

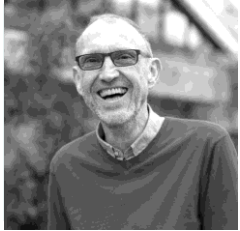


Darwin Plus - R14

Stage 2 Webinar : What makes a good application?



Welcome!



Colin Clubbe

Botanist with more than 30 years' experience working on the conservation of island floras with more than 20 of those working with UKOTs
Member of the Darwin Plus Advisory Group (DPAG)



Esme Hedley

Biodiversity Challenge Funds (BCFs) Communications and Capabilities & Capacity Building Assistant



Sara Michans-Pujadas

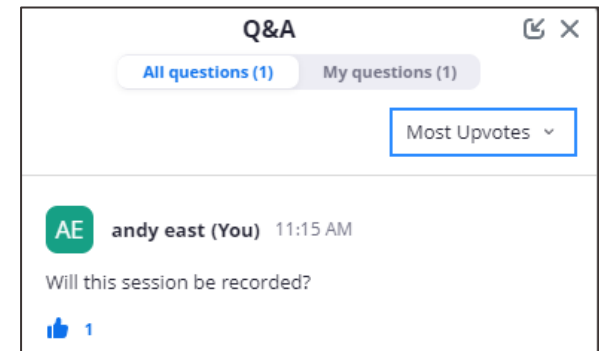
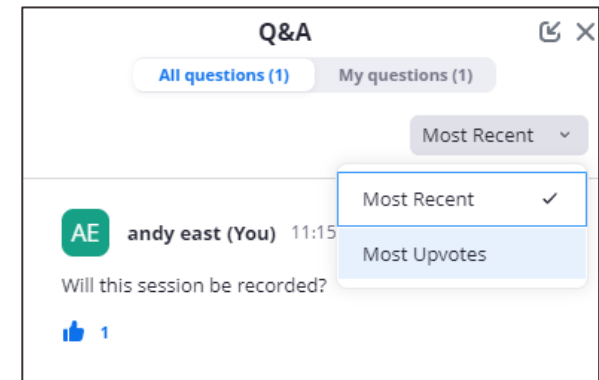
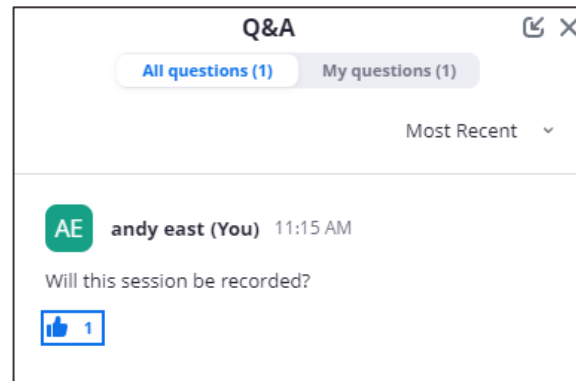
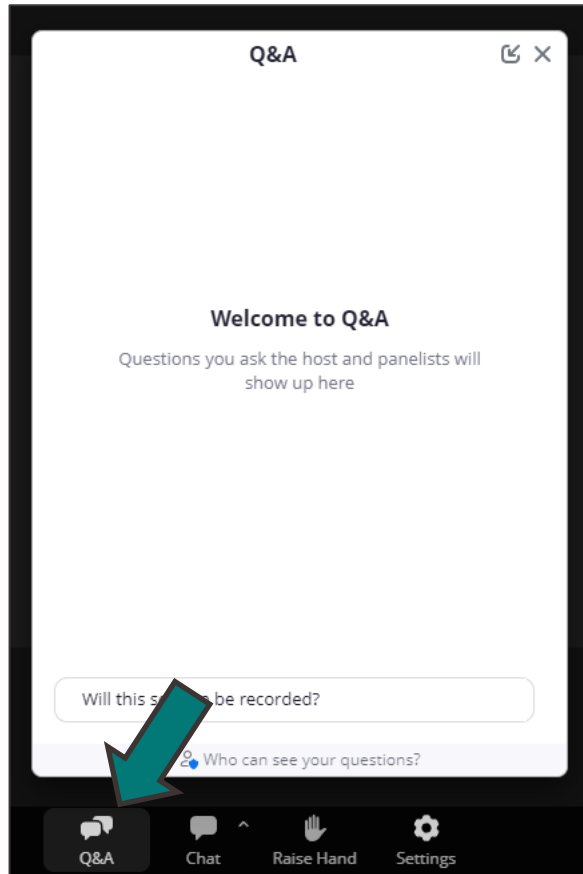
BCFs Deputy Project Manager and Senior Grant Administrator
Focal point for Darwin Plus



Eilidh Young

BCFs Lead Administrator

Housekeeping – Q&A





Colin Clubbe – Darwin Plus Advisory Group Member



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



What makes a good Darwin Plus application?

