



Darwin Initiative Workshop

Partnerships

6th November 2008

Impala Hotel, Arusha

Proceedings



DARWIN200

Introduction

The Darwin Initiative (DI) Workshop on Partnerships took place on the 6th of November 2008 and is the first regional workshop to be held by the Darwin Initiative. This is therefore the event where most of the presentations were by host country institutions. The establishment and maintenance of Partnerships are central components of DI projects. As illustrated in the project presentations, they are diverse and exist at different levels within a project context. In their simplest form they can be characterised as the partnership between the lead UK institutional partner and the host country partner institution(s) during the design, implementation and monitoring phases of a project. Partnerships are also in evidence where the project institutions participate in local, national or international associations or networks engaged in a conservation issue. For instance, a network of institutions and projects that aims to influence policy and strategies by drawing on their respective experience and achievements.

Sarah Nelson of Defra provided an overview of the objectives of the Darwin Initiative and its main components. Sarah demonstrated the success Darwin Initiative projects have had, and noted the strong commitment of the UK government with the recent announcement by the Minister, Joan Ruddock for further funding for the Darwin Initiative. This was followed by the recent call for applications and Sarah commented on the strength and quality of the applications received.

Lesley Brown of ECTF provided the group with an overview of the services provided by ECTF to support Defra in the management of the DI which included: the monitoring and evaluation of projects, the financial management, individual project management and applications management. She reiterated that this workshop was an exciting opportunity to allow Defra, ECTF and the Darwin Advisory Committee (DAC) to fully interact with the project partners and understand their perspective on the Darwin Initiative.

A series of presentations challenged participants to consider what makes an effective partnership in a Darwin Initiative project and these can be utilised to support the objectives of the CBD. These then fed into lively discussion in two workshop sessions in the afternoon

Summary of presentations

All the presentations from this workshop are available through the Darwin Initiative website. <http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/workshop/>

Presentation 1: Reflections of partnerships from 2 Darwin Projects

Presenter: Julius Keyyu, Director of Research TAWIRI

Project: 14-055 Developing a national conservation action plan for the mammals of Tanzania and 11-007 A national plan for carnivore conservation in Tanzania.

Julius provided an overview of the purpose and objectives of their first collaborative project between TAWIRI, ZSL and WCS which was to establish a national Carnivore Conservation Centre that will conduct long term monitoring of carnivores and train wildlife professionals in carnivore monitoring techniques. The ultimate objective of this work was to develop a National Conservation Action Plan for Carnivores in Tanzania. Julius covered the major aspects of the team's work to date:

- The carnivore database
- Over 7,000 sightings since 2005 have been processed
- The database contains 34 out of the 35 identified carnivore species
- The team have developed new distribution maps for 34 species countrywide

Training wildlife professionals

Wildlife professionals have received training in carnivore survey and monitoring techniques, camera trap survey techniques, and other survey techniques. The project has also developed an exchange programme with ZSL and an internship scheme at the centre for university students.

TAWIRI capacity building

The project has provided resources to boost the capacity of TAWIRI to fulfil its duties in Tanzania through the construction of the purpose built conservation centre, the hiring of 5 new staff and through attendance by staff at a number of training events.

The project has conducted an outreach programme which has been particularly successful in raising awareness of carnivore conservation and the pressures placed on carnivore populations through the delivery of newsletters, campaign leaflets (64,000), posters (500) and atlas check sheets (5000). The team have been particularly successful at mobilising support through the creation of a network of contributors from over 480 groups. By the end of Darwin funding for the project, the team had developed draft action plans for Cheetah, wild dog, Lion and leopard, hyena and small to medium carnivores action plans followed soon after in 2006. Since the end of DI support, the team have been working to gain the full endorsement of the government for the carnivore action plan and to continue the carnivore monitoring work: this includes the manager going on to complete a PhD at UCL in the UK following their support to the project.

