



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office



Department
for International
Development



Workshop for New Darwin Projects 18th -19th April 2016, Zoological Society of London

The Darwin Initiative hosted a two-day workshop at ZSL on the 18th and 19th April for all new projects to the Darwin Initiative, funded under Round 22.

The first day of the workshop focused on information for new projects, and was open to technical, administrative and financial members of project teams. The second day was particularly geared to sharing lessons and drawing links between new and existing Darwin projects. Technical staff from existing projects were therefore also invited to attend the second day of the workshop.

This note covers the presentations that were given on both days, including questions and answers, and notes on the activities carried out by participants. All the presentation slides from this workshop are also available via the Darwin website for reference (<http://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/new-projects-workshop-april-2016>).

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Agenda for Day 1 – Information for New Projects

Time	Day 1 Agenda Item
09.30	Arrivals and refreshments
10.00	Welcome and intro to the workshop
10.15	Introduction to Darwin Initiative reporting systems
10.40	Refreshments & Elevator Pitch
11.05	Welcome by Darwin Secretariat
11.20	Q&A
11.30	Darwin and the Global Goals
12.30	Highlights and reflection on the morning session
12.45	Lunch
13.45	Darwin projects and wellbeing
13.55	Group Exercise – Darwin projects and wellbeing
14.40	Tea & Coffee
15.00	Developing an M&E plan
15.10	Group Exercise – Developing an M&E Plan
15.30	Communications
15.40	Group Exercise – Communications
16.00	Highlights session & wrap up
16.30	Close

Agenda for Day 2 – Sharing experiences and lessons between projects

Time	Day 2 Agenda Item
09.30	Arrival
10.00	Welcome
10.15	Case Study – 22-018: Mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into community forestry in Nepal – Billy Fairburn, Birdlife
10.45	Refreshments
11.00	Group Exercise 1 – Identifying complementarities
11.45	Case Study 2 – 21-020: Eels - a flagship species for freshwater conservation in the Philippines – Matthew Gollock, ZSL
12.15	Lunch
13.15	Group Exercise 2 – Sharing advice on technical themes and measurement challenges
14.00	Case Study 3 – 20-015: Incentive-based management of hilsa (<i>T. ilisha</i>) fishery in Bangladesh – Essam Mohammed, IIED
14.30	Refreshments
15.00	Identifying key lessons
15.30	Group Exercise 3 – Top tips for New Projects
16.00	Highlights session & wrap up
16.30	Close

Notes on Day 1

Intro to Darwin Initiative Reporting Systems – LTS, Eilidh Young

Eilidh Young, lead administrator for the Darwin Initiative, introduced financial and reporting requirements. It was emphasised that the processes were not meant to be onerous for projects and that guidance documents, like the comprehensive [Finance for Darwin](#) are available to help projects understand the requirements. Eilidh also emphasised that projects should thoroughly read their grant award paperwork.

Questions

Q - If we delay our start date via the change request process, do the dates of the half year report and annual report change?

A – No – these dates are the same for most projects, regardless of start date – half year reports are due on the 31st October and Annual reports are due on the 30th April. Final reports are due 3 months after project end date. If your project finishes before June in your final year, you don't need to do an annual report if you can commit to submitting your final report by the end of July – but projects often prefer to submit an annual report and take the full 3 months to complete their final report.

Q – If project activities are delayed and we accrue finances, can we do a carry-over?

A- “Carry overs” are no longer acceptable to Defra. However, if there is a justified reason for a project to re-budget, this can be discussed and submitted via a change request to Defra. These are considered on a case-by-case basis.

Q – Can we begin earlier than the start date in our proposal?

A – Yes, but not if it is before April 1st as this then crosses financial years.

Welcome by Darwin Secretariat –Defra, Sally Cunningham

Sally highlighted the impressive successes of Darwin in past years, and gave some insight into how things might change in the future. Sally confirmed that following the recent Government spending review ODA requirements for future funding rounds may now change slightly, but the nature of these changes is still under discussion at the government level. It is hoped that more traditional biodiversity projects previously funded by Defra will still be eligible under the new criteria. The dual focus of the Initiative on both biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation is likely to remain.

