raising awareness within the local inhabitants on the importance of biodiversity conservation and securing political support to the adoption of the BAP was rightly considered an important achievement of the project. Similarly for the Caribbean Islands of Anegada, Cayman Islands and Bermuda, the projects successfully engaged with a wider range of OT institutions and US based partners to raise awareness, undertake field surveys, and engage with decision makers (e.g. Governor offices) and the private sector to participate in prioritising and defining actions. The process also succeeded in obtaining political endorsement of the BAP and securing commitments towards their implementation.

Each Darwin Initiative project was able to successfully use the BAP process to leverage additional funding at the project proposal and/or implementation stage towards the preparation of the BAP, usually through in-kind and/or cash contributions towards field surveys, awareness raising, and in some instances towards the support of BAP implementation.

The CBD main articles are addressed through thematic Programmes of Work which signatories elaborate, endorse and commit to implement. A number of CBD Programmes of Work are relevant to UKOT. The Programme of Work on Islands Biodiversity adopted in March 2006 (8th COP) aims to reduce significantly the rate of island biodiversity loss by 2010 and beyond as a contribution to poverty alleviation and the sustainable development of islands, particularly Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The Programme of Work sets out 50 island-specific priority actions grouped under targets and focal areas (Box 2). Similarly, the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas provides a globally-accepted framework for creating comprehensive, effectively managed and sustainably funded national and regional protected area systems around the globe. Of relevance to a number of UKOTs is the Programme of Work on Invasive Species, which is considered as a cross-cutting issue under the CBD and thus impacts on other Programmes of Work. The 6th CBD COP (2002) adopted fifteen guiding principles on the prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts of alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species. The Programme of Work has essentially centred on elaborating on designing legal and institutional framework on invasive alien species, assessing ecological and socio-economic impacts, and toolkits on best prevention and management practices.

Consequently, a UKOTs BAP will also directly or indirectly encompass priority actions under relevant CBD Programmes of Work. The BAP or their equivalents (e,g, Environment Charters) set the biodiversity conservation priorities for a particular OT, including relevant priority actions under a CBD Programme of Work. Therefore a forthcoming project proposal to the Darwin Initiative should clearly demonstrate how it will assist UKOT institutions to contribute to either the elaboration or implementation of a BAP or Environment charter for a particular OT or group of OTs.

Box 2: CBD Programme of Work for Small Islands adapted to 2010 Biodiversity Targets

FOCAL AREA 1:	**PROTECT THE COMPONENTS OF BIODIVERSITY**
GOAL 1:	**Promote the conservation of the biological diversity of island ecosystems, habitats and biomes**
Target 1.1:	At least 10% of each of the island ecological regions effectively conserved
Target 1.2:	Areas of particular importance to island biodiversity are protected through comprehensive, effectively managed and ecologically representative national and regional protected area networks
GOAL 2:	**Promote the conservation of island species diversity**
Target 2.1:	Populations of island species of selected taxonomic groups restored, maintained, or their decline substantially reduced
Target 2.2:	Status of threatened island species significantly improved
GOAL 3:	**Promote the conservation of island genetic diversity**
Target 3.1:	Genetic diversity of crops, livestock, and other valuable island species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained
FOCAL AREA 2:	**PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE**
GOAL 4:	**Promote sustainable use and consumption**
Target 4.1:	Island biodiversity-based products are derived from sources that are sustainably managed, and production areas managed, consistent with the conservation of biological diversity
Target 4.2:	Unsustainable consumption of island biological resources and its impact upon biodiversity is reduced
Target 4.3:	No species of wild flora and fauna on islands is endangered by international trade
FOCAL AREA 3:	**ADDRESS THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY**
GOAL 5:	**Pressures from habitat loss, land-use change and degradation, and sustainable water use, reduced on islands**
Target 5.1:	Rate of loss and degradation of natural habitats in islands significantly decreased

GOAL 6: Control threats to island biological diversity from invasive alien species	
Target 6.1:	Pathways for major potential alien invasive species are identified and controlled on islands
Target 6.2:	Management plans in place and implemented for major alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species
GOAL 7:	**Address challenges to island biodiversity from climate change, and pollution**
Target 7.1:	Resilience of the components of biodiversity to adapt to climate change in islands maintained and enhanced
Target 7.2:	Pollution and its impacts on island biological diversity significantly reduced
FOCAL AREA 4:	**MAINTAIN GOODS AND SERVICES FROM BIODIVERSITY TO SUPPORT HUMAN WELL-BEING**
GOAL 8:	**Maintain capacity of island ecosystems to deliver goods and services and support livelihoods**
Target 8.1:	Capacity of island ecosystems to deliver goods and services maintained or improved
Target 8.2:	Biological resources that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, especially of poor people living on islands, maintained
FOCAL AREA 5:	**PROTECT TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES**
GOAL 9: Maintain socio-cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities on islands	
Target 9.1:	Measures to protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices associated with island biological diversity implemented, and the participation of indigenous and local communities in activities aimed at this promoted and facilitated
Target 9.2:	Traditional knowledge, innovations and practices regarding island biodiversity respected, preserved and maintained, the wider application of such knowledge, innovations and practices promoted with the prior informed consent and involvement of the indigenous and local communities providing such traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, and the benefits arising from such knowledge, innovations and practices equitably shared
FOCAL AREA 6:	**ENSURE THE FAIR AND EQUITABLE SHARING OF BENEFITS ARISING OUT OF THE USE OF GENETIC RESOURCES**
GOAL 10:	**Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of island genetic resources**
Target 10.1:	All access to genetic resources from islands is in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its relevant provisions and, as appropriate and wherever possible, with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and other applicable agreement
Target 10.2:	Benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of island biodiversity genetic resources shared in a fair and equitable way with the island countries providing such resources in line with the CBD and its relevant provisions
FOCAL AREA 7:	**ENSURE PROVISION OF ADEQUATE RESOURCES**
GOAL 11:	**Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical and technological capacity to implement the Convention**
Target 11.1:	New and additional financial resources are allocated to all islands, in particular small islands developing States and for developing country Parties, to facilitate the effective implementation of this programme of work and, in general, their commitments under the Convention in accordance with Article 20
Target 11.2	Technologies are transferred to development country Parties, in particular small island developing states, to allow for the effective implementation of this programme of work and, in general, their commitments under the Convention in accordance with Article 20, paragraph 4
Target 11.3	Capacity of islands to implement this programme of work on island biological diversity and all its priority activities is significantly strengthened.

Source: DI Thematic Review; Conservation of Biodiversity on Islands (2007)

The Darwin Initiative supports projects addressing other key UN biodiversity conservation related conventions including the CMS and CITES. However to date no Darwin Initiative funded project in a UKOT has directly targeted implementation of elements of these other conventions although support to the BAP for Tristan da Cunha indirectly addressed priorities for migratory bird species. The CABI led project **8-164** [*Developing Biodiversity Management Capacity around the Ramsar Site in the Turks & Caicos Islands*], implemented in close collaboration with the UKOT Conservation Forum, developed a biodiversity management plan around the Ramsar site in the Turks & Caicos Islands and initiated a viable sustainable programme of development based on eco-tourism. The first stages for this project involved baseline biodiversity surveys carried out for insects, higher plants, bats, birds and herpetiles, where each survey involved a multi-week collaboration with a visiting specialist team who provided direct training for local people.

As found under previous thematic reviews, a core output by many projects has been strengthening the management of existing protected areas and sometimes the wider landscape through the elaboration and implementation of management plans. This has been shown to work best when built upon the capture of baseline biodiversity data, and when the management plan is constructed in collaboration with local communities.

In doing so, there is provision of training for local people in a scientific background (to enable them to manage the biodiversity of the habitats). The biodiversity management planning process in itself raises awareness (through environmental education) of the importance of local natural resources. In addition, consequential capacity building in local NGOs has been shown to augment protected area management plans through establishment of staff positions (e.g., Conservation Officers and Wardens) and provision of staff training.

Small, less developed UKOTs have indicated a particular need for baseline assessment of current biodiversity status. For example, as a striking consequence of having a remote location in the South Atlantic, project **12-010** [*Empowering the people of Tristan da Cunha to implement the CBD*] initially identified the areas where survey work was required based upon the sensitivities of its endemic species, and mapped areas susceptible to habitat change mainly as a result of non-endemic plant species either introduced deliberately for fodder, or accidentally introduced with imported hay. The spread of these invasive alien plant species (especially, Kikuyu grass, Loganberry, Fumitory, Milk Weed and Yellow Nut Grass) has a potentially serious negative effect on the native wildlife and agricultural productivity, and recommendations made by Darwin projects form a crucial part of plans for their mitigation on Tristan da Cunha.

Ongoing monitoring of endemics and management of protected areas is often an aspect of the training component of Darwin Initiative projects, especially as highly endangered species are associated with UKOT. Through the survey of marine turtles, birds and plants by project **12-023** [*Darwin Biodiversity Action Plan for Anegada, British Virgin Islands*], 48 turtle nests (22 hawksbill, 25 green and 1 leatherback) were identified over the course of two nesting seasons. Ongoing monitoring elicited an average hatching success of 92% for hawksbills and 61% for greens. This nesting survey project was rolled out across the archipelago using aerial surveying methodology highlighting that Anegada is the last location of significant hardshell turtle nesting in the whole British Virgin Islands, and as a result the project contributed to a legal overview of turtle harvest legislation in the Caribbean.

Remote UKOTs are also highly susceptible to climatic threats. The vital need for Darwin project **14-051** [*In Ivan's Wake Darwin Initiative BAP for the Cayman Islands*] arose out of the devastation in 2004 across the region by Hurricane Ivan (reef damage, loss of natural vegetation, pollution and loss of infrastructure). Under such conditions, biodiversity survey work is imperative to understand the impacts of natural disasters (in this case of, Grouper spawning areas, GIS ground truthing, conchs, endemic birds, the Rock Iguana, as well as nesting beach monitoring for marine turtles).

These common threads extend to similarities in the difficulties experienced across Darwin projects in UKOTs which mainly involved the logistics of travel, either over difficult terrain, or in actually reaching more remote locations.

Case Study: Protecting UKOT by developing biodiversity management plans

***Project 12-023*: Darwin Biodiversity Action Plan for Anegada, British Virgin Islands**

The Caribbean islands are among the most biologically diverse regions on earth and are home to many endemic plants and animals, however many islands are under threat from development pressure. Subsequent impacts are not always fully realised as too often the extent of biodiversity has not been researched or documented and it follows that systems had not been adequately put in place for biodiversity protection. Anegada is regarded as one of the largest unspoiled islands in the Caribbean but with mounting development pressure its considerable natural wealth is becoming increasingly threatened. A Darwin Initiative project was designed to assess and document the coastal biodiversity of the island, leading to the development of a Biodiversity Action Plan.

The major objectives were:

i. Integrated documentation and scientific monitoring of three important taxa (Marine Turtles, Birds and Plants).

ii. Institutional strengthening and capacity building.

iii. Increasing environmental awareness in general and public and key stakeholders, and

iv. to work with and explore the importance of the natural heritage with local communities and how they can work towards conserving it.

A number of notable achievements and examples of best practise resulted from this project:

i. the project was highly successful in achieving its objectives with good communication between project partners, thereby keeping them informed and involved, leading to good cooperation and involvement of local partners and the local communities.

ii. Training activities were successful in leaving local biodiversity staff with the skills to continue similar activities elsewhere in the islands.

iii. The project demonstrated that a high media profile pays dividends: regular newsletters with a wide distribution, regular talks/seminars, school visits, TV shows and radio interviews, all supported by provision of resource CDs that included a suite of images. Furthermore, project staff requested that their publications should be available for free open access.

4.2 Excellence in Research and Technical Support

Successful Darwin Initiative funded projects have undertaken innovative and ground breaking scientific research that have been central to acquire knowledge on the status and trends of flora and fauna found on UKOT. In many cases, research findings have been published in peer reviewed scientific journals which attests to the quality of the research and relevance of the findings. In addition, where projects have communicated findings and conclusions through more accessible means (e.g. briefing papers, powerpoint presentations, awareness raising events, etc.) they have had more success at informing and influencing local Government decision-makers to adopted management plans and support their implementation.

Darwin project **7-006** [*Assessing the status of Ascension Island green turtles*] was notable for its sheer breadth of scientific undertaking. The Project from the outset had a clear understanding of the range of potential threats facing a migratory species, with such specialised reproductive behaviour, as the green turtle. A broad range of studies were carried out, including: baseline population size estimates; studies of the annual migration route and navigation methods; foraging behaviour during the migration; potential conflicts with human fisheries along the migration route; feeding behaviour close to Ascension Island; reproductive biology (particularly the dependence of sex ratio on nest temperature); sexual dimorphism; nesting behaviour; effects of global warming on sex ratios; methodological issues of estimating population sizes of migrating species.

The threats to another highly endangered species were elucidated through the scientific work of project **7-115** [*Ecology and conservation of the endemic St Helena wirebird*]. This project successfully laid the groundwork for the conservation of this species on scientific principles. Inventory work (which the islanders were given training to continue) showed that the population was declining in grassland and rising in semi-desert areas; understanding such processes serves to inform sound management. The results of this project's research played an important role in informing the Environment Impact Assessment study undertaken when plans to construct an airfield where been considered in 2006.

In contrast, threats from a highly prevalent species were assessed scientifically by project **14-027** [*Enabling the People of Montserrat to Conserve the Centre Hills*]. In two separate areas of the Centre Hills of Montserrat, a long-term assessment of rat population biology and diet was initiated, to investigate the reasons for rat abundance, the methods for effective control, which involved repeated trapping sessions, dissection, taxonomy, ageing, sexing, morphometric measurements and diet analysis. The outcome of this research served to inform the preparation of a more extensive implementation programme on invasive eradication for funding by OTEP.

