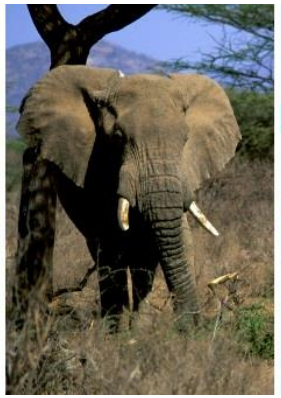
Darwin Initiative

What makes a good application?



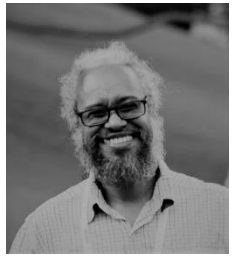
Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

UKaid from the British people

Welcome!

Welcome to Stage 2 applicants from Round 28 of the Darwin Initiative!

Your panelists:



Howard P. Nelson

- Wildlife ecologist and current Lecturer in Conservation Leadership with FFI & the Geography Department at Cambridge University

Kelly Forsythe

- Technical and Admin support to the Darwin Initiative and IWT-CF
- Day to day contact with all IWT-CF projects

Victoria Pinion

- Technical support to the Darwin Initiative and IWT-CF
- Supports applicants and projects across all fund

Eilidh Young

- Day to day contact with all Darwin projects
- Darwin-Applications@ltsi.co.uk

Agenda & Housekeeping

- Welcome
- Darwin Expert Committee Presentation
- Questions

If you have any questions, please feel free to type them in the Q&A box and upvote any that you are interested in hearing the answer to.

Proposals:
What is the Darwin Expert Committee looking for?

DR HOWARD P. NELSON
FAUNA & FLORA INTERNATIONAL
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GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT, CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

FAUNA & FLORA INTERNATIONAL

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
Masters in Conservation Leadership

BOTANIC GARDENS CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

WHO ARE THE DARWIN EXPERT COMMITTEE (DEC)?

- c. 20 experts - academics, conservation practitioners, policy researchers, independent consultants etc.
- Contribute to Darwin strategy
- Act as ambassadors for Darwin
- Review and score proposals and make recommendations to DEFRA

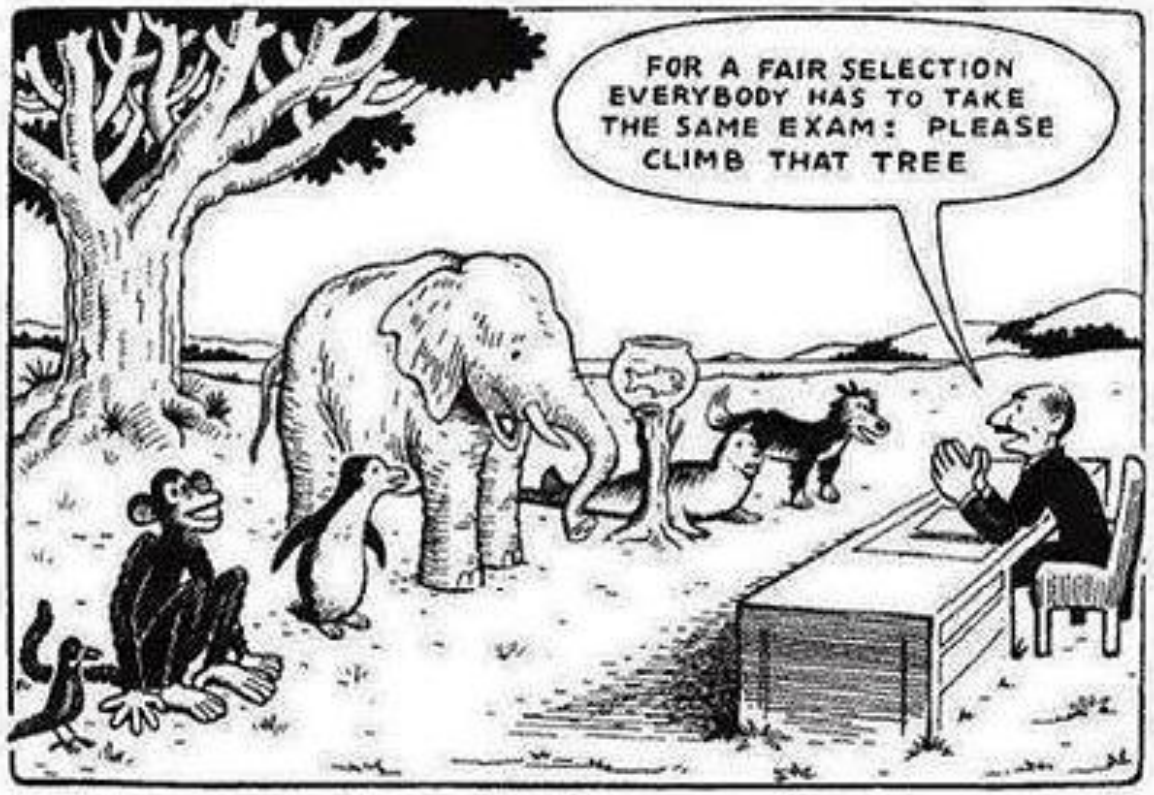
REVIEWING OF APPLICATIONS

- Three DEC reviewers consider each application
- Scoring criteria in Guidance – same for both stages
- Sift meeting discussions on high and mid-scoring and differentials - agree shortlist at Stage 1 and at Stage 2
- DEC recommends a list to Ministers who make the final decision

WHAT MAKES A GOOD APPLICATION?

