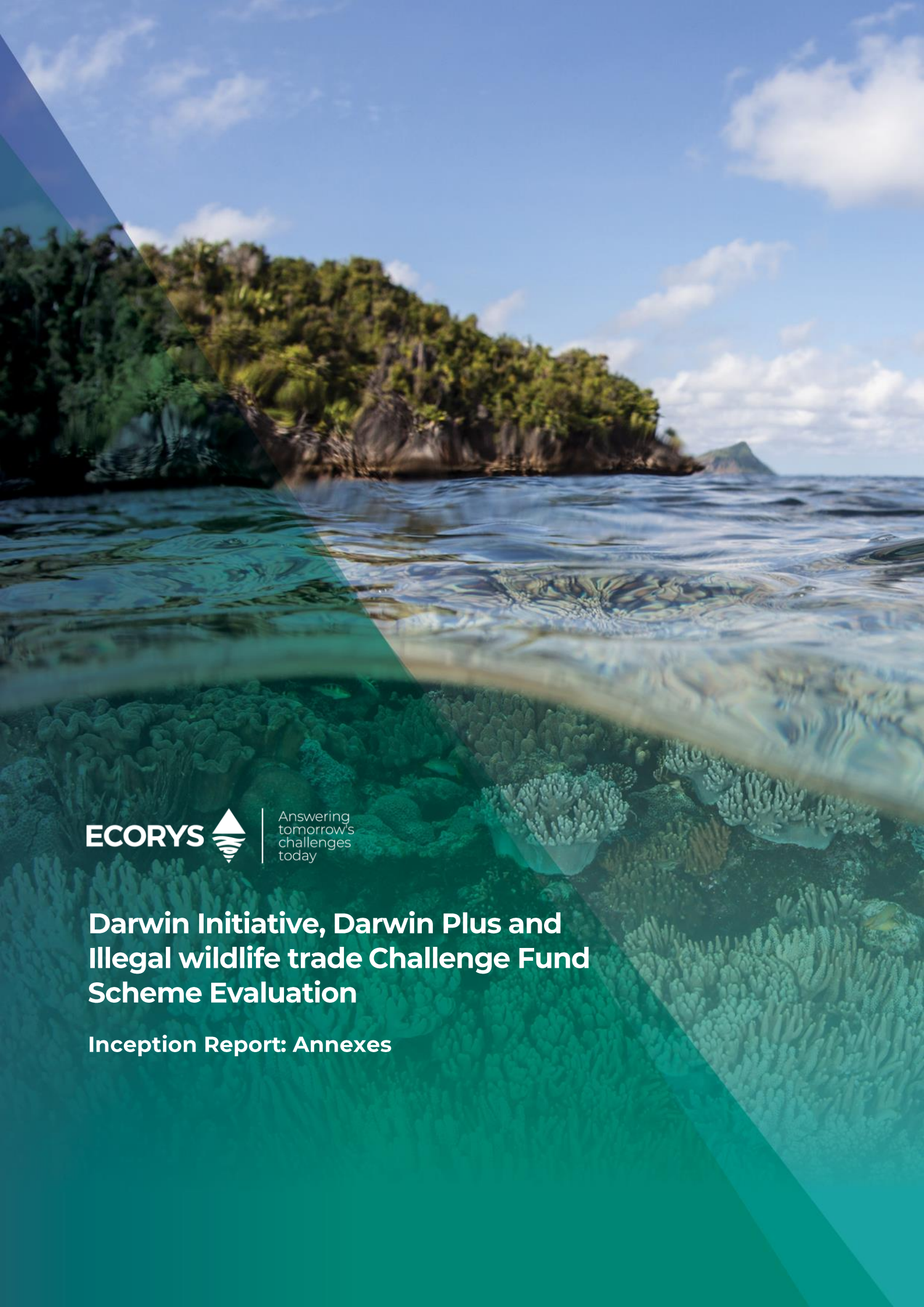

ECORYS

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Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus and Illegal wildlife trade Challenge Fund Scheme Evaluation

Inception Report: Annexes

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Annexes

These annexes serve as supplementary materials to the evaluation's inception report.

Contents

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Annex 2: Biodiversity, the illegal wildlife trade, and the schemes

In this section we provide an overview of the global biodiversity crisis and the illegal wildlife trade, details of the schemes under evaluation, and similar programmes

Biodiversity

What is biodiversity?

The United Nations (UN) has defined biological diversity, or biodiversity, as follows:

> "*'Biological diversity' means the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems*."[1]

Biodiversity is broken down into three hierarchical levels:

- Genetic diversity is all the different genes contained in all individual plants, animals, fungi, and microorganisms. It occurs within a species as well as between species.
- Species diversity is all the differences within and between populations of species, as well as between different species.
- Ecosystem diversity is all the different habitats, biological communities, and ecological processes, as well as variation within individual ecosystems.

In general, species diversity decreases as we move away from the equator towards the poles. With very few exceptions, tropical regions (latitudinal range of 23.5° N to 23.5° S) harbour more species than temperate or polar regions. For example, Colombia located near the equator has nearly 1,400 species of birds while New York at 41° N has about 105 species and Greenland at 71° N only about 56 species. The tropical Amazon rainforest in South America has the greatest biodiversity on Earth and is home to more than 40,000 species of plants.

Just like latitudinal variation, altitudinal variation also causes changes in biodiversity. A decrease in species diversity occurs from lower to higher altitudes on a mountain. A 1000 m increase in altitude results in a temperature drop of about 6.5°C. The drop in temperature and greater seasonal variability at higher altitudes are major factors that reduce biodiversity.

Biodiversity is often referred to as 'nature' or 'the natural environment', and also as 'wildlife'. While not exactly the same thing, these terms have similar meanings. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IGPES) views biodiversity within the broader concept of 'Nature', which it refers to as "the natural world, with an emphasis on biodiversity. Within the context of science, it includes categories such as biodiversity, ecosystems, ecosystem functioning, evolution, the biosphere,

[1] United Nations (1992), The Convention on Biological Diversity of 5 June 1992 (1760 U.N.T.S. 69), link.

humankind's shared evolutionary heritage, and biocultural diversity. Within the context of other knowledge systems, it includes categories such as Mother Earth and systems of life."[2]

The decline of biodiversity

The 'Great Acceleration' of social and economic activity since the 1950s has transformed humanity's relationship with the environment. Since 1950, the global population has tripled to 7.5 billion; the number of people living in cities has quadrupled to more than 4 billion; economic output has expanded 12-fold, matched by a similar increase in the use of nitrogen, phosphate and potassium fertilisers; and primary energy use has increased five-fold. The great acceleration has undoubtedly delivered major benefits, alleviating suffering and enhancing prosperity in many parts of the world. For example, the share of the global population living in extreme poverty has decreased sharply — from 42 % in 1981 to less than 10 % in 2015. Looking ahead, many of these trends are set to continue. The world's population is projected to grow by almost one third to 10 billion by 2050. Globally, resource use could double by 2060, with water demand increasing 55 % by 2050 and energy demand growing 30% by 2040.[3]

In 2019, the IGPES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services highlighted how the Earth's biodiversity has suffered a catastrophic decline in the last 50 years alongside the great acceleration, primarily due to mankind's impact. An estimated 82 percent of wild mammal biomass has been lost, while 40 percent of amphibians, almost a third of reef-building corals, more than one third of marine mammals, and 10 percent of all insects are threatened with extinction. Indeed, there is evidence that a sixth mass extinction of biodiversity is under way. Many of the changes in the global climate system observed since the 1950s are similarly unprecedented over decades to millennia. They largely result from greenhouse gas emissions from human activities, such as burning fossil fuels, agriculture and deforestation. Key drivers in descending order include changes in land and sea use; direct exploitation of organisms; climate change; pollution and invasive alien species.[4]

Both directly and indirectly, these pressures are inflicting harm on human health and well-being. The global burden of disease and premature death related to environmental pollution is already three times greater than that from AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria combined. But the continuation of the great acceleration could create even more far-reaching threats if pressures trigger the collapse of ecosystems such as the Arctic, coral reefs and the Amazon forest. Sudden and irreversible shifts of this sort could severely disrupt nature's ability to deliver essential services such as supplying food and resources, maintaining clean water and fertile soils, and providing a buffer against natural disasters.[5]

The European Environment Agency (EEA) has described the environmental situation in the European Union in 2020 as being "at a tipping point". Despite ambitious targets, Europe continues to lose biodiversity at an alarming rate and many agreed policy targets will not be achieved. Assessments of species and habitats protected under the EU's Habitats Directive show predominantly unfavourable conservation status at 60% for species and 77% for habitats. Biodiversity loss is not confined to rare or threatened species. Long-term monitoring shows a continuing downward trend in populations of common birds and butterflies, with the most pronounced declines in farmland birds (32%) and grassland butterflies (39%).[6]

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[2] IPBES (n.d.). *Conceptual framework for the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*, Decision IPBES-2/4, The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, link.
[3] European Environment Agency (2019), *The European Environment – State and Outlook 2020: Knowledge for Transition to a Sustainable Europe*, link.
[4] Brondizio E. S, Settele, J., Díaz S., and H. T. Ngo (editors) (2019), *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*, IPBES: IPBES Secretariat, link.
[5] European Environment Agency (2019), *The European Environment – State and Outlook 2020: Knowledge for Transition to a Sustainable Europe*, link.
[6] European Environment Agency (2019), *The European Environment – State and Outlook 2020: Knowledge for Transition to a Sustainable Europe*, link.

The second 'State of Biodiversity in Africa' report in 2016 concluded that biodiversity in Africa continues to decline, with ongoing losses of species and habitats, and with its freshwater ecosystems and their biodiversity being especially threatened. The continent continues to experience deforestation and forest degradation, and the negative impacts of climate change on species and ecosystems are exacerbating the effects of all these pressures.[7] Similarly, the same report concluded that the exceptional biodiversity in Asia and the Pacific continues to decline. As in Africa, the region continues to experience deforestation and forest degradation, and the negative impacts of climate change on species and ecosystems are exacerbating the effects of other pressures on Asia and the Pacific's biodiversity. The report highlights in particular the rapid growth in demand for wildlife products and the illegal wildlife trade as a key factor in biodiversity decline, and the damage caused by invasive alien species on the oceanic islands. Asia's marine ecosystems are vulnerable to growth in commercial and artisanal fisheries.[8]

The same report notes that while rates of habitat loss in Latin America and the Caribbean had slowed, they remain high overall. Declines in species abundance and high risks of species extinctions continue. The impacts on biodiversity of high concentrations of population in urban areas are particularly significant within the region, with the pressures associated with rapid economic growth and social inequities impacting the region's natural resources. Resource extraction for minerals and hydrocarbons, and the construction of large infrastructure such as dams and roads, have led to locally devastating direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity such as vegetation removal, water and soil pollution and contamination. Similarly, agricultural expansion and intensification to increase both livestock, arable and commodities production continue. Transboundary and local air pollution is now recognised as an environmental factor in human health in the region. Climate change induced impacts on coral reefs and montane habitats within the region are now being observed.[9]

International frameworks to protect biodiversity

The conservation of biodiversity is a cornerstone of sustainable development. It involves ensuring the persistence of the diversity of species and ecosystems, sustainably managing living natural resources, and maintaining healthy functioning ecosystems. Conservation also recognises that biodiversity can provide important social and cultural benefits to people, who are an integral part of these ecosystems.[10] The European Commission has quantified the global economic importance of biodiversity. It estimates that more than half of global GDP, some EUR 40 trillion, depends on nature. It identifies three economic sectors that are particularly dependent on biodiversity: food and drink, construction, and agriculture. The world already lost an estimated €3.5-18.5 trillion per year in ecosystem services from 1997 to 2011, and an estimated €5.5-10.5 trillion per year from land degradation.[11]

In October 2010, at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Nagoya, Japan, governments agreed to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity is aimed at implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The three objectives of the CBD are:

- Conservation of biological diversity
- Sustainable use of the components of biological diversity

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[7] UNEP-WCMC (2016), *The State of Biodiversity in Africa: A Mid-Term Review of Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets*, link.
[8] UNEP-WCMC (2016), *The State of Biodiversity in Asia and the Pacific: A Mid-Term Review of Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets*, link.
[9] UNEP-WCMC (2016), *The State of Biodiversity in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Mid-Term Review of Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets*, link.
[10] Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (2006), *Biodiversity in Impact Assessment, Background Document to CBD Decision VIII/28: Voluntary Guidelines on Biodiversity-Inclusive Impact Assessment*, link.
[11] European Commission (2020), *Factsheet: Economic Impact of Biodiversity*, link.

- Fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources

To build support and create momentum for the conservation of biodiversity, the United Nations General Assembly at its 65th session declared the period 2011-2020 to be the "United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, with a view to contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for the period 2011-2020". The goal of the UN Decade on Biodiversity is to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and to promote its overall vision of *living in harmony with nature*.[12]

To implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, Parties to the CBD are required to:

- review, and as appropriate, update and revise their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;
- develop national targets, using the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets as a flexible framework, and integrate these national targets into the updated NBSAPs. The national targets are developed considering national priorities and capacities with a view of also contributing to the collective efforts to reach the global Aichi Biodiversity Targets;
- adopt the updated NBSAPs as a policy instrument;
- use the updated NBSAPs for the integration of biodiversity into national development, accounting and planning processes; and
- monitor and review implementation of the NBSAPs and national targets, using indicators.

In addition to the CBD, there are a number of other related multilateral environmental agreements to protect the earth's biodiversity:

- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands: The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. It is named after the city of Ramsar in Iran, where the Convention was signed in 1971.
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES): CITES is an international agreement between governments and regional economic integration organisations, which aims is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival (see section 2.2.1).
- Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilisation (ABS): The Protocol is a supplementary agreement to the CBD. Signed in Nagoya, Japan, in 2010, it provides a transparent legal framework for the effective implementation of one of the three objectives of the CBD: the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources.
- International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA): The aims of the treaty are the conservation and sustainable use of all plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their use, in harmony with the CBD, for sustainable agriculture and food security.
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS): The CMS is a UN environmental treaty which brings together countries through which migratory animals pass, so-called 'Range States', and lays the legal foundation for internationally coordinated conservation measures throughout a migratory range.

[12] Convention on Biological Diversity (n.d.), *Taking Action for Biodiversity, Convention on Biological Diversity*, link.

Despite the ongoing emphasis since 2010 on biodiversity, the CDD Global Biodiversity Outlook 5 report published in September 2020 reports that none of the 20 Aichi biodiversity targets has been reached.[13]

A United Nations Summit on Biodiversity was held on 30 September 2020 at the level of Heads of State and Government under the theme of "*Urgent action on biodiversity for sustainable development*." The day long virtual meeting was held in order to offer Heads of State and Government and other leaders the opportunity to raise ambition for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be adopted at the 15th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Kunming, China, in 2021.[14]

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Since their adoption in 2015, the UN's SDGs have provided a high-level framework for protecting the planet and its population. The Aichi Biodiversity Targets are reflected directly in many of the targets within the SDGs. Biodiversity is explicitly highlighted in SDGs 14 (Life Below Water) and 15 (Life on Land), but also underpins a much wider set of Goals. For example, some Goals address the drivers of biodiversity loss, such as climate change (SDG 13), pollution (SDGs 6, 12 and 14) and overexploitation (SDGs 6, 12, 14 and 15). The Goals also support the underlying conditions for addressing biodiversity loss, by helping to build the necessary institutions and human capital (SDGs 3, 4. 16), enhancing gender equity (Goal 5) and reducing inequalities (SDG 10).[15]

For some commentators, however, the SDGs have not helped to avoid ongoing biodiversity loss and habitat destruction. The Global SDG Indicators Database may show countries progressing well towards environmental SDGs, but these SDG indicators have little relationship with actual biodiversity conservation, and instead better represent socioeconomic development. The indicators also fail to capture countries' 'material footprints', i.e., the quantity of natural resources that countries consume each year, and how the unsustainable levels of consumption negatively impact biodiversity. It is argued that the SDGs could "serve as a smokescreen for further environmental destruction throughout the decade".[16] Other commentators argue that leaders of country leaders, citizens and donors countries focus more on those SDGs related to human development and "turn a deaf ear to climate change and other environmental goals."[17]

The trade of illegal wildlife

At the international political level, the illegal wildlife trade (IWT) has received enormous attention in recent years. Over 18 declarations and pledges have been made in high-level political summits that included the African Elephant Summit in Botswana in 2013, the London IWT Conference in 2014, the Kasane Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade 2015, and the Hanoi Conference on IWT in 2016. The international political pressure continued as global leaders gathered at the 2018 London Conference on IWT.[18]

The IWT is an urgent global issue, which not only threatens some of the world's most iconic species with extinction, but also damages sustainable economic growth and the livelihoods of vulnerable people in rural

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[13] Convention on Biological Diversity (n.d.), *Global Biodiversity Outlook 5*, link. The Outlook report shows that none of the 20 Aichi targets have been fully achieved, although six of the targets have been partially achieved (Targets 9, 11, 16, 17, 19 and 20)
[14] UNEP (2020), *Historic UN Summit on Biodiversity Sets Stage for a Global Movement Toward a Green Recovery from COVID-19*, link.
[15] Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2020), *Global Biodiversity Outlook 5*, link.
[16] Zeng, Y, *et al* (2020), *Environmental Destruction Not Avoided with the Sustainable Development Goals*, link. And Hickel, J. (2020), *The World's Sustainable Goals Aren't Sustainable*, link.
[17] Custer, S., DiLorenzo, M., Masaki, T., Sethi, T. and A. Harutyunyan (2018), *Listening to Leaders 2018: Is Development Cooperation Tuned-in or Tone-deaf?*, link.
[18] HMG (2019). Declaration: London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade 2018, link.

communities. The European Commission has estimated that it is worth up to £17 billion per year and is the fourth most lucrative transnational crime after drugs, weapons and human trafficking. The criminals who run this trade do more than damage wildlife – they use networks of corrupt officials and agencies to undermine sustainable development and the rule of law, damaging the livelihood and growth of local communities.[19]

The IWT is diverse, ranging from live animals and plants to a vast array of wildlife products derived from them, including food products, exotic leather goods, wooden musical instruments, timber, tourist curios and medicines. Levels of exploitation of some animal and plant species are high and the trade in them, together with other factors, such as habitat loss, is capable of heavily depleting their populations and even bringing some species close to extinction. Many wildlife species in trade are not endangered, but the existence of an agreement to ensure the sustainability of the trade is important in order to safeguard these resources for the future.[20]

The IWT is increasingly recognised as both a specialised area of organised crime and a significant threat to many plant and animal species. In 2020, the UN's Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) presented its second global assessment of the state of wildlife crime. The report took stock of the wildlife crime situation with a focus on illicit trafficking of specific protected species of wild fauna and flora, and provided a broad assessment of the nature and extent of the problem at the global level. It draws heavily on the seizure data compiled in UNODC's World WISE database. This database has grown, currently containing just under 180,000 seizures from 149 countries and territories. Contributing to this growth is the new CITES illegal trade reporting requirement. Each October since 2017, CITES Parties have been required to submit data on all seizures of wildlife made in the previous year. The World WISE Database illustrates the diversity of wildlife crime. Nearly 6,000 species have been seized between 1999-2018, including not only mammals but reptiles, corals, birds, and fish. No single species is responsible for more than 5% of the seizure incidents. Virtually every country in the world plays a role, and no single country is identified as the source of more than 9% of the total number of seized shipments captured in the database. Suspected traffickers of some 150 nationalities have been identified, illustrating the fact that wildlife crime is truly a global issue.[21]

The World WISE database indicates that illegal wildlife markets do not correspond neatly to biological categories. Some markets make use of multiple species. For example, there are many tree species that are classified as "rosewood", and collectors of rare reptiles intentionally seek out multiple species. In contrast, some species feed multiple distinct markets. For example, pythons are illegally taken for their use live as pets, for their skins to make handbags and shoes, for their meat as a food, and for their organs as a traditional medicine.