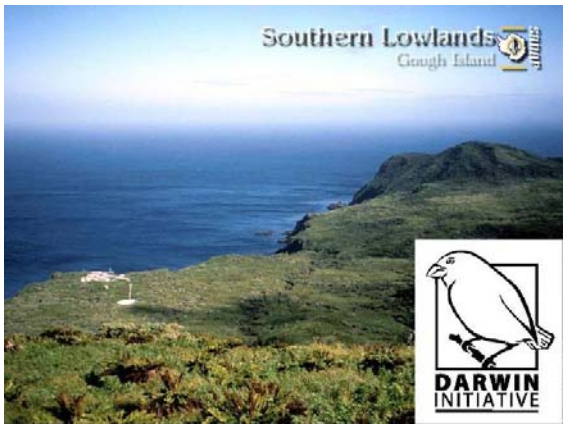
In addition to its scientific publications, project **8-164** [*Developing biodiversity management capacity around the Ramsar site in Turks and Caicos Islands*] also produced identification guides and environmental education materials as a direct consequence of the project's biodiversity survey work.

In the examples previously mentioned, there is a common trait of effective collaboration between UK based institution(s) and a UKOT lead institution where sufficient time and inputs are provided under the projects and that the project design effectively leads to meaningful outcomes addressing key conservation problems and opportunities. A number of projects have had to accommodate and manage common difficulties experienced by more remote UKOT in term of lack of facilities for scientific analyses, whereas bottle-necks in taxonomic identification, especially of insects and plants, were reported for many UKOT Darwin projects, irrespective of location.

Case Study: Creating a legacy through science

***Project 8-253*: Invertebrate Diversity and Endemism at Gough Island and Threats from Introduced Species**

The isolated situation of Gough Island (in the middle of the South Atlantic, roughly half way between South Africa and South America), has led to the development of a unique biota. Recognition of its pristine condition and global importance came in 1995 when the island was included in the IUCN World Heritage list. It is estimated that humans have landed on the island fewer than 200 times in its history. Nevertheless, awareness that introduced species were a potential threat to this island directly led to the proposal for a Darwin project.



The major objectives were:

i. to intensively study the invertebrate populations on Gough Island

ii. to establish both a baseline against which future surveys could be compared, and

iii. to estimate the extent to which alien species have already colonised the island.

Over the course of the Project, thousands of samples were collected, using a variety of methods, from about 100 localities on the island. The total number of organisms collected was in the hundreds of thousands. Additional work was carried out to study the diets of the abundant population of introduced mice, and historical climate data was also assembled.

The field assistants were rigorously trained in an exhaustive range of invertebrate collection techniques. A collection regime was set up to ensure that all the major habitats on the island were repeatedly and thoroughly sampled. Unsurprisingly, the Project Leader engaged the assistance of a number of taxonomic experts in different institutions to help with the identifications and further analysis; the collected material was separated into orders on the island and preserved, being returned to the UK for final identification.

This work resulted in several publications in the peer-reviewed scientific literature, and the establishment and enhancement of several museum reference collections. Of the 99 species of pterygote insects collected, only 28 are thought to be indigenous to the island, the remaining 71 being aliens introduced as a result of human visits to the island.

Most of these introductions are thought to have occurred since the meteorological station was established on the island, giving an astounding introduction rate of 1 or 2 species every year. This is more than 500 times the estimated natural rate of invasions with the result that almost three quarters of the species currently on the island have been introduced as a result of human activity.

The research carried out provided an extremely rich description of the invertebrate biota of Gough Island. This data represented both a scientifically important resource for analyses of biogeographical processes, and a powerful tool for analysing the conservation status of the island and the main threats to its invertebrates, immediately influencing management practices and informing management plans.

4.3 Partnerships and Capacity Building

Difficulties to partnership relations reported for projects in other regions are often unavoidable and out of a project's control, for example, those arising from political instabilities and changes to principal personnel. While the success of partnerships is often determined by pivotal individuals, logistical problems tend to be more of an issue for communications within UKOT Darwin Initiative projects.

Project **8-164** [*Developing biodiversity management capacity around the Ramsar site in Turks and Caicos Islands*] was not alone in reporting that a barrier to communications early in the project came from a remote location coupled with delays in obtaining a telephone line, to facilitate telephone and e-mail contact.

Several projects have concluded the following benefits to partnership building and maintenance:

i. wide-ranging stakeholder involvement from the earliest possible stage.

ii. preparatory visits by UK project personnel before and at the start of the project.

iii. a local co-ordinating partner who is able to provide commitment to the realisation of the project's objectives, not just during the project lifetime but for the longer term.

Capacity building often takes the form of training for existing staff, or introduction of a new position within a host country partner organisation, and subsequent training of the successful applicant. Project **14-051** [*In Ivan's Wake Darwin Initiative BAP for the Cayman Islands*] made provision to employ a full-time GIS specialist to maintain mapping efforts throughout and post Darwin funding. Further training and capacity building activities for the project included four Darwin workshops, extensive postgraduate, undergraduate, and other training, and funding/support for the Cayman Islands partners to attend international workshops, conferences, and symposia.

When partnership relations are good and communication is healthy, the principal factor in successful capacity building is repeatedly identified as the inclusion of participatory management and environmental democracy for local communities, often in outreach beyond the extent of core project partnerships. Training of individuals and small groups is more common via dedicated training, a mentoring system, sometimes through a visit to a UK partner, whilst education of the wider audience is more likely from project-hosted workshops, seminars and school visits.

Difficulties in the potential for capacity building have arisen from a lack of available trainees in some instances, likely because of the smaller populations often present in remote UKOT locations.

Case Study: Casting a net

***Project 14-051*: In Ivan's Wake Darwin Initiative BAP for the Cayman Islands**

In 2004, the UKOT of the Cayman Islands suffered catastrophic damage by Hurricane Ivan. A mainstay of the economy is tourism, based around the natural resources of the islands. Terrestrial habitats host globally significant species (endemic plants, iguanas and parrots) and marine habitats include regionally significant coral reefs; marine turtles and breeding Nassau groupers. A Darwin Initiative project proposal was underway as the hurricane hit. It was quickly modified to allow incorporation of acute biodiversity assessment needs.

The major objectives were:

i. Integrated scientific research and monitoring including habitat mapping and monitoring key marine and terrestrial species.

ii. Institutional capacity building including training workshops, participation of Cayman Islands staff in international conferences, and graduate training.

Iii. Raising environmental awareness in the general public and key stakeholder groups.

iv. Management planning culminating in the production of the National Biodiversity Action Plan.

As an example of how extensive the partnership network can be for a Darwin Initiative project, here is the list of institutions and organisations involved in delivering these targets, and examples of their roles: Marine Turtle Research Group, University of Exeter (UK contract holder), Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (taxonomy and collections), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (monitoring), Duke University Marine Geospatial Lab. (GIS workshop), Texas A&M University (hydrographic survey), SEATURTLE.org (satellite tracking), Cayman Islands Department of Environment (host country partner), Office of the Governor of the Cayman Islands (official recognition), Caymans Department of Agriculture (veterinary assistance), Mosquito Research and Control Unit (aerial survey), Bat Conservation Group (information provision), Blue Iguana Recovery Programme (habitat classification), Cayman Wildlife Connection (information provision), Garden Club of Grand Cayman (tree landscaping), Cayman Islands Humane Society (local support), National Trust for the Cayman Islands (public awareness), Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park (land donation), Wildlife Rehab Centre (local support), Cayman Islands Bird Club (bird observation), Cayman Islands Orchid Society (propagation facility), CaymANNature (publication), Camana Bay Nursery (tree translocation), Cayman National Museum (seedling collection), The Shade Brigade (nursery management), International Reptile Conservation Foundation (website design), Cayman Islands Philatelic Bureau (Darwin Initiative stamps) and the Cayman Islands Sailing Club (land donation).

Through this partnership network, the project undoubtedly achieved its purpose of enhancing knowledge, increasing capacity, and promoting biodiversity conservation in the Cayman Islands.

4.4 Training

Training is an important element of knowledge transfer in the Darwin Initiative and essential towards securing sustainability in biodiversity conservation post Darwin Initiative funding. Training can cover a range of areas from scientific and monitoring methods to administration and project management. It can also be provided through various forms from formal one year MSc programmes in the UK, short courses at UK or UKOT institutions, practical "on the job" training (e.g. field surveys), experts mentoring junior professionals to informal workshops and dissemination events.

Project **7-006** [*Assessing the status of Ascension Island green turtles*] was a project from the earlier stages of the Darwin Initiative programme that recognised this. The project trained over forty local people, volunteers from all sectors of the community, in marine turtle monitoring techniques. However, a complicating factor for Ascension Island was that there is no indigenous community with all individuals on the island being short-term contractors or their dependants. In spite of this, the project enabled the Ascension Island Turtle Group to reach a critical mass where sufficient trained individuals were present to allow vertical transmission of information and skills.

As mentioned above, a problem for a Darwin Initiative project in delivering its training component can be the lack of available applicants, especially in the less populous South Atlantic. Project **12-010** [*Empowering the people of Tristan da Cunha to implement the CBD*] reported a further complication due to the comparatively low school-leaving age (15 years). As a consequence, very few islanders access further education and none are educated at university level. Posters were placed around the settlement plain advertising for trainee fieldworkers and potential applicants were approached to take part in the project. Particular efforts were made to recruit those individuals who would most likely continue working in biodiversity conservation in the long-term. Training was provided on an informal basis in the field with the emphasis being placed on a 'hands on' practical approach to learning. Thus, the project self-regulated its progress and modified the training component to suit the local individuals.

It is worth noting that the effectiveness of a project's training component may be compromised if monitoring and evaluation procedures are not in place. Project **7-163** [*Integrating national parks, education and community development, British Virgin Islands*] reported such difficulties when feedback from target audiences was not obtained sufficiently early in the process in order to modify their training programme. It is this adaptability, generally throughout a project scope and lifetime, but especially to the needs of local communities, that can determine success or failure.

Case Study: Adapting to your environment

***Project 8-164*: Developing biodiversity management capacity around the Ramsar site in Turks and Caicos Islands**

The Turks & Caicos Islands are located at the southern end of the Bahamas, approximately 150 km north of Hispaniola, and 300 km northeast of the eastern end of Cuba. A substantial Ramsar site (wetland habitat of international importance) occurs on the island of Middle Caicos, and supports a fascinating range of species, many of which are poorly documented. Middle Caicos is, as yet, largely untouched by major tourist developments, and the small local population (c.250 people, mostly in the three villages/settlements of Conch Bar, Bambarra and Lorimers) are keen to protect the assets of their natural environment and their quality of life, but need work for their young people. A Darwin Initiative project concentrated its activities primarily in Middle Caicos, in order to facilitate a sustainable approach to the development of a tourism infrastructure harnessed to a conservation management plan.

The major objectives were:

i. to provide biological data

ii. to develop a draft management plan, and

iii. to enhance local capacity.

The project succeeded in delivering its outputs, significantly those involving training of local communities in biodiversity survey, environmental education and management planning, as well as providing texts and field guides to support future environmental education activities. The reason identified for the success was being able to remain flexible in order to accommodate local circumstances.

Activities may remain distinct when training is delivered through formal courses, however, when delivered through a wide range of practical, participatory exercises, as is often the case for UKOT Darwin Initiative projects, those activities in respective categories tend to merge together. In addition to this project, several others have discovered that a successful, adaptive training programme will directly determine the participatory management and environmental democracy of local communities, and how that can translate directly into legacy for that Darwin Initiative project.

4.5 Environmental Education and Public Awareness

Communication activities are critical to the perceived success of a Darwin Initiative project. Coupled with publicising the project and the Darwin programme, the added benefits are to the local communities in the form of environmental education and a heightened public awareness of conservation issues involving their local resources.

The approach adopted by many Darwin Initiative projects is extensive use of the media. Project **14-027** [*Enabling the People of Montserrat to Conserve the Centre Hills*] is a case in point: 26 articles in the written press, 34 radio interviews and 3,750 newsletters distributed locally. 72.6% of the people on Montserrat listen to the radio daily, suggesting that three quarters of the population heard about the project by that means alone.

Involving the media is often most powerful when used in tandem with additional techniques for environmental education and public awareness. Project **14-051** [*In Ivan's Wake Darwin Initiative BAP for the Cayman Islands*] is a good example of the many forms a Darwin Initiative project may disseminate conservation messages, including, development of interpretative materials, websites, media articles, newsletters, TV and radio features, bird cards, public events, seminars, educational talks and competitions for all school children.

As a cautionary tale it is worth noting that irrespective of preparations, planned public events can fail because of poor turnout. Workshops in environmental education and public awareness and tourism were cancelled by project **7-163** [*Integrating national parks, education and community development, British Virgin Islands*] because of low overall numbers; workshops would have involved a lot of people unable to free themselves from work commitments (e.g., school teachers, taxi drivers and tourist industry employees), plus there was a reluctance by some government departments to allow staff to attend.

Case Study: Bermuda, try a new angle

***Project 9-009*: Development of a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Bermuda.**

The isolated island chain of Bermuda is located in the Western North Atlantic, 965km S.E. of Cape Hatteras. Of great biological interest is the northerly extension of subtropical systems to this latitude, a direct result of the transport of the warm waters of the Gulf Stream. Boasting the northern-most coral reef system in the world, Bermuda is biotically linked with the islands of the Caribbean and the S.E. United States. Bermuda's attractiveness as a natural laboratory explains the wealth of scientific research conducted on the island, particularly over the last century. Over 8,000 different species, a surprisingly high number for such a small chains of island have been recorded in Bermuda.

