



Darwin Plus Round 13

Stage 2 Webinar: What makes a good application?



Welcome!



Welcome to Stage 2 applicants from Round 13 of Darwin Plus!

Your panelists:



Nancy Pascoe

- Deputy Director for the National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands
- Member of the Darwin Plus Advisory Group



Victoria Reilly-Pinion

- BCFs Programme Manager



Andy East

- Communications and Workshops Lead for the Biodiversity Challenge funds

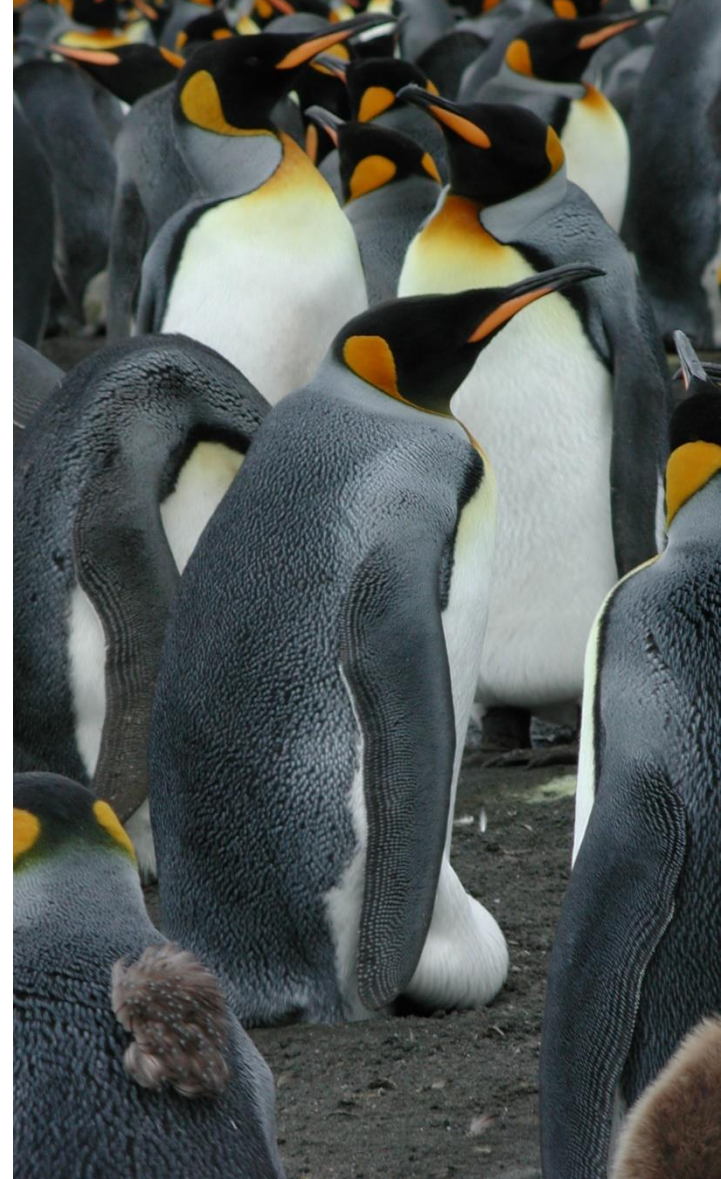
Key contact for application queries: [**BCF-DPLUS@niras.com**](mailto:BCF-DPLUS@niras.com)

Flexi-Grant specific queries: [**BCF-Flexigrant@niras.com**](mailto:BCF-Flexigrant@niras.com)