The 2020 UNODC report shows several recent trends: the poaching of both elephants and rhinoceroses has consistently declined since 2011, as have the prices paid for tusks and horns. But the amount of pangolin scales seized has increased 10-fold in just five years, and new markets, such as the trafficking of European glass eels, have emerged in the wake of strengthened controls. For the first time, a consistent pattern of large shipments of unrelated wildlife products – elephant ivory and pangolin scales – has emerged. In addition, organised criminal groups in broker countries, neither the source nor the destination of the wildlife, have consolidated control of multiple markets.[22]

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[19] HMG (2019). Declaration: London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade 2018, link.
[20] CITES (n.d.), What is CITES?, link.
[21] United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2020), *World Wildlife Crime Report – Trafficking in Protected Species*, link.
[22] United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2020), *World Wildlife Crime Report – Trafficking in Protected Species*, link.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an international agreement between governments and regional economic integration organisations, such as the EU. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. States that have agreed to be bound by the CITES Convention ('joined' CITES) are known as Parties. Although CITES is legally binding on the Parties, it does not take the place of national laws. Rather it provides a framework to be respected by each Party, which has to adopt its own domestic legislation to ensure that CITES is implemented at the national level.[23]

CITES lays out rules for trade in over 35,000 protected species, and it requires its parties to penalise trade in violation of these rules. But there are many crimes affecting wildlife that have nothing to do with these species, for example:

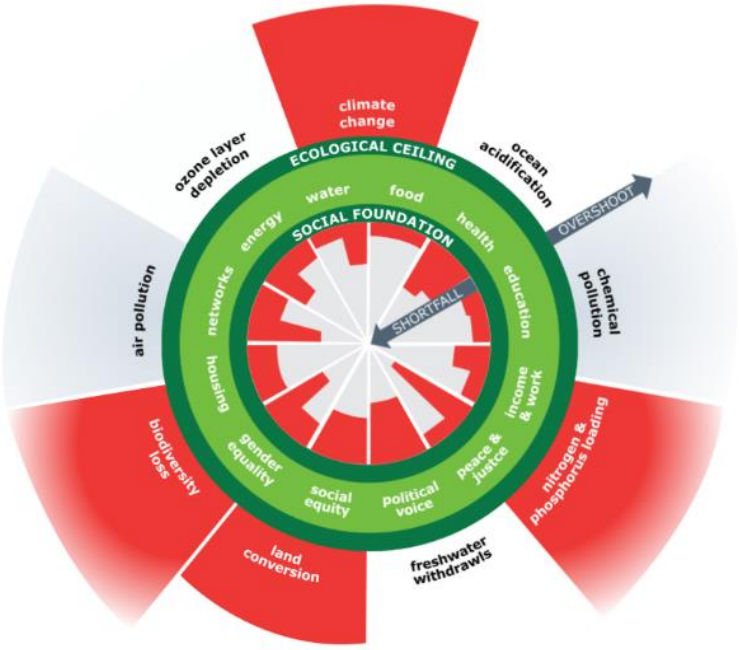
- the millions of species that are not listed by CITES may be illegally harvested and traded internationally, as is frequently the case in timber and fish trafficking;
- CITES is limited to regulating international trade, so the illegal harvesting of wildlife, such as the poaching of protected species, does not fall within its scope if the product is not transported internationally; and
- domestic markets for wildlife are also beyond its jurisdiction, whatever the source of the wildlife, so long as the products concerned cannot be proven to have crossed borders in contravention of CITES rules.

Evolving landscape of conservation programmes

Beginning in the years following World War II, international conservation programmes focussed on the protection of biodiversity by creating protected areas and selecting iconic species to represent important habitats such as giant panda for bamboo forests of China, tigers for forests, woodlands and grasslands of India, South eastern and eastern Asia, and the Andean condor for the montane habitats of the Andes in South America. Recognising that rural people must become part of the solution rather than being viewed as an external threat, the methodology of conservation began to change. Increasingly from the 1980s conservation sought to conserve biodiversity by assisting livelihoods of rural peoples and reducing their conflicts with wildlife. This larger picture is well illustrated in Kate Raworth's doughnut of social and planetary boundaries[24] which portrays the common goal of sustaining the environment (including the Earth's biodiversity) whilst pursuing social justice (figure below) The two boundaries are portrayed in the form of a green doughnut. Within the green zone, balance is achieved: biodiversity, climate, freshwater and oceans are supportive of life on Earth; at the same time, human society is afforded social justice including access to natural resources, health, education, work, income and social equity. It is within this sweet doughnut zone that modern conservation seeks to find its purchase.

[23] CITES (n.d.), What is CITES?, link.
[24] Raworth, K., (2017), *Doughnut Economics: Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st-Century Economist*, Random House.

Figure 1: The Doughnut of social and planetary boundaries



Source: Raworth (2017)

Darwin initiative, Darwin Plus and the IWTCF

Established in 1992 and in the 28 years since, the Darwin Initiative (est. 1992), Darwin Plus scheme (est. 2012), and the Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund (est. 2014) have supported 1,305 projects. Together they form a complementary and globally renowned portfolio of competitive grant funds that are a cornerstone of the UK's bilateral aid on biodiversity and thus key elements of the UK's contribution to addressing the above challenges.

The three grant schemes all contribute to meeting UK and global objectives under a number of multilateral environmental agreements, including the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The three schemes are managed by Defra and administered through an external contractor, LTS International (LTS). LTS administer the schemes and are responsible for project-level monitoring and evaluation (M&E).

The objectives of each scheme

The Darwin initiative, established at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, contributes to helping developing countries and communities rich in biodiversity but poor in financial resources. Expert stakeholders, including those on the Darwin Expert Committee, consider the Darwin Initiative to fill a distinctive niche at the nexus of sustainable land use, smallholder livelihoods, community resilience and biodiversity due to its

unique focus on community level projects in ODA-eligible countries to support this. In order to help countries and communities rich in biodiversity and poor in financial resources, the Darwin Initiative has several objectives. It aims to help countries better implement and contribute to multilateral environmental agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Ramsar Convention, and the Nagoya Protocol amongst others, as well as meeting international targets or goals such as the Aichi biodiversity targets and the Sustainable Development Goals. It also aims to enhance the capacity of host countries or territories to manage their natural resources and increase or better apply skills in biodiversity conservation. Furthermore, it aims to create an improved enabling environment to protect and sustainably manage biodiversity and natural ecosystems, improve knowledge and understanding of the importance and diverse values of biodiversity, and reduce threat levels to species and habitats.

The Darwin Initiative's objectives for 2020 in particular are based upon developing understanding and supporting action on: promoting the responsible stewardship of natural assets through sustainable use and the practice of sustainable livelihoods, both within and across borders; addressing the linkages between biodiversity and human health; tackling the impacts of agriculture practices on biodiversity, livelihoods and climate change; and promoting the sharing of benefits arising from the use of biodiversity through facilitating sustainable access to genetic resources and traditional knowledge. In addition, it aims to act on particular issues, including increasing the area of coverage and effectiveness of marine protected areas to meet global targets; understanding the capacity for blue carbon ecosystems to sequester carbon to support climate change mitigation; addressing the multiple pressures driving freshwater habitats decline such as rapid habitat loss and agriculture and industrial water use; and focusing on practical restoration methods for peatlands, especially types such as tropical peatlands.

Darwin Plus, previously the Overseas Territories Challenge Fund (est. 2009), focuses on delivering long-term strategic outcomes for the natural environment in the UK's Overseas Territories (UKOTs). Like the Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus contributes to helping the UK meet its objectives under several multilateral agreements such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Cartagena Convention for the Caribbean, and the London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution. It also helps to deliver the UN SDGs, particularly SDG 14 and SDG 15 on 'life below water' and 'life on land' respectively. To contribute to such multilateral agreements and goals, Darwin Plus aims to improve conservation, protection, or management of the marine environment around UK OTs, as well as more specific contexts such as coral reefs, seagrass meadows, mangrove forest ecosystems and wetlands. The scheme also aims to develop ecosystem-based initiatives for conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial and marine environments, such as objectives to promote sustainable fisheries and deal with invasive alien species including prevention. It also aims to enhance the implementation of National Biodiversity Action Plans, develop tools to value biodiversity and ecosystem services, and develop data systems on biodiversity including human activities that affect biodiversity. The remit of the scheme has also expanded in its aims to develop approaches to deal with the effects of climate change, particularly to respond to, and mitigate against, natural disasters; develop or improve waste management strategies with a particular focus on plastic; and most recently to develop environmental activities that respond to the effects or causes of the COVID-19, and other, pandemics. Based on these objectives, Darwin Plus further aims to develop and share its knowledge base on the above, and on community-led approaches to biodiversity and poverty alleviation.

The IWT Challenge Fund contributes to the UK government's commitments to tackling the illegal wildlife trade and to meeting the UK's objectives under the 2018 London Conference. In particular, it aims to provide sustainable livelihoods for IWT-affected communities; strengthen law enforcement or criminal justice systems, especially in supply countries; develop, adopt, or implement policy and legislation; provide training and capacity building; improve and share knowledge on IWT alongside education and awareness raising; and reduce demand for illegally traded species. The IWT Challenge Fund shares similar goals to the two Darwin funds in terms of supporting biodiversity and conservation but was created primarily to

respond to the growing realisation of the link between the illegal wildlife trade and organised crime, and the threats that this poses to countries' security and prosperity. Altogether, the three schemes fill a distinctive niche at the nexus of development and biodiversity.

Types of project

Main projects are the most common type of projects that are funded by the Darwin Initiative. These are multi-year grants that aim to build local capacity to manage local biodiversity and the natural environment for the future, securing the benefits of these natural resources for people. Darwin Plus Projects are similar to Darwin Initiative Main Projects and aim to build local capacity within UKOTs to manage their natural environment for the future. Main Projects average around £300K over an average period of three years.

Fellowship awards exist under both the Darwin Initiative and Darwin Plus schemes, providing funding to enable and support future environmental leaders and promising individuals from developing countries and UKOTs to undertake a period of training or research. This is to build their knowledge and to support their professional growth to better contribute to meeting long-term strategic outcomes for the natural environment, and also to build lasting positive relationships with UK institutions. The Darwin Initiative introduced Fellowship Awards in 2002 and has since applied this funding to individuals from developing countries to travel to a UK host organisation. Darwin Plus introduced Fellowship Awards in 2012 and has applied the funding to individuals from UKOTs to undertake training or research. Fellowship awards can be up to a maximum of £30,000 and Darwin Initiative usually sponsors 4 to 5 individuals per annum.

The Darwin Initiative's Partnership Projects, previously termed Pre-Project Awards (2002-2016) and Scoping Awards (2016-2019), are small grants used to help applicants develop robust applications through connecting applicant organisations new to Darwin with more experienced partners who have managed successful projects, as well as supporting new partnerships between different applicant organisations. These small grants are also used to assess the feasibility of a potential project, particularly with respect to a projects' potential impact and sustainability. Partnership projects usually involve a scoping visit to the host country to develop or test a workable project idea and build potential project partnerships, and intends to encourage new applicants to apply to the Darwin Initiative, and when they are successful, this should lead to recipients pursuing a main round project application. Currently, Partnership grants are up to £10,000 in funding, and Defra has received 30 applications of which 5 or 6 have been successful. The Darwin Initiative, until 2017, implemented Post-Project Awards which were used when there was justification or need for a follow-on project from a successful main round project, often where a new discrete piece of work would generate clear and additional lasting impacts to consolidate and enhance the legacy of a project. They were discontinued from 2017 onwards on advice of the Darwin Expert Committee (DEC) because they were perceived to lack impact. Furthermore, application numbers tended to be low (10-12 per annum) with only 2 to 3 approved, and in some years, there were no approved applicants.

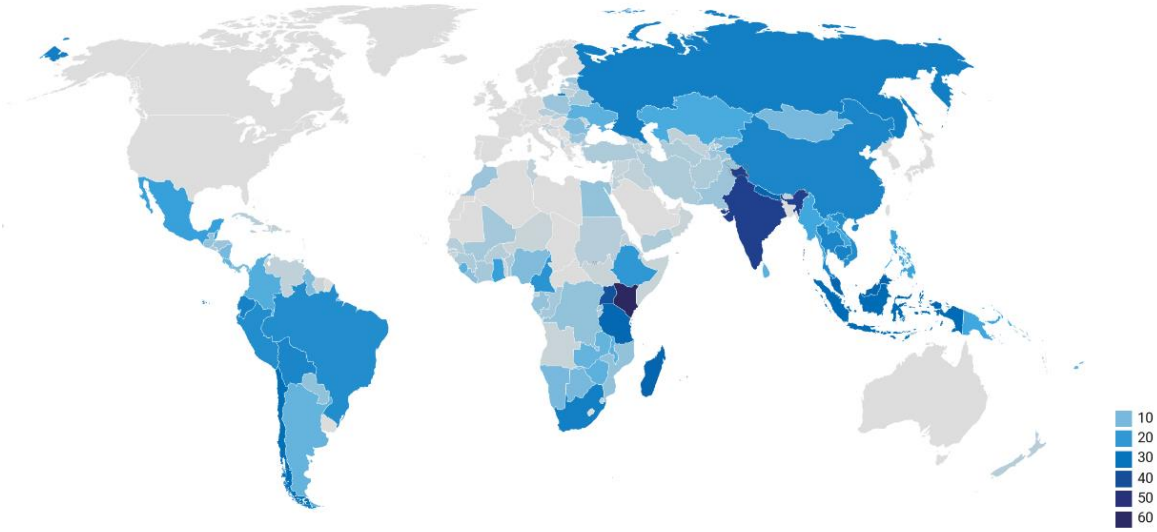
Between 2010 and 2014, the Darwin Initiative also set up an Overseas Territories Challenge Fund, which was introduced as a result of recognising the difficulties faced by UK OTs, and is a precursor to the Darwin Plus scheme. This Challenge Fund was similar to previous scoping projects, intended to provide UKOTs with the opportunity to carry out longer-term and projects by ensuring that main projects were better grounded and likely to sustain gains through assessing their likely degree of success and to carry out some pilot implementation work.

The IWT Challenge Fund has its own project award category and provides financial support to practical projects intended to tackle the illegal wildlife trade. Challenge Fund projects have an average value of around £300K and an average duration of 3 years. 52 projects have been completed and 48 projects are currently being implemented.

The organisations that have been awarded the most grants since the beginning of the schemes are: Fauna and Flora International (66), Zoological society of London (65), Royal Botanical Gardens Kew (50); Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (46); Natural History Museum (45), University of Oxford (43), Royal Botanical Gardens Edinburgh (36), Wildlife Conservation Society (33), Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (28), Bangor University (20) IIED (18), CABI International (17), Birdlife International (30) , Botanic Gardens Conservation International (16), WWF(14), Durrel Wildlife Conservation Trust (13), University of Exeter (13), University of Reading (13), University of Aberdeen (12) Field Studies Council (12), Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (12).

Since 1992, the three schemes have funded 1,305 projects in at least 159 countries. The Darwin Initiative has funded 1,086 projects, Darwin Plus has funded 121 projects, and the IWT Challenge Fund has funded 85 projects in total. These countries are displayed in the map below.

Figure 1: Map of programme countries



The funding of schemes over time

To date the Darwin Initiative has been allocated £175.6m of funding to support 1,220 projects in 159 countries (including Darwin Plus). The Darwin Initiative has completed 937 projects to date, with 127 projects currently being implemented, and a further 17 projects have recently been announced with £5.7m in funding under the latest round. To date, Darwin Plus has funded 122 projects worth £22.9m so far, with 63 projects completed, 59 projects currently being implemented, and a further 21 projects recently announced with £5.2m in funding under the latest round. The IWT Challenge Fund, to date, has been allocated £27.5m of funding to support 85 projects, with around 15 funded annually. 37 projects have been completed and 48 projects are currently being implemented.

In 2011, FCDO (then FCDO) started co-funding Darwin projects (via Defra) and Official Development Assistance (ODA) eligibility requirements were introduced to the schemes. ODA funding required Darwin projects to directly enhance the welfare and economic development of poor people with objectives addressing poverty alleviation and gender equality alongside improving biodiversity and conservation in countries on the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list of ODA eligible countries. When FCDO began co-funding Darwin projects between 2011 and 2015, non-ODA eligible countries could still be

funded using Defra funds. However, since 2015, when Defra secured ODA funding for Darwin directly from the Treasury, only ODA eligible projects can be funded. Since the IWT Challenge Fund's establishment in 2014, it has been funded entirely using ODA. Darwin Plus is funded through a combination of ODA and non-ODA funding due to its focus on the UK's 14 Overseas Territories, which are mostly not eligible for ODA funding. In 2020, ODA-eligible UKOTs received funding through the Darwin Initiative, and Darwin Plus only funded those UKOTs that were not ODA eligible and therefore Darwin Plus projects are not bound by the DAC ODA requirements.

The history of the Darwin Initiative reflects the same evolution as the wider conservation movement, moving from its original goal in 1992 when it focussed on threatened species and habitats, as proclaimed by its title 'Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species', to the more diverse focus of today which incorporates biodiversity, livelihoods, the UN sustainable development goals, and UN climate change goals.

The lifecycle of a funding round

The application and project cycles for the Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus, and IWT Challenge Fund grant schemes share the following common stages:

A competitive call for proposals is released annually for each scheme. Within proposals, grant applications must demonstrate the following. First, all projects must fulfil the requirements of the scheme they are applying for. Second, all grant applications across all schemes are required to detail a logical framework with intended outputs, outcomes and impacts in their proposals. From 2007 onwards, projects were required to develop a framework to improve transparency and accountability for public spending in line with guidance from the Independent Commission for Aid Impact and the International Aid Transparency Initiative. From 2011 onwards, FCDO's co-funding of Darwin projects required changes to processes including a review of the monitoring and evaluation framework to enable the Darwin Initiative to meet FCDO's obligations under the UK's International Development Act. Third, grant applications across all schemes must demonstrate good value for money in terms of the scale of impact expected relative to cost inputs including: strong budget management, efficient use of funding to deliver desired outputs, how this will be effective in leading to intended outcomes, the sustainability of the planned intervention, and equitable distributions impact. Finally, all grant applications should follow guidelines on ethics, safeguarding, fraud, bribery, corruption, security considerations and political sensitivities. After proposals are received applications are screened on the basis of the criteria listed above using a common assessment process.

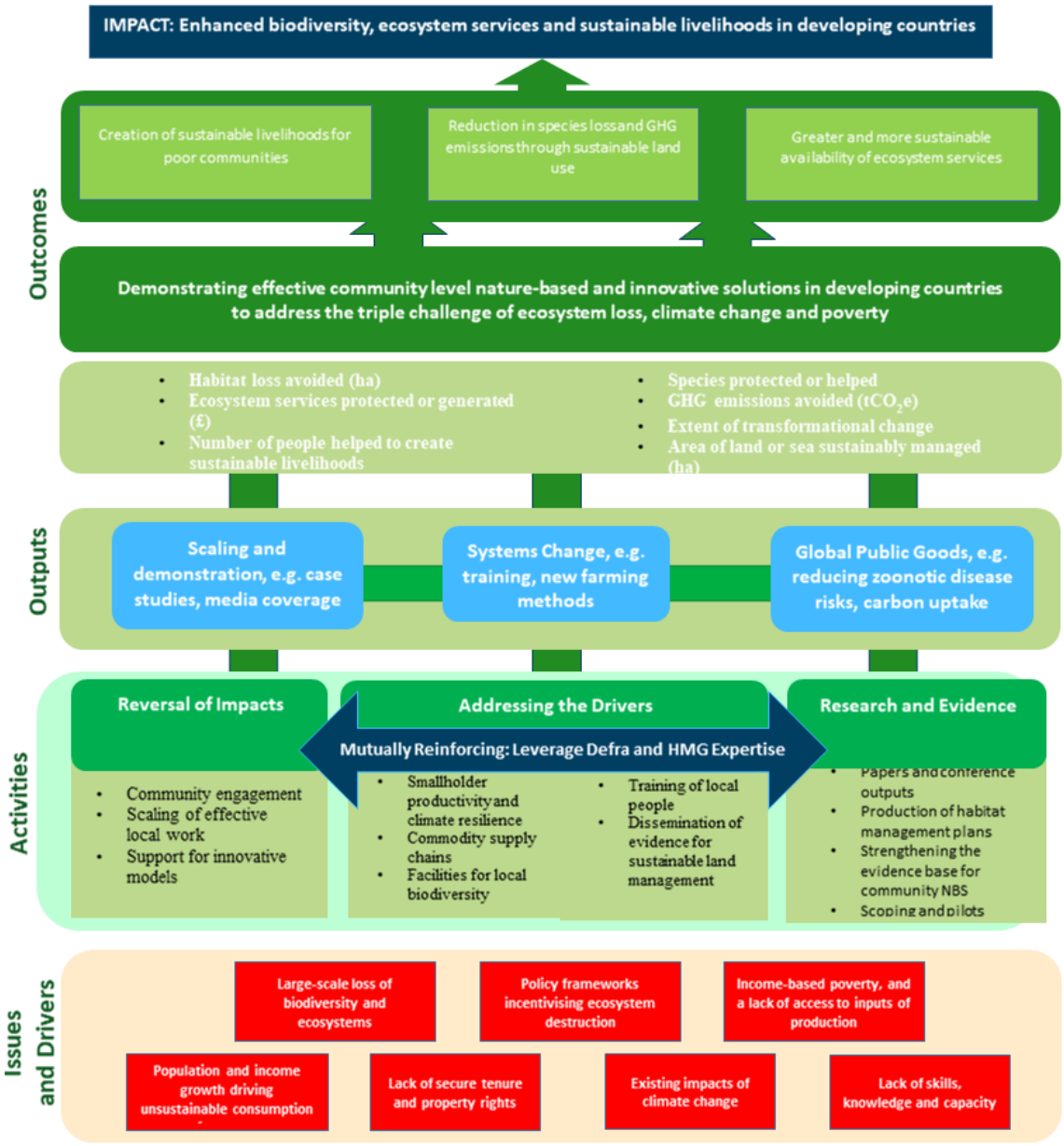
Eligible applications are then selected based on an assessment by each schemes' respective expert committees, which are the Darwin Expert Committee (DEC), Darwin Plus Advisory Group (DPAG), and the Illegal Wildlife Trade Advisory Group (IWTAG), consisting of experts from government, academia, science and the private sector who advise Defra on the strategic development of the grants, review applications, and make overall recommendations. Eligible applications are scored by at least three expert committee members against a set of assessment criteria to determine suitability of projects for funding, although this assessment criteria varies by scheme. Darwin Initiative grant applications are assessed against technical merit, biodiversity impacts, and wellbeing and poverty alleviation benefits; Darwin Plus grant applications are assessed against policy priorities, impact, and technical excellence; and IWT Challenge Fund grant applications are assessed against robust technical assessment and the extent to which projects address key priorities. After eligible grant applications are scored and commented on, expert committees act as a moderating panel to develop a shortlist of the strongest applications. Alongside this, Defra works closely with the FCDO to share expertise on priority issues and in-country contexts to ensure that the best project proposals selected also consider government priorities and concerns. The final decision on which projects should be funded is made at ministerial level based on recommendations.