The major objectives were:

i. to synthesise the existing biodiversity information and develop a series of prioritised species/habitat profiles clarifying their current status.

ii. to establish measurable targets for conservation of prioritised species/habitats through stakeholder consensus.

iii. to develop a series of prioritised practical options for achieving these targets, identify appropriate delivery mechanisms and produce and distribute a biodiversity strategy and action plan to the community.

iv. to build the capacity for implementation of the biodiversity strategy and action plan by forging partnerships utilising existing community resources.

v. to raise awareness throughout the community on the issues threatening local and global biodiversity.

The project soon stumbled upon a Catch-22 situation while planning their public awareness component: they had no measure at the outset of how aware the public was of the value of Bermuda's biodiversity. In response to this dilemma, and in addition to a biodiversity survey, another survey to assess public awareness at the community level was commissioned. The findings then informed subsequent public awareness aspects of the project, as well as providing an invaluable baseline against which to monitor progress. This allowed the project to better engage with disparate groups, tailor workshops to their needs and coordinate their activities towards development of a conservation strategy, the purpose for which the project had been launched.

Thus, virtually all activities were aimed at building a broad-based consensus for future biodiversity planning, and at providing a document for informing such planning. Unlike the majority of other Darwin Initiative projects, very little new research into current biodiversity or threats was carried out, but for the specific situation of Bermuda, this unusual approach was appropriate, and the project was very successful.

5. Challenges and Opportunities for UKOTs to access Darwin Initiative Funds

The varied environments found across the UKOTs, remoteness of some locations, low human population densities, cultural differences, political status and paucity of academic institutions set the UKOTs apart from the majority of other Darwin Initiative project locations.

Hence, the Darwin Initiative is an important funding source for supporting conservation action in the UKOTs, along with the DFID/FCO Overseas Territory Environment Fund (OTEP Fund). Both employ a competitive call for proposals approach for selecting projects for funding. The Defra decision in 2009 to ring fence GBP 1.5 million of Darwin Initiative funding to support projects in UKOTs as well as the launch of the Challenge Fund constitutes additional funding available to UKOTs for biodiversity conservation.

Stakeholders supporting biodiversity conservation in the UKOTs have welcomed the earmarking of Darwin Initiative funds for UKOTs, and highlight that communications surrounding the Defra announcement has itself helped to widen awareness on the funding opportunity. Responses to a Darwin Initiative questionnaire regarding support to UKOTs identify a number of challenges perceived by UK and UKOT institutions in accessing Darwin Initiative funds, and offer suggestions for addressing them.

Requirement that UKOT is signatory to the CBD and other Conventions: It is perceived that UKOT ratification of the CBD and other conventions is a requirement for obtaining Darwin Initiative funding, and hence funding is limited to those UKOTs that are signatories. This is not the case since the Darwin Initiative has funded projects in countries that are not signatories to the CBD, including some UKOTs (e.g. Montserrat and Falkland Islands). In the absence of CBD ratification, the individual UKOT have prepared Environment Charters or Action Plans that draw on known environment, economic and social information, and analyse causes for environment problems. These Plans can constitute equivalents of CBD NBSAP and they articulate priority programmes and actions identified and agreed on by the Overseas Territory Government (OTG) and relevant stakeholders. It is therefore important that a UKOT institution intending to submit a proposal to the Darwin Initiative ensures that the problem being addressed by the project and the intended outcomes are directly linked to supporting the UKOT Environment Charter, Environment Action Plan or its equivalent.

UKOT remoteness: It is acknowledged that travel from the UK or elsewhere to the UKOTs can be time consuming and expensive. Similarly the remoteness and small human communities found on UKOTs can lead to a high turnover of staff in institutions located in UKOTs. For instance, access to the Southern Atlantic islands, in particular St Helena, Gough and Tristan da Cunha require substantial planning and time since travel is constrained by a single boat schedule. Furthermore, time for field work is constrained during the Southern hemisphere winters when weather becomes a substantial challenge.

The Defra Secretariat and the DAC recognise these challenges and accept that travel costs for a UKOT based project might incur higher travel costs compared to other Darwin Initiative funded projects. This is reflected in the conditions for the Challenge Fund where a higher budget ceiling of GBP 25,000 and a maximum one year timeframe has been set (rather than the lower limits within the Scoping Fund). The Challenge Fund is now assisting UKOTs that never benefited from Darwin funding before, such as Pitcairn or the British Indian Ocean Territory (Table 4) but have high level of threatened species (Table 2), to prepare a competitive proposal for future application rounds.

Capacity within UKOT institutions: Environment related institutions in the UKOT, both Government and civil society tend to have limited numbers of staff. They are at risk of high staff turnover, and have limited financial means to support conservation action. However, they are known to benefit from dedicated and highly engaged individuals. The reality necessitates UKOTs and UK based institutions to elaborate project proposals to the Darwin Initiative that enable successful implementation of projects within these institutional constraints. This might require requesting Darwin Initiative funding to support a full-time post for the duration of a project, or increase travel support to enable more frequent short-term posting of UK based staff to UKOT. The

UKOT Challenge Fund recognises that support to staff time for a six to 12 month period may be required in order to guide the elaboration of a successful main project proposal. It may be beneficial to make it clear to UKOT applicants that this can also be reflected in main project proposal budgets where it is clear that these costs are integral to the project. However, the Darwin Initiative Secretariat may wish to consider whether this will have implications to the maximum level of budget available to a UKOT project.

Similarly it can be challenging to raise matching funds from UKOT or UK based institutions for UKOT based conservation projects. There is a perception that absence of substantial matching funds can jeopardise an application being successful in the Darwin Initiative competitive funding scheme. The current Darwin Initiative Guidelines for main project or the Challenge Fund specify that matching funds are relevant although not compulsory. Review of the Darwin Initiative portfolio reveals that matching funds secured at the time of application can range from 0% up to 50% or more.

Sustainability of conservation results post project is an expectation from the Darwin Initiative, and is an indicator of success for the Darwin Initiative and project beneficiaries. The high staff turnover and limited resourcing available to OTGs and civil society institutions can undermine sustainability. Looking forwards, the recent UKOT Biodiversity Conservation Strategy commits to supporting UKOTs to identify alternative funding sources which bodes well for Darwin Initiative funded projects. This can be supplemented by more innovative approaches of Darwin Initiative applicants to approach the private sector for matching funds, especially from key sectors that are dependent on environmentally sound ecosystems (e.g. fisheries and tourism) or whose corporate social responsibility objectives and priorities include environmental management.

Darwin Initiative Application Process: The Darwin Initiative employs a tried and tested application process that makes use of a set application form and detailed guidance notes for each of its funding schemes. A key requirement, among others, is the preparation of a concise logical framework that sets out the "logic" of the proposed project starting with the long-term objective(s) which describes the intended change resulting from the successful implementation of the proposal activities and corresponding outputs. This planning tool has increasingly been used, in various forms, by funding agencies to ensure that projects being funded are clearly articulated, have clearly defined outcomes and have required activities (training, surveys, databases, workshops, etc.) and inputs (i.e. staff, equipment) needed to achieve the intended outcomes.

UKOT and UK institutions have expressed concern that the application process is complex and favours institutions that have experience and capacity to respond successfully to the Darwin Initiative application process. Due to the limited funding sources available to UKOTs and thus limited exposure and experience in responding to competitive funding schemes, it can be appreciated that UKOTs have little experience in putting together winning proposals to the Darwin Initiative.

One approach is for UKOT institutions to partner with UK institutions that have experience with putting together winning proposals to competitive funding schemes. A number of UK NGOs with track record in biodiversity conservation in the UK and internationally have successfully applied and implemented Darwin Initiative funding projects (e.g. RSPB), and have a track record of supporting UKOT institutions in their conservation work. In addition, UKOT institutions can seek guidance from the Darwin Initiative Secretariat on how best to complete a Darwin Initiative application or request guidance from institutions who can than assist them with putting together a winning proposal to the Darwin Initiative.

In assessing the challenges facing UKOTs in accessing Darwin Initiative funding for biodiversity conservation, lessons can be learned from looking at the application history of projects passing through the 2-stage competitive process assessed by DAC. Overall there is clear indication that since the ministerial announcement at the Cayman conference (June 2009) and the subsequent publication of the UKOT Biodiversity Strategy (Defra, 2009), the Darwin programme is attracting more applications for funding from UKOTs (Table 5).

Table 5 Number of successful and unsuccessful UKOT applications

DI Rounds	Successful	Unsuccessful	Total
R12	0	4	4
R13	2	0	2
R14	0	2	2
R15	0	2	2
R16	1	4*	5
R17	5	14	19

* including one that withdrew

However, focussing on the two most recent rounds of Darwin funding, Rounds 16 and 17 (R16 and R17), and the two stages of the process (S1 and S2) in each, it is possible to see that the predominant reasons for unsuccessful UKOT applications for Darwin funding revolve around the following four main questions raised about the proposed project:

A	Costs, exceptionally high salaries and travel	13%
B	Long-term prospects, key partners do not show sufficient support and other factors that may have an impact on the project's legacy	31%
C	Scientific content and explanation of intended method	38%
D	Matched funding, lack of financial commitment from external stakeholders	18%

The proportion of projects applications failing against each issue indicates that a project is twice as likely to be unsuccessful for doubts raised about the proposed methodology or the long-term impact than financial issues (Fig 1).

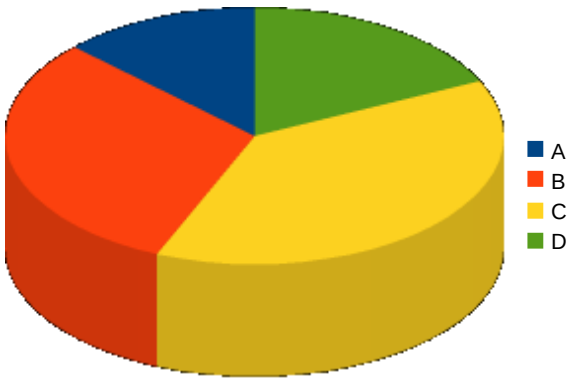


Fig. 1: Unsuccessful applications for UKOT projects in Rounds 16 and 17 of Darwin funding

It is apparent that the publication of the UKOT Biodiversity Strategy (Defra, 2009) and launch of the Darwin Initiative Challenge Fund contributed to an increase in project proposals for biodiversity conservation in UKOTs. With this increase in application numbers, the reasons for being unsuccessful also diversified (Fig 2). Comparison between Round 16 and Round 17 reveals that lack of matched funding from external stakeholders became more relevant during the assessments for Round 17 than it was in Round 16.

This can be attributed to the UKOT Biodiversity Strategy position that whilst the UK Government has a responsibility for ensuring that international obligations in relation to biodiversity conservation are met and should make a contribution towards meeting the funding shortfall between estimated costs for biodiversity conservation in UKOT and current funds available, it cannot be expected to meet the full costs and therefore aims to seek other funding sources.

In addition, the DI seeks to maximise the number of funded projects with the funds available per Round. Consequently, project proposals that have secured or indicate that they are likely to secure matching funds during the project are more favourably assessed than those where counterpart funding is not secured.

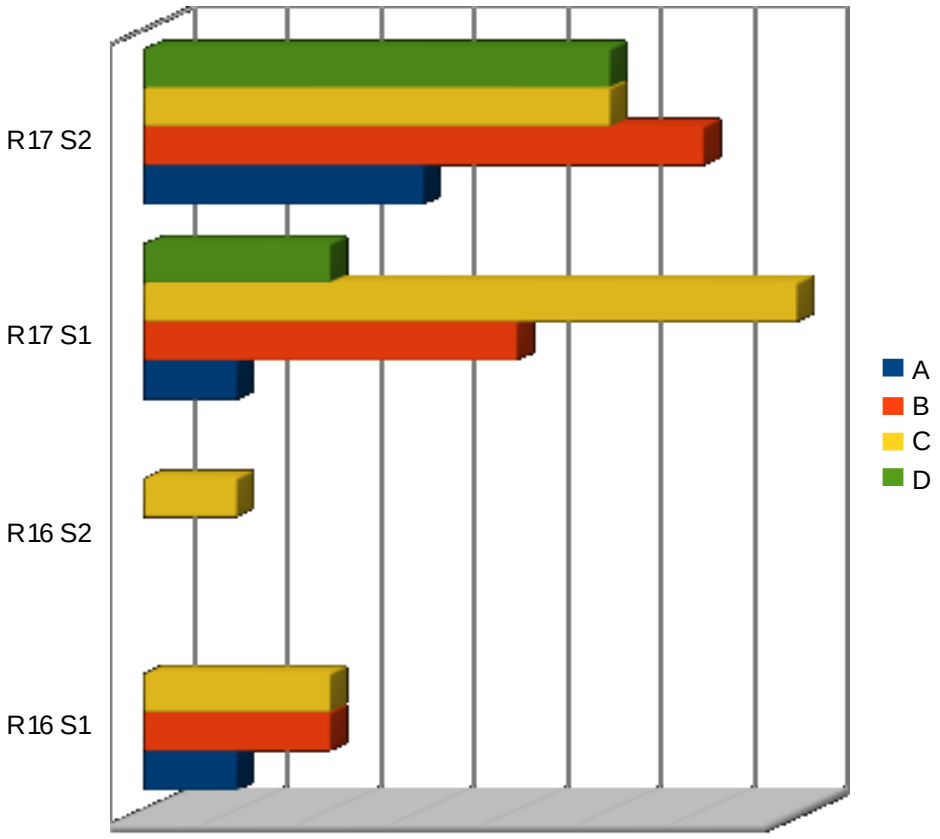


Fig. 2: Reasons for UKOT projects being unsuccessful in Rounds 16 and 17 of Darwin funding

6. Recommendations

The following set of key findings and recommendations are drawn from the information presented above plus interview and questionnaire responses as well as reported experiences in projects reports and reviews.