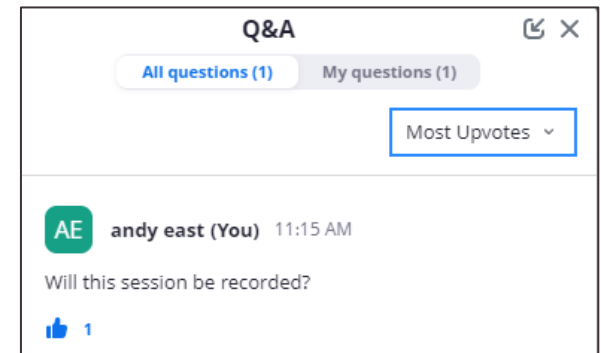
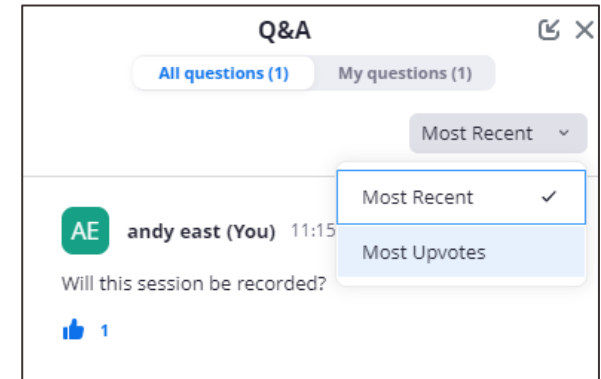
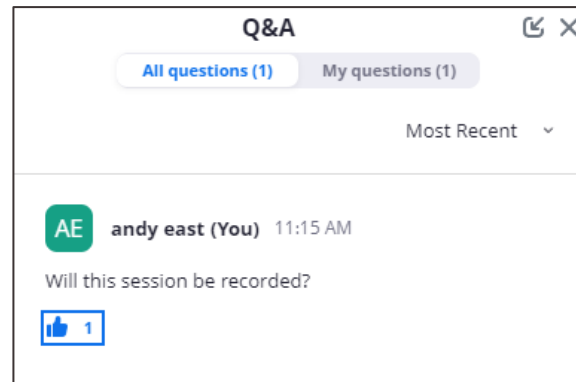
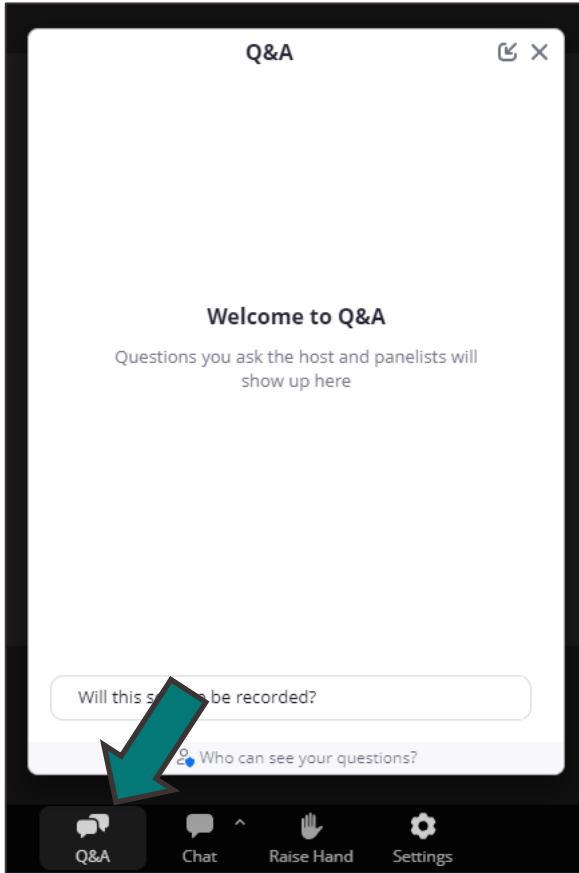
Agenda



- Welcome
- Darwin Plus Advisory Group Member Presentation
- Questions



Housekeeping – Q&A





What makes a good Darwin Plus application?