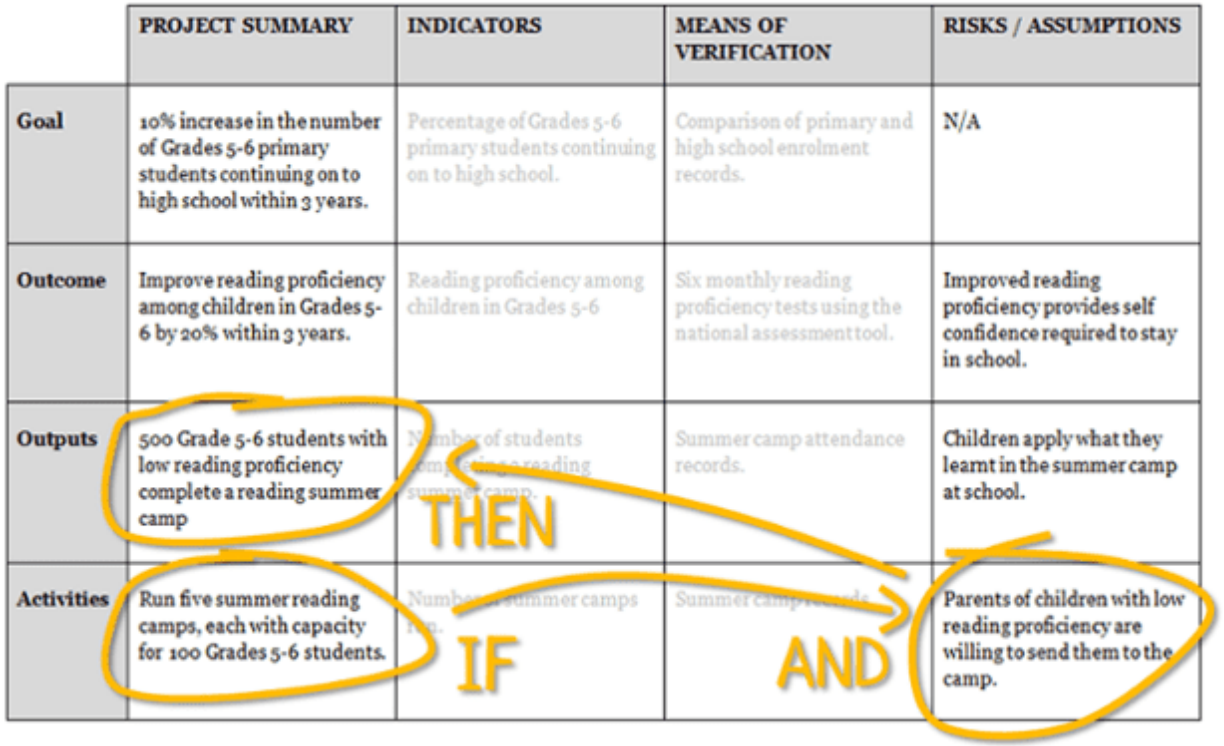
- Clearly written, concise and easily understandable
- Answer the questions
- Ambition and innovation rooted in reality
- Biodiversity and livelihoods outcomes, supporting international Conventions
- Clear route to outcomes and impact

PROJECT LOGIC



- Underlying problem statement and project logic are vital
- Theory of Change approach
- Should be clear from a strong logframe……

LOGFRAME



	PROJECT SUMMARY	INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	RISKS / ASSUMPTIONS
Goal	10% increase in the number of Grades 5-6 primary students continuing on to high school within 3 years.	Percentage of Grades 5-6 primary students continuing on to high school.	Comparison of primary and high school enrolment records.	N/A
Outcome	Improve reading proficiency among children in Grades 5-6 by 20% within 3 years.	Reading proficiency among children in Grades 5-6	Six monthly reading proficiency tests using the national assessment tool.	Improved reading proficiency provides self confidence required to stay in school.
Outputs	500 Grade 5-6 students with low reading proficiency complete a reading summer camp	Number of students completing a reading summer camp.	Summer camp attendance records.	Children apply what they learnt in the summer camp at school.
Activities	Run five summer reading camps, each with capacity for 100 Grades 5-6 students.	Number of summer camps run.	Summer camp records.	Parents of children with low reading proficiency are willing to send them to the camp.

- Central to reviewers' assessment of your application
- Sense check – how will the activities - outputs - outcomes - impact chain work….
- Think about your assumptions and challenge them
- Specific targets and baselines – better to have numbers than loose percentages
- Keep it clear - reviewers will read lots of logframes….

KEY THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Address feedback from Stage 1
- Title – clear & interesting – get our attention upfront
- Provide enough context - don’t assume any prior knowledge
- Demonstrate credibility - partners, expertise, and track record (strong CVs help)
- Stick to word counts and don’t rely on additional links or resources

KEY THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Demonstrate links to and knowledge of international Conventions and Treaties
- Explicit biodiversity outcomes -which species/ecosystems will benefit
- Explicit poverty outcomes - tangible improvements in well-being.
- Strong gender considerations

KEY THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Well articulated changes – and explain how will be measured
- M&E plan should align with the log-frame
- Budget – balance between lead and partners, in-country and UK; co-finance
- Make your application stand out! How does it differ from the norm? Is it innovative, using new methodology or scalable? *Or is it just really clear and well written….?*

Good luck!

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Thanks for listening!