Support to UKOTs under Conservation Conventions

Findings

- The biodiversity management planning process in itself raises awareness of the importance of local natural resources.
- Assessment of current biodiversity status carried out at the start of a project can provide a baseline against which to assess progress and outcomes.
- Biodiversity survey work is imperative in the understanding of the impacts of natural disasters on small island UKOTs.

Recommendations

- UKOT & UK institutions to ensure that projects address problem(s), priorities and M&E systems identified in the UKOT Biodiversity Action Plans (or their equivalents).
- The Darwin Initiative should clarify applicants' eligibility in relation to the UKOTs involvement with the Conventions, highlighting that applications can support the Conventions without being signatories.

Excellence in Research and Technical support

Findings

- The UKOTs in most cases are as much in need of technical support as countries in other regions of the world that the Darwin Initiative supports. Many UKOTs do have established biodiversity research institutions.
- Research on flora and fauna is providing needed baseline data collection from Darwin Initiative projects in many UKOTs, and is providing the good science required for management practice and planning.
- Threats on these isolated habitats may have anthropogenic origin, often through man as a vector for invasive species as opposed to man's direct influence on the landscape.
- Pioneering research on invasive biology and population dynamics has been possible in some of the isolated ocean island UKOTs.
- The application of ecosystem approaches is relevant in all UKOTs.

Recommendations

- The potential for high quality and management-relevant research related to island or small territory biology is evident in Darwin Initiative UKOT projects and should be encouraged through the Darwin Initiative support for UKOTs.
- The research does not need to be complex technically, but be well focused and relevant to the UKOT Biodiversity Action Plans and/or Environment Charters.

Partnerships and Capacity Building

Findings

- Staff turn over is a constraint to the development of capacity in UKOT biodiversity institutions which are often small in size.
- Engagement with local NGOs through the Darwin Initiative has increased institutional capacity through building staff numbers and the provision of staff training: this has enhanced protected area management plan delivery.
- In many UKOTs there is scope for linking management plans to eco-tourism to provide a local financial incentive and the potential for much needed employment.
- The location of many UKOTs constrains the development of partnerships through remoteness (access) and poor IT infrastructure.
- Preparatory visits plus pragmatic planning can alleviate difficulties associated with remote locations: the Challenge Fund (which is designed for UKOT project scoping) is hoped to be a positive means of facilitating this.
- The potential for Darwin Initiative projects to influence national biodiversity action is higher in UKOTs than almost any other geographical area, due to the close links between researchers, managers and decision-makers in many territories.
- As a result, involvement of local communities can lead in quite a direct way to the uptake of the Darwin Initiative project outcomes: translating into project legacy.

Recommendations

- To promote staff retention in UKOT institutions, Darwin Initiative projects funded under full grants could consider innovative solutions including covering the costs of salaried project staff which might include bonus payments dependent on certain agreed contractual conditions, such as a retention bonus for completing the term of employment.
- Because of issues of remoteness and access, local co-ordinating partners should be encouraged to maximise potential of project delivery and uptake.
- Engagement of the full span of stakeholders (local communities to national decision-makers), starting at problem identification and project design and ongoing through the project cycle will maximise the potential impact of the project.

Training

Findings

- There is often limited scope for delivering formal training in UKOTs as part of a project: there can be a lack of available trainees.
- Opportunities for further education in country are also often limited, necessitating the adaptation of training schemes.

Recommendations

- When planning training for host country staff in UKOT as part of a Darwin Initiative project, innovative training solutions, such as distance education, split location (sandwich) training and mentoring should be considered.
- Training para-professionals from beneficiary or involved communities can enhance capacity for biodiversity action where training individuals from an UKOT institution is not appropriate.

Environmental education and public awareness

Findings

- In the UKOTs, environmental awareness arising from Darwin Initiative work on the territory can be highly effective in generating public action.
- As is common elsewhere, involving the local community is pivotal to the ongoing conservation and species protection.
- Many UKOTs have limited populations, the type and role of public meetings should be carefully considered: public events are susceptible to poor turnout.
- An early assessment of public awareness at the community level can inform subsequent public awareness work.

Recommendations

- UKOT institutions to include in proposals the production of awareness and communication products that translate research findings into clear messages for action that can be easily interpreted by key stakeholders and beneficiaries.

Strengthen Darwin Initiative communications to UKOT and UK institutions

Findings

- The higher media profile for Darwin Initiative support to UKOTs has increased interest in Darwin Initiative projects in the territories.

Recommendations

- Ensure that information on the Darwin Initiative (e.g. newsletters and next call announcements) is circulated to OTG Environment Officers.
- Access UKOT network through the UKOTCF and through appropriate information exchange platforms (electronic, meetings and a separate UKOT page on the Darwin Initiative website) in order to circulate information (e.g. newsletter and next call announcements) and stimulate partnerships.
- Strengthen Darwin Initiative linkages with UK Government UKOT institutions (JNCC, FCO and DFID) to maximise impact of UK support.

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Annex 1 – Terms of Reference Abridged Thematic Reviews of Overseas Territories

Terms of Reference

ABRIDGED-THEMATIC REVIEW OF OVERSEAS TERRITORIES: Using the Falkland Islands as an in-depth Case Study via an Evaluation of Closed Projects

1. Introduction

The Darwin Initiative (DI) has funded 728 projects since 1992 supporting biodiversity conservation in countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources. Twenty of these projects have focused specifically on the UK Overseas Territories.

The former Wildlife Minister at the UKOTCF Conference on Biodiversity in the Cayman Islands, June 2009, announced that the UK Overseas Territories (OTs) would account for a much larger proportion of the Darwin Initiative annual budget of £7 million. In his speech the Minister said:

I am very pleased to announce that, when I bring forward the new round of Darwin funding, I shall also announce that Round 17 will see potentially over one-and-a-half million pounds being earmarked for Darwin projects in the Overseas Territories.

Support for the Overseas Territories has always been a focus of the DI, but in 2009 Defra have committed to extra funding for Overseas Territories projects and to the development of a 'Challenge Fund' which is to support Overseas Territories develop strong project proposals.

The Overseas Territories of the United Kingdom have long been acknowledged as being rich in biodiversity. With the exception of the British Antarctic Territory and Gibraltar, they are all islands, small in size and isolated to varying degrees. These attributes, combined with their geographic location, have often resulted in a high degree of endemism. Equally, the territories are often host to significant populations of breeding birds or marine turtles, and have rich terrestrial and marine ecosystems. Yet, many of these species and habitats are threatened.

The UK Government agrees that more effective and better integrated support is needed for the UK's Overseas Territories in order to halt the loss of their biodiversity. Although environmental management of the Overseas Territories is principally and rightly the responsibility of the individual Territories, we recognise that many of the Territories do not have the sufficient financial or personnel capacity to ensure the protection and safeguarding of the local environment and therefore need support.

Whilst not all the UK Overseas Territories are signatories to the 3 Conventions the Darwin Initiative supports (The Convention on Biological Diversity; the Convention on Migratory Species; the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species), the Darwin Initiative provides support to these states in reaching their commitments under the conventions.

2. Aim

This abridged-thematic review is intended to assess the UKOT Darwin Initiative projects to date and how UKOT can be better supported to access Darwin Initiative funds. This will be achieved through a review of a sample of previous Darwin Initiative funded UKOT projects and scoping awards, previously unsuccessful UKOT applications to the Darwin Initiative and discussions with UKOT and UK institutions., The review will identify lessons learned and formulate recommendations on how the Darwin Initiative can best support the UK Overseas Territories and UKOT institutions can successfully access Darwin Initiative funding.

3. Objectives

Assess the achievements, innovations, lessons learned and best practice of the Darwin Initiative in Atlantic Ocean Islands UKOT through an ECP of Falkland Islands projects and material from at least two other Atlantic Islands UKOT Darwin Initiative projects. Identify key drivers for successful Darwin Initiative projects in UKOT through a review of funded projects and scoping awards;

1. Investigate the challenges facing UKOT in accessing Darwin Initiative funding for biodiversity conservation, looking at those projects applications that were both successful and unsuccessful;
2. Develop guidance specific for UKOT on the opportunities available to them under the DI, and in which situations these would apply;
3. Develop guidance for institutions supporting UKOT on ways in which practical problems during project implementation in the UKOT may be overcome.

4. Tasks

In support of the objectives, the thematic review shall:

1. Carry out an Evaluation of Closed Projects on the 2 projects previously funded in the Falkland Islands (see Annex 1 for the ToR) to assess outcomes and impact of past and current Darwin Initiative projects;
2. Liaise with UKOT institutions and UK stakeholders on challenges and opportunities for Darwin Initiative support to biodiversity conservation in the Falkland Islands;
3. Assess the extent to which DI's projects have supported UK Overseas Territory biodiversity conservation by a general analysis of project final reports and final peer reviews. Illustrate innovations, impact, lessons learned and best practices from the portfolio of UKOT projects;
4. Using the Darwin Initiative M&E database, review the outcomes of all UKOT related applications and scoping studies for the period of 2002 to date, with a view of identifying challenges facing UKOT in accessing Darwin Initiative funding;
5. Develop a questionnaire on the perceptions and experiences (opportunities, challenges, etc) facing UKOT institutions and distribute questionnaire to a representative sample of UKOT groups and specialist in the UKOT and UK, Darwin Initiative project leaders that have particular UKOT case studies to share should also be contacted;
6. Undertake an analysis of questionnaire responses;
7. Carry out e-mail and telephone interviews with representatives and stakeholders of projects in 2 other UKOT (excluding Falkland Islands) as a desk-based case study of Darwin Initiative projects in other Atlantic Ocean Island UKOT.

8. Draw out conclusions and lessons learnt from Darwin Initiative support to UKOT and suggest guidelines on best practice and recommendations on how best for OT's to access Darwin Initiative funding, and general recommendations as to how the Darwin Initiative could possibly support the UK Overseas Territories biodiversity programme;
9. Draw out "best practice" guidance notes on how to prevent and overcome common challenges and problems that can arise during implementation by analysis of questionnaire, email and telephone interviews and knowledge of Darwin Initiative projects from the M&E programme.
10. Identify photographic and other images for the review and briefing note.
11. Write and submit a report, not exceeding 30 pages (excluding Annexes) on the Darwin Initiative contribution to UK Overseas Territories; (this analysis will be presented in graphic and tabular form where appropriate for presentation in a thematic review document) and the challenges facing OT's in accessing Darwin Initiative funding;
12. Write and produce a dissemination note.

5. Outputs

A comprehensive report documenting the analysis, conclusions and recommendations, which maximises the use of case studies.

A dissemination note (up to 6 pages maximum) in attractive format, drawing out main elements of the thematic review report, for circulation to the next COP, Darwin Initiative networks and practitioners.

6. Consultant Team Profile

The review team shall collectively have a comprehensive knowledge of Overseas Territories biodiversity, international overseas territory policy, islands biodiversity, and dissemination.

1) Review Leader: (8 days)

Take the overall lead and responsibility for the management and delivery of the Darwin Initiative Abridged-thematic review of Overseas Territories.

Manage the inputs of the other review team members.

Take overall lead in selecting case studies and developing case study material, including the review of previous FRRs and thematic reviews.

Coordinate the writing of the report, including developing the overall structure, and requesting the inputs of team members. Provide overall editorial inputs.

Identify peer reviewers and send completed draft out for peer review.

Identify photographic and other images for the review and briefing note. Review and approve the briefing note text.

Submit draft version to Secretariat, and incorporate comments and finalise.

2) Research Consultant (and ECP Review Leader) (17 days)

Take the lead on the ECP of Falkland Projects.

Following guidance from review leader, carry out interviews and material collation for the development of case studies.

Provide input to the writing of the report, including desk-based evaluations of project materials, telephone interviews and e-mail discussions.

3) Dissemination Specialist (2 days)

Draft the text of a briefing note, circulate for review and seek Darwin Initiative Secretariat approval.

Collect photographic material from review team and commission print company.

Role	Personnel
Review leader	Alex Forbes/ Julian Derry
Research Consultant	Nicholas Warren
Dissemination specialist	Kirsti Thornber

Evaluation of Closed Projects in the Falkland Islands

Nicholas Warren

February 2010

Contents

List of acronyms

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CITES	Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species
DI	The Darwin Initiative
DoA	Department of Agriculture of the Falkland Islands
ECP	Evaluation of Close Projects
EPD	Environmental Planning Department of the Falkland Islands
FC	Falklands Conservation
FIG	Falkland Islands Government
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IBA	Important Bird Areas
IIA	Important Invertebrate Areas
IPA	Important Plant Areas
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
MP	Member of Parliament
OTEP	Overseas Territories Environment Programme
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PL	Project Leader
RBG Kew	Royal Botanical Gardens Kew
SPA	Species Action Plan

Executive Summary

Introduction

The Darwin Initiative (DI) supports UK institutions to work with partners in country rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to achieve the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the air and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of utilisation of genetic resources. It does so by awarding grants to projects that normally last up to three years. The DI also provides grants to projects supporting biodiversity conservation in the UK Overseas Territories.

In order to provide information on the impact and legacy of the DI, the Darwin Monitoring and Evaluation Programme commissions' evaluation of projects that previously received funding from the Darwin Initiative. This report covers the Evaluation of Closed Projects located on the Falkland Islands. The ECP is conducted through a combination of three methods: first, an analysis of secondary data (project annual and final reports, DI reviews, and project documentation); secondly by interviewing key stakeholders and beneficiaries; and thirdly through direct observations and interviews in the Falkland Islands.

Falkland Islands – An Overview

Approximately 3,000 people live on the islands which are an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom and comprise of approximately 740 islands situated 400 miles off the south-eastern tip of South America. The islands have a cool temperate oceanic climate dominated by low rainfall (400-600mm/yr) and westerly winds. The majority of the Falkland Islands fauna and flora show strong affinities with the South American Patagonian ecosystem.

