Darwin Plus

What makes a good application?

Welcome!

Welcome to Stage 2 applicants from Round 10 of Darwin Plus!

Your panelists:

Amanda Gregory

- Senior Overseas Territories Advisor at Joint Nature Conservation Committee
- Former EU Life focal point, including project evaluation and support
- Experienced policy advisor with history of working in the environmental services industry in the UK Overseas Territories

Kelly Forsythe

- Technical and Admin support to the Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus and Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund (IWTCF)
- Day to day contact with all IWTCF projects

Victoria Pinion

- Technical support to the Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus and IWTCF
- Supports applicants and projects across all funds

Key contact for application queries: **Darwin-Applications@ltsi.co.uk**
Flexi-Grant specific queries: **Flexigrant@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 Chat.

What makes a good application

Darwin Panel

Guidance documents

Project development

Project relevance

Project impact

Proposal writing
- General
- What you will need to demonstrate
- Logical Framework
- Outputs

Project Evaluation
- Policy
- Impact
- Technical excellence

Hidden timetable

Top tips

Darwin Plus Advisory Group

John Turner

Amanda Gregory

Edmund McManus

Jonathan Hall

Martin Collins

Colin Clubbe

Martin Brasher

Brendan Godley

Guidance documents

- Read the guidance documents

- Key priorities for Darwin Plus (eg pilot, terrestrial, capacity, collaboration with OT Governments, partnerships with NGOs)

- Key aspects for the round (eg coral, seagrass, mangroves, wetland restoration, conservation, INNS, waste management – plastics, CC mitigation & adaptation, BAP/EAP)

- Look at past project applications

- Newsletters

https://dplus.darwininitiative.org.uk/apply/

Project development

- **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 governments

- **For all**:

  * Address **gender equality** aspects

  * Address **ethics**

  * Address **safeguarding**

  * **Real and lasting impact**

  * What is the **exit strategy**?

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Project relevance

- **Address the Darwin Plus priorities**

- **International treaties** (*e.g.* CBD, Ramsar, ACAP, CCAMLR)

- **OT Government priorities** (*e.g.* Biodiversity Action Plans)

- **Research previous relevant work**

- **Partnerships and collaborations**
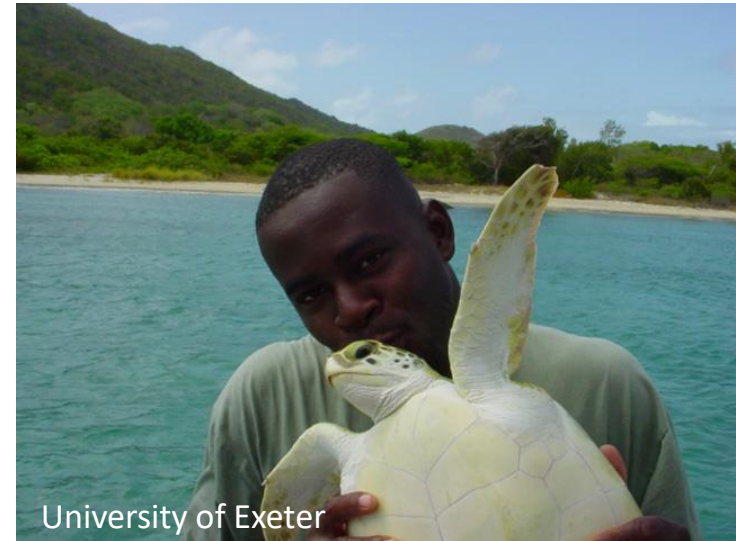

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Project impact

- What is the change your project bringing about?

- Who will benefit from the project?

- **How appropriate is the methodology** to the problem?
    - Why is this the best method?
    - Be concise and don't over complicate

- Do partners have **expertise/capacity to deliver?**

- Try to **provide evidence** that innovative methods are likely to work

- Broad **stakeholder** buy in / well defined **exit** strategy.

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Proposal Writing - General

- **Don't** leave it to the last minute

- **Budget** properly at Stage 1

- Letters of Support need to **identify and specify actual level of support** (finance, in kind, time, space, logistics, specific equipment or knowledge

- Respond to **feedback** at Stage 2

- **Answer what is asked** in each section

- **Monitoring & Evaluation** structure and ensure budget – often more than first thought

- **Risks**: Financial and project

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What you need to demonstrate

✓ What problem are planning to solve?
✓ What is the current situation – baseline?

✓ Why is this work needed?
✓ How was the problem identified?
✓ Who is impacted?