During the implementation of a project there are several mandatory reporting requirements. Projects that last for more than one year must submit Half-year and Annual progress reports to Defra's delivery partner, LTS International, providing robust reporting against intended objectives and include information on outputs and ethics, and, if applicable, environmental impacts (for example, excluding certain IWT Challenge Fund projects). All projects are contractually obliged to submit Final reports to LTS International no more than one month after the end of the award, detailing progress against indicators detailed in their logframe. Projects' Half-year, Annual, and Final reports and the associated evidence submitted are then reviewed by an M&E consultant using a prescribed template to provide an external and independent perspective of whether projects have achieved their intended outcomes. Annual report reviews focus on project progress since the last annual report, and projects are scored on a scale of 1 to 5 on their likelihood of meeting their proposed outcome statement. Final report reviews focus on what the project has achieved against its intended outputs and outcomes in its logframe, scoring projects with a letter grade to reflect these achievements. In addition to these contractually obliged reporting requirements, each of the schemes regularly commissions external evaluations and reviews which take place during the life of projects, often in the form of Mid-term Reviews or monitoring visits, as well as after a project award has ended through Closed Project Evaluations.

Draft Theory of Change for Darwin

Defra also provided the evaluation team with an illustrative ToC for the Darwin Initiative which encompasses biodiversity, development and environmental management, split into three new sub-pathways. These new sub-pathways are identified differently at each step as follows: firstly, at the level of Activities: (a) Reversal of Impacts; (b) Addressing the Drivers; and (c) Research and Evidence; secondly at the level of Outputs: (a) Scaling and Demonstration; (b) Systems Change; and (c) Global Public Goods; and thirdly at the level of Outcomes: (a) Sustainable Livelihoods; (b) Reductions in threats of species loss and GHG emissions; and (c) Ecosystem Services. Finally, the three sub-pathways converge at the level of Impacts to deliver (a) Enhanced Biodiversity; (b) Ecosystem Services; and (c) Sustainable Livelihoods.

Figure 2: Defra Draft Theory of Change (October 2020)



Source: *Defra*

Similar programmes

Below we identify and describe other biodiversity promotion schemes funded by the UK as well as other donors and programmes promoting biodiversity and tackling the illegal w ildlife trade.

	Funder	Value and timing	Details (Objectives/activities)	Source
Biodiversity				
Biodiverse Landscapes Fund	FCDO and Defra	£100m 2021-2026	Joint Defra-FCDO programme that will support five highly biodiverse landscapes across the globe to improve biodiversity as well as secure sustainable development. Landscape projects are expected to last the entire duration of the funding cycle. They may be transboundary but must be located in countries eligible for ODA. First two preferred options are Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Area and Mesoamerican Landscape.	https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-biodiverse-landscapes-fund-2021-2026
Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Projects Programme (SGP)	Global Environment Facility	$550m 1996 - present	Provides up to $50,000 per project in over 125 countries, administered by UNDP. Promotes grassroots action that addresses global environmental problems: community-based innovation, capacity development, and empowerment of local communities and CSOs with special consideration for indigenous peoples, women and youth. Approximately 40% of the projects funded are related to biodiversity protection.	https://www.thegef.org/topics/gefsgp
PROGREEN	World Bank	€200m with target of $1bn 2019 - present	Builds on Program on Forests (PROFOR) partnership. Supports efforts to improve livelihoods while tackling declining biodiversity, loss of forests, deteriorating land fertility, an increasing climate risks. Focuses on three priority areas that are main drivers of deforestation and	https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/progreen/overview

			forest land degradation: management of terrestrial ecosystems, management of land-use changes from agriculture and management of landscapes involving select sectors.	
PROBLUE	World Bank	$150m 2018 - present	Supports biodiversity protection in oceans and sustainable use of oceans and marine resources. Focuses on four priority areas: management of fisheries and aquaculture, marine pollution, sustainable development of tourism, marine transport and offshore renewable energy, and building capacity of government to manage their marine and coastal resources.	https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/problue
LIFE+	European Commission	€3.4bn 2014-2020 (current funding period)	EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action, €544m allocated under the funding area Nature and Biodiversity. Projects need to be co-funded, LIFE+ can fund up to 75% of the cost of conservation projects. Benefiting countries include EU member states and EU Neighbourhood countries.	https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/life
West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change Programme (WA BiCC)	USAID	$50m 2016-2021	Works with regional, national and sub-national institutions in West Africa on combatting wildlife trafficking, increasing coastal resilience to climate change and reducing deforestation, forest degradation and biodiversity loss.	https://www.wabicc.org/en/about/
Capacity Building and Finance for National and Local Action on Climate and Biodiversity	German Federal Environment Ministry (BMU)	€30m 2019-2025	Small grants of up to €100,000 per project to support NGOs, national and regional institutions in innovative ideas that can improve domestic and regional funding structure	https://ali-sea.org/iki-small-grants-capacity-building-and-finance-for-national-and-local-action-on-

			for climate action and biodiversity at local level. Projects may have social and economic co-benefits.	climate-and-biodiversity/
Dutch Fund for Climate and Development	Netherlands Ministry for Foreign Affairs	€160m 2019-2030	Fund to mobilise private sector investments in climate mitigation and adaptation in developing countries. Supports projects that require at least €1m in financing. Biodiversity is one of the markers against which the fund's activities will be assessed. The fund's KPIs include: 100,000 Ha of sustainably managed farmland, 100,000 Ha of sustainably managed forest and wetland.	https://thedfcd.com/
Illegal Wildlife Trade				
Global Wildlife Programme	Global Environment Facility	$82m 2019 – present (current phase)	Promoted wildlife conservation and sustainable development by combatting illicit trafficking in wildlife. Phase II supports 37 projects in 32 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Projects seek to reduce the supply and demand of IWT and protect species and habitats through integrated landscape planning.	https://www.thegef.org/project/global-wildlife-program
Partnership against Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade (in Africa and Asia)	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and German Federal Ministry for the Environment (BMU)	€14.9m 2017-202	Aims to reduce supply and demand, strengthen cross-border and inter-sectoral cooperation and cooperation between Africa and Asia. Activities are implemented in collaboration with governmental and non-governmental organisations.	https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/66553.html

W-TRAPS	USAID	$9m 2013-2020	Supports ground-breaking partnerships and innovative approaches to identify and advance interventions that can break IWT chains and disrupt organised criminal networks. This includes: engaging the transportation sector, advancing wildlife forensics and financial investigation, strengthening law enforcement capacity, community engagement and consumer behavioural change.	https://rmportal.net/biodiversityconservation-gateway/projects/current-global-projects/w-traps-wildlife-trafficking-response-assessment-and-priority-setting
Law Enforcement and Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime	European Commission	€43.5 2017 - present	Aims to boost the operational capacities of the International Consortium for Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) to improve wildlife and forest law enforcement. Supports civil society organisations and local communities in preventing and fighting wildlife trafficking in Asia, Africa and Latin America.	https://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/pdf/progress_report_EU_action_plan_wildlife_trafficking_en.pdf (p.8)

Annex 3: Proposed changes to Darwin

Below we summarise the proposed changes to the existing Darwin Initiative programme as outlined in the most recent business case. Note to reader – at time of publication the below proposals have not been approved by HM Treasury.

Recent (2020) developments

Diseases that jump from animals to humans are emerging more and more frequently. Whereas in the past almost all of these 'zoonotic' outbreaks would have been local and short lived, it is easier for them to spread today. SARS-CoV-2 is not the first deadly virus to have jumped from an animal to humans, but it is the first to have swept the globe at such speed and scale.[25] As part of its response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the increased threat of further fast-spreading pandemics, Defra has foreseen the need for urgent funding for the Darwin Initiative and IWT Challenge Fund to fill the gap between the most recent round (projects starting May 2020) and the next round (projects starting April (IWT) – July (Darwin, Darwin Plus) 2021). This rapid Response fund for COVID-19 is common across all three funds and provides funding for short-term rapid response projects with budgets between £15,000 – £60,000 to address the impact of COVID-19 on biodiversity, the illegal wildlife trade and sustainable livelihoods.

Darwin projects should be well-suited to immediately start research/data gathering to understand: the links between biodiversity and COVID-19; the immediate impact of the crisis (both positive and negative) on biodiversity and conservation; and some of the drivers and risk factors related to zoonotic diseases. IWT Challenge Fund projects would focus on addressing the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the illegal wildlife trade.

In parallel with these developments, the overall budget commitments to each of the funds have received an uplift, the Darwin Initiative scheme has announced plans to introduce new tiers to its list of funding projects and awards. We summarise these changes below.

Darwin Extra projects is a new tier designed to fund much larger projects of £1m-£3m and may also be run over a longer timeframe of up to 5 years. This new tier will enable the Darwin Initiative to fund to build on successful, proven projects funded by the Darwin Initiative Main Projects by providing further larger-scale funding.

The Darwin Innovation Fund is designed to be a new, flexible pot of funding for approximately 10-20 medium to higher risk projects between £20k and £200k, between one- and three-years duration. The intention of this fund is to support projects in testing and piloting innovative ways to tackle the biodiversity crisis with the potential to deliver significant benefits by alleviating barriers related to higher levels of operational, delivery or contextual risk.

Capacity Development grants will allow developing country organisations to test ideas, design logframes, solidify partnerships, connect to expertise, and help successful applicants in gathering baseline data to

[25] Sutherland, B., and S. Petrovan (2020), Reduce the Risk of Animal Viruses Jumping to Humans, University of Cambridge: News for Alumni, link.

understand and design interventions. This is intended to alleviate constraints for smaller organisations which do not have suitable capacities to advance in the application stages of the Darwin Initiative. The grants will utilise experienced NGOs and UK experts to support local partners to make the steps towards leading future successful Darwin projects. At time of writing all, of these recent funding increases are subject to ministerial approval.

Further details are provided in the table below.

	Aim of the programme
Increases in funding	The Darwin Initiative will be redesigned to use the increased funding to maximise delivery against these objectives. It will consist of five streams as detailed below, structured to maintain at least the same number of Darwin Main projects as at present, while permitting a sensible number of projects in each of the new streams. These figures are estimates as we consider that better value for money will be achieved if we maintain flexibility to fund the best projects across the different streams. Darwin Main and Darwin Extra will start spending with projects commencing in April 2021, and the other streams with projects commencing in April 2022.
More projects	Darwin Main (~£14m pa) – core Darwin Initiative community-based projects to safeguard ecosystems and biodiversity while delivering livelihood benefits. This workstream will increase from ~£9m to ~£12m pa, funding 25 to 30 new projects a year of up to three years in duration. We will also increase the maximum project value to £500k, in line with feedback from stakeholders.
Emerging priorities	We propose setting aside a small amount (up to £1m) for emerging priorities, allowing applications outside of the standard Darwin funding cycle. This would cover small (max £60k) projects up to a year in duration which respond to an urgent need beyond the control of the applicant, for instance to respond to a natural disaster such as forest fires or flooding and where delay would threaten the delivery of key biodiversity and development outcomes. They would usually lay the foundations for a Darwin Main project, and should have a clear follow-on strategy. An example of one of the many hundreds of successful projects funded by Darwin main since the Fund's inception is, a project in the Yayu Biosphere Reserve, Ethiopia is preventing forest loss and reducing poverty by working with co-operatives to promote agroforestry and farming of wild coffee. As a result the community has sold over 130,000kg of high quality coffee (including in the UK), tripling income for hundreds of households while protecting biodiversity and forest ecosystems.
Larger projects	Darwin "Extra" (~£15m pa) – a new tier to fund larger projects of £1m-£3m. Darwin Extra projects may also be run over a longer timeframe of up to five years. Darwin Extra funding will ramp up from £7m in 2021/22 to £22m and 7-10 new projects per year by 2023/24. This new tier will enable us to build on successful, proven projects and approaches funded by Darwin Initiative Main. By providing further, larger-scale funding, Defra will be able see the long-term benefits – rather than partners turning to other funders to continue their work. Projects will address the same criteria as Darwin Main, but will have the potential to be genuinely transformative in their outcomes, for example funding approaches with genuine scaling potential and proven effectiveness. Whilst they could be projects new to Defra, we anticipate that most will build on Darwin Main or Darwin Innovation projects. In turn, Darwin Extra projects are envisaged to provide a pipeline for Defra ICF projects and the Biodiverse Landscapes Fund. Projects will be expected to provide clear evidence on

	value for money and scalability, including a Theory of Change, evidence of effectiveness, planning for scaling up, and durability of impact. Darwin Extra could also link to other international biodiversity funders, such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Projects Fund, and World Bank ProGreen and ProBlue. We intend that project delivery partners with live Darwin Main or Darwin Innovation projects that are proving (highly) successful (drawing on evidence from annual and mid-term project reviews), and that they believe have the capacity to scale-up may apply to Darwin Extra in their second or third year. This will ensure potentially damaging gaps in funding can be avoided.
Innovation and risk	Darwin Innovation Fund (£2m pa from April 2022) – a new, flexible pot covering ~10 to 20 medium to higher risk projects pa between £20k and £200k, and one to three years in duration. This new stream will support projects that test and pilot innovative ways to tackle the biodiversity crisis. It will plug the current funding gap for projects involving a higher level of operational, delivery or contextual risk – but which have the potential to deliver very significant benefits. While such projects would have a higher risk of failing than standard Darwin projects, they would also have the potential to scale into genuine game changers. We propose to assess project risk by asking applicants to provide evidence for their project and its proposed approach, and if they consider it has potential to scale, along with a scenario analysis to map the probability of different outcomes, from which we would compile a portfolio risk score. The level of risk of projects supported would be determined by ministers' appetite for risk, and as such would be open to flex between years.. Safeguarding and fiduciary risks will still be tightly controlled using FCDO risk frameworks. Potential project themes include: Projects that develop the evidence-base for what works and why, with a focus on meeting the triple challenge of addressing poverty, biodiversity and climate change. These projects could lead to approaches such as payments for ecosystem services or green commercial products, or could develop lessons on why an approach did not work. Projects that take risks with new approaches or partnerships, with the hypothesis that a higher risk of failure comes with a higher chance of transformational scaling. Projects might overcome barriers to the practical application of research, work with partners to influence host government policies, or use big data to target biodiversity loss.
More fellowships	Darwin Fellowships (up to £1m pa) from April 2022 – an expansion of the Fellowships scheme from around three fellows a year to ~15 to 20 fellowships of ~£50k each. The Fellowships scheme supports future environmental leaders from developing countries to grow professionally and build lasting positive relationships with UK institutions by supporting Fellows to draw on UK technical and scientific expertise in the fields of biodiversity and sustainable development. A larger scheme will contribute to the Global Britain agenda, building the UK's reputation as an environmental leader and growing UK education exports. Changes from the current scheme will include: Opening fellowships to individual applicants in partnership with a UK organisation – at present applications are only accepted from organisations. Stronger branding, learning lessons from government schemes such as the FCO Chevening Programme or BEIS Rutherford Fellowships

	At present Darwin fellows are based in ODA eligible countries, but we could also post UK citizens to these countries, as with Overseas Development Institute fellowships https://www.odi.org/odi-fellowship-scheme Make greater use of alumni as advocates and to track outcomes by setting up a group on the Darwin Community of Practice, and linking to HMG scholarships activity To focus the attention of applicants and FCO posts, we will consider rotating applications on a geographical (e.g. Asia Pacific year) or thematic (e.g. agroforestry year) basis; we could also match fellows to institutions/ topics.
Capacity development	Capacity development grants (up to £1m pa) from April 2022 – 10 to 15 projects a year between £10k and £100k and up to three years in duration. Building on the current Darwin partnership grants, this stream will allow developing country organisations to test ideas, design logframes, solidify partnerships and connect to expertise. These projects could also help successful applicants to gather baseline data and an evidence base to understand and design interventions. We would use experienced NGOs and UK experts to support local partners to make the step up to leading future Darwin projects.

Annex 4: Available scheme data and documents

In this section we list and describe the scheme data and documents that are available for the evaluation, by category.

Monitoring data

Below we present an overview of the project level monitoring data that is collected and reported on at the levels of the schemes.

Table 1: Summary of scheme databases available

Author	Title	Date
LTS International	Darwin Master Access Database	--
LTS International	Illegal Wildlife Trade Master Access Database	--
LTS International	Darwin Initiative Sift Tables	2012-2019
LTS International	Darwin Plus Sift Tables	2013-2018
LTS International	Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund Sift Tables	2014-2018

The monitoring of the schemes is undertaken at the level of the project and there are central databases of project information under the following headings. We describe the categories of data available under these headings in the table below.

Table 2: Summary of monitoring data available

	Category	Description
1.	**Administrative**	
	Reference details	Project reference ID; Round number; Status (Completed, current, cancelled, withdrawn)
	Project type	Main; Darwin Plus; Challenge Fund; Fellowship; Scoping; Partnership; Post-project
	Relevant Conventions	Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS); The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
	Project details	Project title; project leader; contracting org; lead institutions; project status; project links; project changes; project comments.