Darwin and the Global Goals – LTS, Simon Mercer

Projects were introduced to the [Global Goals for Sustainable Development](#), or SDGs. The SDGs will frame the sustainable development agenda until 2030 so it is possible that in future years Darwin Initiative projects may need to draw links between their work and these 17 goals and the 169 targets that underpin them.

Participants were asked to look at their own projects and identify which of the goals they believed their project would be working towards, either directly or indirectly. The below graph summarises the results, but of course must be taken in the context that the spread represents only the projects present on the day and doesn't account for differences between direct and indirect influence.

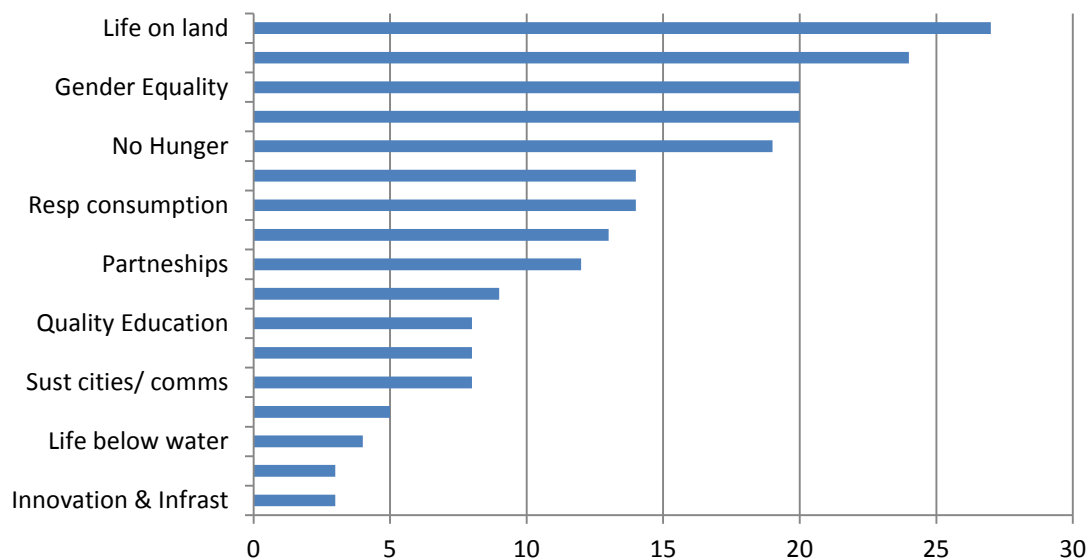


Figure 1 Results of SDG exercise to identify which SDGs projects are likely to contribute to.

Darwin projects and wellbeing - LTS, Simon Mercer

This presentation focused on the importance of broad understandings of poverty. It introduced the wellbeing framework as one means of defining poverty, and considered the usefulness of tools such as Quantitative Content Analysis to provide a snapshot of how projects talk about poverty. As a descriptive method QCA does not consider the context in which words are used; it can be a useful way of efficiently exploring how projects are talking about poverty but does not examine why.

Projects undertook a simple QCA of key sections of their partners Stage 2 application form to stimulate reflection on how they talk about and frame poverty issues. Commonalities and differences in the components of wellbeing addressed were then discussed in larger groups and key points reported back to the plenary. Headline findings mirrored those from the SDG exercise. It was emphasised that the purpose of this session was not to identify possible 'buzzwords' for future application rounds, rather it intended to stimulate consideration amongst participant on the way that they talk about their project, and about poverty.

Developing an M&E plan - LTS, Paddy Abbot

This session introduced the importance of going beyond a simple logframe, to formulate an M&E plan. Developing a robust M&E plan helps to ensure appropriate and timely evidence collection. The importance of clear roles and responsibilities and clarity on who should be measuring what, when, how, and with what resources was highlighted.