The vascular flora consists of 363 species of which 171 species are native and 13 species endemic. Non vascular flora is less well known although 168 species and subspecies of moss and liverwort and 235 species of lichens have been recorded. Knowledge of the invertebrates is less well known and was the subject of a DI funded research project. There are no native reptiles, amphibians or mammals though several species of invertebrates have been introduced.

The Falklands are known internationally for their seabird populations. Fives species of penguins regularly breed on the islands and over 70% of the breeding population of the black-browed albatrosses are found on the Falklands. The islands host two endemic birds, Cobb's wren (*troglodytes cobbi*) and the Falkland steamerduck (*Tachyeres brachypterus*).

The Falkland Islands Government adopted a Biodiversity Strategy (2008-2018) that responds to fifteen biodiversity and environment threats identified during the Strategy risk assessment process. These threats include, among others, the lack of knowledge on ecosystems and species, lack of awareness raising, threat associate with invasive species and accidental by-catch and pollution.

Project Evaluations

Status and Distribution of the flora of the Falkland Islands (Project No. 8-024)

This project was implemented by Falklands Conservation, a local conservation organisation that is part of the Birdlife International network, and with technical support from the Queen's University of Belfast, Northern Ireland. DI funding covered the period July 1999 to June 2001. The purpose of the project was to map the distribution of the flora of the Falkland Islands.

The project was successfully completed with flora being surveyed, distribution maps produced and identification keys of critical flora (e.g. grasses, rushes and sedges) made available. The project also produced a Red Data List of Falkland Islands' flora and well received scientific papers.

Nine years after the end of the project the distribution maps, identification keys and information from the project remains accessible and in use. The current staff member of Falklands Conservation states in February 2010 "I couldn't have done what I am doing without their work" - referring to the outputs from the DI funded project of 1999-2001. The sustainability of the project is also promoted through the continued engagement of the two main project investigators. The UKOT institution has also managed to build on the DI catalytic funds by securing funds from the UK' OTEP to pursue its plant conservation initiative.

Overall, the project successfully completed its intended results, offered value for money in light that total DI funding was GBP 33,330 in terms of the limited budget awarded to the project but compensated through demonstration of value for money.

Falkland Islands Invertebrates Conservation Project (P13-022)

Also led by the Falklands Conservation (UK), in partnership with the Falkland Islands Government, the University Museum of Zoology, Cambridge, and the National History Museum, London, this project aimed to identify and map the distribution of island invertebrates in order to provide information for their protection and development sustainability policies to ensure their long-term survival. The project appears to have been a victim of its own field assessment success where over 100,000 specimens were collected over three summer seasons (2005 to 2007). The sheer volume collected and dependence on UK collaborators' technical expertise resulted in a delay in the analysis of a number of specimens, where some are still awaiting analysis. This compromised the finalisation of certain project deliverables.

However the project was able to raise local awareness and knowledge of the invertebrate biodiversity heritage of the islands. Well attended training events were held and colourful calendars, school packs, newsletters and articles were elaborated and distributed.

As a result of the project it was determined that the level of endemism is lower in the Falkland Islands than first expected and that the native species are ubiquitous having being found across many habitats in the Falklands. The project findings also served to inform Falklands Conservation to determine that establishment of Important Invertebrate Areas was not a viable conservation model for invertebrates since no specific areas can be found to have greater concentration of invertebrates than others.

General Assessment

The DI funded projects implemented by Falklands Conservation were able to establish baseline information for the understudied plant and invertebrate taxa, and to use this information as part of elaborating the Islands Environment Charter and forthcoming Biodiversity Action Plan. The BAP prioritises 15 biodiversity threats to the islands and is subject to benefit from several donors support to assist implementation of the BAP.

The conservation of the environment and preservation of biodiversity is high on the agenda of the Government of Falklands. The Environment Charter (2001) and Policy 8 of the Islands Plan offers a strong political commitment to working towards sustainable development.

The efficiency in delivery by each project was considered to be excellent, in particular assisted by the project staff of the two projects being either directly or indirectly supporting the islands environment programme.

Staff retention and turnover remains a potential handicap to capacity building programmes. Few of the current scientific team at Falklands Conservation are employed at the time of the DI funded projects. To maximise the use of external help whilst building capacity a balance needs to be made between bringing in highly qualified expertise from outside the region and drive conservation programmes and nurturing local expertise.

In conclusion the ECP highlights four main points:

1) Projects in the Falklands have great potential to generate a positive impact and a lasting legacy on biodiversity, contributing towards the goals of t he multilateral environmental agreements that the DI supports. The two Darwin Initiative projects generated information that has been used by others and so

2) The loss of professional and administrative staff due thigh staff turnover erodes institutional memory and disperses staff around the world.

3) There is need for FC and its UK partners to complete the projects.

4) Despite the high level of biodiversity and endemism found in the UKOT, they have often had limited financial resources to support core conservation science.

Introduction

The Darwin Initiative (DI) was launched by the UK government in 1992 at the Rio "Earth" Summit. Its key objective is to draw on expertise from within the United Kingdom, to work with partners in countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources, to achieve the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources. It does this through awarding grant funds for a range of biodiversity conservation projects. To date, the Darwin Initiative has supported 728 projects in over 156 countries. Applications supporting biodiversity conservation in the UK Overseas Territories are particularly welcomed under the Darwin Initiative.

A typical Darwin Initiative supported project lasts for up to three years and has Darwin-funded costs of about £50,000 to £80,000 a year. Project activities are diverse, including:

- Producing strategies and management plans for specific areas and species;
- Delivering best practice in conservation (producing field guides, local keys or databases), in research methods and fieldwork, or in environmental impact assessments;
- Tackling key issues such as data access and repatriation, and benefit sharing;
- Providing training, education and awareness raising to people at all levels and ages;
- Enabling early career and mid career professionals from developing countries to access training, expertise and facilities;
- Monitoring and evaluation of biodiversity, taxonomy and species descriptions.

Darwin projects range from having a strong focus on 'pure' conservation science, technical management planning and training to also place emphasis on local stakeholder engagement, knowledge management and communication and inform biodiversity conservation policy formulation. Since September 2002, there has been an increased annual funding commitment and three new types of Darwin funding (Darwin Fellowships, Darwin Scoping Awards and Post-Project Awards). These aim to enhance sound project planning, strengthened capacity building for conservation professionals and secure lasting outcomes and impact of the Darwin Initiative.

In April 2008 the remit of the Darwin Initiative was expanded to include the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). There was also a shift of focus to encourage projects to adopt an ecosystem-based approach to conservation (where relevant and applicable).

In order to provide information on the impact and legacy of the DI, the Darwin Monitoring and Evaluation programme commissions evaluations of projects that previously received funding from the Darwin Initiative (i.e. "closed" Darwin projects). These Evaluation of Closed Projects (ECP) also provide the opportunity to boost the profile of the Darwin Initiative within target countries.

Evaluation of closed projects methodology

The Darwin Initiative funded projects of the Falkland Islands were selected for an ECP in 2010. The projects were reviewed through a combination of three methods. First, by the analysis of secondary data; second, by interviewing key stakeholders and beneficiaries; and finally through direct observations in the field.

Prior to the visit, the reviewer read all documentation available from the Darwin Initiative Secretariat, this included Darwin Initiative annual and final reports as well as reviewers' comments. The documents reviewed also included key government documents, project papers and publications. A list of all documents reviewed can be found in Annex 3.

The reviewer travelled to the Falklands late January/ early February 2010 in order to meet with participants of the two projects. The non-governmental organisation, Falklands Conservation[2] (FC), was the host country partner for both projects. The participation of former and current staff members was fundamental throughout the evaluation.

The reviewer also carried out a series of phone interviews with key stakeholders, like project leaders, who do not reside in the Falklands but have been central to the delivery of the projects. The list of people contacted can be found in Annex 4.

As per the terms of reference all discussions and interactions were focused on obtaining information to access projects against the following monitoring and evaluation criteria relevance, efficiency, partnerships, effectiveness, impact and sustainability. A brief synopsis of each criterion which projects were assessed against is included in Box 1.

Box 1: Issues to be evaluated

Relevance: The extent to which the project objectives correctly addressed identified problems and needs at the time of design, and whether these problems and needs were addressed as a result of the project.

Efficiency: An assessment of how well the projects transformed their available resources into intended outputs in terms of quantity, quality and timeliness.

Effectiveness: To what extent the project outputs were achieved and to what extent they contributed to achieving the project purpose. In other words what difference the project has made in practice with the intended beneficiaries.

Impact: To what extent the project purpose was achieved and thus contributed to the overall project goal (i.e. to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to achieve the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources.)

Sustainability: Extent to which the outcomes of the projects, at either output or purpose level, have continued on after the end of the project.

Falkland Islands overview

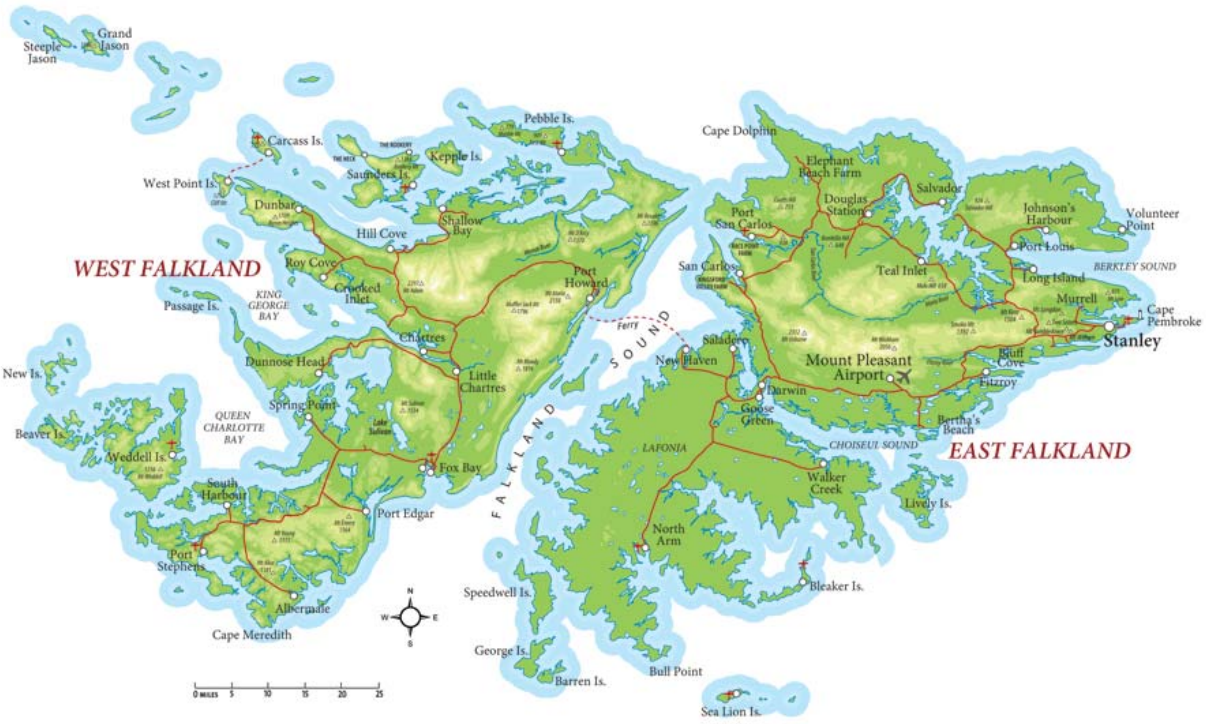
The Falkland Islands are an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom. Approximately 3,000 people live on the islands with the great majority residing in and around the capital Stanley. The three main economies are fishing, tourism and farming.

The Falklands are a compact group of more than 740 islands, situated approximately 400 miles off the south-eastern tip of South America, lying between latitude 51^{o} and 53^{o} S and longitude 57^{o} and 62^{o}W. The total land area is 12,173 km^{2} comprising of mountain ranges and flat plains. The two main islands are East Falkland and West Falkland.

The islands have a cool temperate oceanic climate, dominated by westerly winds and low annual rainfall (400 – 600 mm/year). The majority of Falkland Islands animals and plants show strong affinities to Patagonian South America. (Otley et al., 2008)

[2] The Falklands Conservation is a not for profit organisation established in 1979 which works to conserve and protect the islands wildlife. Falklands Conservation is a partner of BirdLife International, where it represents the Falkland Islands and is a member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. It has a signed agreement with the Falkland Island Government to offer on-going support and co-operation on environmental matters.

Figure 1: Map of the Falkland Islands



(Source: Falkland Islands Tourism website, http://www.visitorfalklands.com/)

Nineteen land habitat types are recognised in the Falklands. The main vegetation types are acid grasslands dominated by whitegrass *Cortaderia pilosa* and dwarf shrub heathland dominated by diddle-dee *Empetrum rubrum* (Broughton & McAdam, 2002). The vascular flora of the Falkland Islands consists of 363 species of which 171 species are native and 13 species endemic, found nowhere else in the world. In contrast to the vascular plants the non-vacular flora is poorly studied. Currently, around 168 species and subspecies of moss and liverwort and 235 species of lichens have been recorded from the Falkland Islands.

Up until the last few years, there has been sparse knowledge of the terrestrial invertebrate fauna of the Falkland Islands. It is estimated that a high proportion of the invertebrate fauna of the island is endemic.

The Falklands are well known internationally for their seabird populations (Oldfield, 1999). Five species of penguins regularly breed in the Falklands and it is host to over 70% of the breeding population of black-browed albatrosses. The islands also contain two endemic birds, Cobb's wren *Troglodytes cobbi* and the Falkland steamerduck *Tachyeres brachypterus.* Under IUCN classification, there are ten avian species of global conservation concern in the Falklands (Otley et al. 2008). There are no native reptiles, amphibians or mammals on the island though several species of vertebrates have been introduced.