•	**Project summary, outputs and outcomes**	
	Project purpose	Purpose; Project context.
	Project categorisations	Broad approaches; Specific tools; Monitoring and Evaluation components; CBD Thematic Programmes addressed; CBD cross-cutting issues addressed; CBD 2010 targets addressed; CBD Articles addressed.
	Monitoring outputs	Education qualifications obtained/attained; number of papers accepted/published in peer-reviewed journals and elsewhere; number and weeks of training received, weeks spent by UK staff in host country; number of actions plans and species guides produced; number of computer databases and reference collections established and enhanced; number of workshops organised and attended; number of newsletters, national and local TV reports and news articles, and radio reports locally and internationally; number of permanent facilities and field plots established,
	Outputs summary	Summary of project Activities (or Objectives); Outputs Summary; Operation.
	Outcomes summary	Outcome (IWT); Fulfilment of IWT Objectives 1, 2 and 3 (IWTObj1, IWTObj2, IWTObj3); Darwin Initiative and Darwin Plus project summaries of Impact, Sustainability, and Final Objectives (FinalObj)
•	**People, partners, places and species**	
	People	Names, roles, phone numbers and emails of people on the project
	Partner organisation	Organisation; role on the project; country they are based in and website if they have one.
	Countries and regions of operation	Both countries and regions can be singular or multiple. Includes whether project locations are UK overseas territories and whether they are high income.
	Biome of operation	Drylands (Dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity, Rangeland, Tropical grassland and savanna, Temperate grassland, Mediterranean); Forest (Forest biodiversity, Boreal, Temperate, forest tropical); Inland Waters (Inland waters biodiversity, Wetland); Marine and coastal biodiversity (Marine, Coastal, island biodiversity); Mountain biodiversity; Biome not included in admin data
	Species	Number and type of species IWT Challenge Fund projects are protecting
•	**Reporting**	
	Reports submitted	Type of report submitted: Final report, Annual report
	Report details	Reviewer; Dates (sent, due, received, accepted); Quality (reviewed by Project leader, Quality assured, QA name, actions to be taken)

	Application scoring	Application Sift Tables - Darwin Initiative: technical merit, biodiversity impacts, wellbeing and poverty alleviation benefits; Darwin Plus: policy priorities, impact, and technical excellence; IWT Challenge Fund: technical assessment, key priorities addressed	
	Annual report review scoring	1 2 3 4 5 X	Likely to be completely achieved Likely to be largely achieved Likely to be partly achieved Only likely to be achieved to a very limited extent Unlikely to be achieved Too early to judge
	Final report review scoring	A++ A+ A B C	Outcome substantially exceeded Outcome moderately exceeded Outcome met expectation Outcome moderately did not meet expectation Outcome substantially did not meet expectation
	Previous project scoring system	Leverage Partnerships Impacts Legacy Conclusion	Each dimension scored on low, medium or high.
• **Funding**			
	Funding periods	Start date, End date; Number years funding; funds in year 1, funds in year 2, funds in year 3, funds in year 4, funds in year 5; Yr1, Yr2, Yr3, Yr4, Yr5	
	Total funds	Darwin Funds; Other Funding Total; Funding Total	
	Breakdown of funding	Staff costs, Rent, Postage, Travel, Printing, Conferences, Capital, Other; Physical assets to be handed over (£); Value of other funding including contributions in kind; Advances; Funds surrendered	
	Funding structure	Significant co-funding; Budget Change Requests	

Project documents

Author	Title	Date
ECTF/LTS International	Original application	
ECTF/LTS International	Half-year reports	

ECTF/LTS International	Annual reports	
ECTF/LTS International	Annual report reviews	
ECTF/LTS International	Final reports	
ECTF/LTS International	Final report reviews	
ECTF/LTS International	Mid-term reviews	
ECTF/LTS International	Closed project evaluations	
LTS International	Project budgets	
LTS International	Change requests	

Closed project evaluations (CPEs) provide evidence of impact from a cluster of closed projects, often from a group of adjacent countries, to determine the impact and legacy that had been generated by Darwin Initiative Funding, and to draw out innovations, lessons learned and best practices of demonstrated positive legacies and impacts. Available evaluations are listed below.

Closed-project Evaluations of the Darwin Initiative	
Fiji (Feb 2005)	Mongolia (Sept 2007)
Peru (Feb 2006)	India/Nepal (Oct 2007)
South Africa (Feb 2006)	Costa Rica/Panama (Nov 2007)
Tanzania (March 2006)	Brazil (Jan 2008)
Vietnam (March 2006)	North Africa (Morocco/Egypt) (March 2009)
Institutions East Africa (April 2006)	Madagascar (builds on Island Thematic) (March 2009)
Seychelles/Mauritius (7 projects) (Nov 2006)	Chile/Falkland Islands (2009-2010)
Galapagos (6 projects) (Dec 2006)	Kenya (2015)
Indonesia (Dec 2006)	Indian Ocean Cluster (2015)
Malaysia (Dec 2006)	Kyrgyzstan (2015)

There are some limitations to this evidence. Firstly, most of these projects are from 2007-2009, except for CPEs in the Indian Ocean Cluster, Kenya, and Kyrgyzstan from 2014-2015, and are thus partially outdated. Because they were published prior to ODA funding in 2011 there is also no systematic reporting on gender impacts. Secondly, the CPEs only exist for particular regions of the world, and are not representative of the schemes at the global level. Thirdly, CPEs to date have only focused on Darwin Initiative projects and neither Darwin Plus or the IWT Challenge Fund have been included. Finally, very few CPEs collate evidence on impacts beyond the project-level

Scheme documents

Author	Title	Date
ECTF/LTS international	Annual Contractor's Report to Defra	2000-2019
Defra/LTS International	Darwin Initiative Application Guidance	2002-2019
Defra/LTS International	Darwin Plus Application Guidance	2014-2019

Defra/LTS International	IWT Challenge Fund Application Guidance	2015-2019
Defra	Darwin Expert Committee Recruitment Pack	2020
LTS International	Darwin Monitoring, Reviewing and Lesson Learning Framework (Draft)	March 2014
LTS International	Timeline of Darwin, Darwin Plus, and IWT Challenge Fund Key Dates	October 2020
LTS International	Darwin Initiative Projects: Guide to Financial Years and Round Numbers	October 2020
ECTF	Darwin Initiative: Annual Report Review Template 2007	2007
LTS International	Darwin Initiative: Annual Report Review Template 2014	April 2014
LTS International	Darwin Initiative: Annual Report Review Template 2020	2020
LTS International	Darwin Initiative: Final Report Review Template 2020	2020
Defra	Illegal Wildlife Trade Advisory Group Strategy Meeting Notes 15/01/2019 and 17/01/2019	January 2019
LTS International	Darwin Initiative Gender Analysis: An analysis of the inclusion of gender in Darwin Main projects between round 21 and 24	July 2019
LTS International	Darwin Initiative and Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund Report Reviews: A synthesis and analysis of key lessons identified in annual and final report reviews for Darwin Main, Darwin Plus and IWT projects	2016-2019
LTS International	Darwin Initiative Logical Framework 2011-2017	2014
LTS International	Darwin Initiative Logical Framework Template 1992-2014	2013
LTS International	Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund Standard Measures (not yet implemented)	Unknown
Defra	Defra International Funds COVID-19 Rapid Response: The Darwin Initiative and Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund	N/A

LTS International produce documents synthesising and analysing findings from all annual and final reports submitted by financial year, beginning from 2016, generating key lessons, recommendations, and achievements from Darwin Main, Darwin Plus and IWT projects on project planning, implementation, and reporting. These documents focus on extracting process lessons for project planning, implementation and reporting, and these process lessons on implementation may be useful for understanding factors that influence the degree of impact. The most relevant evidence of impact in these documents is information on annual and final report review scoring as these are reflective of projects' (expected) achievement of outcomes and impacts. In addition, this is the only available documentation that provides evidence for all three schemes, and the only document to demonstrate synthesised evidence on the IWT Challenge Fund.

However, project scores do not explain what specific impacts occurred, and projects scores are partially limited due to being derived from self-reported project achievements.

'Darwin Initiative Gender Analysis: An analysis of the inclusion of gender in Darwin Main projects between round 21 and 24' is the only available document that explicitly analyses the Darwin Initiative's contributions to addressing gender equality. Whilst not explicitly related to identifying gender impacts, it contains some useful insights into what kind of impacts projects produce related to gender and how they are produced. However, the main limitation with this document is that it only reveals evidence related to the Darwin Initiative, thus omitting the Darwin Plus and IWT Challenge Fund schemes.

Information, Learning and Briefing Notes

The Darwin Initiative produces concise and simplified guidance in the form of Information Notes, which are synonymous with previous publications called Learning Notes and Briefing Notes. These are less comprehensive sources of information due to their simplification, of which only some provide evidence of scheme-level impacts, as others either provide general guidance on topics such as Monitoring and Evaluation and relevant global initiatives or provide summaries of project-level documents such as mid-term reviews and closed-project evaluations. Of the relevant Notes which allude to evidence of impact, many of these Notes are summaries of much larger documents, such as LTS syntheses of annual and final report reviews, but in particular of Thematic Reviews.

Author	Title	Date
LTS International	Information Note: Key Lessons from Annual and Final Reports in 2016/17	February 2018
LTS International	Information Note: Logical Frameworks	March 2016
LTS International	Information Note: Poverty and the Darwin Initiative	June 2019
LTS International	Information Note: Understanding Poverty and Biodiversity Links	March 2016
LTS International	Learning Note: Poverty and the Darwin Initiative	October 2014
LTS International	Learning Note: Impact on Capacity	May 2014
LTS International	Learning Note: Publications	May 2014
LTS International	Learning Note: Nagoya Protocol	September 2014
LTS International	Learning Note: Sustainable Development Goals and the Darwin Initiative	~2015
ECTF	Briefing Note: Achievements in 'Communication, Education and Public Awareness'	August 2007
ECTF	Briefing Note: Achievements in Forest Biodiversity Conservation	February 2008
ECTF	Briefing Note: Achievements in support of the Global Taxonomy Initiative	October 2005
LTS International	Briefing Note: Achieving the 2010 Biodiversity Targets	March 2010
LTS International	Briefing Note: Biodiversity and Livelihoods	N/A
ECTF	Briefing Note: Climate Change and the Darwin Initiative: Addressing the change	March 2008
ECTF	Briefing Note: Making the Most of Protected Areas	March 2005

LTS International	Briefing Note: Monitoring and evaluation and the Darwin Initiative	October 2015
LTS International	Briefing Note: ODA and the Darwin Initiative	November 2012
LTS International	Briefing Note: Recommendations for Partnership working under the Darwin Initiative	December 2009
LTS International	Briefing Note: The Evolution of the Darwin Initiative: From biodiversity research to global conservation impact.	April 2009
ECTF	Briefing Note: Towards achieving the CBD on islands	November 2007

Thematic Reviews

Extensive thematic reviews produced by Edinburgh Centre for Tropical Forests (ECTF) and later LTS International are the primary documents with evidence of scheme-level impacts. Thematic reviews are designed as programme-level evaluations which identify impacts and lasting legacy, in particular to look globally at the contribution the Initiative has made to improved delivery of obligations related to different CBD targets, CBD Programmes of Work, and other global initiatives. The reviews evaluate the Darwin Initiative's contribution to the following eight thematic areas: Climate Change and Biodiversity, the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI), Support to UKOTs, Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA), Islands, Forest Biodiversity, the CBD 2010 Targets, and Poverty and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These thematic reviews utilise a framework to identify evidence of impact and contribution to objectives of conventions and global initiatives such as CBD and the SDGs. Summaries of these thematic reviews are provided in Annex 13.

A limitation of these reviews is that the majority were written during the period 2004-2010 and are thus slightly outdated and do not cover Darwin Plus or IWT Challenge Fund, or more recent policy priorities. The closest thematic review to Darwin Plus is that on the Darwin Initiative's support to UKOTs, however this is largely focused on learnings for the application process[26].

Author	Title	Date
ECTF (Wortley and Wilkie)	Thematic Review of Darwin Initiative's Contribution to the Global Taxonomy Initiative	October 2005
ECTF (Van Gardingen and Wilde)	Thematic Review of Conservation of Biodiversity on Islands: The contribution of the United Kingdom's Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species 1993-2006	March 2007
ECTF (Edwards et al.)	Communication, Education and Public Awareness Thematic Review	March 2007
ECTF (Pat Hardcastle)	Thematic Review of Darwin Initiative projects related to Forest Biodiversity	January 2008
ECTF (Dawson et al.)	ECTF Thematic Review of Climate Change and Biodiversity	April 2008

[26] Notes of specific thematic reviews: The Thematic Review on Climate Change and Biodiversity, whilst not explicitly relating to a framework to evidence impacts given that few projects focused on climate change, provides some evidence of indirect impacts on climate change through mitigation and adaptation activities. The most recent thematic review (on poverty and the SDGs, 2015) highlights that projects post-2011 still made little to no explicit attention about issues related to women, gender, power, justice, and equality, and thus there is a lack of evidence on these dimensions. The Thematic Review on UK Overseas Territories does not provide useful evidence to appropriately elicit scheme-level impacts.
Dawson, T. P., Berry, P. M., and A. H. Perryman (editors) (2018), *ECTF Thematic Review of Climate Change and Biodiversity*, DEFRA internal document.
DEFRA (2010), *Review of the Darwin Initiative's Support to Overseas Territories: with the Falkland Islands as a case study*, DEFRA internal document.

LTS International (Kapos et al.)	Review of the Darwin Initiative's contribution to the 2010 Biodiversity Targets	March 2010
LTS International (Forbes et al.)	Review of the Darwin Initiative's Support to UK Overseas Territories: with the Falklands Islands as a case study	July 2010
LTS International	Relationships between Poverty and Biodiversity: Evidence from the Darwin Initiative	November 2015

Other relevant documents

Author	Title	Date
Defra	Towards an approach for making evidence based funding investments and ensuring effective progress towards global IWT policy goals	August 2019
Defra	Integrating Evidence in Conservation Funding Webinar Notes	Unknown
Defra	Integrating Evidence in Conservation Funding House of Lords Notes	Unknown
Expert (Donnamarie)	Brief note on Darwin Initiative/IWT Challenge Fund Community of Practice	2020
Howe and Milner-Gulland	Evaluating Indices of Conservation Success: A Comparative Analysis of Outcome and Output-based Indices	2012
Cunningham and King	Comment on "Evaluating Indices of Conservation Success: A Comparative Analysis of Outcome and Output-based Indices"	2013
Skinner et al.	Local communities: First Line of Defence against Illegal Wildlife Trade (FLoD). Guidance for implementing the FLoD methodology.	2018

The internal thematic review by Hardcastle (2008) on forest biodiversity noted that the number of peer-reviewed papers, many of which are in top journals, provides a strong indication of the Darwin Initiative's contribution in advancing scientific knowledge on biodiversity and conservation issues. Although peer-reviewed journal articles are a standard output in the Darwin Initiative, and projects report on these, there is only one peer-reviewed journal article to date that discusses the Darwin Initiative's scheme level impacts, that by Howe and Milner-Gulland (2012).[27]

The authors consider that the Darwin Initiative provides one of the best available opportunities to study the impact of conservation projects at a global scale, and to understand how to evaluate conservation success at a global scale more broadly. The authors use a sample of 100 Darwin Projects and investigate three different methods of scoring conservation success. Using a General Linear Model for all three methods, the authors highlight five key variables that contribute to conservation success: the quantity and type of education delivered by projects, number of weeks that the team leader spent in the host country, level of funding obtained both from the Darwin Initiative and externally, and the number of conservation actions implemented. Higher amounts of project funding are correlated with higher conservation success amongst projects sampled. These insights are useful for understanding the factors that determine the conservation success of the schemes, but do not attempt to aggregate the impact of the projects.

[27] Howe, C., and E.J. Milner-Gulland (2012), *Evaluating Indices of Conservation Success: A Comparative Analysis of Outcome and Output-based Indices*, link.

Limitations of existing evidence

Howe and Milner-Gulland (2012) acknowledge the limitations of impact reporting by the Darwin Initiative and argue that, in particular, evidence of impact that is generated ex-post has not been synthesised and analysed at the scheme-level. In response to Howe and Milner-Gulland (2012), Cunningham and King (2013)[28] note that the list of inputs, activities and outputs generated cannot be equated to the measurement of outcomes or wider impacts. The authors emphasise that the effectiveness of the Darwin Initiative is currently evaluated on a "project-by-project basis" (p.1) based on logical frameworks and final report narratives, which acknowledge the programme's diversity and the range of biodiversity issues being tackled. Whilst this approach is outcomes-focused, it echoes Howe and Milner-Gulland's comment on the lack of results being synthesised at the scheme-level.

White (2019) presents the limitations of the current evidence base for the IWT Challenge Fund to demonstrate impact.[29] She highlights that although logframes and M&E requirements exist for IWT Challenge Fund projects, there are no programme-level metrics or indicators on tackling IWT through the Challenge Fund or any other funding streams. Metrics collected are limited by the success of each project and presented in terms of objectives set by applicants at the start of projects. Evaluations are not independent, rely on applicants' self-reports of their achievements, and thus do not provide an objective or clear view of the Challenge Fund's programme-level achievements. There has been progress evaluating impact of demand reduction schemes in the IWT**;** however**,** this could be expanded to evaluating impacts related to livelihoods, enforcement, legal frameworks, and specific species and geographies with respect to projects in the IWTCF**.**

Other documented limitations, which make it difficult for the schemes to evidence their impacts, include:

First, many of the thematic reviews refer to the difficulty of measuring impacts during the 3-year lifecycle of projects, as this timeframe acts as a constraint to longer-term monitoring processes to detect and attribute impacts that take longer to materialise, are much more complex, or are unanticipated or unintended. These include impacts related to climate change (Dawson et al., 2008; LTS International, 2015); poverty and livelihoods (Kapos et al., 2010; LTS International, 2015); attitudes, perceptions and behaviours (Edwards et al., 2007), or policy-related changes (van Gardingen and Wild, 2007; Hardcastle, 2008; LTS International, 2015; Wortley and Wilkie, 2005).

Alongside this, the lack of capacity of some projects to undertake extensive M&E due to a lack of expertise, difficulties in collecting evidence, and high monetary and time-costs to evidence impacts act as further constraints to adequately measuring impact during the 3-year lifecycle of each scheme's projects (LTS International, 2015). This is particularly true after project completion, where projects' achievement of impacts over the longer-term can be undermined by financial constraints, particularly on islands, despite the catalytic role Darwin Initiative funding has in building capacity to sustain impacts (van Gardingen and Wild, 2007).

Existing approaches to conservation evaluation

Approaches to monitoring and evaluation of conservation programmes have evolved over time; from the use of population monitoring in the 1890s, to logical frameworks in the 1970s and 1980s, to environmental impact assessments and results-based management in the 2000s.[30] In recent years international

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[28] Cunningham, S. and King, L. (2013), Evaluating indices of conservation success. *Anim Conserv*, 16: 137-138. https://doi.org/10.1111/acv.12020

[29] White, C. (2019), *Towards an Approach for Making Evidenced-Based Funding Investments and Ensuring Effective Progress Towards Global IWT Policy Goals*, DEFRA internal document

[30] Stem, C., Margoluis, R., Salafsky, N., and M. Brown (2005), *Monitoring and Evaluation in Conservation: A Review of Trends and Approaches*, link.

organisations have developed specific methods and toolkits for monitoring and evaluation.[31] These processes generally combine qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis with site/project inspections. Nature conservation programmes also often utilise logical frameworks that set out to accurately identify objectively verifiable indicators to measure and monitor programme performance, based on the OECD-DAC criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability.[32]

Recently the evaluation of conservation programmes is moving towards better utilising theories of change to better understand the conditions in which desired impacts arise. Greater attention is being given to interconnecting logical pathways and the examination of assumptions lying behind the project or programme's strategy and logical pathways.[33] These methods relying on theories of change to evaluate conservation programmes are likely to continue to evolve in the future.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has undergone several recent evaluations that are useful examples of current approaches to conservation evaluation. These include an evaluation of GEF-funded projects on access and benefit sharing and the Nagoya Protocol, a formative evaluation of GEF's efforts to address the illegal wildlife trade (IWT) through the Global Wildlife Programme[34], an impact evaluation of GEF support to protected areas and protected area systems[35], and an evaluation of GEF support to mainstreaming biodiversity.[36] The evaluation approaches of GEF conservation interventions demonstrated are often multidisciplinary, mixed methods, and use a theory of change approach. The formative evaluation of GEF's efforts to address the IWT, for example, uses a theory of change presented by the Global Wildlife Programme to frame the evaluation around the IWT rather than around broader conservation goals. In addition, evaluations also utilised geospatial methods, as well as site/project inspections.