14-055 Developing a national conservation action plan for the mammals of Tanzania

Following the success of the previous carnivore project, the team successfully received funding for a further Darwin project which assesses the mammal distribution in Tanzania in order to develop a conservation action plan for mammals. Using similar techniques to those developed in the previous project, the team have established a comprehensive database of occurrences of mammals in Tanzania to inform the mammal atlas maps. The project involves exhaustive camera trapping surveys and the team are already working to provide coverage of a number of areas not previously monitored or areas that have been poorly monitored previously. Currently the project database has 27,100 sightings of 96 mammal species. The project has developed an interactive project website which can be viewed at www.tanzaniamammals.org

Presentation 2: The Darwin Initiative at Lake Bogoria, Kenya

Presenters: William Kimosop and Jackson Komen, Kenya Wildlife Service, Lake Bogoria

Project: 12-003 Flamingo conservation and Ramsar site management at Lake Bogoria, Kenya

EIDPO012 Replicating Biodiversity Conservation Management at Key Soda Lakes in the Rift Valley

This was a joint presentation between two of the staff from the Lake Bogoria project. The purpose of this project was to identify essential lake ecosystem properties that sustain key populations of water bird species and thereby ensure LBNR's management plan completion. The project also intended to explain the mass movements of *P.minor* between Lake Bogoria and neighbouring lakes, and causes of unpredictable mortality of *P.minor* and finally to advise on measures to minimise the risk to species. Whilst this project ended in 2006, William and Jackson were keen to share with the group the work that was carried out the subsequent legacy of this project.

The science component of this project has met 4 objectives:

- Seven adult lesser flamingos have been satellite tracked, yielding new data about their use of lakes and frequency of movements.
- The three Kenyan lakes - Bogoria, Elmenteita and Nakuru – intensely monitored over three years to provide new insights into their limnological stability and flamingo.
- Causes of past flamingo mass-mortality events have been investigated through post-mortems; flamingo health through morphometric analysis and blood sampling. Preliminary conclusions are that mortalities are not caused by direct pollution as had been feared prior to these results.
- The biodiversity of Lake Bogoria was quantified for dragonflies, damselflies, moths, birds, beetles, flowering plants and grasses.

The local communities have contributed to the project through the production of short films in Swahili and have received training in ecotourism and alternative livelihood methods such as bee-keeping.

Since the DI funding finished the project has started to look at soda lakes in both Kenya and Tanzania with Darwin Initiative Post-Project funding. 1-day community workshops have been completed at Elmenteita, Shompole and Manyara, the education programme has been extended down the rift valley and the films have also extended their coverage (from 'Naivasha series' to 'Soda Series').

Presentation 3: Conservation strategy – longer term partnership and implementation

Project: Building capacity for conservation of a critically endangered flagship species

Presenter: Benson Okita, Senior Scientist, Kenya Wildlife Service

This work is a collaboration between African Wildlife Foundation, Chester Zoo, DICE, IUCN SSC AfRSG, Kenya Wildlife Service, Save the Rhino, US Fish and Wildlife Service, WWF, ZSL, Zoo d'Amneville.

Benson gave the audience an update on the project and how it has developed. The project received Darwin funding from 2003-2007. The purpose of this project was to build local capacity to ensure the Kenya Wildlife Service has the human resources and information systems necessary to 1) achieve the targets for black rhino conservation mandated in its 5-year Black Rhino Strategy and 2) meet its CBD objectives.

There have been 32 field staff from all rhino reserves trained as instructors on rhino monitoring for field rangers. As a result, the project delivered 26 fully qualified instructors. In addition the project delivered 2 MSc qualifications for the team, 1 BSc and 12 field staff received a 5-month certificate course at KWS TI.

As a result of the work carried out as part of the Darwin project, the quality of monitoring of black rhino in Kenya has improved as well as information on productivity, health and overall status of Kenya's black rhino populations. The capacity of field staff to undertake periodic habitat evaluation has been developed, enabling sound management of new and existing rhino areas. Management actions are now taken, based on this information, to optimally manage black rhino habitats and browser identities and thus promote the increase of Kenya's black rhino numbers. Annual growth rates for 2004 and 2005 have been over 5% (strategy goal is for at least 5% p.a.). The conservation strategy goal of 500 rhino by 2005 has been achieved.