The Falkland Islands Government (FIG) wishes to be seen internationally as a responsible steward of its environment and biodiversity. Conserving the environment is one of the nine objectives of the national strategic direction plan (Falkland Islands Plan 2008-11). To further support this objective, the Falkland Islands Biodiversity Strategy (2008-18) was adopted in December 2008. By combining a risk assessment of the threats to the environment with a value for money criterion it offers a vision and direction for the protection of the general environment, the protection of priority species and habitats and for the protection of the islands genetic resources. Following this evaluation, fifteen threats to the environment were identified and thereafter prioritised (table 1).

Table 1: A risk assessment of the 15 threatening processes in the Falkland Islands

		LIKELY SUCCESS OF CONSERVATION ACTION		
		High	Moderate	Low
RISK TO BIODIVERSITY	High	1. Lack of awareness 2. Uncertainty or lack of information	3. Unsustainable accidental by-catch 4. Invasive species 5. Pollution	9. Climate Change
	Moderate	6. Shooting to protect livestock 7. Visitors/ tourism	8. Unsustainable deliberate extraction	10. Natural disasters 11. Deliberate burning
	Low	12. Transport 13. New organisms	14. Physical changes to the land and sea 15. Addition/removal of food	

(Source: Falkland Islands Biodiversity Strategy 2008-18)

The Falkland Islands have not yet adopted the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) but are committed to joining. They are signatories to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) – including the agreement on the conservation of albatrosses and petrels.

Project Evaluations

Status and distribution of the flora of the Falkland Islands

Project Reference No:	8-024
Lead Institution:	Queen's University Belfast
Partner Institutions:	Falklands Conservation, Falkland Islands
Grant value:	£ 33,330
Start / finish date:	July 1999 – June 2001

Project implementation

The purpose of the project was to map the distribution of the flora of the Falkland Islands. This relatively straightforward purpose was supported by clear and achievable objectives.

The flora was surveyed over two field seasons and mapped using a modified GIS package (MapInfo). Distribution maps were generated and ecological data were analysed to produce habitat descriptions which could be used by the Falklands Conservation (FC) and institutions like the Department of Environment in the Falkland Islands Government. The alien flora currently represents over 50% of the total vascular flora with a count of 175 species, almost double the number described in 1968. In addition keys to identify critical groups such as grasses, rushes and sedges were produced.

The project was implemented successfully and no serious problems were encountered during implementation. It produced some very worthwhile scientific papers including an account of the non-native vascular flora and a Red data list for the Falkland Islands.

Box 2: Red Data List for the Falkland Islands

The Falkland Islands have a native flora of 171 vascular plant species. Prior to the Darwin Initiative project, the conservation status of islands' plants was poorly recognised both nationally and internationally.

All species native to the Falklands were assessed for inclusion in the Red List using the IUCN Red List categories and criteria. Following this evaluation, the first national Red Data list was published in 2002 and contained 23 threatened plants. This list is currently been updated by Falklands Conservation's plant officer Rebecca Upson.

"I couldn't have done what I am doing now without their work"

Rebecca Upson, Falklands Conservation, 2010

Post project sustainability and impact

Nine years since the programme ended and its impact and legacy are very apparent in the Falklands. The data gathered across the islands has provided an invaluable baseline of records. The atlas is now in the process of being updated and the information has recently been transferred from MapInfo into Arcview software for greater compatibility with global initiatives like the Important Plant Areas (IPAs). These data have helped inform Species Action Plans (SAPs) developed after the project. The Darwin project has directly helped to facilitate the current Important Plant Areas (IPAs) programme work managed by the FC.

Through the baseline survey data and drawing up the first red data list and SAPs drafts for the islands, this project has fed into the FIG's biodiversity strategy and into its protected plant species list.

As per evidence during the visit to the Falklands, the plant atlas continues to be a useful reference tool for the FC, the Falkland Islands Environmental Planning Department (EPD), and Department of Agriculture.

During the course of this project, a national herbarium was established which is a valuable resource for the FI and for future research projects. It is used within plant identification courses by Falklanders, by visiting researchers, by members of the public and occasionally by tourists. The herbarium continues to be built on and all new specimens are being imaged by the Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) Kew for the eventual inclusion into an online herbarium.

The two main investigators David Broughton and Jim McAdam (project leader) have remained contactable and interested in the project. The project leader returns regularly to the Falkland Islands and is a well known and respected figure within Falklands Conservation and the government's departments.

Peer-reviewed papers, such as the publication of the first red list for the Falklands vascular plants, are invaluable in raising awareness about the plant conservation issues that exist in the Falkland Islands and for stimulating research into different taxa. Since the end of the project, the Darwin Initiative has supported the University of Bangor with a scoping grant to research the poorly studied non-vascular plants.

The Falklands Conservation have benefited from two OTEP[3] grants to continue support of their plant conservation work.

[3] The two OTEP grants are: Falkland Islands Plants Conservation Project, 2007-08; Falkland Islands Native Plants Programme 2009-11

Box 3: Project success summary

Relevance: Prior to this project, most of the conservation initiatives focused on seabirds and marine mammals, little information on the plants of the Falklands existed. Through field surveys, the vegetation of the Falkland Islands was mapped and highlighted the state of both native and non-native plants of the Falklands.

Efficiency: Within a small budget, the team managed to run and deliver a successful project which produced and published over 30 articles in a variety of journals from peer review to general articles.

Effectiveness: This project was well run and delivered much on a small budget. The project's outputs (surveying, identifying, training and reporting) all contributed to the purpose of the project which was to map the distribution of the vascular plants in the Falklands.

Impact: The strength of the project was the breadth of the outputs from maps, peer reviewed scientific papers to publications for a broader audience. Based on the outputs of the project, the government of the Falklands has designated all the red-listed plants as protected species thus feeding directly into the legislation.

Sustainability: Following the Darwin Initiative programme, the Falklands Conservation has successfully secured funds from OTEP to pursue its plant conservation initiative.

The project documents are still referred to in government environmental programmes such as the Falklands Islands Biodiversity Strategy (2008-18) and the Falkland Islands State of the Environment Report (2008).

Falkland Islands Invertebrates Conservation Project

Project Reference No:	13-022
Lead Institution:	Falklands Conservation UK
Partner Institutions:	Falklands Conservation, FI
	Falkland Islands Government
	University Museum of Zoology, Cambridge
	Natural History Museum, London
Grant value:	£115, 173
Start / finish date:	September 2005 – August 2007

Project Implementation

The general approach of this project was similar to the plant project whereby scientists planned to identify and thereafter map the distribution of the islands invertebrates. The overall purpose was to advance the knowledge of Falkland Islands invertebrates in order to provide information for their protection and to develop sustainable policies to ensure their long term survival. This project addressed a gap in knowledge and ability of the host country to identify invertebrate species.

The invertebrate fauna was surveyed over three summer seasons during which over 100,000 specimens were collected. The UK collaborators provided the essential technical expertise needed to taxonomically identify samples. Falling victim to the successful field seasons, the taxonomists were unable to keep up with the volume collected resulting in some samples still waiting to be analysed to date. This had a knock on effect on certain project deliverables.

Alongside this taxonomic work the second aim of the project was to raise local awareness and knowledge of the invertebrate biodiversity heritage of the islands. They held well-attended training events and produced colourful calendars, school packs, published newsletters and articles.

The overall delivery of the project was good with the field seasons running efficiently and the training courses attracting more interest than original thought. The relationship between all stakeholders seems to have been excellent.

Queen of the Falklands Fritillary (Source Invertebrata Falklandica, Issue 6. 2006). The Queen of the Falkland Fritillary is the only resident butterfly species in the Falklands.

Post project sustainability and impact

As a result of the project, the Falkland Islands gained a better understanding of the invertebrates found on the islands. It has found, for example, that the level of endemism is lower than first expected and that the native species are ubiquitous having being found across many different habitats in the Falklands.

This information has influenced conservation strategies for the invertebrates of the Falklands. For example, prior to the Darwin Initiative the FC expected to identify key sites for conservation, referred to as Important Invertebrate Areas (IIAs). However, as a result of the project findings, FC concluded that IIA is now no longer a viable conservation model for invertebrates since no specific areas was found to have greater concentration of invertebrates than others.

Genetic studies were undertaken as an offshoot of the Darwin Initiative project. The preliminary results from these studies suggest that this group of animals could provide the largest genetic resource within the island. The results are to be published in the scientific literature.

The training courses appeared to have been well delivered and attended. They supported approximately twice as many people than expected with twenty nine people attending the course in the end. However, 3 years since the end of the project, few people that receieved the training remain on the islands. For example the two officers from the Environmental Planning Department at the time no longer reside on the islands. The team leader had wished to have had more permanent residents on these courses so as to keep the capacity on the island.

Despite mainly achieving what the FC intended to do, this project was a little too ambitious in certain aspects of its work. They soon got overwhelmed by the quantity of data they were collecting and the analysis of the specimens took longer than expected preventing other parts of the project to finish. The Falklands are an area of the world where there are few taxonomic experts making any taxonomic studies difficult. The difficulties of analysing invertebrates are linked to finding the right experts to identify specimens, difficulty in training people to identify invertebrates and the time it takes to identify or describe known or new species. As the project overran its course, it faced increasing difficulties in finding the right experts to analyse the specimen backlog once some of the specialists at Natural History Museum retired.

It is a shame that the support needed to deliver the analysis at the level required by the partner institutions was not better assessed as this had direct impact on the project deliverables.

With hindsight, the project officer acknowledges that they could have spent more time on qualitative research gaining greater depth of understanding of the invertebrates by focusing on a smaller sample size as opposed to collecting large samples for their quantitative research.

The team are thus still waiting to publish many of the reports that should have been finished by the end of the Darwin Initiative project. These include the three volumes of the Falkland Islands Invertebrate Conservation Report and the laminated field key for the terrestrial invertebrates as well as a series of papers on various invertebrate families.

The fact that key documents are still in preparation and certain outputs like the invertebrate reference collection are still hosted in the UK has meant that this project was not as well recognised as the plant project in the Falklands.

This will hopefully change in the near future as the main investigators are still working on the outstanding reports and hoping to publish them soon. The invertebrate reference collection prepared for the islanders will also be transferred to the islands once the FC has settled into their newly acquired building.

Until the reports are finalised and the reference collection is transferred to the islands parts of the legacy of the project will remain in limbo. The FC in the Falklands is unwilling to distribute unfinished reports to stakeholders whom like the Department of Agriculture might find the information of great use. Unfortunately, no firm dates for completing all these outstanding outputs were set by the FC in the UK or in the Falklands.

Few people interviewed in the Falklands were aware of the outputs of this project. Instead, they often referred to an invertebrate guide prepared prior to this project as evidence of Darwin Initiative invertebrate work.

Since this project ended, few funds have been awarded to pursue the native invertebrate species conservation programme although the impacts of certain invasive invertebrate species are being investigated by the Department of Agriculture under their biosecurity programme. The FC is currently lacking an entomologist to push the research further, meaning that most queries brought to the FC need to be referred back to the UK.

Despite these set backs, there is great hope that as the reports are finalised this project will have a lasting impact on conservation and environmental management in the Falklands as the government and the conservation NGOS would use these reports.

Box 4: Project success summary

Relevance: This project set out to fill a gap in knowledge for the invertebrates of the Falklands through taxonomic research, public awareness campaign, training courses.

Efficiency: Overall the project was well conceived and contributed to filling the knowledge gap about the invertebrates of the Falkland. The delivery of the project was good and the interaction between the UK and Falkland partners proved excellent. They carried out successful field surveys, awareness raising campaigns and training events.

Effectiveness: During the course of the project, they held successful field seasons, training events and produced colourful calendars, school packs and published newsletters and articles. However, they did not manage to convert the large amount of data collected into some of the intended outputs. Three years after the Darwin Initiative funding finished and they are still working towards completing all the outputs.

Impact: The knowledge gained during this project will no doubt support the conservation of biodiversity in the Falklands however until all the outputs are finalised the full impact of this project on policy and conservation planning will not be fulfilled.

Sustainability: Since this project ended, the Falklands Conservation has not received additional funds to pursue this initiative. Little capacity for invertebrate work remains on the islands.

General Assessment

Thanks to Darwin funding, the Falklands Conservation and its collaborators were able to establish baseline information for the under studied plant and invertebrate taxa. Both projects have influenced the islands' conservation programmes and are referred to in government strategic documents. However, from the evidence provided and reviewed, the two projects nevertheless delivered somewhat contrasting outcomes. The Darwin Initiative invertebrate project is not as well recognised as the plant project. While there is plenty of evidence that the outputs of the plant project are still often refereed to, some key documents from the invertebrate project have yet to be finalised and disseminated. Through the dedication of the investigators there is still momentum and hope to finalise the overdue reports and rectify this difference. Once all project outputs are published there is little doubt that the project will also have a lasting legacy as major stakeholders would make use of the information.

The conservation of the environment and preservation of biodiversity is high on the agenda of the Government of the Falklands. The Environmental Charter signed in 2001 by the FIG and the United Kingdom espouses the preservation of the environment. Policy 8 of the Islands Plan 2010-14 states: "We will conserve and enhance the natural diversity, ecological processes and heritage of the Falkland Islands in harmony with sustainable economic development". While the Falkland Islands biodiversity strategy 2008-18 is a key driver of environmental policy in the Falklands. This document prioritises 15 biodiversity threats in the islands (Table 1). Future projects should thrive to assist the current priorities and to some extent this is already happening. The current Darwin Initiative scoping project lead by Dr Russell of Bangor University on the non-vascular plants of the Falklands directly supports a gap highlighted in the fore mentioned documents.