Despite the methodological advances in evaluating conservation initiatives, determining impacts and outcomes remain challenging for the following reasons:

- Evaluations not explaining effectiveness: Conservation evaluations often present evidence on which interventions work but do not explain how or why projects are effective. There is also a need to provide evidence at different stages of conservation work, including project design and application stages, as well as evidence of impact during project implementation.[37]
- Evaluations rarely assess counterfactuals due to the complexity of most conservation interventions and absence of pre-defined control groups. Weak planning and monitoring limit the potential for sustainability, learning and knowledge sharing, which are essential enabling conditions for scaling up conservation. Many governments struggle to provide data for reporting against their delivery of the global biodiversity goals.[38] Together, this has important consequences as this produces a lack of appropriate evidence for funding decisions to support the most effective interventions and thus aid the most optimal allocation of funds. [39]
- An absence of social and cultural data prevents the measuring of impact on important aspects of human development and sustainable livelihoods.[40]
- Thirdly, as conservation projects have evolved to include elements of human development to conserve biodiversity, as in so-called Integrated Conservation and Development Projects (ICDPs), the underlying

[31] For example the Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) Global Forest Resource Assessment, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit.UNODC (2012), *Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit*, link.
[32] IUCN Office of the Director General (2015), *The IUCN Monitoring and Evaluation Policy*, link.
[33] Baylis, K., *et al.* (2016), *Mainstreaming Impact Evaluation in Nature Conservation*, Conservation Letters 9(1), 58-64 (2016), link.
[34] Global Environment Facility Independent Evaluation Office (2018), *Biodiversity Focal Area Study: Evaluation Report No. 132*, link.
[35] Global Environment Facility (2015), *Impact Evaluation of GEF Support to Protected Areas and Protected Area Systems*, link.
[36] Global Environment Facility Independent Evaluation Office (2019), *Evaluation of GEF Support to Mainstreaming Biodiversity.* link.
[37] Parks, D., and Tinsley-Marshall, P (2020), Integrating Evidence in Conservation Funding, webinar notes, internal document.
[38] Stephenson, P. J. (2019), *The Holy Grail of Biodiversity Conservation Management: Monitoring Impact in Projects and Project Portfolios*. Perspectives in Ecology and Conservation 17(4), 182-192, link.
[39] Parks, D., and Tinsley-Marshall, P (2020), *Integrating Evidence in Conservation Funding*, webinar notes, internal document.
[40] HMG House of Lords (2020), *Integrating Evidence and Conservation Funding*, session notes, internal document.

assumption that this is a positive development has not been sufficiently tested and evaluated. Social science evidence, e.g. on managing human interactions with nature, is crucial, and thus there is a need for greater inclusion of social and cultural data, environmental data, and a greater understanding of the policy context. [41]

- The IWT in particular, and its associated interventions, are wide ranging and complex; they are global, illicit, dynamic and occurring in countries that face development challenges and long-term drivers of poverty and conflict.[42]

[41] HMG House of Lords (2020), *Integrating Evidence and Conservation Funding*, session notes, internal document.
[42] White, C. (2019), *Towards an Approach for Making Evidenced-Based Funding Investments and Ensuring Effective Progress Towards Global IWT Policy Goals*, DEFRA internal document.

Annex 5: Evaluation Frameworks

We present our overall evaluation framework which includes the evaluation questions, assessment criteria, main data sources and type of analysis to be used to answer each one. We also present our value for money framework.

Table 3 Evaluation Framework

OECD DAC Criteria	Overarching evaluation questions	Sub-questions	Indicators/Assessment criteria	Project level			Scheme level		Country
				Project document	Project interviews	Access database	Scheme document review	Scheme-wide interviews	Country case study interviews
Relevance	To what extent have the three grants schemes contributed to meeting the targets of relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), including: the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna, the Ramsar Convention on	a) Do project objectives under each scheme contribute directly to the biodiversity aims or goals of the CBD, CITES, CMS, Nagoya Protocol, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture or Ramsar Convention?	The percentage of projects that have objectives which contribute directly to biodiversity conservation in each scheme (All Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus and IWT projects on CBD and CMS; 592 Darwin Initiative and Darwin Plus projects on CITES, CMS, Ramsar Convention, World Heritage Sites, UNFCCC, Desertification; proxy indicators for International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture - Darwin Initiative projects only) Qualitative/quantitative analysis of the relevance of the design of Tier 1 sample projects to global and country biodiversity needs and priorities.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Wetlands; the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? [ToR q7]	b) Do project objectives under each scheme contribute directly to the aims or goals of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)?	The percentage of projects that have objectives which contribute directly to climate change in each scheme (592 Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus projects on whether they contribute to the UNFCCC, climate change biodiversity threats, and to CBD cross-cutting issues on Climate Change and biodiversity) Qualitative/quantitative analysis of the relevance of the design of Tier 1 sample projects to global and country climate change needs and priorities.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		c) Do project objectives under each scheme contribute directly to the wider poverty reduction aims of the UN Sustainable Development Goals?	Qualitative/quantitative analysis of the relevance of the design of Tier 1 sample projects to poverty reduction and livelihoods goals and priorities, by SDG.	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
		d) How effective are interventions according to whether they contribute to biodiversity conservation, climate change and poverty reduction goals?	Comparison of project scores by contribution to each MEA (final report score data only available from 219 projects - since 2014/15; MEA data only from Darwin projects) Qualitative/quantitative analysis of the effectiveness of Tier 1 sample projects (by MEA) and the impact of Tier 2 sample projects (by biodiversity, climate change, poverty reduction contribution areas)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓

Effectiveness/Impact	To what extent has each scheme achieved its objectives and intended impacts?	a) How have projects scored in the past at different stages (e.g. application stage, interim and final stages of implementation)? [ToR q5.]	Comparison of project ratings/statistical correlation between project application scores, annual report review scores (1,2,3,...,X) and/or project completion scores (A++,...C), for all projects and Tier 1 (from 2014-15 only) - TBC whether LTS can provide linked data Qualitative assessment of internal and external factors behind scoring decisions/trends in scoring	✓	✓	✓		✓	
		b) How have the projects funded under each scheme enabled this? [ToR q.1a]	Qualitative/quantitative analysis of the effectiveness of Tier 1 sample projects (output and outcome levels) and the impact of Tier 2 sample projects, against their original applications/logframes, in terms of: - biodiversity - climate change - poverty/sustainable livelihoods	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓

		c) How effective is the scheme in delivering results/outcomes in certain project activities, geographies, types of partner organisation or overall project contexts? Or in other words, what has worked well or not and in what context? [ToR q1.b]	Percentage of all projects within each category (including by activity; region; biome; partner organisation; threat to biodiversity - e.g. climate change, land use, invasive species, etc. - for 592 Darwin/Darwin+ projects; and by species, etc. - for IWT). Comparison of project scores/average scores within each category (activities, geographies, partner organisation, etc, where possible) - 219 projects with final report scores only Qualitative analysis across Tier 1 projects of what has worked well (for high performing projects) and what has not (for less well performing projects), in different contexts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

		d) What are the main enablers and barriers to meeting each scheme's objectives? [ToR q.1.c]	Statistical correlation of different internal variables with project scores, including relevance, total funding received (all projects), staffing costs, high project leader site presence, media/public exposure (e.g. number of press articles and other dissemination outputs - 731 Darwin and Darwin Plus projects), research outputs (PHDs, masters, undergrads, etc. - 731 Darwin and Darwin Plus projects), etc. - for 219 projects with final report scores only Quantitative/qualitative analysis across Tier 1 sample of projects to identify key enablers and barriers to success encountered in each scheme (including project relevance), in different contexts	✓	✓	✓			✓
Efficiency	To what extent is each scheme delivering value-for-money? [ToR q 2]	a) How could the grant schemes be improved from the design and application stages to the implementation and completion phases to better achieve their objectives and deliver VfM? [ToR q.4]	Ingredients of highest scoring projects in each scheme. We will investigate relationships between spending under different project categories (staffing, activities, partner organisation, in-country presence etc.) and the project completion scores - 219 projects. Qualitative analysis of process lessons at the scheme and project (Tier 1) levels, focused on the design, application, implementation and completion phases, as well as M&E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

		b) How economical, efficient, effective, and equitable are the schemes?	VfM of projects funded under each scheme/comparison across schemes, in terms of: - Economy (Scheme-level): Rigorous and transparent selection of projects based on consideration of VfM and contribution to scheme objectives (Application guidance and scoring criteria); Maintain downward pressure on cost drivers (breakdown of total funding by projects, agency fees, and administrative budget); scheme delivery within time and budget (LTS monitoring data); suitable proportion of funding leveraged compared to overall budget during scheme lifecycle (LTS monitoring data); LTS actively monitoring and managing projects' budget management (LTS monitoring systems and processes, evidence of processes being applied in practice) - Economy (Project-level - Tier 2): Budget management over project duration, projects have systems to report and monitor on spend against VfM metrics and deliver to budget over project lifetime (Original applications, Annual and Final reports and report reviews, Project budgets, Project VfM reporting structures, LTS monitoring data) - Efficiency (Scheme-level): Flexibility and efficiency of fund allocation processes to meet projects' emerging priorities exist and are efficient (Application guidance, Annual contractor's reports, LTS monitoring data on budget change requests on number accepted/rejected and duration);	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

			Achievement of target outputs within budgeted costs (LTS monitoring data); Level of collaboration between Defra, LTS International, expert committees and other actors in allocating funds to priorities (High-level interview with Defra, LTS, expert committees, Expert committee guidance, Annual contractor's reports, Strategy day meeting minutes, Meeting minutes) - Efficiency (Project-level - Tier 2): Projects demonstrate evidence of fund reallocation and adaptive management to meet emerging priorities (LTS monitoring data, budget request forms, interviews with project leaders); Achievement of target outputs within budgeted costs (Original applications, Annual and Final reports and report reviews); Projects' output milestones met on time (Original applications, Annual and Final reports and report reviews) - Effectiveness (Scheme-level): Scheme logframe indicators reflect achievement of outcomes and impacts against milestones (LTS monitoring data); Schemes identification and management of risks (Application guidance, annual contractor's report, high-level interviews with LTS) - Effectiveness (Project-level - Tier 2): Project logframe indicators show achievement of outcomes and impacts (Annual and Final reports and report reviews); Projects identify assumptions and risks on an ongoing basis and actively manage and mitigate risks (Original applications, Annual						

			and final reports and report reviews, Budget change request forms) - Equity (Scheme-level): Fair, transparent and accessible application process; Mainstreaming of equity and inclusiveness across schemes; and, Schemes recognise, consider and act on potential trade-offs of projects related to costs and benefits delivered to different groups (High-level interviews with LTS International, scheme expert committees, Expert committee guidance, Application guidance and forms, Annual contractor's report) - Equity (Project-level - Tier 2): Mainstreaming of equity and inclusiveness across projects; Equitable results across gender, socio-economic status and location through disaggregation of reporting; Consideration of trade-offs in design and delivery of project activities and outcomes (Original applications, Annual and Final reports and report reviews). - Cost effectiveness (Scheme-level): Variation in level of achievement of outcomes compared to project size (LTS monitoring data) - Sustainability (Scheme-level): Post-project monitoring in place to track sustainability of projects (LTS reporting after project completion) - Sustainability (Project-level - Tier 2): Sustainability plans / Exit strategies are in place; Funding leveraged to sustain outcomes / continue project (Original applications, Final reports and report reviews) Percentage of scheme funds derived from match funding						

		c) How economical, efficient and effective is LTS International's management of the portfolio?	- Economy: LTS management costs as % of overall scheme costs benchmarked against comparable schemes (LTS financial reporting); LTS procedures to manage cost inputs to ensure good VfM (LTS operational and financial procedures) - Efficiency: LTS supporting achievement of scheme-level outputs through screening, monitoring, and other activities to ensure delivery of output (LTS operational procedures) - Effectiveness: LTS supporting achievement of scheme-level outcomes and impacts through screening, monitoring and other activities to ensure delivery of outcomes and impacts (LTS operational procedures)						

		d) How can a standardised monitoring and evaluation be designed in order to better reflect the impact of funding through the three schemes while retaining the different objectives of each scheme? [ToR q.6]	See above						
Sustainability	To what extent have benefits of the funded projects continued beyond project funding, and what benefits have been long-lasting? [ToR q. 3]	a) What factors have influenced this? [ToR q3a]	Qualitative/quantitative analysis of potential sustainability† of Tier 1 sample of projects (based on 256 projects with sustainability textual data and project reports) / Composition of project categories in projects with likely long-lasting benefits compared with composition of project categories for all projects Qualitative analysis of actual sustainability of Tier 2 sample projects, including factors related to sustainability † Note that few Darwin projects have ex post evaluations beyond their active lifetime	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

		b) How have projects funded across the schemes built on each other? [ToR q3b]	Percentage of all projects in each scheme that represent follow-on projects (and comparison with final scores achieved) - check with LTS whether feasible Qualitative analysis of the factors/projects that have given rise to follow on work funded under different schemes, based upon the Tier 1/2 samples Qualitative analysis of how projects have built on and complemented each other in case study countries (Tier 2)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		c) How can these lessons be used to improve fund design? [ToR q3c]	Narrative conclusions based on above evidence and data† † In drawing conclusions, the evaluators will take account of the limited data available on sustainability and seek ways to rectify this to improve fund design	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Equity	How GESI sensitive are the schemes? (New Q)	a) How effectively has gender (and intersectional issues such as age, poverty status and ethnic group), power considerations, and safeguarding been mainstreamed into projects?'	Indicator on whether projects have broad approaches that cover gender issues (592 Darwin and Darwin Plus projects in database) Deep dive analysis of selected Tier 2 projects to assess: - number of projects scored as GESI transformative, GESI mainstreaming and/or GESI sensitive at design, delivery and M&E project cycle phases, and why	✓	✓	✓			✓

		b) To what extent have the schemes benefited marginalised groups such as women and girls and indigenous communities?	Deep dive analysis of selected Tier 2 projects, to assess: - Evidence of projects identifying and responding to the articulated needs of marginalised groups, and adapting to these throughout project length - Extent to which marginalised groups have been consulted during project design - Extent to which marginalised groups report tangible, sustainable benefits as a result of interventions	✓	✓	✓			✓

Annex 6: Sampling strategy and sampled projects

Below we expand upon our sampling strategy and list our sampled projects: 50 Darwin; 15 Darwin Plus; 4 Fellowships; and 31 IWT Challenge Fund. Within this, the Tier 2 sample inlcudes projects in: Indonesia (6); Kenya (6); Nepal (6); Bolivia (6); St. Helena (4); and Vietnam (2).

Sampling strategy

During the inception phase we constructed a two-tiered project sample. We explain here in more detail the exact sampling decisions made at each step. The first step was to clean the monitoring data available in the Master Access Database and to identify the number of projects to be sampled per type of award. After excluding scoping projects, post-projects, and partnership projects, we were left with the following 1,029 projects: 750 Darwin projects; 122 Darwin Plus projects; 105 IWT projects; and 52 Fellowships. Below are two options for sampling from these groups, proportionate to their relative contributions to each scheme:

- Number of projects per scheme: Darwin Main (73%), Darwin Plus (12%), IWT Challenge Fund (10%), Fellowships (5%)
- Total value of projects per scheme: Darwin Main (74%), Darwin Plus (11%), IWT Challenge Fund (14%), Fellowships (<1%)

To sufficiently understand the process and mechanisms of each scheme we chose to sample with slightly different proportions, and instead included representation from Darwin (50%), Darwin Plus (15%), IWT (31%) Fellowship (4%). These proportions were agreed with Defra during the inception phase.

Across the schemes, projects are delivered in 159 countries, across 9 geographic regions[43]. Our Tier 1 sample was selected proportionate to the number of projects in each region. This resulted in projects from the following regions Atlantic and Caribbean, Europe and Central Asia; Middle East/North Africa, Multi-region; Pacific; South and Central America; South and East Asia; Sub-Saharan Africa; and UK Overseas Territories. Our Tier 2 sample focuses on the regions with the highest number of projects (South and East Asia, South America and Central America and Sub-Saharan Africa). Within each region we chose countries with a large number of grants across Darwin *and* IWT. During inception we agreed with Defra the following Tier 2 countries that fulfil this criteria Nepal; Bolivia; Kenya and Indonesia. There is no country overlap between Darwin/IWT and Darwin plus, therefore we have also chosen to include one UKOT in our Tier 2 sample with the largest number of projects over time: Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha. In addition, given that IWT Challenge Fund Demand Reduction projects are not represented in selected Tier 2 countries;

[43] When cleaning data we reduced the number of geographic categories from 16 to 12 (e.g. rather than North Africa and Middle East being separate regions we combined to Middle East, North Africa – MENA)

following feedback from Defra, the sampling strategy was extended to include an additional mini-case study of two Demand Reduction projects in one additional country, Vietnam.

We then simplified the ecosystem/biome indicator into the following 7 categories of biodiversity: Drylands (including dry and sub-humid lands, Rangeland, Tropical grassland and savanna, Temperate grassland, Mediterranean); Forest (including Boreal, Temperate, forest tropical); Marine and coastal biodiversity, (including island biodiversity); In land Waters (including wetlands); Desert; Mountain; Polar. Not all projects had administrative data on biome and were categorised as 'missing'. We sampled projects proportionally to the number of projects in each biome.

After calculating the number of projects to be sampled per biome per region per scheme, we undertook an iterative selection process whereby we purposively chose Tier 1 projects along the following criteria (with the following order of preference):

- Tier 2 country: we prioritised the inclusion of projects that were in Tier 2 countries, including the two IWT Demand Reduction projects as part of the mini-case study, to ensure we had a sufficient number for our Tier 2 sample.
- Grant size: We divided projects into the following categories of value (<£150k, £150k-£300k, >300k). Where possible we looked to sample projects, which differed in grant size.
- Time period: We divided projects into the following time periods (prior to 2001, 2001-2011, 2012-2020). If there was no variation in grant size, then time period was used as the primary judgement criteria, with weight attached to more recent projects in order to maximise the availability of stakeholders to interview about outcomes and strengthen impact contribution claims. In particular, Tier 2 country projects were selected with project start dates from 2010 onwards to ensure that Darwin Initiative projects are sufficiently contemporary to be able to explore their impact with stakeholders.
- Completion status: Current and completed projects were selected. If there was no variation in either of these indicators, a random balanced selection of current and completed projects was utilised.

Using this iterative and purposive process we have selected the following:

- Tier 1: 100 projects have been selected into the Tier 1 sample with the following distribution: Darwin (50), Darwin Plus (15), IWT Challenge Fund (31), Fellowships (4).
- Tier 2: Within this sample we have selected 30 projects into our Tier 2 sample: Kenya (6), Indonesia (6), Nepal (6), Bolivia (6), St Helena (4), and Vietnam (2 Demand Reduction projects).

The total number of Tier 1 projects sampled (100) is roughly 10% of the total population of all projects. The total number of Tier 2 projects (30) is roughly a third of this sample. There we list the title of each project, the scheme it was part of, the country or countries the project was carried out in, the geographic region, the time period it was carried out in, and the relevant biome.

Tier 1 Descriptive Statistics

	IWT Challenge Fund	Darwin Initiative	Darwin Plus	Fellowships	Total
Scheme	31	50	15	4	100
Time period					
1992-2000		6			6
2001-2011		18 (including 1 OT Challenge Fund)		2	20
2011-2020	31	27	14	2	74
Funding					
Total funding between Â£150k and Â£300k	7	22	6		35
Total funding greater than Â£300k	20	20	4		44
Total funding less than Â£150k	5	8	4	4	21
Region					
Europe & Central Asia	1	5			6
MENA		2			2
Pacific		2			2
South and Central America	2	10	2		14
South and East Asia	10	9		2	21
Sub-Saharan Africa	15	18			33
UKOT		2 (including 1 OT Challenge Fund)	14		16
Multi-region	3	3			6
Biome					
Drylands: Dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity, Rangeland, Tropical		6			6

grassland and savanna, Temperate grassland, Mediterranean					
Forest: Forest biodiversity, Boreal, Temperate, forest tropical		15			15
Inland Waters: Inland waters biodiversity, Wetland		1	1		2
Marine and coastal biodiversity, Marine, Coastal, island biodiversity		8	13		21
Mountain biodiversity		2			2
Biome not included in admin data	32	18		4	54
Partners					
Contracting organisation(s)	32	55	14	4	105
International partner(s)	93	154	12		259
UK partner(s)	8	23	4		35
Other partner(s)	4	2	2		8
IWT Typology					
Sustainable livelihoods	10 (of 32)				10
Increased enforcement	27 (of 73)				27
Legal frameworks	6 (of 15)				6
Demand reduction	3 (of 16)[44]				5

Source: *LTS monitoring data*

Tier 2 Descriptive Statistics

	IWT Challenge Fund	Darwin Initiative	Darwin Plus	Fellowships	Total
Scheme	9	13	4	4	30

[44] LTS International's monitoring data does not accurately reflect demand reduction themes. This is due to IWT thematic data collected based on applicants' selection of which themes their project contributes to, thus the figure of 16 projects in total as demand reduction is likely an overexaggerated. The 3 projects referenced here are those that are truly demand reduction.