Projects were then presented with a simple M&E action plan pro-forma. Working in groups using an example project, participants were asked to select an outcome or output and to fill in the appropriate boxes across the table to test the measurability of the project. This helped projects to focus on what it is they should be monitoring, their data needs, when that information should be collected, specific responsibilities for collection/analysis, and any additional resource requirements.

Communications - LTS, Victoria Pinion

This session focused on the importance of effective communications in influencing change. The components of a good comms strategy were identified with a focus on identifying and engaging key stakeholders, and measuring the effectiveness of communications strategies. Group work gave participants the opportunity to undertake a simple stakeholder analysis for their project identifying key target audiences, motivations for communicating, key communications products and intended outcomes, and likely costs and levels of effort.

Selected Feedback from Day 1

What was really useful?

I liked the blend of approaches (presentations/group work) used in the workshop.

The group work was really useful and was a great chance to meet people and learn about their projects.

It was great to meet the Darwin team, most of our funders don't have a 'human face'.

Presentations on financial management by Eilidh were very valuable.

I liked the poverty [wellbeing] mapping and the SDGs to get us thinking about our impact.

M&E Planning was good, helps us think about our monitoring and get better prepared.

The Elevator pitch exercise was useful – it made us really have to focus our key message.

Ideas for improving the workshop next time

We'd like more time on Darwin Plus please.

We covered a lot of things today. To enable a deeper analysis, would there be scope to reduce the number of sessions and allow deeper analysis (trade-off).

Not sure that the QCA [wellbeing] exercise was useful for projects – perhaps use Log Frames as a basis for analysis rather than the application form sections?

M&E session was eye opening and I would recommend allowing more time.

Other comments

This was great – can we have it half way through and at the end to share experiences?

Very useful, thank you. More case study examples both "good" and "not good" in terms of what we went through (e.g. good vs poor M&E examples, good vs poor communication examples etc) would be helpful.

More discussion on specific monitoring methods would be good, eg social research and biodiversity indicators, and methods for the development of relevant "SMART" indicators.

Notes on Day 2

On the second day the workshop included existing projects. As well as providing the opportunity to make connections between projects with similar themes and geographies, this allowed current projects to interact and to share key lessons and advice with new projects. Presentations were made by three different projects, one entering its second year, one entering its third and one coming to a close.

22-018: Mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into community forestry in Nepal

This presentation, given by Billy Fairburn from Birdlife International and Ishana Thapa from the project partner in Nepal, provided some background to their project, and in particular to community forestry in Nepal. They outlined the aims and objectives of the project, first year achievements, and next steps. A number of key challenges were highlighted from year 1, some context specific such as earthquakes and fuel shortages, and others of likely relevance to most Darwin projects including the regular turnover of government staff. Key lessons learnt include the importance of keeping key stakeholders engaged to develop a sense of ownership in the project, and the importance of not being afraid to submit change requests where needed.

Group Exercise 1 – Geographic Complementarities

Participants were split into regional groups and given an opportunity to discuss potential complementarities around key stakeholders, shared objectives, and potential logistical efficiencies. They were also asked to consider how any identified links could be further developed in the future.

Key Stakeholders: A number of similarities were identified within countries, particularly relating to engaging the same government departments. The potential value of using UK embassies as an in-country focal point was also a common theme. Where projects were not working in the same countries a number of groups highlighted the opportunities associated with engaging regional organisations and stakeholders e.g. SADC.

Shared Objectives: Discussions identified many shared objectives between projects, highlighting the importance of sharing knowledge, experiences and lessons between projects. In the West Africa group, for example, all projects were working on community based resources, presenting clear opportunities for collaboration.

Logistical Efficiencies: Potential efficiencies were identified around common fieldwork methods, and opportunities for shared national workshops between projects were discussed in several groups. The need for a clear forum to enable projects to share information and lessons was also identified. Suggestions included LTS sharing material via email, project/DI led webinars, and social media communities including Facebook and Yammer.