Colin Clubbe
Darwin Plus
Advisory Group



What makes a good application?

Talk Outline



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

Top tips

Darwin Plus Advisory Group



Members:

- **Chair:** Howard Nelson
- **Technical Experts** (Members with UKOT knowledge or experience):
 - Colin Clubbe, Jonathan Hall, Lee Hardy, Farah Mukhida, Debbie Pain, Nancy Pascoe, Tara Jane Sutcliffe, Sam Weber.
- **Ex Officio Members**
 - Amanda Gregory, JNCC
 - Sara Bárrrios, RBG Kew
- **FCDO**

<https://darwinplus.org.uk/about-us/darwin-plus-advisory-group/>

Guidance Documents

****Read the Guidance Documents carefully and FOLLOW THEM****

<https://darwinplus.org.uk/how-to-apply/main-applications/>



Guidance Documents

Four Themes:

- **Biodiversity:** improving and conserving biodiversity, and slowing or reversing biodiversity loss and degradation;
 - **Climate change:** responding to, mitigating and adapting to climate change and its effects;
 - **Environmental quality:** improving the condition and protection of the natural environment;
 - **Capability and capacity building:** enhancing the capacity within OTs to support the environment.
-
- Preference will be given to projects implementing existing identified environmental solutions on the ground.
 - Research and scoping work in projects should be clearly justified.
 - It should be clear why new research is needed and how it will be applied to achieve meaningful environmental outcomes on the ground.



Project Development

- **Within Territory**
 - Do you have **the skills and personnel needed**? If not, **who will help**?
- **For Those Outside OTs:**
 - **Consultation**, buy in and true **partnership** with OT organisations and all relevant OT govt departments
 - Be **demand-led** not supply-led!
 - **Maximise** in-Territory spending
- **For All:**
 - **Understand and build** on other projects/work
 - Address **gender equality** - not just a list of staff genders
 - **Real impact** - not just a report 'for decision-makers'. How will you ensure actual change? Science alone is not enough.
 - What is the **exit strategy**?



Explain Project Relevance

- **Address Darwin Plus theme/s**
- **International treaties**
(e.g. CBD, Ramsar, ACAP, CCAMLR)
- **OT Biodiversity Strategy**
- **OT Government Priorities**
(e.g. Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP))
- **Explain Timeliness/ Urgency**
(there are 100s of actions in a BAP, why now?? Has something changed? Gaps/opportunities etc?)