Time period					
1992-2000					0
2001-2011		1		2	3
2011-2020	9	12	4	2	27
Funding					
Total funding between Â£150k and Â£300k	2	4	2		8
Total funding greater than Â£300k	5	9			14
Total funding less than Â£150k	2	2	4		8
Region					
Europe & Central Asia					0
MENA					0
Pacific					0
South and Central America	1	3		2	6
South and East Asia	6	6		2	14
Sub-Saharan Africa	2	4			6
UKOT			4		4
Multi-region					0
Biome					
Drylands: Dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity, Rangeland, Tropical grassland and savanna, Temperate grassland, Mediterranean		1			1
Forest: Forest biodiversity, Boreal, Temperate, forest tropical		8			8
Inland Waters: Inland waters biodiversity, Wetland		1			1
Marine and coastal biodiversity, Marine, Coastal, island biodiversity		2	4		6

Mountain biodiversity		1			1
Biome not included in admin data	9			4	13
Partners					
Contracting organisation(s)	9	15	4	4	32
International partner(s)	27	44			71
UK partner(s)		7			7
Other partner(s)	2	2			4
IWT Typology					
Sustainable livelihoods	3 (of 10 – Tier 1)				3
Increased enforcement	7 (of 27 – Tier 1)				7
Legal frameworks	3 (of 6 – Tier 1)				3
Demand reduction	2 (of 3 – Tier 1)				2

Source: LTS monitoring data

Project sample

Project ID	Project Title	Scheme	Country	Region	Project duration	Biome / IWT Typology	Contracting organisations	International Partners	UK Partners	Other partners	Tier 2
DAR3248	Terrestrial Invertebrate Diversity of the Mkomazi Game Reserve	Darwin Initiative	Tanzania	Sub-Saharan Africa	1994-(End date missing)	Biome not included in admin data	1				
DAR6100	Plant Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable	Darwin Initiative	Benin, Cameroon	Sub-Saharan Africa	1997-2000	Biome not included in admin data	1	3			

	Utilisation Training in West Africa										
DAR6126	Vicuna and Guanaco Conservation and Genetic Resource Management in Peru	Darwin Initiative	Peru	South and Central America	1997-2000	Biome not included in admin data	1				
DAR7045	Marine biodiversity capacity building in the West African sub-region	Darwin Initiative	Ghana	Sub-Saharan Africa	1998-2001	Biome not included in admin data	1	1			
DAR7137	Planning and establishment of European mink island sanctuaries in Estonia and Belarus	Darwin Initiative	Estonia, Belarus	Europe & Central Asia	1998-2001	Biome not included in admin data	1	2			
DAR7149	Tabunan Forest Biodiversity Conservation	Darwin Initiative	Philippines	South and East Asia	1998-2001	Biome not included in admin data	1	3			
DAR10015	Project BioMap in Colombia	Darwin Initiative	Colombia	South and Central America	2001-2004	Biome not included in admin data	1	1			

DAR11015	Sustainable Management of the black land crab in Colombia	Darwin Initiative	Colombia	South and Central America	2002-2005	Biome not included in admin data	1	1			
DAR11025	Cross-border conservation strategies in the Altai Mountains	Darwin Initiative	Russia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan	Multi-region	2002-2006	Biome not included in admin data	1	3			
DAR12028	Using saiga antelope conservation to improve rural livelihoods, Kazakhstan	Darwin Initiative	Russia, Kazakhstan	Europe & Central Asia	2003-2006	Biome not included in admin data	1	1			
DAR13011	Sustaining livelihoods and protecting biodiversity through development of pez blanco aquaculture	Darwin Initiative	Mexico	South and Central America	2004-2007	Biome not included in admin data	1	1			
DAR13018	Building Genetic Forensic Capacity to Reduce South Africa's Illegal Trade	Darwin Initiative	South Africa	Sub-Saharan Africa	2004-2007	Biome not included in admin data	1	1			

DAR13030	Gurney's Pitta research & Conservation in Thailand & Myanmar	Darwin Initiative	Thailand, Myanmar	South and East Asia	2005-2008	Biome not included in admin data	1	6	1		
DAR13031	Pioneering an innovative conservation approach in Sierra Leone's Gola Forest	Darwin Initiative	Sierra Leone	Sub-Saharan Africa	2004-2007	Biome not included in admin data	1	2			
DAR14002	Environmental educational programme promoting biodiversity conservation on Socotra, Yemen	Darwin Initiative	Yemen	MENA	2005-2009	Biome not included in admin data	1	2			
DAR14032	Conserving Biodiversity in the Modernising Farmed Landscapes of Uganda	Darwin Initiative	Uganda	Sub-Saharan Africa	2005-2009	Forest: Forest biodiversity, Boreal, Temperate, forest tropical	1	7	1		
DAR14045	Sustainable Support for Biodiversity and Forestry in Tomsk Taiga, Siberia	Darwin Initiative	Russia	Europe & Central Asia	2005-2008	Forest: Forest biodiversity, Boreal, Temperate, forest tropical	1	6	1		

DAR15031	Novel and Practical Conservation Strategies Following Mining in Sierra Leone	Darwin Initiative	Sierra Leone	Sub-Saharan Africa	2006-2009	Marine and coastal biodiversity, Marine, Coastal, island biodiversity	1	5			
DAR16010	Wildlife Wood Project	Darwin Initiative	Ghana, Cameroon	Sub-Saharan Africa	2007-2011	Forest: Forest biodiversity, Boreal, Temperate, forest tropical	1	5	1		
DAR17014	Developing Cross-sectoral Environmental Governance Platform for Mount Nimba	Darwin Initiative	Ivory Coast, Guinea, Liberia	Sub-Saharan Africa	2009-2012	Mountain biodiversity	1	10	1		

DAR18003	Supporting indigenous and local organisations to implement CBD Article 10(c)	Darwin Initiative	Bangladesh, Suriname, Guyana, Indonesia, Panama, Thailand	Multi-region	2010-2013	Biome not included in admin data	2	9			
DAR18005	Understanding, assessing and monitoring ecosystem services for better biodiversity conservation	Darwin Initiative	Nepal	South and East Asia	2010-2013	Mountain biodiversity	2	2	2		✓

DAR18015	Addressing the illegal trade in the critically endangered Ustyurt Saiga	Darwin Initiative	Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan	Europe and Central Asia	2010-2013	Drylands: Dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity, Rangeland, Tropical grassland and savanna, Temperate grassland, Mediterranean	1	3	1		
DAR19009	Galapagos marine invasive species: prevention, detection and management	Darwin Initiative	Ecuador	South and Central America	2012-2015	Marine and coastal biodiversity, Marine, Coastal, isl and biodiversity	1	1			
DAR19023	NBSAPs: mainstreaming biodiversity and development	Darwin Initiative	Botswana, Seychelles, Uganda, Namibia	Sub-Saharan Africa	2012-2015	Biome not included in admin data	1	4	1	1	

DAR19028	Addressing the threat of invasive species in Pitcairn Overseas Territory	Darwin Initiative	Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie & Oeno Islands	UKOT	2012-2016	Marine and coastal biodiversity, Marine, Coastal, island biodiversity	1	3			
DAR20013	Medicinal plant trade, conservation and local livelihoods in southern Morocco	Darwin Initiative	Morocco	MENA	2013-2016	Drylands: Dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity, Rangeland, Tropical grassland and savanna, Temperate grassland, Mediterranean	2	5			

DAR20017	Strengthening the capability of Kenyan communities to conserve coral reefs	Darwin Initiative	Kenya	Sub-Saharan Africa	2013-2016	Marine and coastal biodiversity, Marine, Coastal, isl and biodiversity	1	3			✓
DAR20021	Forest Futures: livelihoods and sustainable forest management in Bolivian Amazon	Darwin Initiative	Bolivia	South and Central America	2013-2016	Forest: Forest biodiversity, Boreal, Temperate, forest tropical	1	2	1		✓
DAR21014	Reconnecting poverty-alleviation to biodiversity conservation in Kenya's Eastern Arc Mountains	Darwin Initiative	Kenya	Sub-Saharan Africa	2014-2017	Forest: Forest biodiversity, Boreal, Temperate, forest tropical	2	3	2		✓

DAR21018	Conservation and sustainable use of marine turtles, Southwest Madagascar	Darwin Initiative	Madagascar	Sub-Saharan Africa	2014-2017	Marine and coastal biodiversity, Marine, Coastal, isl and biodiversity	1				
DAR22002	Complete Altitudinal Rainforest Transect for research and conservation in PNG	Darwin Initiative	Papua New Guinea	Pacific	2015-2018	Marine and coastal biodiversity, Marine, Coastal, isl and biodiversity	1	1			

DAR22004	Collaborative conflict management for community livelihoods and conservation	Darwin Initiative	Mongolia, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan	Multi-region	2015-2018	Drylands: Dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity, Rangeland, Tropical grassland and savanna, Temperate grassland, Mediterranean	1	1	1		
DAR22012	Harnessing agricultural ecosystem biodiversity for bean production and food security	Darwin Initiative	Tanzania, Malawi	Sub-Saharan Africa	2015-2018	Biome not included in admin data	1	3	1		

DAR22015	Sustainable management of an Ethiopian rangeland for biodiversity and pastoralists	Darwin Initiative	Ethiopia	Sub-Saharan Africa	2015-2018	Drylands: Dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity, Rangeland, Tropical grassland and savanna, Temperate grassland, Mediterranean	1	1	3	1	

DAR23007	Safeguarding Mesoamerican crop wild relatives	Darwin Initiative	El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico	South and Central America	2016-2019	Drylands: Dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity, Rangeland, Tropical grassland and savanna, Temperate grassland, Mediterranean	1	1	1		
DAR23020	Sustaining biodiversity, livelihoods and culture in PNG's montane forests	Darwin Initiative	Papua New Guinea	Pacific	2016-2019	Forest: Forest biodiversity, Boreal, Temperate, forest tropical	1	5			
DAR23027	Cultural and economic incentives for endangered species conservation in Cambodia	Darwin Initiative	Cambodia	South and East Asia	2016-2019	Forest: Forest biodiversity, Boreal, Temperate, forest tropical	1				

DAR23031	Science-based interventions reversing negative impacts of invasive plants in Nepal	Darwin Initiative	Nepal	South and East Asia	2016-2020	Forest: Forest biodiversity, Boreal, Temperate, forest tropical	1	3			✓
DAR23033	Marrying community land rights with stakeholder aspirations in Indonesian Borneo	Darwin Initiative	Indonesia	South and East Asia	2016-2019	Forest: Forest biodiversity, Boreal, Temperate, forest tropical	1				✓
DAR24005	Enabling rural poor to help protect biodiversity of Dja, Cameroon	Darwin Initiative	Cameroon	Sub-Saharan Africa	2017-2021	Forest: Forest biodiversity, Boreal, Temperate, forest tropical	1	4	1		
DAR24006	Enhancing forest biodiversity and community resilience to Tajikistan's changing climate	Darwin Initiative	Tajikistan	Europe and Central Asia	2017-2021	Forest: Forest biodiversity, Boreal, Temperate, forest tropical	1	4			

DAR24007	Ridge-to-reef conservation and sustainable livelihoods in Raj Ampat	Darwin Initiative	Indonesia	South and East Asia	2017-2021	Marine and coastal biodiversity, Marine, Coastal, isl and biodiversity	1	4			✓
DAR24011	Wildlife-friendly agroforestry and sustainable forest management in Bolivian indigenous territories	Darwin Initiative	Bolivia	South and Central America	2017-2021	Forest: Forest biodiversity, Boreal, Temperate, forest tropical	1	4			✓
DAR24013	Balancing water services for development and biodiversity in the Tana-Delta	Darwin Initiative	Kenya	Sub-Saharan Africa	2017-2021	Inland Waters: Inl and waters biodiversity, Wetland	1	7			✓

DAR24026	Integrating Traditional Knowledge into Guyana's Conservation Policy-Making and Practice	Darwin Initiative	Guyana	South and Central America	2017-2021	Marine and coastal biodiversity, Marine, Coastal, isl and biodiversity	1	6			
DAR25001	Preventing Borneo's peatland fires to protect health, livelihoods and biodiversity	Darwin Initiative	Indonesia	South and East Asia	2018-2021	Forest: Forest biodiversity, Boreal, Temperate, forest tropical	1	4	1		✓
DAR25011	Andean bears and people: coexistence through poverty reduction	Darwin Initiative	Bolivia	South and Central America	2018-2021	Forest: Forest biodiversity, Boreal, Temperate, forest tropical	1	4	1		✓
DAR25018	Succeeding with CITES: Sustainable and equitable Jata mansi trade from Nepal	Darwin Initiative	Nepal	South and East Asia	2018-2021	Forest: For est biodiversity, Boreal, Temperate, forest tropical	1	5	1		✓

DAR25032	Biodiversity and Agriculture: addressing scale insect threats in Kenya	Darwin Initiative	Kenya	Sub-Saharan Africa	2018-2021	Drylands: Dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity, Rangeland, Tropical grassland and savanna, Temperate grassland, Mediterranean	1	5			✓
DPLUS007	Using seabirds to inform Caribbean marine planning	Darwin Plus	Anguilla, British Virgin Islands	UKOT	2013-2015	Marine and coastal biodiversity, Marine, Coastal, island biodiversity	1	3	1		

DPLUS017	Lower plants inventory and conservation in the Falkland Islands	Darwin Plus	Falkland Islands	UKOT	2014-2016	Marine and coastal biodiversity, Marine, Coastal, isl and biodiversity	1				
DPLUS027	Marine spatial planning in the Falkland Islands	Darwin Plus	Falkland Islands	UKOT	2014-2016	Marine and coastal biodiversity, Marine, Coastal, isl and biodiversity	1				
DPLUS029	Securing St Helena's rare Cloud Forest trees and associated invertebrates	Darwin Plus	St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha	UKOT	2015-2018	Marine and coastal biodiversity, Marine, Coastal, isl and biodiversity	1				✓

DPLUS034	Akrotiri marsh restoration and a flagship wetland in the Cyprus SBAs	Darwin Plus	SBAs of Akrotiri & Dhekelia (Cyprus)	UKOT	2015-2017	Inland Waters: Inl and waters biodiversity, Wetland	1				
DPLUS039	Sustainable development and management of St Helena fisheries and marine tourism	Darwin Plus	St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha	UKOT	2015-2017	Marine and coastal biodiversity, Marine, Coastal, isl and biodiversity	1				✓
DPLUS044	Assessment, protection and actions for important seabird populations in the Cayman Islands	Darwin Plus	Cayman Islands	UKOT	2016-2018	Marine and coastal biodiversity, Marine, Coastal, isl and biodiversity	1	2	1		

DPLUS062	Securing the future of the Tristan marine environment	Darwin Plus	St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha	UKOT	2017-2021	Marine and coastal biodiversity, Marine, Coastal, isl and biodiversity	1				✓
DPLUS071	Fine scaling the design of Falkland Islands Marine Management Areas	Darwin Plus	Falkland Islands	UKOT	2018-2020	Marine and coastal biodiversity, Marine, Coastal, isl and biodiversity	1				
DPLUS077	Sustainable fishery management for St Helena's lobster populations	Darwin Plus	St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha	UKOT	2018-2020	Marine and coastal biodiversity, Marine, Coastal, isl and biodiversity	1				✓

DPLUS079	Improving Sustainability of Marine Management in Montserrat	Darwin Plus	Montserrat	UKOT	2018-2021	Marine and coastal biodiversity, Marine, Coastal, isl and biodiversity	1				
DPLUS086	Future-proofing endangered species conservation in Anguilla	Darwin Plus	Anguilla	UKOT	2019-2022	Marine and coastal biodiversity, Marine, Coastal, isl and biodiversity	1	3			
DPLUS090	Reducing the impacts of plastic on the BIOT natural environment	Darwin Plus	British Indian Ocean Territory	UKOT	2019-2022	Marine and coastal biodiversity, Marine, Coastal, isl and biodiversity	1	1	1		

DPLUS112	Capacity building in fisheries evidence, networks and management (Virgin Islands)	Darwin Plus	British Virgin Islands	UKOT	2020-2023	Marine and coastal biodiversity, Marine, Coastal, isl and biodiversity	1	2			
EIDCF006	Strengthening management of the British Indian Ocean Territory marine area	Darwin Initiative (UKOT)	British Indian Ocean Territory	UKOT	2010-2010	Biome not included in admin data	1		1		
EIDPS020	Hibert Huayallla	Darwin Initiative Fellowship	Bolivia	South and Central America	2009-2010	Biome not included in admin data	1				✓
EIDPS021	Lokesh Ratna Shakya	Darwin Initiative Fellowship	Nepal	South and East Asia	2009-2010	Biome not included in admin data	1				✓
EIDPS031	Daniel Soto	Darwin Initiative Fellowship	Bolivia	South and Central America	2013-2014	Biome not included in admin data	1				✓
EIDPS035	Sangeeta Rajbhandary	Darwin Initiative Fellowship	Nepal	South and East Asia	2013-2014	Biome not included in admin data	1				✓

XXIWT002	Cutting out the middleman: combatting wildlife trafficking in Vietnam	IWT Challenge Fund	Vietnam	South and East Asia	2014-2017	Increased Enforcement, Demand Reduction	1	2			
XXIWT003	Breaking the chain: combating the illegal trade in ploughshare tortoises	IWT Challenge Fund	Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Thailand	Multi-region	2014-2017	Increased Enforcement	1	7	1		
XXIWT005	Project Waylay	IWT Challenge Fund	Uganda, Kenya, South Africa	Sub-Saharan Africa	2014-2016	Increased Enforcement	1	2			
XXIWT006	Educational Children's Videos Reduce Endangered Species Demand in Viet Nam	IWT Challenge Fund	Vietnam	South and East Asia	2015-2017	Demand Reduction	1			1	✓
XXIWT008	Technology and Innovation Against Poaching and Wildlife Trafficking	IWT Challenge Fund	Kenya	Sub-Saharan Africa	2015-2017	Increased Enforcement	1	3			

XXIWT009	Developing law enforcement capability in Malawi to combat wildlife crime	IWT Challenge Fund	Malawi	Sub-Saharan Africa	2015-2017	Increased Enforcement	1	1	1	1	
XXIWT013	African Wildlife Forensics Network – capacity and coordination for law enforcement	IWT Challenge Fund	Angola, Botswana, Central African Republic, Congo Dem. Rep., Gabon, Mali, Zambia, Zimbabwe	Sub-Saharan Africa	2015-2017	Increased Enforcement	1	5	1		
XXIWT014	Bi-national Collaboration to Eradicate Wildlife Trafficking in Belize and Guatemala?	IWT Challenge Fund	Belize, Guatemala	South and Central America	2015-2017	Increased Enforcement, Sustainable Livelihoods	1	4			
XXIWT020	Strengthening local community engagement in combating	IWT Challenge Fund	Kenya	Sub-Saharan Africa	2016-2018	Sustainable Livelihoods	1	5		1	✓

	illegal wildlife trade										
XXIWT022	Disrupting ivory trafficking conduits with coordinated law enforcement in Malawi	IWT Challenge Fund	Malawi, Zambia	Sub-Saharan Africa	2016-2018	Increased Enforcement, Sustainable Livelihoods	1	7			
XXIWT025	Saving Pangolins by Reducing Demand in Vietnam and China	IWT Challenge Fund	Vietnam, China	South and East Asia	2016-2018	Increased Enforcement, Demand Reduction	1	1			✓
XXIWT028	Building judicial capacity to counter wildlife crime in Kenya	IWT Challenge Fund	Kenya	Sub-Saharan Africa	2016-2018	Increased Enforcement	1	4			✓
XXIWT031	Combatting IWT in Cameroon through improved law enforcement and community	IWT Challenge Fund	Cameroon	Sub-Saharan Africa	2016-2018	Increased Enforcement, Sustainable Livelihoods	1		1	1	

	empowerment										
XXIWT033	Leveraging Action to Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Networks in Laos	IWT Challenge Fund	Laos	South and East Asia	2016-2018	Increased Enforcement	1	1			
XXIWT034	Reducing IWT through synergising community decision-making, benefits and law enforcement	IWT Challenge Fund	Mozambique	Sub-Saharan Africa	2016-2018	Increased Enforcement, Sustainable Livelihoods	1	1			
XXIWT036	Implementing park action plans for community engagement to tackle IWT	IWT Challenge Fund	Uganda	Sub-Saharan Africa	2017-2021	Increased Enforcement	1	4			
XXIWT037	Conservation and community	IWT Challenge Fund	Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan	Europe & Central Asia	2017-2020	Increased Enforcement,	1	9			

	resilience: IWT Alternatives in snow leopard range					Sustainable Livelihoods					
XXIWT040	Strengthening trans-continental cooperation to combat IWT between Vietnam and Mozambique	IWT Challenge Fund	Vietnam, Mozambique	Multi-region	2017-2020	Increased Enforcement	1	3			
XXIWT041	Strengthening Community Anti-poaching and Ecotourism in the Western Terai Complex	IWT Challenge Fund	Nepal	South and East Asia	2017-2021	Increased Enforcement, Sustainable Livelihoods	1	3			✓
XXIWT043	Following the Money II: IWT Capacity-Building, East and Southern Africa	IWT Challenge Fund	Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda	Sub-Saharan Africa	2018-2020	Increased Enforcement	1	6	2		
XXIWT046	Enhancing Enforcement to End Tiger Trade in South East Asia	IWT Challenge Fund	Laos, Vietnam, Thailand, China	South and East Asia	2017-2019	Increased Enforcement	1	3			

XXIWT048	Tackling the illegal wildlife trade in Muslim Communities in Sumatra	IWT Challenge Fund	Indonesia	South and East Asia	2018-2021	Increased Enforcement, Sustainable Livelihoods	1	4			✓
XXIWT049	Reducing IWT in Sumatra across two globally important tiger landscapes	IWT Challenge Fund	Indonesia	South and East Asia	2018-2021	Increased Enforcement, Legal Frameworks	1	10			✓
XXIWT052	Increasing Capacity for Anti-Poaching and Enhancing Human-Elephant Coexistence	IWT Challenge Fund	Tanzania	Sub-Saharan Africa	2018-2021	Increased Enforcement, Sustainable Livelihoods	1	2			
XXIWT055	Combatting illegal wildlife trade in the W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) landscape	IWT Challenge Fund	Benin, Niger	Sub-Saharan Africa	2018-2021	Increased Enforcement	2	5	1		

XXIWT059	Deploying Anti-Money Laundering Typologies to Curb Illegal Wildlife Trade	IWT Challenge Fund	Kenya, Mozambique, Laos, Malaysia, Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, Vietnam, China	Multi-region	2018-2021	Increased Enforcement, Legal Frameworks	1	1	1		
XXIWT064	Determining the deterrent effect of combatting wildlife crime	IWT Challenge Fund	Malawi	Sub-Saharan Africa	2019-2022	Increased Enforcement, Legal Frameworks	1				
XXIWT067	Strengthening implementation of Zimbabwe's wildlife crime legal system	IWT Challenge Fund	Zimbabwe	Sub-Saharan Africa	2019-2022	Increased Enforcement, Legal Frameworks	1				
XXIWT068	A price on their heads: Addressing jaguar trafficking in Bolivia	IWT Challenge Fund	Bolivia	South and Central America	2019-2020	Increased Enforcement, Legal Frameworks	1				✓
XXIWT069	Strengthening intelligence-led enforcement to combat IWT between	IWT Challenge Fund	Indonesia, Malaysia	South and East Asia	2019-2021	Increased Enforcement, Legal Frameworks	1				✓

	Indonesia and Malaysia										
XXIWT071	Reducing demand for wildlife products among Chinese nationals in Laos	IWT Challenge Fund	Laos, China	South and East Asia	2019-2021	Demand Reduction	1				

Source: LTS monitoring data

Annex 7: Project assessment frameworks and interview guides

In this annex we provide draft data collection tools including two detailed project review frameworks (Tier 1 and 2), and draft interview guides for strategic stakeholders.