Case Study 2 – 21-020: Eels - a flagship species for freshwater conservation in the Philippines

Matthew Gollock from ZSL presented on his second year project. Matthew discussed the social and ecological drivers underpinning this project before talking in more detail about the aims and objectives of the work. Key lessons included the importance of effective M&E procedures, particularly when the project leader is not based in-country, the importance of gaining stakeholder input and buy-in to the project through scoping visits, and the need to adhere to existing Darwin procedures, such as change requests, to strengthen projects when needed. Time slippages were also identified as a key challenge, in particular those associated with recruitment and host country bureaucracy.

Group Exercises 2 – Thematic Complementarities

Participants were then split up by thematic focus. Projects were asked to discuss first in pairs and then in groups, commonalities in overall project objectives, policy objectives, measures that could create a basis for shared learning and interaction between projects, and common knowledge platforms already in use, that could form the basis for knowledge sharing between DI projects.

Project Objectives: All groups identified some common thematic objectives, highlighting the potential for increased engagement between projects working on similar themes.

Policy Objectives: The majority of groups identified a common aim of influencing government to a greater or lesser degree. Most commonly projects were looking to influence government in relation to laws and policies on community-based natural resource management. Potential areas for collaboration were identified in several groups.

Shared Measures: Although most groups were able to identify common tools and measures they could use, there was less agreement between groups. The importance of providing experience-sharing opportunities between projects was again emphasised.

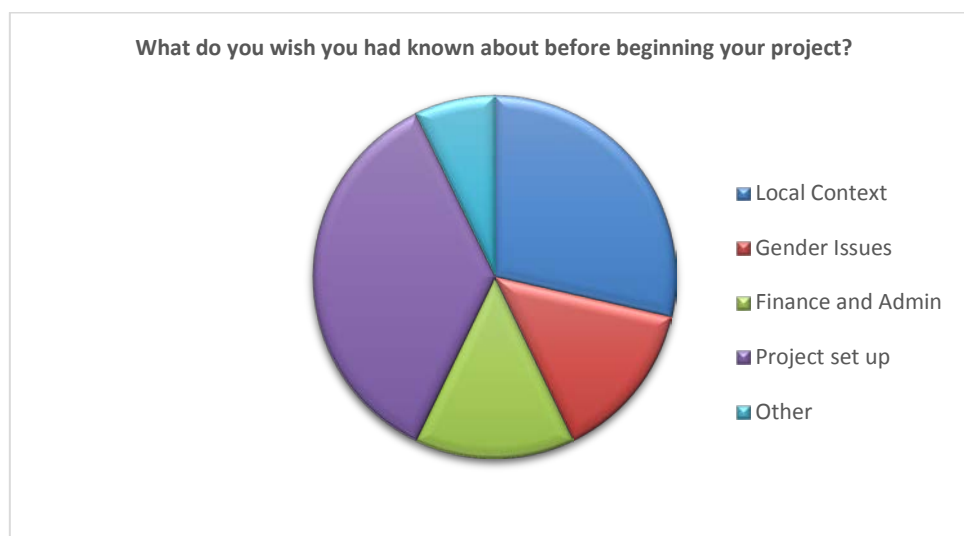
Shared Learning: A number of existing non-Darwin fora were discussed as useful platforms for data sharing. Potential Darwin-led fora were also discussed including TED talks for DI projects, Google groups, and Yammer, as well as the need to have the ability to undertake more complex keyword searches on the Darwin site.