Presentation 4: Strengthening Pro-Poor wetland conservation using integrated biodiversity livelihood, and economic assessment

Project: 14-035 Strengthening Pro-poor wetland conservation using integrated biodiversity livelihood, and economic assessment

Presenter: Jessica Campesse, National Project Coordinator

The purpose of this project is to use pro-poor approaches to the conservation and sustainable use of threatened wetlands strengthened through improved capacity, awareness and information on the biodiversity and livelihood value of aquatic ecosystems in the Lower Mekong and East Africa. This project is operating in both Cambodia and Tanzania although for this audience Jessica largely focused on the

Tanzanian element of this project. The project uses an integrated assessment method which incorporates biodiversity surveys with livelihood analyses and economic valuation into one cohesive assessment as opposed to a parallel assessment method. This allows the team to develop a more holistic view of wetlands management with respect to creating a management plan.

As a result of the work of this project, a toolkit for integrated wetland management good practice is being developed which is expected to be launched in December 2008. Conclusions derived from this project are:

- Integrated Wetland Assessment can inform policy decisions that better reflect synergies and trade-offs between biodiversity, economics and livelihoods, including protection for the most vulnerable;
- The toolkit brings together adaptable concepts, mechanisms, and tools for various IWA concepts;
- Field testing of IWA processes and methods has:
 - Informed better development of IWA processes and tools
 - Re-confirmed the importance of wetlands to local livelihoods and,
 - Generated information that has, and can continue to, sustainably benefit local people in both sites.

Presentation 5: Developing a Biodiversity monitoring system: Strong partnerships as a foundation for Darwin's legacy to Kenya

Project: EIDPO007 'Ensuring legacy and conservation impact within Kenya's biodiversity monitoring network'

Presenter: Alex Ngari, Nature Kenya

This project was a follow on to 'Kenyan Important Bird Areas: Improving Monitoring, management and conservation action' (11-003). Important Bird Areas (IBAs) are places of international significance for the conservation of birds at global, regional (Africa) and national level (Kenya). These sites also show high diversity of plants, mammals, herpes and invertebrate life. In Kenya currently 35 IBAs are legally protected with 25 sites without protection. The 60 IBAs cover habitats that conserve over 1,080 bird species recorded in Kenya.

The post-project ended in 2007 and its purpose was 'A functioning national monitoring system is demonstrably assisting Kenyan conservation by informing and inspiring sound and long term conservation actions'. Alex's presentation covered the importance of strong partnerships to the legacy of this project in Kenya. The foundation of IBA monitoring in Kenya was laid with the support of Darwin Initiative funding. Through this funding an IBA monitoring framework was established and applied. Key features of this are:

- A monitoring protocol;
- The institutional set up including a National Liaison Committee comprising a Biodiversity Monitoring sub-committee.

Some achievements of this project are:

- It has been possible to bring key policy makers and implementers in conservation and environmental management together for shared action;
- The results of the monitoring work are being used for national reporting to CBD;
- The IBA framework is being replicated elsewhere in Africa;
- The monitoring reports/results have been a useful resource mobilisation tool – it presents facts based on observations;
- Capacity building on monitoring has been done in key government institutions and 16 site support groups;
- The monitoring work has been ongoing since it started in 2003.

Presentation 6: Combating Invasive Alien Plants threatening the Eastern Usambara Mountains in Tanzania

Project: 13-033 Combating Invasive Alien Plants threatening the Eastern Usambara Mountains in Tanzania

Presenter: Ezekiel Edward, Assistant Lecturer, Sokoine University of Agriculture

This project, which finished in 2008, was to empower researchers in the Tanzanian Forestry Research Institute, East Usambara Conservation Management Programme, Amani Nature Reserve and Sokoine University to map, monitor and manage invasive species in the East Usambaras so as to safeguard globally important biodiversity and satisfy Tanzania's CBD obligations. In particular it concentrated on developing methods to identify, monitor, manage and raise awareness of invasive alien plant (IAP) species, which can be a leading cause of biodiversity loss and altered ecosystem processes in protected areas. The need for this project is defined in the CBD, and has been identified as a national priority for Tanzania by the Natural Environment Management Council and the Tanzania Forestry Research Institute at an IUCN workshop.