Projects in the Falklands seem to run extremely efficiently and the collaboration between partners is excellent. The collaborators of the two projects are still either directly or indirectly supporting the islands environmental programmes. The Falkland Islands are a small community and any conservation projects have the ability to produce excellent outputs and create real conservation benefits for the islands. For example, and despite certain set backs of the invertebrate project, both projects reviewed here were referred to in the Falkland Islands State of the Environment report (2008) and the biodiversity strategy 2008-18.

Staff retention and turnover remains a potential handicap to capacity building programmes. Few of the current scientific team of Falklands Conservation was employed during the invertebrate project that ended in 2007, yet alone for the plant project that finished in 2001. These staff turnover issues are also evident amongst government officials as the two government officials who were trained during the invertebrate project were no longer living on the islands. To maximise the use of external help while building local capacity a balance is to be made between bringing in highly qualified expertise from the outside to design and drive conservation programmes and nurturing local expertise Conservation programmes should prioritise nurturing local talents and could offer mentoring schemes.

Annually, the Falkland Islands Government provides a sum of approximately £40,000 for environmental research, awareness raising, and conservation and management activities. The sustainability of many projects relies on external funds to support their activities. The Falkland Islands, and the OTs, quite often fall between the cracks for funding. OTs are ineligible for many international funds, including Global Environment Facility, and many of the European Commission Funds available to metropolitan UK institutions (UK OT Biodiversity Strategy, 2009). One FC employee suggested to open lottery funds to the OTs but the UK government currently offers two main programmes to assist biodiversity programmes in the OTs, the Darwin Initiative and the Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP). While there is a good level of familiarity with the Darwin Initiative in the islands, the Darwin funds were considered very competitive[4]. The OTEP remains the funds conservationists and government officials most rely on for their programmes and most recognised, the Falklands having received nine OTEP awards, two of which have permitted to pursue the work on plants undertaken under Darwin Initiative.

In conclusion, this evaluation has highlighted four main points. The first is that projects in the Falklands have great potential to generate a positive impact and a lasting legacy on biodiversity, contributing towards the goals of the multilateral environmental agreements that the Darwin Initiative supports. The two Darwin projects generated information that has been used to inform the islands' general and environmental policy.

The second links to loss of skills, expertise and institutional memory through high staff turnover in these isolated islands. This review highlights that a high proportion of conservationists that come to work in the islands remain for short to medium term periods taking away with them once they leave their acquired knowledge. Through conservation volunteer schemes interested islanders could be selected to take part in mentoring schemes to receive training and guidance with the aim of nurture home grown talent.

The third point lies with the responsibility of the UK institution and their partner to complete the project. Part of the Darwin Initiative remit is to link the expertise found in the UK with host country institutions lacking in capacity to achieve the conservation of biological diversity. Experts involved in the projects need to focus on delivering outputs and producing results that can be interpreted by a broad range of people with varying knowledge. This would ensure that the information is not only accessible to their peers and can be used to further the conservation of biological diversity by all after the conclusion of the projects.

Finally, despite the high level of biodiversity and endemism found in the UK overseas territories (JNCC, 2009), they have often had limited funds available to support core conservation science (United Kingdom Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy, 2009). Given that projects in the Falkland Islands have filled knowledge gaps and informed policy decisions further investment should be encouraged. The plans and priorities highlighted in the Islands environmental strategy (see Falkland Islands Government, 2008) provide a good overview of the areas still requiring work.

[4] At the time of the ECP, the results of the ringed fenced Darwin funds for the OTs were unavailable.

ECP Annex I. Terms of Reference for the Evaluation of Closed Projects

Post Project Evaluation	Evaluation of Closed Darwin Initiative Projects located in Falkland Islands	
Project No's.	8-024	13-022
UK Institution and Project Leader/Contact	Queen's University Belfast	Falklands Conservation – UK
Partner Institution(s)/ Contact(s) per project	Falklands Conservation - FI	Falklands Conservation – FI NHM - Natural History Museum, Entomology University Museum of Cambridge Gov of Bermuda
Project Grant Values/project	£33,330	£118,488
Project's Start / End Date:	July 1999 – June 2001	Sept 04 – August 07
Reviewer	Nicholas Warren	

INTRODUCTION

The Darwin Initiative seeks to help the safeguard of the World's biodiversity by drawing on UK biodiversity expertise to work with local partners in countries that are rich in biodiversity but poor in financial resources. Particular emphasis is placed on:

- Conserving biological diversity within the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including sustainable use and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources;
- Improving collaboration with host country/ies and strengthening their capacity to carry forward Darwin funded initiatives;
- Enhancing the overall legacy of Darwin projects.

The Darwin Initiative supports projects led by UK institutions, in partnership with host country institutions, which support biodiversity conservation over a range of ecosystems and locations. Five priority areas for Darwin funding include:

- Institutional capacity building
- Training
- Research
- Work to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity
- Environmental education and awareness

In order to provide information on the impact and legacy of the DI, the Darwin Monitoring and Evaluation component is commissioning evaluations of projects that previously received funding from the Darwin Initiative (i.e. "closed" Darwin projects). Issues of sustainability are also integral components in the analysis of impact and legacy.

The approach applied by is to select *clusters* of "closed" projects based on a country, theme or eco-region. Such missions shall be undertaken in close consultation with UK based and host country institutions, and involve relevant in-country beneficiaries and stakeholders.

Objectives for the Evaluation of Closed Darwin Initiative Projects

The Evaluation of Closed Projects (ECP) is primarily intended to provide an external perspective on the legacy and impact of Darwin Projects, and to draw out innovations, lessons learned and best practices that account for positive legacy and impact.

Legacy and impact shall be accessed at different levels:

- At the **project level** – in terms of host country institutions and local partners and beneficiaries, and in terms of conservation achievements.
- At the **national & eco-region level** – in terms of host country policies and programmes, and if relevant at cross-boundary and eco-region level.
- At the **international level** – in terms of emerging best practices, and the CBD itself.
- At the **UK level** – in terms of legacy and impact within UK institutions.

Within the context of the above, the evaluation shall comment on how the clusters of projects evaluated have contributed towards achieving Darwin Initiative objectives. Comments shall include how later projects have built on earlier projects or have been mutually supportive of each other.

Background of Projects to be evaluated

The Falkland Islands have been the focus of two Darwin projects (see below). The 2 projects which have been completed for at least two years present an opportunity to evaluate the long-term impact and legacy of Darwin projects in the Falkland Islands.

Project No.	Title	Purpose
8-024	Status and distribution of the flora of the Falkland Islands	To map the distribution of the flora of the Falkland Islands
13-022	Falkland Islands Invertebrates Conservation Project	To advance the knowledge of Falkland Islands invertebrates in order to provide for their protection and to develop sustainable policies to ensure their long term survival.

Issues to be evaluated

The Evaluation of Closed Projects (ECP) shall review outcomes of Darwin Initiative funded projects against the original logical framework and Darwin proposal, Project reports and products, and through the following evaluation criteria:

Relevance: The extent to which the project outcomes correctly addressed identified problems and needs at the time of design, and whether these problems and needs were addressed as a result of the project. Guiding issues include:

- Appropriateness of the project design to the identified problems and towards supporting the implementation of the CBD.
- Complementarity and coherence with other related programmes and activities at national or local levels.
- Overall design strengths and weakness as reflected in the original logical framework.
- Extent of participation by host country institution and beneficiaries in initial consultations, and identification of problems and needs.

Efficiency: An assessment of how well the projects transformed their available resources into intended outputs in terms of quantity, quality and timeliness. Guiding issues include:

- Appropriateness and suitability of the technical methodology applied by the project and overall delivery of the technical assistance.
- Review of project costs and value for money.
- Level of Partner country contributions in the project
- Extent of monitoring systems to assess progress and impact.
- Extent of the project's ability to adapt its programme and approach in response to changing assumptions and risks.

Effectiveness: To what extent the project outputs were achieved and to what extent they contributed to achieving the project purpose. In other words what difference the project has made in practice with the intended beneficiaries. Guiding issues include:

- Extent of the technical advances made by the project.
- Extent of institutional change within beneficiary institutions as a result of the project outputs and purpose.
- Validity of the assumptions and risks of the project at the purpose level, and how did these change during the course of the project.
- Extent of the project's ability to adapt its programme and approach during the course of implementation in response to changing assumptions and risks.

Impact: To what extent the project purpose was achieved and thus contributed to the overall project goal (i.e. to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to achieve the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources.). Guiding issues include:

- To what extent has conservation of biological diversity benefited (or expected to benefit) from the achievements of the projects.
- Have there been unplanned impact resulting from the projects and what have been their consequences.
- Have there been gender-related or poverty related impacts arising from the project.
- Have there been impacts on host country ability to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Sustainability: Extent to which the outcomes of the projects, at either output or purpose level, have continued after the end of the project. Guiding issues include:

- Extent of the ownership of the project purpose and achievements, and means for ensuring this ownership.
- Extent of the policy environment being in support of the project purpose and achievements.
- Extent of the institution capacity of host country and beneficiary institutions to carry forward project outcomes post project support, at the level of scientific, technological and financial considerations.
- Extent of the socio-cultural factors being in support of project outcomes, and whether the project outcomes are well grounded.

- ***Innovations, lessons learned and best practice***:
- Report on any innovations developed by the project.
- What lessons do the project implementers report?
- Did the project implement best practices; are there any indicators that it does so?

Methodology

The ECP shall be undertaken in close collaboration with Darwin Project Leaders and host country institutions, and engage with project stakeholders and beneficiaries. Wherever possible, ECP consultants should consult with National CBD focal points.

The ECP consultant shall ensure that the ECP is informed through consultative and participatory work sessions and semi-structured interviews with project team members, project beneficiaries and other project stakeholders. Use of participatory assessment tools should be used where ever possible (e.g. timelines, mapping, stakeholder analysis)

Timetable

The ECP in Falkland Islands shall be undertaken according to the schedule laid out in the Thematic TOR as this visit will combine work on the Thematic. As guidance it is expected the ECP shall require:

- Preparation and review of documentation – 1 day
- Field mission and travel (including Falkland's case study for thematic) - 8 days max
- Report preparation – 3 days

Reporting and Feedback

No later than two weeks after the end of the field mission, the ECP consultant shall submit a **draft report** to the Darwin Project Administrator (DPA). Over the following two weeks, the Darwin Project Administrator will have the report peer-reviewed and forward it to Defra. Defra will have five working days to comment after which the report will be sent to the Project Leaders, who in turn will share it with the host country partners. The Project Leaders, host country institution(s) shall have up to two weeks to submit comments to the ECP consultant via the DPA. The ECP consultant shall finalise the ECP report no later than one week after receiving comments on the draft report and will submit the report, and the Completion Summary, to the DPA, who will forward it to Defra for final approval. Once Defra has accepted the report, the DPA will circulate the final report to the PLs and host country institution(s).

A table outlining the dates concerned is included on p4 above as part of the overall ToR for the Thematic Review.

Please note that all reporting should be sent to the Darwin Projects Administrator at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk

As a guide, the ECP draft and final report should be no more than 10 pages (excluding annexes) and reflect the following outline.

- *Executive Summary*: A free-standing executive summary covering the key purpose and issues arising from the MTR; an outline of the main analytical points and the main conclusions, lessons learned, best practice and recommendations. It should be no more than two pages.
- *Main Text*: Should start with an introduction describing the projects being reviewed, collective context and the evaluation objectives. The body of the report should follow with a project by project description the review criteria described in the methodology describing the facts and interpreting them in accordance with key questions for the review.
- *Conclusions and Recommendations* according to partnerships, relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability criteria.
- *Innovations, lessons learned and best practice* of the projects individually and collectively as well as the Darwin Initiative programme.
- *Advice on communications*: the ECP Consultant's views on how key messages about the project should be communicated and to which audience (e.g. press release in the UK or briefing to local FCO staff)
- Annexes should include:

  the TORs for the ECP

  the Logical Framework of the project indicating original intended purpose and outputs, actual achievements by the end of the project, and outcomes at the time of the ECP

  A map of the project areas if relevant

  A list of persons/organisation consulted

  Documentation consulted (i.e. bibliography)

  Other relevant annexes as appropriate.

The *Completion Summary* should be a one page checklist of key issues from the ECP, pulling together the recommendations, lessons learned, best practice and the advice on communications. A template will be provided.

While you are not required to review these projects, you should be aware that the following projects are currently active or just completed.

Project Ref	Title	PL	Organisation	Partners	Dates
EIDPR078	Conservation strategies for Falkland Islands freshwater fish biodiversity	Garcia de Leaniz, Dr Carlos	University of Wales, Swansea	Falkland Islands Development Corporation Gov of Falkland Islands – Fisheries	Aug 07
EIDPR117	Biodiversity inventory and conservation in the Falkland Islands and South Georgia	Russell, Dr Shaun	Wales Environment Research Hub	Falklands Conservation – FI	July 09

ECP Annex 2. Project logframes

Project 8-024 Status and distribution of the flora of the Falkland Islands was not required to submit a logframe as part of its application process.