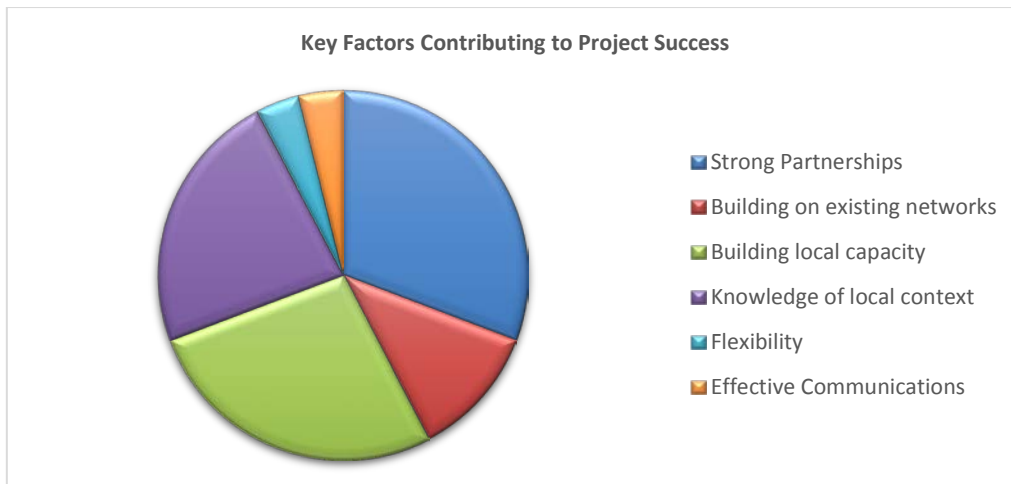
Case Study 3 – 20-015: Incentive-based management of hilsa (T. Ilisha) fishery in Bangladesh

In the final presentation from an existing project Essam Mohammed from IIED spoke about his work on hilsa fisheries in Bangladesh. He discussed the project approach and introduced the need to think 3-dimensionally when trying to influence policy i.e. consider socio-economic net benefit, political net benefit, and ecological net benefit. Adopting this approach, the Darwin hilsa project has successfully managed to achieve a number of significant changes in the policy arena.

Identifying key lessons/Group Exercise 3 – Top tips for New Projects

In addition to the presentations and discussions that took place during the day, feedback from ongoing projects was collected via email in advance of the workshop, and a number of common lessons and key tips for new projects were identified. Projects identified a number of common themes which were broadly reiterated by those present on the day, during a group exercise.





Top tips for new projects were also provided by existing DI projects. A range of useful advice was provided such as:

“Try to maximise local involvement” “Employ local people at each level. Ensure they have personal development prospects – not just cash – we all want PD.”

“Be patient... be flexible” “Be realistic about how long it will take to set up your project.”

“Contact the local British Embassy as they often have a good contact network and knowledge of other groups/projects working in the country.”

“Communicate early with the Darwin Secretariat if you need to alter aspects of your project – together you can sort it out!”

Selected Feedback on day 2

What was really useful?

Great 2 days for new projects. Made everything much clearer and less scary - Thank you!

There was a good mix of example presentations and the sessions were very participative.

Group exercises (geographic and thematic groupings) were really useful.

Great workshops, thank you. Especially great to have the opportunity to learn tips / experiences from past projects.

Honest lessons and tips from experienced projects.

Ideas for improving the workshop next time

It would be great to have a workshop for projects at the end of their 3rd year to share results.

Troubleshooting e.g. group discussions of ways to overcome common challenges like participatory data gathering or changing behaviours.

A bit more advance notice of this workshop.

I’d like to know what technical advice might be available from the DI expert committee.

Other comments

Hold more workshops like this. It was really good to share the experience among the DI community.

Can we consider doing similar workshops but closer to project implementation sites?

Include a session on M&E methods: mixed methods (social) biodiversity monitoring, habitats, participatory monitoring.