Prior to this project the extent of invasions and their environmental consequences had not been systematically quantified in Tanzania. The main activities carried out on this project were training workshops, MSc-level training, awareness-raising workshops, desktop-based research, development of training manuals and input into local institutional management plans. The main outputs were (1) trained staff, thereby providing partner institutions with the long-term capacity to monitor and manage IAPs; (2) web-based IAP identification guides; (3) contributions to management strategies for IAPs; and (4) publications, in the form of newspaper articles, peer-reviewed papers and workshop reports.

As a result of the project there have been a number of follow-up projects including:

Management and control of *Azadirachta indica* in Saadini National Park and Management and control options for *Cedrela odorata*, a potential invasive woody species in Kimboza Forest Reserve. The legacy of this project is strong including a strong network of 12 institutions which meet under the Eastern Arc Mountains Strategy and which includes trained conservation managers as a result of the training component of the project, 2 MSc and 1 PhD theses and a web-based database of Usambara alien wood plants.

Presentation 7: Space for Giants? Addressing Human-Elephant conflict on the Laikipia plateau, North-Central Kenya.

15-040 Building Capacity to alleviate human-elephant conflict in Kenya

Presenter: Max Graham , Co-Principal Investigator, University of Cambridge.

Max provided an insight into the project and provided lessons for dealing with partners and stakeholders on the different approaches necessary for each. The purpose of this project is to alleviate human-elephant conflict and promote tolerance of elephants in Laikipia District, Kenya. Laikipia, covering some 10,000 km² of high savannah in north-central Kenya, is home to the country's second largest elephant population, numbering over 5,000 individuals but contains no formally protected areas. Human-elephant conflict (HEC) in Laikipia is considered the worst in Kenya.

The main activities of this project are to establish HEC early warning systems, provide training on community based HEC management and research, develop sustainable elephant defence livelihoods and build project stability. The HEC warning system is particularly interesting as it involves the fitting of GPS/GSM collars that, when a 'problem' elephant approaches settlements, sends a warning SMS message to personnel. Originally this project was developed to the local policy of no-fences and therefore no restriction of animal movements. Since the inception of this project there have been changes in the area including the construction of a 163km electrified fence (not by this project) therefore the project has needed to be responsive to changes in the environment and within their partners.

Max provided some useful lessons on the pros and cons of differing partners. This project had successfully forged links with private sector groups such as through the field testing of the GPS collars, in addition to CBOs, NGOs and academic groups. Partnerships are composed of differing requirements dependent on the structure and remit of the organization therefore the project has needed to adapt its approach to each type of partner accordingly.

Workshop sessions

Participants were invited to join two group discussions to share their experiences in creating and maintaining partnerships, identify challenges and opportunities associated with partnerships including what makes a good partnership arrangement, and make recommendations to the DI on where improvements can be made.

The report back from each group's one hour and fifteen minute discussion can be found in Annexes 2 and 3.

Drawing from the work of the two groups, the following are summarised comments by ECTF Facilitators on the discussion outcomes:

Background

- There are many levels of partnerships within a DI project, and the nature and extent of such partnerships vary between DI projects. Examples of partnerships within a DI project range from: 1) the UK lead institution and host country lead partner institution; 2) the partnerships between a coalition of host country institutions involved in a DI project; 3) the partnership of DI project institutions engaged with sub-national, national, regional and/or international institutional networks engaged in informing and influencing conservation and development action; and, 4) the partnership between DI institutions and communities engaged in natural resource use and conservation.
- Partnerships between institutions are central to a successful DI project as they enable the transfer of knowledge and information, strengthen capacity within institutions and individuals, identify opportunities, and enable conservation action.