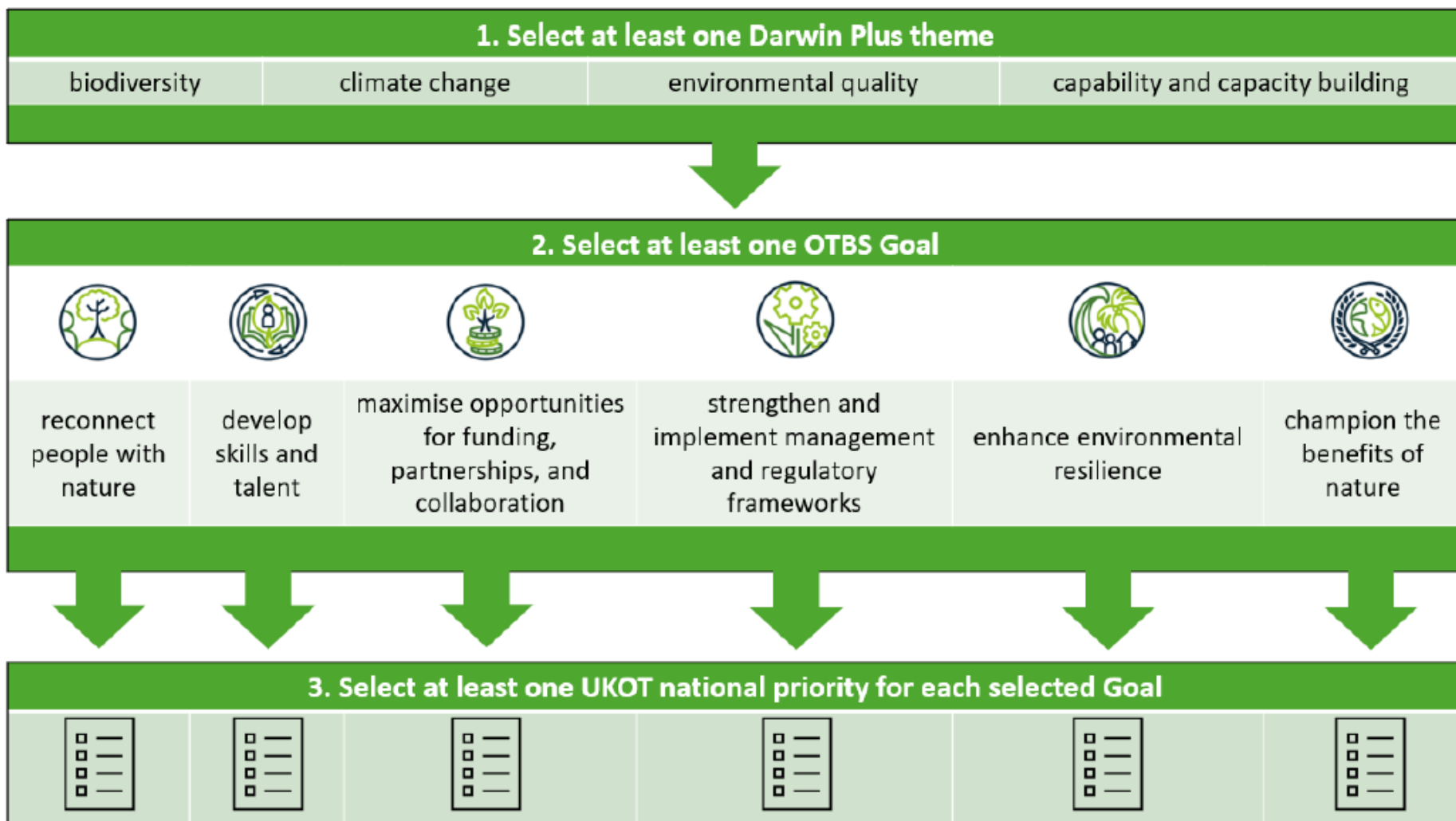


Figure 3: A diagram displaying how projects must align with the Darwin Plus themes and the Goals and national priorities outlined in the OTBS.

Project Impact

- What **on the ground change** will you bring about?
- Who will realistically **benefit**?
- Does the **methodology** fit the problem?
- Why is yours the **best method**?
- If policy or cultural changes are needed, are your methods informed by political or social science? Who will be the advocates?
- Do partners have **expertise/capacity** to deliver?
- Can you **evidence** that innovative methods are likely to work?
- Broad **stakeholder buy in** achieved / achievable?
- Credible and sustainable **exit strategy** for a small island e.g. very unlikely to be sufficient local capacity for long-term monitoring of every Darwin projects' focus species, habitats or parameters



Proposal Writing

- **Don't** leave it to the last minute
- **Budget** properly at Stage 1 and **refine** at Stage 2
- **Kick the tyres on your budget** – often more than first thought
- Think about what **OT Govt Depts** might be relevant e.g. Planning
- Letters of Support need to **specify actual level of support** (finance, in kind, time, space, logistics, political)
- Respond methodically to **feedback** at Stage 2
- Explain how it **fits** with other active / completed Darwin projects
- **Answer what is asked** in each section, aiming to use all available word count
- **Risks:** Financial and project



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



Logical Framework

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

(Therefore, great starting place to work with partners and ensure all are on same page)

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

Master tool:

- Basis for **budgeting** activities, project **implementation plan** & the **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**. Outputs are not activities.

Do not be afraid to **ask for guidance, help** or **support** from NIRAS



Proposal Writing – Long-Term Outputs

- Don't promise too much. **Be honest.**
- Some projects achieve objectives long after funded part of the project:
 - how are these **recorded and communicated** and what is a realistic **time-line**?
 - what **commitments** can project partners make to post-project implementation?
- How will **final reporting writing** and **publication page charges** *etc* be covered after the project ends?



Project Evaluation

- Each project will be **scored** by **3 members** of the DPAG according to published criteria.
- **Put yourselves in our shoes.**
- **Note** that most likely at least one of your reviewers has never visited the Territory concerned. Context is therefore essential!



Project Evaluation- Policy Criteria

- The project implements an existing identified **environmental solution**;
- Any research or scoping work is clearly justified and shows how it will be applied for **meaningful environmental outcomes** on the ground;
- The project demonstrates **substantial measurable outcomes** in at least one of the themes of Darwin Plus, either by the end of the project's implementation or via evidenced mechanisms for post-project delivery;
- The project contributes to the delivery of **existing commitments** [...]
- The project has **good local ownership**, as evidenced by commitment from relevant local stakeholders including UKOT Governments or UKOT civil society;
- The project outcomes will contribute to **embedding good environmental decision-making** in UKOT policies and processes.