Attendance List

Day 1

Name	Project Title	Email
Alex Bond	DPLUS053: Project Pinnamin: conserving northern rockhopper penguins on Tristan da Cunha	Alex.bond@rspb.org.uk
Alex Hipkiss	23-029: Investing in agroforestry options for forest restoration in Indonesia	alex.hipkiss@rspb.org.uk
Alexandra Zimmermann	23-013: Living with Tigers in Nepal: poverty reduction for human-wildlife coexistence	a.zimmermann@chesterzoo.org
Amy Burden	23-007: Safeguarding Mesoamerican crop wild relatives	amy.burden@iucn.org
Ana Nuno	23-012: Improving Marine Biodiversity and Livelihood of coastal communities in Principe	a.m.g.nuno@exeter.ac.uk
Barbara Goettsch	23-007: Safeguarding Mesoamerican crop wild relatives	barbara.goettsch@iucn.org
Becky Graham	21-007: Livelihoods in the balance - protecting Cambodia's remaining seasonally-inundated grasslands	rebecca.graham@wwt.org.uk
Bhaskar Adhikari	23-031: Science-based interventions reversing negative impacts of invasive plants in Nepal	b.adhikari@rbge.org.uk
Cath Tayleur	23-017: Building resilient landscapes and livelihoods in Burkina Faso's shea parklands.	cath.tayleur@birdlife.org
Cathy Dean	23-030: Harmonizing land use in Save Valley Conservancy, south-eastern Zimbabwe	cathy@savetherhino.org
Charity Payton	22-010: Enhancing management and benefit flows in Vietnam's wild medicinal products	charity.payton@traffic.org
Charlotte Couch	23-002: Important Plant Areas in Guinea-Conakry	
Chris Birkinshaw	23-004: Ex-situ conservation of threatened plants from the Ivoloina-lfontsy valleys, Madagascar	chris.birkinshaw@mobot-mg.org
David Thomas	23-016: Yerba mate – a market-driven model for conserving Paraguay's Atlantic Forest	David.Thomas@birdlife.org
Freya St John	23-029: Investing in agroforestry options for forest restoration in Indonesia	f.a.v.stjohn@kent.ac.uk
Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka	23-023: Can health investments benefit conservation and sustainable development?	gladys@ctph.org
Helen Pitman	DPLUS041: Creating a Terrestrial Action Plan for the Chagos Archipelago	helen.pitman@chagos-trust.org
Julia Baker	23-019: Achieving No Net Loss for communities and biodiversity in Uganda	julia.baker@pbworld.com
Kazutomo Yokoya	23-034: Edible wild orchid trade: sustaining livelihoods and biodiversity in Zambia	k.yokoya@kew.org
Keith Hamer	23-021: Promoting biodiversity in sustainable oil-palm landscapes for West African smallholders	K.C.Hamer@leeds.ac.uk
Louis Phipps	23-022: Developing Long-term Stakeholder Capacity for Elephant Conservation in Mali	
Maria Chubb	23-002: Important Plant Areas in Guinea-Conakry	
Maria Fitzpatrick	23-034: Edible wild orchid trade: sustaining livelihoods and biodiversity	m.fitzpatrick@kew.org
Martha Love	23-026: Domestication of the Mulanje Cedar for improved livelihoods	martha.love@bgci.org
Martin Cheek	23-002: Important Plant Areas in Guinea-Conakry	m.cheek@kew.org
Mary Rider	23-028: Connecting coastal communities for integrated seascape management in Atlántida, Honduras	mary.rider@fauna-flora.org
Matthew Struebig	23-033: Marrying community land rights with stakeholder aspirations in Indonesian Borneo	m.i.struebig@kent.ac.uk
Paul De Ornellas	23-001: Strengthening Cameroon's capacity to implement CITES	paul.deornellas@zsl.org
Paul Smith	23-026: Domestication of the Mulanje Cedar for improved livelihoods	paul.smith@bgci.org
Rob Harris	23-027: Cultural and economic incentives for endangered species conservation in Cambodia	rob.harris@fauna-flora.org
Robert Irving	20-006: Developing a sustainable marine and fisheries management plan for the Pitcairn islands	robert@sea-scope.co.uk
Ruth Bone	23-034: Edible wild orchid trade: sustaining livelihoods and biodiversity in Zambia	r.bone@kew.org
Simeon Archer	DPLUS045: Mapping Anguilla's 'Blue Belt' Ecosystem Services	simeon.archer@cefas.co.uk
Susan Canney	23-022: Developing Long-term Stakeholder Capacity for Elephant Conservation in Mali	susan.canney@zoo.ox.ac.uk
Suzanne Sharrock	23-005: Promoting the use of plant resources in research and development	suzanne.sharrock@bgci.org
Valerie de Liedekerke de Pailhe	23-013: Living with Tigers in Nepal: poverty reduction for human-wildlife coexistence	vlddp@yahoo.co.uk
Vincent Johnson	23-008: Upgrading and broadening the new South Pacific International Coconut Genebank	v.johnson@cgiar.org