Issues & Recommendations

- A long established partnership between the UK and host country institutions, in existence prior to DI funding, is likely to contribute in a successful DI project and where the partnership continues post DI funding. Conversely, the position of the UK institution having direct links to the DI can lead to the UK institution taking the lead in the identification of a project and its design.
- UK lead institutions offer expertise and capacity building on key technical issues related to a conservation issue. However, there are instances where the UK lead institutions should recognise the need to acquire additional expertise (other UK or Host Country institutions) in domains outside of the area of expertise of the lead UK institution. Similarly, the UK institution should aim for transparency in the selection and provision of expertise to DI projects.
- DI project partners in the host country are not necessarily aware of other DI funded projects in the same country. Information exchange from DI to host country institutions is assumed to take place through the Project Leader and/or main host country institution contact. DI should consider widening the DI email list to include other host country institutions engaged in a DI project other than just Project Leaders. Alternatively, to enable host country project staff to register their contact details on the website for future mailings.

- It was also recommended that national CBD Focal Points are sensitised on the DI and projects located in their country, with the aim that with time they can assume a role of information dissemination within and beyond the DI network (e.g. host future DI Regional Workshops?).
- Links between host country institutions under a DI project and local government administration's are required in order to ensure effective conservation action but appear to be a weak link within context of DI partnerships. Yet, local government administrations play a central role in the management and use of key landscapes and ecosystems.
- Outcomes from DI projects are more likely to inform and influence national and sub-national conservation and development policies and programmes if the host country institutions are already active participants in relevant coordination forums (e.g. national sector coordination working groups, Government led multi-sector forums, issue based networks).
- Having a number of host country institutional partners can be positive since conservation issues often require a multi-disciplinary approach and benefit from public and civil sector partnerships. However, these partnerships can be challenged when competition arises between host country institutions, in particular where a lead host country partner is not designated.
- The participation of local communities needs to be factored into the design of DI projects and their contribution and potential benefits clearly articulated so as to manage expectations. DI partners also need to assess community-based organisations in terms of capacity and track record when considering their participation in partnerships.

Annex 1: Workshop programme

Darwin Initiative Workshop
November 6th 2008
Arusha, Tanzania

Venue: Impala Hotel
 Moshi/Old Moshi Rd
 Postal address
 P.O. Box 7302
 Arusha - TANZANIA