✓ How will your project help?
✓ Cost – value for money

✓ How will you prove your project worked?
✓ Indicators – plan for regular deliverables

Environmental Problem

Objectives

Actions

Results

Logical Framework

- Defines **scope** of your project (what's in and what's out)

- Sets out all the elements of the project and links between them

- Master tool:
    - Basis for **budgeting** activities
    - project **implementation plan**
    - **Monitoring and evaluation plan**

- Framework against which evaluate project progress

- 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 NIRAS-LTS

Inputs → Activities → Outputs → Outcome → Impact

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? Access?

- 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.

Darwin Plus Advisory Group

John Tur...
Jonathan Hall
Martin Collins
Colin Clubbe
Martin Brasher
Brendan Godley

PUT YOURSELF IN OUR SHOES

Project evaluation - Policy

- The project contributes to the **priority** issues for Round 10

- 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

Project evaluation - 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)

Project evaluation – 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 measurable 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

view online **www.dplus.darwininitiative.org.uk/apply/**

Hidden timescales

Pre-application screening

Partners agreeing final text

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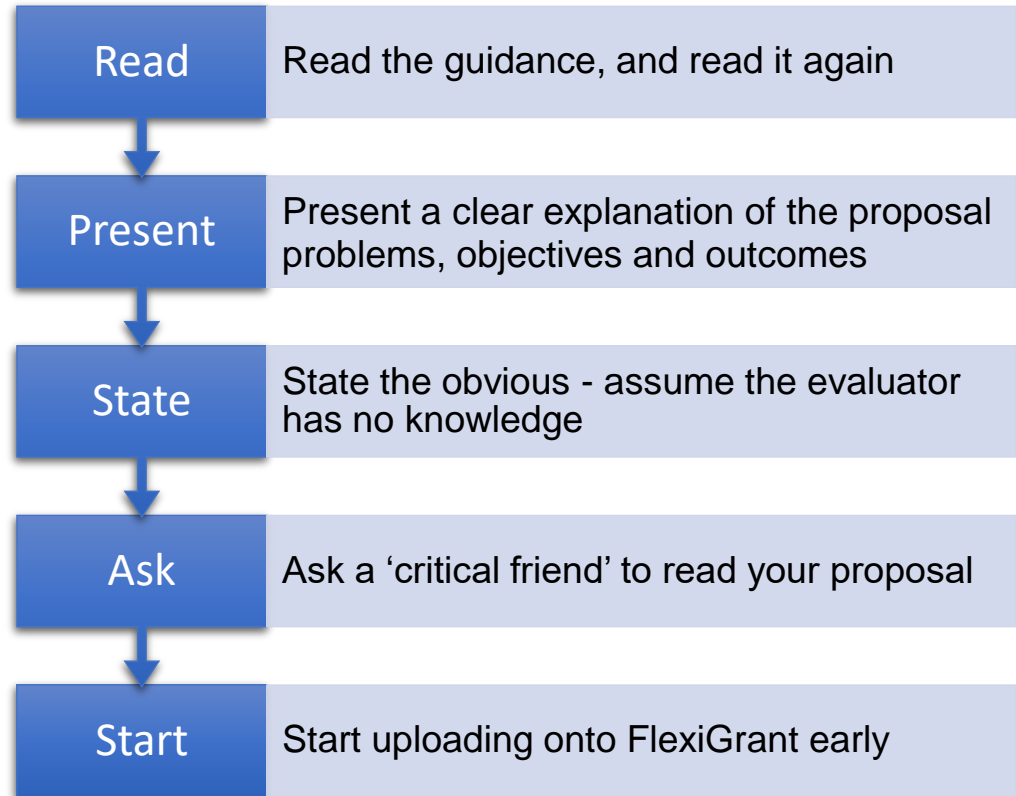sign off
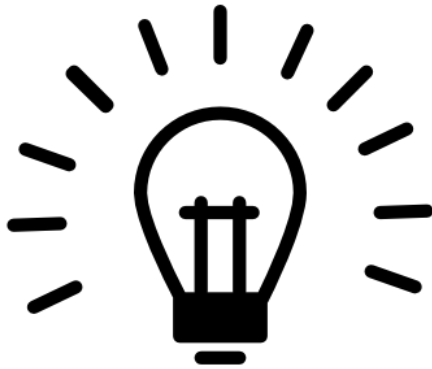
Confirming match funders commitment

&

sign off

Completing the financial forms

System issues

Top Tips

Read	Read the guidance, and read it again
Present	Present a clear explanation of the proposal problems, objectives and outcomes
State	State the obvious - assume the evaluator has no knowledge
Ask	Ask a 'critical friend' to read your proposal
Start	Start uploading onto FlexiGrant early

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Thank you for listening

Questions?

Stay connected

- Amanda.Gregory@JNCC.gov.uk

-   www.jncc.gov.uk

www.linkedin.com/company/jncc

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twitter.com/JNCC_UK

Thanks for listening!