Day 2

Name	Project Title	Email
Ana Nuno	23-012: Improving Marine Biodiversity and Livelihood of coastal communities in Principe	a.m.g.nuno@exeter.ac.uk
Anastasiya Timoshyna	22-010: Enhancing management and benefit flows in Vietnam's wild medicinal products	anastasiya.timoshyna@traffic.org
Andy Schofield	DPLUS028: Assessing the conservation status of yellow nosed albatross	andy.schofield@rspb.org.uk
Barbara Goettsch	23-007: Safeguarding Mesoamerican crop wild relatives	barbara.goettsch@iucn.org
Bhaskar Adhikari	23-031: Science-based interventions reversing negative impacts of invasive plants in Nepal	b.adhikari@rbge.org.uk
Billy Fairburn	22-018: Mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into community forestry in Nepal	billy.fairburn@birdlife.org
Cath Tayleur	23-017: Building resilient landscapes and livelihoods in Burkina Faso's shea parklands.	cath.tayleur@birdlife.org
Cathy Dean	23-030: Harmonizing land use in Save Valley Conservancy, south-eastern Zimbabwe	cathy@savetherhino.org
Chris Birkinshaw	23-004: Ex-situ conservation of threatened plants from the Ivoloina-lfontsy valleys, Madagascar	chris.birkinshaw@mobot-mg.org
Essam Mohammed	20-015: Economic incentives to conserve Hilsa fish (Tenulosa Ilisha) in Bangladesh	eymohammed@iied.org
Francis Murray	21-013: Alternative livelihood opportunities for marine protected areas fisherwomen	fjm3@stir.ac.uk
Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka	23-023: Can health investments benefit conservation and sustainable development?	gladys@ctph.org
Ishana Thapa	22-018: Mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into community forestry in Nepal	ishana@birdlifenepal.org
Jack Rhodes	21-021: Enhancement of well-being and conservation in Cape Verde's biodiversity hotspots	jack.rhodes@fauna-flora.org
Julia Baker	23-019: Achieving No Net Loss for communities and biodiversity in Uganda	julia.baker@pbworld.com
Louis Phipps	23-022: Developing Long-term Stakeholder Capacity for Elephant Conservation in Mali	
Mark Watson	23-031: Science-based interventions reversing negative impacts of invasive plants in Nepal	m.watson@rbge.org.uk
Mary Rider	23-028: Connecting coastal communities for integrated seascape management in Atlántida, Honduras	mary.rider@fauna-flora.org
Matthew Gollock	21-020: Eels - a flagship species for freshwater conservation in the Philippines	matthew.gollock@zsl.org
Paul Bates	21-012: Enhancing rural livelihoods and biodiversity conservation through responsible tourism, Myanmar	pjjbates2@hotmail.com
Paul De Ornellas	23-001: Strengthening Cameroon's capacity to implement CITES	paul.deornellas@zsl.org
Rebecca Klaus	21-019: Strengthening marine protected areas and marine ecotourism benefits in Sudan	rebecca.klaus@gmail.com
Rob Harris	23-027: Cultural and economic incentives for endangered species conservation in Cambodia	rob.harris@fauna-flora.org
Robert Irving	20-006: Developing a sustainable marine and fisheries management plan for the Pitcairn islands	robert@sea-scope.co.uk
Ruth Bone	23-034: Edible wild orchid trade: sustaining livelihoods and biodiversity in Zambia	r.bone@kew.org
Sarah Arnold	22-012: Harnessing agricultural ecosystem biodiversity for bean production and food security	S.E.J.Arnold@greenwich.ac.uk
Suzanne Sharrock	23-005: Promoting the use of plant resources in research and development	suzanne.sharrock@bgci.org
Suzanne Williamson	20-018: Pesticide impacts on biodiversity in Ethiopia & agro-ecological solutions	keithtyrell@pan-uk.org
Vincent Johnson	23-008: Upgrading and broadening the new South Pacific International Coconut Genebank	v.johnson@cgiar.org