Nancy Pascoe
National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands



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

Top tips

Darwin Plus Advisory Group



Members:

- **Chair:** Howard Nelson
- **FCDO**
- **UK Government Agency Members:**
 - Amanda Gregory, JNCC
 - Sara Barrios, RBG Kew
 - Ed McManus, Cefas
- **Technical Experts:**
 - **OT Governments:** Laura Sinclair Willis (SGSSI Govt); Nancy Pascoe (BVI Govt)
 - **Other members with UKOT knowledge or experience:** Debbie Pain, Lee Hardy, Tara Jane Sutcliffe, Colin Clubbe, Jonathan Hall, Sarah Havery

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.
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- 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 manpower 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**?



Explaining Project Relevance

- **Address Darwin Plus theme/s**
- **International treaties**
(e.g. CBD, Ramsar, ACAP, CCAMLR)
- **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?)



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
- Think about what other 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 wordcount
- **Kick the tyres on your budget** – often more than first thought
- **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 transparent criteria.
- Put yourselves in our shoes.
- In particular, remember 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

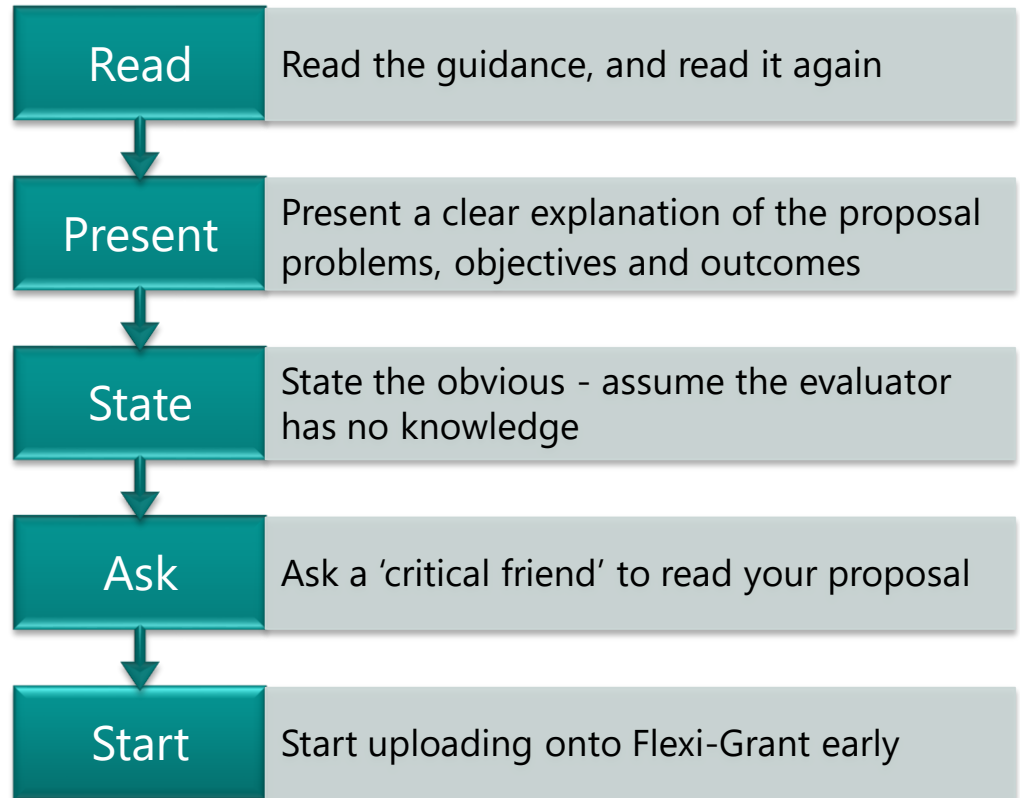
- The project applicant has the capacity and capability to deliver the project;
- The project contributes to environmental goods and services within the UKOT(s);
- The project is sustainable – the outcomes will be sustained after the funding is finished;
- The project demonstrates how it will strengthen the capability and capacity of local partners.