Logframe to project 13-022 Falkland Islands Invertebrates Conservation Project

Project summary	Measurable indicators	Means of verification	Important assumptions
Goal:			
To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to achieve • the conservation of biological diversity, • the sustainable use of its components, and • the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources			
Purpose			
To advance the knowledge of Falkland Island invertebrates in order to provide for their protection and to develop sustainable policies to ensure their long term survival.	Key areas given statutory protection as nature reserves, national parks or sanctuaries. Key species on statutory list of protected species. Invertebrates included as part of the Falkland Islands' Biodiversity Action Plan Expertise established within the Islands to effect long term monitoring.	Appropriate areas of invertebrate importance declared protected areas. Wildlife legislation amended to include key species. Biodiversity Action Plan published. Invertebrate Advisory Group set up.	Falkland Is. Government allocates adequate time and resources to effect declarations, amend legislation and produce Biodiversity Action Plan. Sufficient interest is generated about invertebrates to recruit, train, and maintain a long term interest by a number of Falkland residents.
Outputs			
Important invertebrate habitats and rare/threatened species, identified for protection. A Falklands Invertebrates Conservation Plan agreed. Resources produced to enable identification and long term monitoring. 15 Falkland Islands residents trained in basic invertebrate identification techniques and curation of the Collection.	Database established recording invertebrate distribution and 'hot spots' of conservation importance. Local Red Data List published. Consultation on Plan under-taken and presented to Falkland Islands Govt. A Falkland Invertebrates Collection established and identification publications written. Training Programme undertaken.	Database operational and an invertebrate Local Red Data List published. Key species selected for legal listing. Conservation Plan accepted as part of Islands' Biodiversity Action Plan. Invertebrates Collection in place and available to public. 15 or more Islanders actively contributing to invertebrates programme.	Sufficient data can be collected and processed over an adequate area of the Falkland Islands. Progress is made in drawing up structure and content for the Biodiversity Action Plan. A suitable place can be found for the Collection and publishers can be found for publications. Islanders are interested in learning more about Falkland Islands invertebrates.

Activities	**Activity Milestones (Summary of Project Implementation Timetable)**
Fieldwork Programme	Three 2-month fieldwork seasons completed resulting in an invertebrates database established, distribution of species recorded, samples identified leading to taxonomic keys and descriptions of Pterygote insect fauna and a species check list and Red List produced for the Islands.
Training	15 Islanders take part in 3 training courses and support survey/collection work. Teacher training course held for Schools Invertebrates Pack
Collections	Reference Collection established in Falkland Islands and available to the public. Dedicated Falklands collection donated to Natural History Museum.
Publications	Schools Invertebrates Pack produced. Scientific papers published. Falklands Conservation Plan and Invertebrates Conservation Manual produced.
Events/Publicity	Public launch of Project. 2 FI radio broadcasts per year. Display produced for Falkland events. Information to FI local press on regular basis. Report in annual 'Wildlife Conservation in the Falkland Islands'. Invertebrates web section on line. 5 articles/presentations outside the Islands.

ECP Annex 3. Documentation consulted

The Darwin Initiative (http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/ -accessed in January and February 2010)

Darwin Application form for the two projects reviewed

Darwin Annual and Final reports, reviews and project outputs for the two projects reviewed

Falklands Tourism Board (http://www.falklandislands.com/ - accessed in January and February 2010)

Falklands Conservation (http://www.falklandsconservation.com/ -accessed in January and February 2010)

Falkland Islands Government (http://www.falklands.gov.fk/Environment.html - accessed in January and February 2010)

Falkland Islands Government. 2008. The Falkland Islands Biodiversity Strategy 2008-18. Falkland Islands Government, Stanley. (http://www.epd.gov.fk/wp-content/uploads/BiodiversityStrategy09.pdf)

The FCO/DFID Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP) http://www.ukotcf.org/OTEP/index.htm (accessed in January and February 2010)

JNCC - IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in the UK and overseas territories. 2009 - http://www.jncc.gov.uk/pdf/UKOT_IUCN%20Tables_%202009.pdf

Insects of the Falklands. 2004. Jones A. G. Falklands Conservation

Otley H, Munro G, Clausen A & Ingham B. 2008. Falkland Islands State of the Environment Report. Falkland Islands Government and Falklands Conservation, Stanley.

Plants of the Falkland Islands. 2007. Liddle A. Falklands Conservation

The UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (http://www.ukotcf.org/index.cfm - accessed in January and February 2010)

United Kingdom Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy (http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity/documents/uk-ot-strat.pdf - accessed in January and February 2010)

ECP Annex 4. People Consulted

Projects discussed	Person	Position
8-024 & 13-022	Craig Dockrill	Chief Executive Officer, Falklands Conservation
8-024	Jim McAdam (TL)	Queens University Belfast
13-022	Alex Jones	Cambridge University
8-024 & 13-022	Ali Liddle	Education Officer, Falklands Conservation
8-024 & 13-022	Sarah Crofts	Community Science Officer, Falklands Conservation
8-024 & 13-022	Grant Munro	Former Chief Executive Officer, Falklands Conservation
8-024	Rebecca Upson	Plant and Habitat Conservation Officer, Falklands Conservation
8-024 & 13-022	Ann Brown (TL)	UK Executive Officer, Falklands Conservation
8-024 & 13-022	Nick Rendell	Environment Officer, Environmental Planning Department, FIG
8-024	Andrew Pollard	Agricultural Advisor, Department of Agriculture, FIG
13-022	Shona Marguerite Strange	Biosecurities Officer, Department of Agriculture, FIG

Annex 3 – List of Darwin Initiative Projects in UK Overseas Territories (as of 1st May 2010)

Project Reference	Project Title	UKOT	UK Lead Institution	Start Date	End Date	Total Budget (GBP)
Main Projects						
18/020	Increasing local capacity to conserve St. Helena's threatened native biodiversity	St. Helena	St. Helena National Trust	01/07/2010	30/06/2013	333,772.00
18/019	Mapping benthic biodiversity of the South Georgia Shelf and slope	Falkland Islands, South Georgia Islands	British Antarctic Survey	01/04/2010	30/06/2012	218,561.00
18/018	Enabling Montserrat to save the Critically Endangered mountain chicken	Montserrat	Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust	01/07/2010	30/06/2013	232,484.00
18/017	Developing Knowledge to eradicate house mice from UKOT islands	Falkland Islands, South Georgia, Tristan da Cunha	RSPB	01/04/2010	01/11/2012	253,636.00
18/016	Darwin Initiative to enhance an established protected area systems, Cayman Islands	Cayman Islands	Bangor University	01/04/2010	31/03/2013	273,914.00
17/004	Building civil society capacity for conservation in the Caribbean UKOT	Anguilla, Bermuda, BVI, Cayman, Montserrat, TCI	Commonwealth Foundation	01/04/2009	31/03/2012	262,755.00
14/051	In Ivan's Wake: Darwin Initiative BAP for the Cayman Islands	Cayman Islands	Exeter University	01/10/2005	31/10/2008	178,822.00
14/027	Enabling the People of Montserrat to Conserve the Centre Hills	Montserrat	RSPB	01/05/2005	30/06/2008	160,900.00
13/022	Falkland Islands Invertebrates Conservation Project	Falkland Islands	Falklands Conservation	01/09/2004	31/08/2007	118,488.00
12/023	Darwin Biodiversity Action Plan for Anegada, British Virgin Islands	British Virgin Islands	Exeter University	01/06/2003	30/04/2006	164,205.00
12/010	Empowering the people of Tristan da Cunha to implement the CBD	Tristan da Cunha	RSPB	01/06/2003	31/03/2006	154,117.00
9/009	Development of a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Bermuda	Bermuda	Bermuda Zoological Society	01/04/2000	31/03/2003	98,528.00
8/253	Invertebrate Diversity and Endemism at Gough Island and Threats from Introduced Species	Gough Island	Sheffield University	01/07/1999	30/06/2002	127,500.00

Project Reference	Project Title	UKOT	UK Lead Institution	Start Date	End Date	Total Budget (GBP)
8/164	Developing biodiversity management capacity around the Ramsar site in Turks and Caicos Islands	Turk and Caicos Islands	CABI International	01/10/1999	28/02/2002	124,800.00
8/114	Capacity building for biodiversity conservation in Anguilla	Anguilla	WWF UK	01/07/1999	31/07/2001	82,507.00
8/024	Status and distribution of the flora of the Falkland Islands	Falkland Islands	Queens University Belfast	01/07/1999	30/06/2001	33,330.00
7/163	Integrating national parks, education and community development, British Virgin Islands	British Virgin Islands	British Virgin Islands National Parks Trust	01/04/1998	30/11/2001	116,550.00
7/115	Ecology and conservation of the endemic St Helena wirebird	St Helena	University of Reading	01/08/1998	31/07/2001	88,968.00
7/006	Assessing the status of Ascension Island green turtles	Ascension Island	Swansea University	01/10/1998	31/03/2002	133,873.00
Post Project Funding						
EIDPO027	Reducing the impact of feral livestock in and around the Centre Hills	Montserrat	RSPB	01/04/2009	31/03/2011	144,236.00
EIDPO023	Enabling the people of Tristan to implement the CBD in the marine environment	Tristan da Cunha	RSPB	01/05/2007	31/03/2010	75,971.00
EIDPO041	Protecting galaxiids from salmonid invasions in Chile and the Falklands	Chile, Falkland Is	Falkland Islands Development Corporation	2010	2012	276,220
Scoping Awards						
EIDPR117	Biodiversity inventory and conservation in the Falkland Islands and South Georgia	Falkland Islands	Bangor University	12/07/2009	21/07/2009	3,000.00
EIDPR114	Assessing and conserving critical pollinator communities in Bermuda	Bermuda	Leeds University	03/08/2009	12/08/2009	2,200.00
EIDPR111	St Helen's Millennium Forest: conservation, evolution and a changing climate	St Helena	Centre for Ecology and Hydrology	30/08/2009	16/09/2009	3,000.00

Project Reference	Project Title	UKOT	UK Lead Institution	Start Date	End Date	Total Budget (GBP)
EIDPR078	Conservation strategies for Falkland Islands freshwater fish biodiversity	Falkland Islands	Swansea University	02/08/2007	13/08/2007	2,962.00
Challenge Funds						
EIDCF001	Automating seabird counts from standardised photos contributed by volunteers	British Antarctic Territory, Falkland Islands, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands	IoZ - Institute of Zoology	2010	2011	24,160
EIDCF002	Conservation of Falkland Islands raptors - reducing conflicts with sheep farming	Falkland Islands	Falklands Conservation - FI	2010	2010	24,000
EIDCF003	Developing a community-led marine management action plan for the Pitcairn Islands	Pitcairn Island	University of Southampton - Geography	2010	2011	24,992
EIDCF004	Laying the foundations for invertebrate conservation of St Helena	St Helena	Buglife - The Invertebrate Conservation Trust	2010	2011	24,976.50
EIDCF005	Darwin Southern Sea Lion Programme	Falkland Islands	BAS - British Antarctic Survey	2010	2011	24969
EIDCF006	Strengthening management of the British Indian Ocean Territory marine area	British Indian Ocean Territory	ZSL - Zoological Society of London	2010	2011	24,840
EIDCF007	Management plans implementation and Ramsar designation expansion in the TCI	Turk and Caicos Islands	Gov of TCI	2010	2011	24,464
	TOTAL Darwin Initiative FUNDS (GBP)					**3,837,700.50**

Annex 4 – Conservation Conventions and Priority funding areas

Conservation Conventions The Initiative works to assist developing countries and UK Overseas Territories to implement three conventions: CBD, CMS and CITES. All projects should demonstrate how they will **contribute to one or more of these conventions.** Where the project includes work in the **UK Overseas Territories,** this should be clearly identified.

Within the overall context of contributing to the implementation of the Conventions (CBD, CITES and CMS), the DAC has highlighted four priority areas (set out below) for Darwin funding. Defra is seeking to fund a range of projects across these areas, as well as to seek projects which demonstrate an ecosystem approach to conservation. Applications for projects in the UK's Overseas Territories will be particularly welcomed and need not have a metropolitan UK partner.

Particular attention must be given to the dissemination of project results, and it is anticipated that most projects will also include wider communications, public awareness raising and public education components.

Applicants need not address all four priority areas if one or more is not appropriate:

Research as a tool for securing conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing outcomes for biodiversity - Strengthening the evidence base for the conservation of biodiversity – this is one of the DI's principal contributions. All of the biodiversity conventions require objective information describing the current status of components of biodiversity and evidence of the benefits derived from conservation interventions. For sustainability of results, in many Darwin Initiative projects it is appropriate to combine biophysical research with socio-economic or policy-focused approaches. The integration of indigenous or traditional knowledge and research approaches are encouraged where appropriate. Research includes technical or scientific investigation, and might involve the use of other relevant expertise under the CBD, CMS or CITES such as legal, anthropological/sociological or economic expertise.

Capacity building – Providing assistance to those institutions and individuals in need of support to be able to carry out practical conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing activities for biodiversity, either because of insufficient financial resources or a lack of expertise. In some projects, it may be appropriate to work with particular government departments and to promote co-operation between departments. Projects may also help to prepare strategic frameworks for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and trade (including the non-detriment findings required by CITES), access and benefit-sharing, the conservation of migratory species of wild animals, or licensing and/or enforcement under regimes applying to the trade in endangered species.

Training - Focusing on long term development of in-country training in skills related to conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing for biodiversity, or meeting more immediate needs using the UK's training infrastructure. Training may be formal (e.g. a university module) or informal (e.g. on-the-job training, a workshop or a series of seminars in the community). Support may be given for short courses in the UK on conservation, sustainable use and trade (including the non-detriment findings required by CITES), access and benefit-sharing, the conservation of migratory species of wild animals or licensing and/or enforcement under regimes applying to the trade in endangered species. To broaden the long-term impact of short training courses, you are encouraged to involve trainees who will have the opportunity to educate/train others. Alternatively, projects could develop short training programmes which also enable the trainees to subsequently deliver the training to other staff. Training programmes should include ways of measuring both the quality and quantity of training and its effects on the key themes of the three Conventions.

Environmental education and public awareness - Setting up programmes to increase engagement with biodiversity issues by increasing the awareness of biodiversity (including biodiversity as a resource with economic, social and cultural value), and its importance in the provision of ecosystem services. Key biodiversity issues are: trade in biodiversity; importance of conservation of migratory species, licensing and/or enforcement under regimes applying to the trade in endangered species; and to engender action to address biodiversity loss. Projects may focus on one or more sectors of society including the public (including local communities or particular groups within communities), business, and decision-makers at all levels.