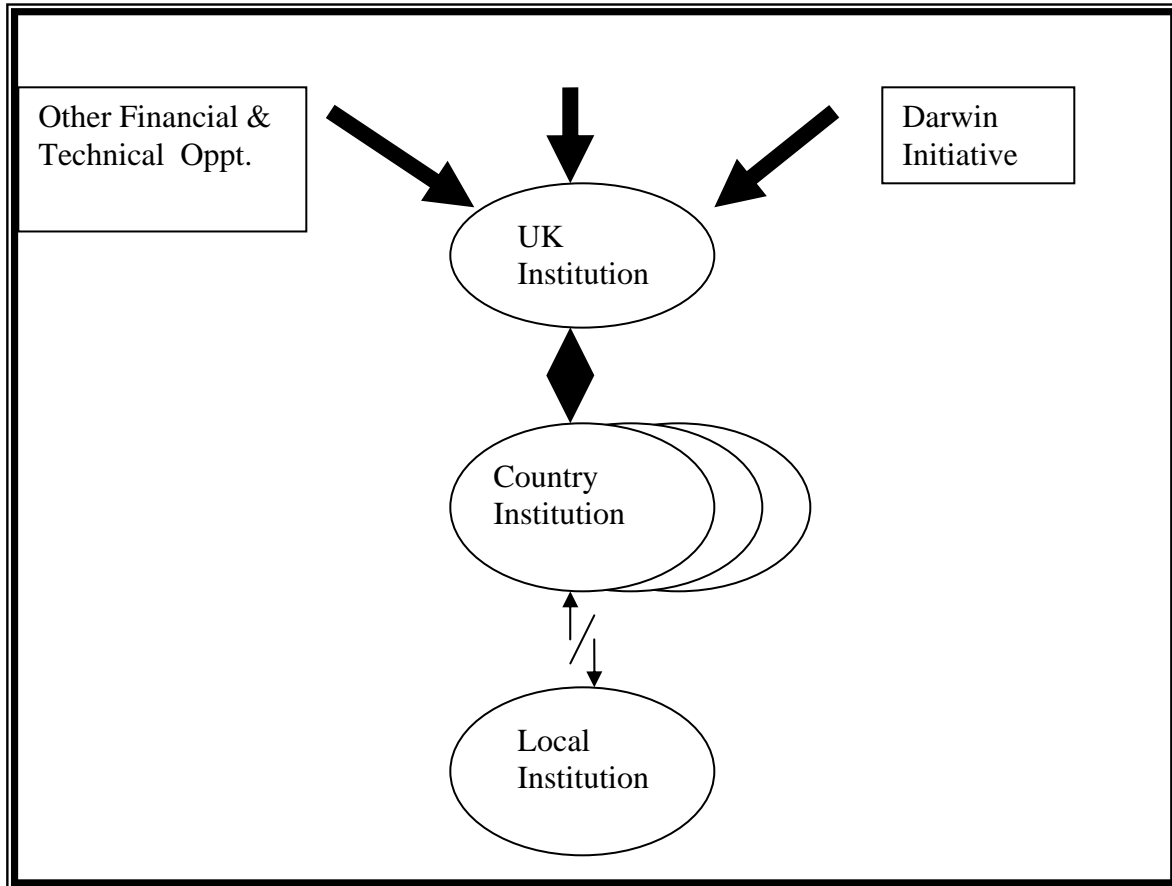
Time	Session	Activity	Prospective Speakers
9.30-10.00	Registration	Tea and Coffee	
10.00-10.30	Welcome and Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome • Introduction of the overview of the workshop 	Sarah Nelson (Defra) ECTF
10.30-12.30	Plenary I	Title: 'Reflections of partnerships from 2 Darwin projects.'	14-055 <i>'Developing a National Conservation Action Plan for the Mammals of Tanzania'</i> Julius Keyyu , Director of Research TAWIRI
	Plenary II	Title: The Darwin Initiative in Lake Bogoria and the soda lakes of the East African Rift	12-003 <i>'Flamingo conservation and Ramsar site management at Lake Bogoria, Kenya'</i> William Kimosop & Jackson Komen
	Plenary III	Title: 'Conservation Strategy - longer term partnership and implementation'	12-004 <i>'Building capacity for conservation of a critically endangered flagship species'</i> Benson Okita Senior Scientist Kenya Wildlife Service

Time	Session	Activity	Prospective Speakers
	Plenary IV	Title: 'Strengthening Pro-Poor Wetland Conservation Using Integrated Biodiversity Livelihood, and Economic Assessment'.	14-035 'Strengthening Pro-Poor Wetland Conservation using Integrated Biodiversity and Livelihood Assessment' Jessica Campesse National Coordinator
	Plenary V	Title: 'Developing a Biodiversity monitoring system: Strong partnerships as a foundation for Darwin's legacy to Kenya'	EIDPO007 ' <i>Ensuring legacy and conservation impact within Kenya's biodiversity monitoring network</i> ' Alex Ngari Nature Kenya
12.30-13.45	Lunch	Participants network over lunch	
13.45-14.15	Plenary V	Title: The threats of alien plants to native biodiversity in Tanzania	13-033 ' <i>Combating Invasive Alien Plants Threatening the East Usambara Mountains in Tanzania</i> ' Ezekiel Edward Assistant Lecturer Sokoine University of Agriculture
14.15-14.30	Plenary VI	Title: Space for Giants? Addressing Human-Elephant conflict on the Laikipia plateau, North-Central Kenya.	15-040 ' <i>Building capacity to alleviate human-elephant conflict in North Kenya</i> ' Max Graham Co-Principal Investigator

Time	Session	Activity	Prospective Speakers
14.15-15.15	Seminars/Discussion groups	<i>Participants break into discussion groups to debate issues presented during the Plenary sessions. Participants are encouraged to join their preferred discussion group.</i>	
	Seminar a)	Creating an effective partnership – what works and what doesn't & learning from our lessons	Alex Forbes ECTF Facilitator
	Seminar b)	Putting a partnership, association or network to good use in delivering	Lawrence Way JNCC Facilitator
15.15-15.45	Tea and Coffee		
15.45-16.30	Seminar Feedback		Defra/ECTF
16.30-16.45	Concluding remarks		Defra/ECTF

Annex 2 - Group 1 Discussion

What makes good Partnerships?