Tier 1 project review framework

Documents to review for Tier 1 projects: Application, Application review, Annual reports, Annual report reviews, Final report, Final report review.

Below is a table setting out all the questions and how they should be answered. When researchers are completing the tier 1 project assessments, they will do this directly into an excel spreadsheet, with dropdown options for closed questions when appropriate. This will allow quick QA, to ensure that all questions are answered appropriately. It will also allow for quicker analysis, including filtering of projects according to various characteristics or responses to questions. we have not prepared this excel spreadsheet at this stage, because the questions may be altered or added to following client feedback, the Theory of Change workshop and piloting with further projects from the sample.

This tier 1 project assessment framework excludes questions around GESI and VFM. These will be covered for the tier 2 project sample (see the tier 2 project assessment framework).

Question	Sub-question	Answer format/options
Project details		
Title		
Project ID		
Scheme		Darwin/ Darwin +/ IWT
Project class		Only needed if sample includes anything other than 'main' projects
Round		
Funding		
Funder		FCDO/ DEFRA
Dates		
Countries		
Types of partner organisation		Categories to be developed
Other project characteristics that are important to allow analysis		Further characteristics to be added
Project relevance		

Which MEAs/SDGs did the project aim to contribute to?		Spreadsheet should have columns to indicate whether project aimed contribute to each MEA/SDG. • Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) • Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) • Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) • International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) • Ramsar Convention on Wetlands • Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) • UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC) • Cartagena Convention for the Caribbean • London Convention and Protocol on the Prevention of Marine Pollution • London Declaration on the Illegal Wildlife Trade • Kasane Statement on the IWT • Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) o 1 – No poverty o 2 – Zero hunger o 3 – Good health and well-being o 4 – Quality education o 5 – Gender equality o 6 – Clean water and sanitation o 7 – Affordable and clean energy o 8 – Decent work and economic growth o 9 – Industry, innovation and Infrastructure o 10 – Reduced inequalities o 11 – Sustainable cities and communities o 12 – Responsible consumption and production o 13 – Climate action o 14 – Life below water o 15 – Life on land o 16 – Peace, justice and strong institutions o 17 – Partnership for the goals
Did the project aim to address poverty/sustainable livelihoods?		Yes/ No
	How	Narrative description
Did the project aim to address biodiversity, i.e. did the project aim to improve the		Yes/ No

conservation status of either threatened species or habitats or endemic species?		
	How?	Narrative description
Did the project aim to address threats to biodiversity?		Spreadsheet should have columns to indicate whether project aimed to address each pressure. • Habitat loss • Habitat degradation • Illegal and unsustainable killing or harvesting • Alien or exotic invasive species • Disease • Pollution • Climate change
Did the project aim to address protecting or enhancing ecosystem services/sustainable use of the environment/better management of the natural environment/climate change?		Yes/ No
	How?	Description
Is the project a Conservation Project, Development Project or a Conservation and Development Project?		Conservation Project/ Development Project/ Conservation and Development Project
Did the project intend for development aims to be achieved as a result of efforts to protect and enhance biodiversity (or vice versa)?		Yes/ No
	How?	Narrative description
Did the project intend for development aims to be achieved as a result of broader efforts to protect the environment i.e. not the protection/enhancement of biodiversity protect and enhance biodiversity (or vice versa)?		Yes/ No
	How?	Narrative description
Did the project involve the following activities?		• work to manage species and populations • work to manage habitats and ecosystems

		• work to enhance or provide alternative livelihoods • work around developing, adopting or implementing policy or legislation • education and awareness raising • training and capacity building – national level • training and capacity building – local level • research/conservation planning • work around strengthening law enforcement/criminal justice system • work around reducing demand for the products of the illegal wildlife trade
How did the project plan to work with local partners?		Description
Project effectiveness		
How have projects scored at different stages?	• Application review • Annual report review (all years) • Final report review	Scores Application review scoring systems are variable over time so this score should be recorded as a percentage of possible marks.
Were project inputs the right ones/sufficient to deliver project activities effectively as planned? If the project activities have fallen short of expectations within the application, why has this been the case?		Description
Were project activities the right ones/sufficient to deliver project outputs effectively as planned? If the project outputs have fallen short of expectations within the application, why has this been the case?		Description
Did project activities/outputs in the following areas meet the level of expectation in the application? If not, why not?	• work to manage species and populations • work to manage habitats and ecosystems • work to enhance or provide alternative livelihoods • work around developing,	Met fully/ Met partially/ Not met at all/ Not part of project/ Insufficient information to make a judgement Description of reasons for expectations not being met, for each activity/output in list where this was the case.

	• adopting or implementing policy or legislation • education and awareness raising • training and capacity building – national level • training and capacity building – local level • research/conservation planning • work around strengthening law enforcement/criminal justice system • work around reducing demand for the products of the illegal wildlife trade	
Did the project meet the level of expectation in the application around working with in-country partners?		Yes/ No
	Describe the evidence behind this judgement.	Description
Were there any external factors/stakeholders that affected the achievement of outputs? How?		Description
What have been the main enablers in delivering the project's outputs?		Description
What have been the main barriers to delivering the project's outputs?		Description
What has the project achieved in terms of outcomes and impacts on biodiversity?		Description
	How does this compare to the scale	Met expectations fully/ Met partially/ Not met at all/ No expectations

	of expectations at the application stage?	
	What have been the main enablers in delivering the project's outcomes and impacts in this area?	Description
	What have been the main barriers in delivering the project's outcomes and impacts in this area?	Description
What has the project achieved in terms of outcomes and impacts on protecting or enhancing ecosystem services/sustainable use of the environment/better management of the natural environment/climate change?		Description
	How does this compare to the scale of expectations at the application stage?	Met expectations fully/ Met partially/ Not met at all/ No expectations
	What have been the main enablers in delivering the project's outcomes and impacts in this area?	Description
	What have been the main barriers in delivering the project's outcomes and impacts in this area?	Description
What has the project achieved in terms of outcomes and impacts on poverty/sustainable livelihoods?		Description
	How does this compare to the scale of expectations at the application stage?	Met expectations fully/ Met partially/ Not met at all/ No expectations
	What have been the main enablers in delivering the project's	Description

	outcomes and impacts in this area?	
	What have been the main barriers in delivering the project's outcomes and impacts in this area?	Description
Describe any lessons that this project offers on how the schemes could be improved from the design and application stages to the implementation and completion phases to better achieve their objectives and achieve VfM?		Description
Is there any evidence from the documentation reviewed that this project has built on other projects funded across the schemes?		Yes/ No
	Describe how the project has done this.	Description
Is there any evidence in the documentation reviewed that the project's outcomes and impacts will be sustained?		No evidence/ Weak evidence/ Strong evidence
	Describe this evidence.	Description

Tier 2 project review framework

Documents to review for tier 2 projects: All of those reviewed for tier 1 projects, but in more depth; Any evaluations or reviews that covered the project

Interviews will also be conducted with project stakeholders. For this tier 2 sample of 30 projects, a tier 1 project assessment framework will have already been completed. Project details can be copied, and the information contained in the tier 1 project assessment framework will be one source of evidence that the tier 2 review draws on. The tier 2 project assessment framework will be completed in a word document, because it will be easier to complete in this format given the level of detail required. Completed frameworks can be transferred to excel for analysis across the tier 2 sample.

Where questions are included in in the tier 2 project assessment framework, but not in the tier 1 framework. This is indicated in yellow.

Question	Sub-question	Answer format/options
Project details		
Title		
Project ID		
Scheme		Darwin/ Darwin +/ IWT
Project class		Only needed if sample includes anything other than 'main' projects
Round		
Funding		
Funder		FCDO/ DEFRA
Dates		
Countries		
Types of partner organisation		Categories to be developed
Project relevance		
Did the project aim to address poverty/sustainable livelihoods?		Yes/ No
	How	Narrative description
Did the project aim to address biodiversity?		Yes/ No
	How?	Narrative description
Did the project aim to address threats to biodiversity?		• Spreadsheet should have columns to indicate whether project aimed to address each pressure. • Habitat loss • Habitat degradation • Illegal and unsustainable killing or harvesting • Alien or exotic invasive species • Disease • Pollution • Climate change
Did the project aim to address protecting or enhancing ecosystem services/sustainable use of the environment/better management of the natural environment/climate change?		Yes/ No
	How?	
Is the project a Conservation Project, Development		Conservation Project/ Development Project/ Conservation and Development Project

Project or a Conservation and Development Project?		
Did the project intend for development aims to be achieved as a result of efforts to protect and enhance biodiversity (or vice versa)?		Yes/ No
	How?	Narrative description
Did the project intend for development aims to be achieved as a result of broader efforts to protect the environment (or vice versa)?		Yes/ No
	How?	Narrative description
Did the project involve the following activities?		Spreadsheet should have columns to indicate whether project involved the following activities. • work to manage species and populations • work to manage habitats and ecosystems • work to enhance or provide alternative livelihoods • work around developing, adopting or implementing policy or legislation • education and awareness raising • training and capacity building – national level • training and capacity building – local level • research/conservation planning • work around strengthening law enforcement/criminal justice system • work around reducing demand for the products of the illegal wildlife trade
How did the project plan to work with local partners?		Description
Project effectiveness and impact		
How have projects scored at different stages?	• Application review • Annual report review (all years) • Final report review	Scores Application review scoring systems are variable over time so this score

		should be recorded as a percentage of possible marks.
Were project inputs the right ones/sufficient to deliver project activities effectively as planned? If the project activities have fallen short of expectations within the application, why has this been the case?		Description
Were project activities the right ones/sufficient to deliver project outputs effectively as planned? If the project outputs have fallen short of expectations within the application, why has this been the case?		Description
Did project activities/outputs in the following areas meet the level of expectation in the application? If not, why not?	• work to manage species and populations • work to manage habitats and ecosystems • work to enhance or provide alternative livelihoods • work around developing, adopting or implementing policy or legislation • education and awareness raising • training and capacity building – national level • training and capacity building – local level • research/conservation planning • work around strengthening law enforcement/criminal justice system • work around reducing demand for the products of the illegal wildlife trade	Met fully/ Met partially/ Not met at all/ Not part of project/ Insufficient information to make a judgement Description of reasons for expectations not being met, for each activity/output in list where this was the case.
Did the project meet the level of expectation in the application around working with in-country partners?		Yes/ No
	Describe the evidence behind this judgement.	Description
Were there any external factors/stakeholders that affected the achievement of outputs? How?		Description

What have been the main enablers in delivering the project's outputs?		Description
What have been the main barriers to delivering the project's outputs?		Description
What has the project achieved in terms of outcomes and impacts on biodiversity?		---
	Is there evidence that the project reduced threats to threatened species or habitats, or endemic species?	No evidence/ Weak evidence/ Strong evidence
	Briefly describe this evidence.	Description
	Is there evidence that the project improved the status of a threatened species or habitat, or endemic species?	No evidence/ Weak evidence/ Strong evidence
	Briefly describe this evidence.	Description
	How does this compare to the scale of expectations at the application stage? Describe the rationale for your judgement.	Met expectations fully/ Met partially/ Not met at all/ No expectations Description
	How does this compare to the scale of expectations at the application stage?	Met expectations fully/ Met partially/ Not met at all/ No expectations
	What have been the main enablers in delivering the project's outcomes and impacts in this area?	Description
	What have been the main barriers in delivering the project's outcomes and impacts in this area?	Description
	Where there have been impacts in this area, were there other contributing factors and to what extent did the project or other factors contribute to these impacts?	Description
	Have the project's outcomes and impacts in this area been in line with the ToCs developed as part of this evaluation? If not, why not?	Description
What has the project achieved in terms of outcomes and impacts on protecting or enhancing		---

ecosystem services/sustainable use of the environment/better management of the natural environment/climate change?		
	Is there evidence that the project achieved outcomes or impacts in this area?	No evidence/ Weak evidence/ Strong evidence
	Briefly describe this evidence.	Description
	How does this compare to the scale of expectations at the application stage? Describe the rationale for your judgement.	Met expectations fully/ Met partially/ Not met at all/ No expectations Description
	What have been the main enablers in delivering the project's outcomes and impacts in this area?	Description
	What have been the main barriers in delivering the project's outcomes and impacts in this area?	Description
	Where there have been impacts in this area, were there other contributing factors and to what extent did the project or other factors contribute to these impacts?	Description
	Have the project's outcomes and impacts in this area been in line with the ToCs developed as part of this evaluation? If not, why not?	Description
What has the project achieved in terms of outcomes and impacts on poverty/sustainable livelihoods?		---
	Is there evidence that the project achieved outcomes or impacts in this area?	No evidence/ Weak evidence/ Strong evidence
	Briefly describe this evidence.	Description
	How does this compare to the scale of expectations at the application stage? Describe the rationale for your judgement.	Met expectations fully/ Met partially/ Not met at all/ No expectations Description
	How does this compare to the scale of expectations at the application stage?	Met expectations fully/ Met partially/ Not met at all/ No expectations
	What have been the main enablers in delivering the project's	Description

	outcomes and impacts in this area?	
	What have been the main barriers in delivering the project's outcomes and impacts in this area?	Description
	Where there have been impacts in this area, were there other contributing factors and to what extent did the project or other factors contribute to these impacts?	Description
	Have the project's outcomes and impacts in this area been in line with the ToCs developed as part of this evaluation? If not, why not?	Description
Has the project had any unintended outcomes or impacts?		Description
Describe any lessons that this project offers on how the schemes could be improved from the design and application stages to the implementation and completion phases to better achieve their objectives and achieve VfM?		
Is there any evidence from the documentation reviewed that this project has built on other projects funded across the schemes?		Yes/ No
	Describe how the project has done this.	Description
Is there any evidence that the project's outcomes and impacts have been/will be sustained?		No evidence/ Weak evidence/ Strong evidence
	Describe this evidence.	Description
Is there any evidence that the project has contributed to improved capacity in developing countries to deliver sustainable biodiversity and human development?		No evidence/ Weak evidence/ Strong evidence
	Describe this evidence.	Description
Gender, inclusion, power and safeguarding		

To what extent were gender, inclusion, power and safeguarding mainstreamed in this project?		---
	To what extent were gender, inclusion, power and safeguarding considered in the planning/design of the project?	Gender blind/ Gender aware/ Gender sensitive/ Gender mainstreamed/ Gender transformative
	Describe the evidence supporting this judgement.	Description
	To what extent were gender, inclusion, power and safeguarding considered in the implementation/delivery of the project?	Gender blind/ Gender aware/ Gender sensitive/ Gender mainstreamed/ Gender transformative
	Describe the evidence supporting this judgement.	Description
	To what extent were gender, inclusion, power and safeguarding considered in the monitoring and evaluation of the project?	Gender blind/ Gender aware/ Gender sensitive/ Gender mainstreamed/ Gender transformative
	Describe the evidence supporting this judgement.	Description
	To what extent has the project benefited marginalised groups?	no benefit/insufficient information, some benefit, extensive benefit
	Describe the evidence supporting this judgement.	Description
Project value for money - economy		
Is project spending (as planned) in different categories of spending in line with the average across the scheme?		
	% of total scheme funds for each category of spend in application: • Staff costs • Consultancy costs • Overhead costs • Travel and subsistence • Operating costs • Capital equipment • Other costs	% of total scheme funds for each category of spend in application.
	Explain the variation from the average percentage for each category of spend across the scheme.	Description for each category of spend of reasons behind variation from scheme average.
How much did the project cost in total (all funding from all sources) compared to the		Total actual costs to the scheme as a percentage of the funding from the scheme.

anticipated cost at the application stage?		
	Describe the reasons behind any variation (where variance is greater than 5%).	Description
Project value for money - efficiency		
Have output targets been achieved within budgeted costs?		---
	At the most recent Annual Review or Final Review, had all output targets been achieved within budgeted costs?	Describe where this was not the case.
	Where more or less than budgeted has been spent, explain these variations.	
Have milestones been met on time?		Describe where this was not the case.
	Where milestones have not been met on time, explain why this was the case.	Description.
Was the project able to be flexible in reallocating funds to meet projects' emerging priorities?	How easy it was to change budgets – ask project leaders What were the reasons behind changes?	
Project value for money – effectiveness		
Has the project achieved target outcomes and impacts?	How do outcomes and impacts achieved compare to the scale of expectations at the application stage? • biodiversity • protecting or enhancing ecosystem services/sustainable use of the environment/better management of the natural environment/climate change • poverty/sustainable development	Met expectations fully/ Met partially/ Not met at all/ No expectations
Is the management of risks by the project effective?		---
	Are risks effectively identified at the start of the project?	
	Are risks mitigated and managed effectively?	
Project value for money - sustainability		

How robust are sustainability plans at the application stage?		Description
How robust are sustainability plans at project completion?		Description
How much match funding was obtained during the project lifecycle?		
How much funding was leveraged post-project?		
Project value for money - equity		
To what extent were gender, inclusion, power and safeguarding mainstreamed in this project?	• in the planning/design of the project? • in the implementation/delivery of the project? • in the monitoring and evaluation of the project?	Gender blind/ Gender aware/ Gender sensitive/ Gender mainstreamed/ Gender transformative
To what extent are outputs/outcomes/impacts monitored reported by characteristics including gender, socioeconomic status and location?		Description
Is there evidence that the project considered trade-offs (e.g. working in harder-to-reach areas, biodiversity vs poverty alleviation)?		Describe evidence

Strategic stakeholder interview guides

Introduction (all schemes)

Name	
Role and organisation of interviewee	
Country	
Date of interview	
Interviewer	

Interviewer to read out:

1. The interview will take 45-60 minutes. The information you provide will significantly contribute to our analysis and help shape the future of the Darwin Initiative/Illegal Wildlife Trade

Challenge Fund. All data collected will be used to produce a final report which will be shared with Defra, the schemes' advisory committees and other relevant individuals and organisations.

2. All responses will be anonymised, but if there is anything you would like to tell us that you do not want us to feature in the report, please say so during our interview. You are free to stop the interview at any point. If you do not raise this, can we assume you consent to your views being reflected in the evaluation report?