Project Evaluation- Impact Criteria

- 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;
- The project demonstrates how it will **strengthen the capability and capacity** of local partners.

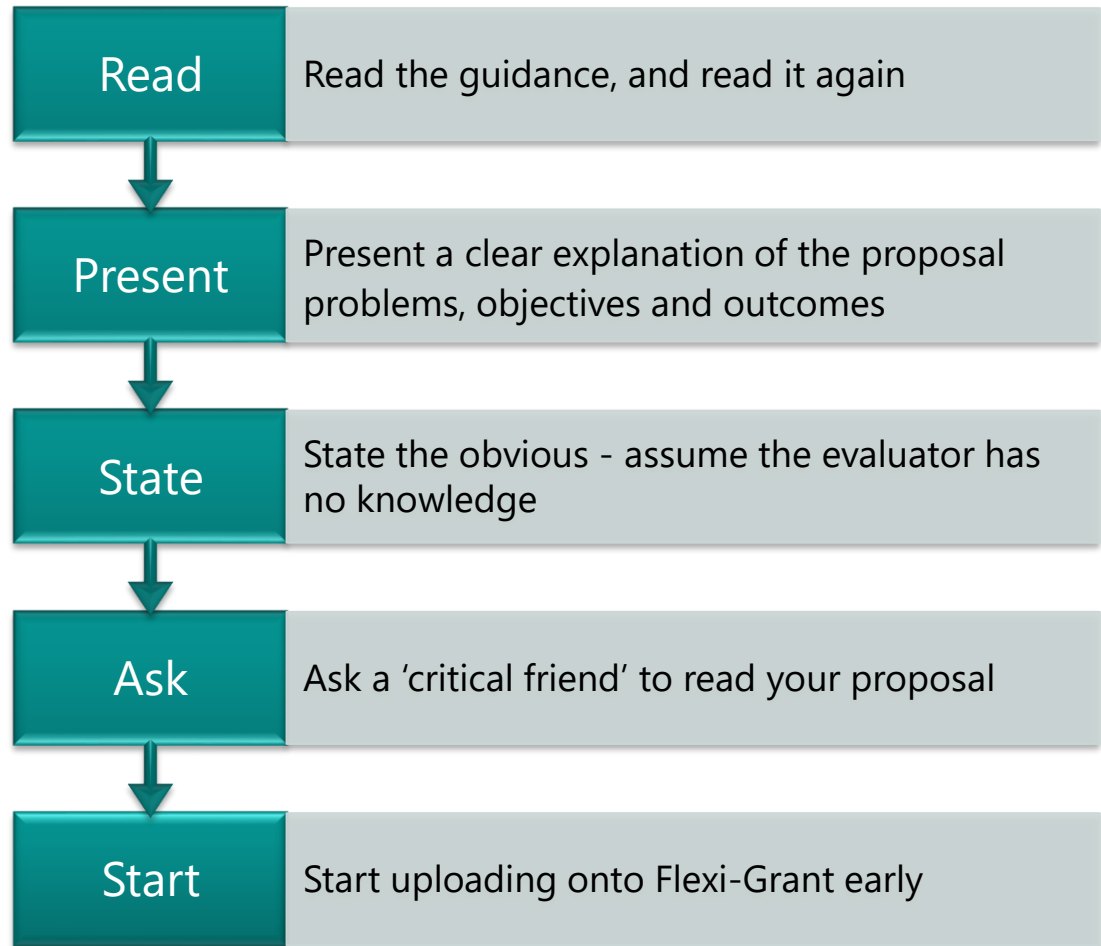


Project Evaluation - Technical Excellence

- **Well-planned** project with **clear goal, purpose and outputs**;
- Activities are **practical** and **achievable**;
- **Risks identified**, assessed and have clear mitigation actions;
- **Monitoring** and **evaluation** plan is measurable, with evidence to demonstrate change.
- How will **evidence** be shared and made publicly available;
- Well-defined **exit strategy** in place from onset;
- Project represents **value for money**;
- Risk of negative or unintended outcomes is understood and will be managed effectively;
- **Gender inequality** is understood and reflected in the design, monitoring and evaluation of the project;
- **Safeguarding** policy in place and relevant to fieldwork and the UKOT



Top Tips



Thank You

Questions



Thanks for
listening!

