

Darwin Initiative



What makes a good application?



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Welcome!



Welcome to Stage 2 applicants from Round 27 of the Darwin Initiative!

Your panelists:



Paul Smith

- Plant Ecologist and current Secretary General at Botanic Gardens Conservation International
- 25 years experience in plants and soils of southern, central and east Africa



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 PAUL SMITH
- BOTANIC GARDENS CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL



WHO ARE THE DARWIN EXPERT COMMITTEE?

- 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

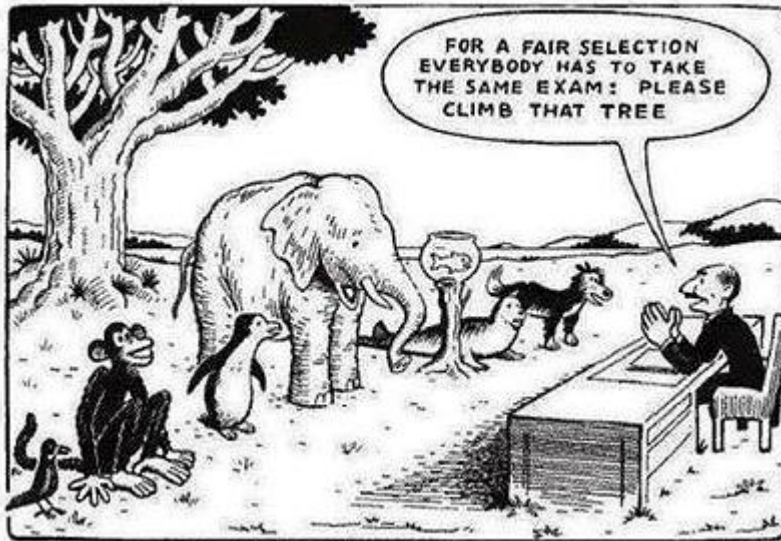




WHAT MAKES A GOOD APPLICATION?

- 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

- 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....

	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 reading summer camp. THEN	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. IF	Number of summer camps. IF	Summer camp records. AND	Parents of children with low reading proficiency are willing to send them to the camp.

KEY THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Address any feedback from Stage 1
- Title – clear but 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

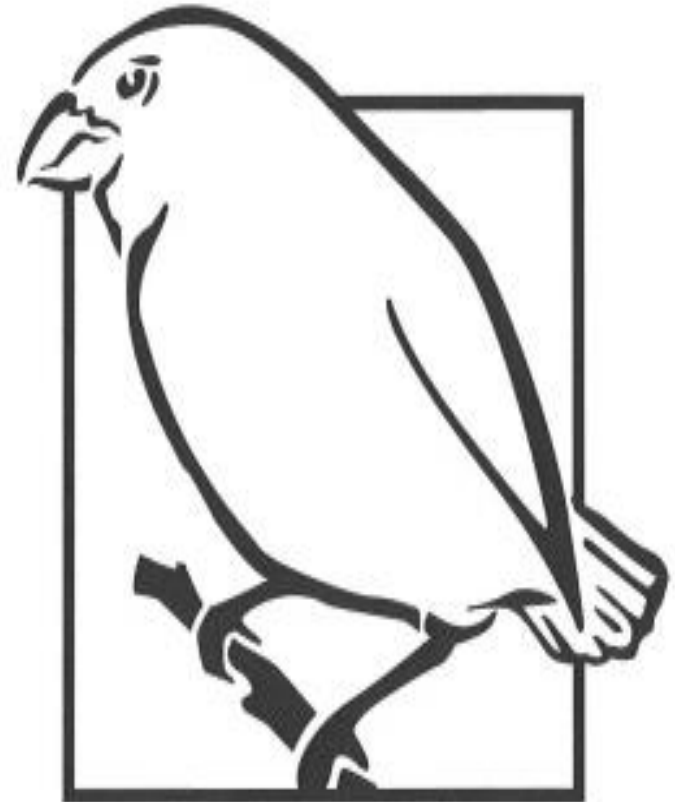


KEY THINGS TO REMEMBER

- 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!



**DARWIN
INITIATIVE**



**BOTANIC
GARDENS**
CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL



Final
Questions?

Thanks for listening!