Drawing from the above diagram, the Group identified the following as key elements of a successful partnership and areas where challenges exist:

- The UK institution has the important role of identifying funding opportunities (i.e. DI call for proposals) and providing relevant expertise to support work of national institutional partners. There is need for UK institutional partners to broker the provision of additional expertise that it might not have available, but which is identified as required.
- A long established partnership between the UK and host country institutions, in existence prior to DI funding, is likely to contribute in a successful DI project and where the partnership continues post DI funding.
- Host country institutions engaged in national policy and strategy dialogues related to conservation through networks and associations enable DI project achievements to inform the dialogue.
- Host country institutions identify problems and needs that DI projects can address, and therefore should play an important role in project design.

- Links between host country institutions under a DI project and local government administrations are required in order to ensure effective conservation action but appear to be a weak link within context of DI partnerships. Yet, local government administrations play a central role in the management and use of key landscapes and ecosystems.

Recommendations – Towards attaining “Ideal” partnerships

- 1) Put emphasis on supporting projects that emerge from long standing UK and country institutional partnerships, since increased likelihood that the strong partnership has identified the “problem” to be addressed and how to undertake the project.
- 2) UK institution willing to network with other institutions to bring expertise to solve problems. For instance within the context of sustainable wetlands management bring in economic and social expertise to complement the ecological expertise.
- 3) In country partner institution(s) already involved in national dialogue pertaining to conservation policies and strategies.
- 4) There is need for mechanisms to enable dialogue with local institutions (e.g. local government administration).

Recommendations - Things to Fix

- 1) Accounting and reporting burden is reported as being complex and language can be considered challenging.
- 2) More feedback given to projects as a result from evaluations. It was suggested that the monitoring and evaluation process draws from a DI MSc student interested in M&E to engage in the process.
- 3) More “Case Studies” to draw out generic conservation lessons from DI projects. In particular highlighting how local communities, local and national administrations can become more effective actors in conservation action.

Annex 3 – Group 2 Discussion

WHY PARTNERSHIP

Capacity Building of Partners is a major benefit : Mutual Benefits –Rob my back and I rob yours, rely on data and information

Communication and information sharing is another great benefit

DI is seen as a Wide Network because it involves research institutions, NGOs, Government agencies, there is need for **local coordination**, there is need to link up with regional activities and linkage with UK institutions

Challenges of partnerships

Partnership provides opportunity for sustainability and support ideas for joint design and monitoring, however

Competition between Partner organisations may create a problem of coordination

There is a need for Definition of Partners – whether they are community, NGO and be flexible/dynamic in accommodating others

Be careful about CBOs and define the position of community beneficiaries in partnership

Understand the network of relationship between Government machinery and Partners

Key ingredients for Darwin Initiative Partnership- a set of recommendations

- Under the CBD Mechanism, you have national focal point – Using the CBD focal person as the communication focal point.
- National Focal Point to encourage sharing of information between projects/partners
- Communication should widen their communication within national institutions.
- Where you have a core group of individuals that understand the Darwin Initiative they should also understand the priorities and modalities of the national Projects
- Partnership provides opportunity for sustainability and support ideas for joint design and monitoring
- There is need for definition of who a Partner is – whether they are community, NGO and be flexible/dynamic in accommodating others
- Good definition of relationship - What is expected of you as a partner
- Be careful about CBOs and or who you are partnering with at community level
- Create criteria on who should be the lead partner at the national level
- Understand the network of relationship between Government machinery and projects
- It is difficult to have equal level of partnership because UK institutions have to call the tune since they are the primary source of project (s)
- Identification of Darwin project should meet the identified priorities of the local institution on project design and implementation as well as any other additional inputs