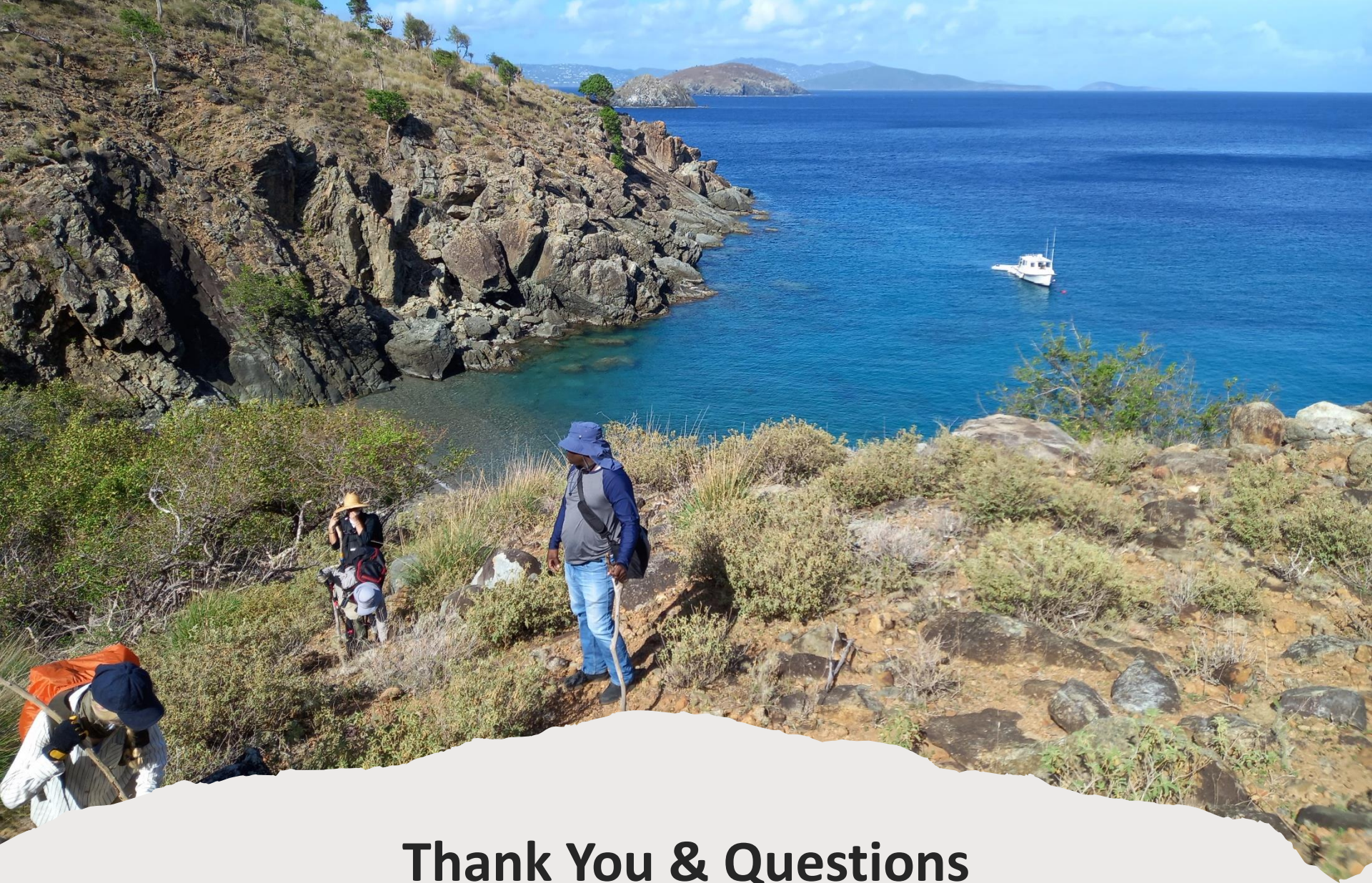


Project Evaluation - Technical Excellence

- 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!

