

Darwin Plus



What makes a good application?



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Welcome!



Welcome to Stage 2 applicants from Round 9 of Darwin Plus!

Your panelists:



Brendan Godley

- Professor at the University of Exeter
- Experienced research fellow and project leader for numerous Darwin and Darwin Plus projects



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 Plus Advisory Group 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.

AVOIDING THE PITFALLS: ADVICE DERIVED FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF THE DARWIN-PLUS PANELISTS

Presenter: **Brendan Godley**

UNIVERSITY OF
EXETER





John Turner



Amanda Gregory



Edmund McManus



Martin Collins



Colin Clubbe



Martin Brasher

Read / Follow Guidance Documents carefully

- Absolutely **invaluable**
- **Key priorities** for the round
(*e.g.* Reef, seagrass, mangroves or COVID-19)
- **Key aspects** for the round
(*e.g.* capacity, pilot, natural capital)
- No project should be funded that doesn't match
- **Newsletters:** previous projects, what done and how made a difference
- Successful bids



Project planning

- For those in OTs: Do you have the full suite of **skills needed**? If not, **who will help** fill gaps?
- For those outside OTs: Consultation, buy in and true **partnership** with OT orgs and gov
- For all:
 - * Address **gender equality** aspects
 - * Address **ethics**
 - * **Real and lasting impact**. What is the exit strategy?



Relevance

- How does proposal **address the priorities** of the round?
- How was it identified?
- What change is expected?
- **International treaty requirements** (*e.g.* CBD, ACAP, CCAMLR) and/or clearly defined **local priorities** (*e.g.* Biodiversity Action Plans)
- Ensure you have **researched previous relevant work in Territory** – not good enough to be unaware of this and existing data, even if not Darwin project.
- Contact other actors to **discuss/collaborate** (especially in OT)



Project impact

- **How appropriate is the methodology** to the problem?
- Why is this the best method?
- Do proponents have **expertise/capacity to deliver?**
- Try to **provide evidence** that innovative methods are likely to work
- **Avoid** poorly articulated, detailed (or even inappropriate) methodologies
- Broad **stakeholder** buy in/well defined **exit** strategy.



Proposal writing- General

- **Don't** leave it to the last minute.
- **Budget** properly at Stage 1
- Meticulously **deal with feedback** at Stage 2
- **Answer what is asked** in each section
- **Monitoring & Evaluation** structure and ensure budget – often more than first thought
- Letters of Support need to **identify and specify actual level of support** (finance, in kind, time, space, logistics, specific equipment or knowledge)



Proposal writing- Log frame

- Basis for **budgeting** activities and project **implementation**.
- Should be viewed as a useful **tool**.
- Make sure that the **log-frame/application support/complement** each other.
- Indicators should be **SMART**
- Do not be afraid to **ask for guidance, help or support** from LTS



Proposal writing - Outputs

- Don't promise too much. **Be honest.**
- How will **publication page charges** *etc* be covered after the project?
- **Data repository needs specification** – shape and size? How can be shared?
- Some projects achieve objectives long after funded part of the project – how are these **recorded and communicated** and what is a realistic **time-line**?
- Projects that give **applicability elsewhere** are preferred.





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Put yourself in
THEIR
shoes



What is being graded?

Policy Priorities

- The project contributes to the priority issues for Round 9
- The project demonstrates measurable environmental and/or climate change outcomes
- The project contributes to the delivery of existing commitments such as those set out within the Joint Ministerial Council (JMC) Communiqués or individual Territories, national biodiversity strategies, environmental action plans and roadmaps, or equivalent
- The project has good local ownership, as evidenced by commitment from relevant local stakeholders including UKOT Governments
- The project outcomes will contribute to embedding good environmental decision-making in UKOT policies and processes

view online www.darwininitiative.org.uk

What is being graded?

Impact

- The project applicant has the capacity and capability to deliver the project
- The project contributes to environmental goods and services within the UKOT(s)
- The project is sustainable – the outcomes will be sustained after the funding is finished, including building capacity within the UKOT(s)



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What is being graded?

Technical Excellence

- The project has been well-planned and has a clear goal, purpose and outputs. The activities are practical and achievable. The risks are identified and well managed.
- The monitoring and evaluation plan ensures changes are measureable and exhibits a clear understanding of the evidence needed to demonstrate these changes. A well-defined exit strategy is in place from the start of funding.
- The project represents value for money



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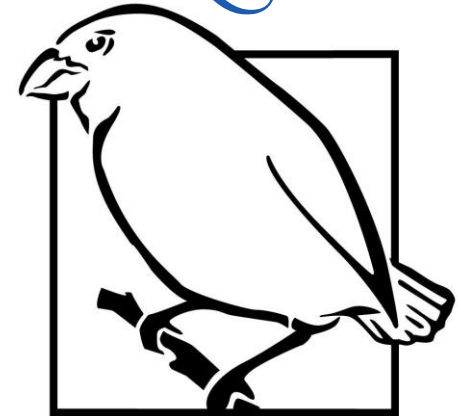
Thank you for listening!




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Final
Questions?

Thanks for listening!