3. Do you have any questions before we start? Are you happy to proceed with the interview?

Darwin/Darwin Plus interview topic guide

Draft Strategic Stakeholder Interview Topic Guide (Darwin and Darwin Plus)	
1. Background and context	▶ Can you tell me about your organisation and your role? ▶ What is the relevance of your role to the Darwin / Darwin Plus scheme? ▶ Has your relationship to the scheme changed since you first became involved?
OECD DAC criteria: Relevance	
2. General information about the scheme	▶ What do you see as being the main objectives of the scheme, for example, to promote and conserve biodiversity, promote sustainable livelihoods, poverty alleviation, etc? ▶ Do you think these objectives have changed or evolved throughout the years? ▶ Who do you see as the main target population in the scheme, for example, conservationists, local people, women and children, etc?

3. Policy coherence of the scheme	▶ To what extent has the scheme contributed to meeting the targets of relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), including: ▷ CBD (UN Convention on Biological Diversity) ▷ Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) ▷ Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) ▷ Nagoya Protocol ▷ International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture ▷ Ramsar Convention on Wetlands ▷ UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) ▷ UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ▶ How would you describe the level of coherence between this scheme and other conservation programmes? ▶ How do you see the relationship between the scheme's objectives to both conserve and promote biodiversity, and to tackle poverty and promote sustainable livelihoods?
OECD DAC criteria: Effectiveness/Impact	
4. Key outputs and outcomes	▶ To what extent has the scheme achieved its intended outputs and outcomes, for example, number of projects funded, funds disbursed, etc? ▶ Is the scheme more effective in certain contexts or geographies than others/ If so, why?
5. Key impacts	▶ To what extent has the scheme achieved its intended impacts in relation to biodiversity conservation, climate change and poverty reduction/sustainable livelihoods? Is the scheme stronger or weaker in some of these aspects, and if yes, why? ▶ How do the scheme's impacts compare with similar programmes? ▶ What are the main enablers and barriers to the scheme achieving its intended impacts?
OECD DAC criteria: Efficiency	
6. Overall efficiency	▶ How do you view the selection, management and monitoring, and delivery of projects in terms of the scheme's overall efficiency?

7. Value-for-money	▶ To what extent is the scheme delivering value-for-money? ▶ How could the scheme be improved from the project design and application stages to the project implementation and completion phases to better achieve the scheme's objectives and deliver value-for-money?
OECD DAC criterion: Sustainability	
8. Benefits of the scheme beyond the funding period	▶ To what extent have benefits of the scheme continued beyond project funding, and what benefits have been long-lasting? ▶ How can lessons learned be used to improve the scheme's operation in the future?
OECD DAC criterion: Equity	
9. Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI)	▶ How effectively have gender (and intersectional issues such as age, poverty status and ethnic group), power considerations, and safeguarding been mainstreamed into the scheme? ▶ To what extent has the scheme benefited marginalised groups such as women and girls and indigenous communities?
Final questions	
10. Interviewee's overall assessment	▶ To what extent do you think that the scheme has achieved its aims?
11. Final questions	▶ Is there anything more that you would like to add? ▶ Are there any more relevant reports/evaluations/studies that you think may be helpful? Thank you very much for your time

IWT interview topic guide

Draft Strategic Stakeholder Interview Topic Guide (Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund)	
1. Background and context	▶ Can you tell me about your organisation and your role? ▶ What is the relevance of your role to the IWTCF scheme? ▶ How has the situation changed in the last decade?
OECD DAC criteria: Relevance	
2. General information about the scheme	▶ What do you see as being the main objectives of the scheme, for example, for example, to promote alternative livelihoods to IWT, legal reform, training for law enforcement, education, etc to promote and conserve biodiversity; promote sustainable livelihoods, poverty alleviation, etc? ▶ Do you think these objectives have changed or evolved throughout the years? ▶ Who do you see as the main target population for the scheme, e.g. law enforcement, conservationists, local people, consumers, criminals/poachers, etc
3. Policy coherence of the scheme	▶ To what extent has the scheme contributed to meeting the targets of relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), such as: ▷ CBD (UN Convention on Biological Diversity) ▷ Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) ▶ How would you describe the level of coherence between this scheme and other IWT prevention programmes?
OECD DAC criteria: Effectiveness/Impact	
4. Key outputs and outcomes	▶ To what extent has the scheme achieved its intended outputs, e.g. number of projects funded, funds disbursed?
5. Key impact results	▶ To what extent has the scheme achieved its intended impacts, for example, reduced levels of IWT, more effective prosecution of IWT offences based on a clearer legislative framework? ▶ Has the scheme been more successful in achieving some impacts than others, and if yes, why? ▶ What are the main enablers and barriers to meeting the scheme's impact objectives?

OECD DAC criteria: Efficiency	
6. Value for money	▶ To what extent do you think the scheme has delivered value-for-money? ▶ How could the scheme be improved from the project design and application stages to the project implementation and completion phases to better achieve the scheme's objectives and deliver value-for-money?
OECD DAC criterion: Sustainability	
7. Benefits of the scheme beyond the funding period	▶ To what extent have benefits of the projects funded by the scheme continued beyond the projects' funding periods, and what benefits have been long-lasting? ▶ How can lessons learned be used to improve the scheme's operation in the future?
OECD DAC criterion: Equity	
8. Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI)	▶ How effectively has gender (and intersectional issues such as age, poverty status and ethnic group), power considerations, and safeguarding been mainstreamed into the scheme? ▶ To what extent has the scheme affected marginalised groups such as women and girls and indigenous communities?
Final questions	
9. Interviewee's overall assessment	▶ To what extent do you think that the scheme has achieved its aims according to the results framework (logframe) in place?
10. Final questions	▶ Is there anything more that you would like to add? ▶ Are there any more relevant reports/evaluations/studies that you think may be helpful? Thank you very much for your time

Annex 8: Value for money framework

We present our value for money framework, including metrics, assessment criteria, type of data and data sources to elicit value for money across economy, efficiency, effectiveness, equity, cost-effectiveness and sustainability at the scheme- and project-level.

Table 4: Value for Money (VfM) framework

Metric	Assessment criteria	Type	Data sources
Economy – Scheme level: Do schemes have good budget management procedures and use of inputs?			
Rigorous selection of projects	Rigorous and transparent process to select projects, based on consideration of VfM and contribution to target objectives of the scheme.	Qualitative	Application guidance Scoring criteria used to assess project proposals
Cost drivers	Schemes maintain downward pressure on agency and administrative cost drivers relative to project implementation budgets.	Monetary	Breakdown of total funding by percentage approved for projects, agency fees (Defra, LTS, expert committees) and administrative budgets (or other dimensions) by each round for each scheme.
Scheme delivery within time and budget overruns / savings	Schemes demonstrate projects deliver within budget (no budget overruns) and within the 3-year timeframe (where applicable).	Monetary	LTS monitoring data (variance between projects' total grant received and total actual costs, percentage of projects within budget across each scheme, variance between actual expenditures by type of project claim and budgeted expenditures by type of project claim, number of projects within 3-year timeframe)
Funding leveraged during scheme lifecycle	High degree of projects evidence funding leveraged to complement schemes' funding, and that funding leveraged is a suitable proportion compared to schemes' overall budgets.	Monetary	LTS monitoring data (Number of projects with funding leveraged, and % of funding leveraged compared to overall budget (for projects where data is available))

LTS monitoring and management of project budget management over projects' duration	Projects required to report on costs which is actively monitored and managed by LTS (e.g. regular checks undertaken, remedial actions taken in response to under/overspends).	Qualitative	LTS International systems for monitoring project budgets LTS processes for managing over runs / underspends Evidence of processes being applied in practice
LTS management costs as a % of overall scheme costs	Benchmarked against comparable schemes.	Monetary	LTS International financial reporting
LTS procedures to manage cost inputs (competitive tendering and use of quotes, benchmarking of staff costs)	LTS budget management procedures ensure good VfM with respect to management costs.	Qualitative	LTS International financial and operational procedures (E.g. quotes before getting flights, staff costs benchmarked with upmarket rates, etc.)
Economy – Project level: Do projects within each scheme have good budget management procedures?			
Budget management over duration of project	Projects have systems to report and monitor spend against VfM metrics.	Qualitative	Original applications Annual and final reports Project VfM reporting structures
	Projects deliver to budget over project lifetime.	Monetary	Project budgets (Variance in project claim costs to funding granted and scheme-level average, and why this is) Annual and final reports and report reviews – aligns with Tier 2 evaluation
Efficiency – Scheme level: Are schemes efficiently using funding to deliver target outputs?			
Flexibility and efficiency of fund allocation to meet projects' emerging priorities	Scheme-level budget change processes exist to respond to projects' changing priorities.	Qualitative	Application guidance Annual contractor's reports
	Budget change processes to meet projects' emerging priorities are efficient.	Quantitative	Average duration of budget change requests (date received, date approved), average number of budget change requests per project, number of change requests rejected.

Achievement of target outputs within budgeted costs	Schemes' standard outputs are achieved.	Quantitative	LTS monitoring data Number of qualifications achieved and weeks of training through scheme funding against benchmarks (between 2011-2020, at least 100 formal qualifications achieved) by projects with no budget overruns. Only available for Darwin Initiative.
Evidence of collaboration between Defra, LTS International, expert committees and other actors in selecting priorities for funding	Level of collaboration between Defra, LTS International, expert committees and other actors in allocating funds to priorities.	Qualitative	High-level interview with Defra, LTS, expert committees Expert committee guidance Annual contractor's reports Strategy day meeting minutes Meeting minutes
LTS supporting achievement of scheme-level outputs.	LTS's screening, monitoring, and other activities are effective in ensuring delivery of outputs.	Qualitative	LTS operational procedures
Efficiency – Project level: Are projects within each scheme efficiently using funding to deliver target outputs?			
Flexibility to reallocate funds to meet projects' emerging priorities	Projects demonstrate evidence of fund reallocation and adaptive management to meet emerging priorities.	Quantitative/Qualitative	LTS monitoring data (Number of budget change requests compared to scheme-level average) Budget change request forms (Nature of budget change requests) Interviews with project leaders on ease of budget change processes (if possible)
Achievement of target outputs within budgeted costs.	Projects achieve target outputs and/or demonstrate overachievement of outputs within budgeted costs Savings made in outputs expenditure against budget.	Quantitative	Original applications Annual and final reports and report reviews (scores, logframe milestones, standard and project-specific outputs, cost of delivery of outputs, number of projects saving in expenditure on outputs)
Timeliness of delivery and ability to meet milestones	Projects' output milestones met on time.	Qualitative	Original application (Project implementation timetable) Annual and final reports and report reviews

Effectiveness – Scheme level Are schemes' target outputs likely to be effective in leading to target outcomes and impacts?			
Target outputs effective in leading to target outcomes and impacts	Scheme logframe indicators reflect achievement of outcomes and impacts against milestones.	Quantitative	LTS monitoring data (scheme-level logframe outcome indicators on CBD, CMS, CITES – benchmark at least 80%; and reported by projects with final report scores of A or higher) (Relationship between average annual report scores (due to many annual report scores throughout duration of project) and final project scores)
Risk identification and management	Schemes implement screening procedures on assumptions and risks across scheme lifecycle.	Qualitative	Application guidance Annual contractor's reports Interviews with LTS
	Schemes demonstrate risk management procedures, before and/or after risks are identified, such as risk diversification during project selection or closing down projects.	Qualitative	Application guidance Annual contractor's reports Interviews with LTS
LTS supporting achievement of scheme-level impact	LTS's screening, monitoring, and other activities are effective in ensuring delivery of impact.	Qualitative	LTS operational procedures Interviews with LTS, Defra, Expert Committees and implementing partners
Effectiveness – Project level: Are target outputs of projects within each scheme likely to be effective in leading to target outcomes and impacts?			
Target outputs effective in leading to target outcomes and impacts	Project logframe indicators show achievement of outcomes and impacts.	Quantitative/Qualitative	Annual and final reports and report reviews (logframe indicators against targets)
Effective risk identification and management	Projects identify and monitor assumptions and risks on an ongoing basis, in a systematic manner – are there risks that should have been foreseen.	Qualitative	Original applications Annual and final reports and report reviews
	Projects take active steps to manage and mitigate risks, reducing risks to an acceptable level.	Qualitative	Annual and final reports and report reviews Budget change requests as a form of mitigating risk?

Equity – Scheme level: Do the schemes provide an equitable distribution of results?			
Equity in procurement process	Fair, transparent, and accessible application process Consideration of type/size of organisations.	Qualitative	High-level interviews (LTS International, scheme expert committees). Expert committee guidance Application guidance and forms Annual contractor's report
Mainstreaming of equity and inclusiveness across schemes	Schemes have measures to recognise and accommodate projects with low capacity organisations, hard-to-reach areas, gender, indigenous peoples)	Qualitative	High-level interviews (LTS International, scheme expert committees). Expert committee guidance Application guidance and forms LTS and expert committee application screening
Consideration of trade-offs in project selection	Schemes recognise, consider and act on potential trade-offs of projects related to costs and benefits delivered to different groups in the selection of and/or guidance and support provided to projects (gender, socioeconomic status, location, biodiversity versus development objectives).	Qualitative	Application guidance Annual contractors' report guidance
Equity – Project level: Do projects within each scheme provide an equitable distribution of results?			
Mainstreaming of equity and inclusiveness across projects	Extent to which equity considerations (gender, indigenous peoples, socioeconomic status) are mainstreamed at the project-level, during design and delivery	Qualitative	Original applications Annual and Final reports and report reviews
Equitable results across gender, socio-economic status and location	Outputs/outcomes are reported by gender, socioeconomic status, location.	Quantitative/Qualitative	Annual and final reports (evidence of disaggregated reporting on outputs, outcomes and impacts)
Consideration of trade-offs in design and delivery of project activities and outcomes	Extent to which projects consider trade-offs in costs and benefits of activities and outcomes delivered to different groups (gender, socioeconomic status, working in harder-to-	Qualitative	Original applications Annual and Final reports and report reviews

	reach areas, areas that are more expensive, biodiversity vs poverty alleviation etc.)		
Cost-effectiveness – Scheme-level			
Variation in level of achievement of outcomes compared to project size	Assess whether final project scores on achievement of outcomes and impacts vary depending on project size.	Quantitative	LTS monitoring data (correlation between final project score and funding size)
Sustainability – Scheme-level: What is the sustainability of each scheme?			
Post-project monitoring in place to track sustainability of projects	Extent of follow-up monitoring on projects or ability to track results and work undertaken after project completion	Qualitative	LTS reporting after project completion
Sustainability – Project -level: What is the sustainability of projects' interventions?			
Sustainability plans / Exit strategies are in place	Sustainability plans / exit strategies are in place from the start of the project, and there is evidence these are being / have been used	Qualitative	Original applications Final reports report reviews
Evidence of financial commitment (e.g. funding leveraged)	Funding leveraged to sustain outcomes / continue project	Quantitative	Final reports (funding leveraged post-project observed and value amount)

Annex 9: GESI Assessment Framework

In this annex we present a summary of the best practice in assessing gender, equality and social inclusion (GESI) in programmes, and our comprehensive GESI framework.

Table 5: Best practice regarding GESI and the environment

Tool	Description	Application
UNDP: Gender Marker[45]	A tool that rates gender mainstreaming, equality and women's empowerment at the activity level on a scale from zero to three. This is primarily done in the work planning and budgeting phase and can also be used during monitoring and reporting.	Each activity is allocated a gender rating of 0, 1, 2 or 3, as follows: • Activities that have gender equality as a principal objective are rated 3; • Activities that have gender equality as a significant objective are rated 2; • Activities that will contribute in some way to gender equality, but not significantly, are rated 1; • Activities not expected to contribute noticeably to gender equality are rated 0.
UNDP: Checklist for Gender Mainstreaming in Project Proposals	A tool that reviews the extent to which gender is mainstreamed into forthcoming projects and can be used at any point in the development of a project proposal. It is most beneficial when applied during preliminary consultations.	The tool assesses gender mainstreaming across the following categories: • Situation analysis • Project strategy • Management arrangements • Gender sensitive activities, outputs and indicators • M&E and budgeting.
UNDP: Checklist for Gender Mainstreaming in Work Planning	A tool to ensure activities are planned and implemented in a gender sensitive and responsive manner. The tool should be used at the very beginning of the development of work plans and kept in view to identify gaps in budgets and implementation.	This tool is divided into three sections: • Preparation/consultations (ensuring women and men are equally represented and consulted before a plan is drafted) • Work plan and budgeting (examine adequacy of activities and allocated budgets in contributing to gender equality) • Implementation (consider whether monitoring mechanisms are gender-sensitive and the potential impact the project implementation will have on gender relations).

[45] UNDP (2013), *Gender Mainstreaming Made Easy: Handbook for Programme Staff*, link.

Global Environment Facility: Evaluation on Gender Mainstreaming in the GEF46	An evaluation which provides a methodology for assessing gender mainstreaming in environmental project designs, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. It also includes gender indicators and suggested questions for evaluating gender within environmental programmes.	Provides project rating categories for assessing gender mainstreaming as follows: • Serious Omission: The project contained little or no reference to gender issues, but it should have included gender concerns because of the nature of the project. • Not Sufficient: Gender issues were mentioned in the project documents, but no real attention was paid to these concerns in project activities. • Gender Mainstreamed: Gender issues were integrated into the project. • Not Relevant: Gender and social issues were not considered and were not expected to be considered in the project.
Harvard University: Harvard Gender Analysis Framework	A tool for gender analysis that represents one of the earliest efforts to systematise attention to both women and men and their different positions in society. The tool helps to strategically inform projects on how to address and alleviate gender differences and inequalities.	The framework emphasises gender-awareness and is based on the position that allocating resources to women as well as men in development efforts will make development itself more efficient. The gender analysis identifies types of gender differences and inequalities that might otherwise be taken for granted – such as how men and women have different access to and control over resources, carry out different social roles, and face different constraints and receive different benefits. Once highlighted, the gender differences and inequalities can be addressed by carefully designed programmes.
UN Environment: Gender and Environment: Support Kit for UN Environment Staff	A toolkit providing general entry points for mainstreaming gender into environment project designs, including through a) context and situational analysis; b) designing activities and outcomes; and c) formulating results frameworks.	The toolkit includes useful pointers for mainstreaming gender, including: • Describing the roles of men and women, and differences between them (e.g. in labour market, decision-making, environmental issues) • Collecting disaggregated data by sex (e.g. through census data and from environmental policymakers and ministries) • How issues identified in situation analysis relate to project and can be taken into account • Ensure that women as well as men are directly involved in the development of the solution and throughout all phases of the project • Include baselines and indicators that reflect qualitative and quantitative data, disaggregated by differences such as sex, economic status, age and ethnicity.
UN Environment: Guidelines for Assimilating Gender into Integrated Environment Assessments	Guidelines for conducting integrated environmental impact assessments, and mainstreaming gender considerations into this. Can be applied at project start up, scoping and design, planning, implementation, M&E and communication and outreach.	Provides various risks to consider in terms of how a project will impact context, including: How access to or control of resources and benefits may change as a result of a project; and changes in social aspects of participants' and the community's lives as a result of the project. Also includes key questions that an impact assessment should address, as well as example qualitative and quantitative indicators for measuring impact.

[46] Global Environment Facility (2011), *Evaluation on Gender Mainstreaming in the GEF*, link.

UN Women: Leveraging Co-benefits Between Gender Equality and Climate Action for Sustainable Development.	Includes guidance on gender mainstreaming in project cycles with a particular focus on climate change projects.	Includes recommendations for collecting data on gender statistics on climate and environmental issues, gender-sensitive data collection methods, guiding questions for climate-specific gender analysis, tools for assessing gendered solutions to climate change problems, and guidance on producing Gender Action Plans, gender-responsive climate-specific Theories of Change and results frameworks.
CSSF: Gender Appraisal checklist on Programme Proposals	A checklist of what to consider in terms of mainstreaming gender at analysis, theory of change, finance and management stages of project cycle management.	Includes pointer questions such as: 1. Have women/women's organisations as well as other organisations working on gender issues been consulted during the analysis and programme design? 2. Do activities consider any barriers that prevent women/girls and men/boys from participating in the programme? (e.g. restrictions on women's mobility outside of the home, childcare commitments, social norms)? • Are women involved in decision-making on the project? (e.g. on programme/project boards, in community-level committees) • Can staff access all members of the community? Are female staff needed to consult with women, and male staff to consult with men? • Are gender-related activities adequately resourced (funds, staffing, logistics)?
FCDO: The Gender Manual: A Practical Guide	Includes gender markers for projects where gender is: • A principal component (e.g. where the promotion of gender equality or women's empowerment is a fundamental objective) • A significant component (e.g. initiatives where the promotion of gender equality or women's empowerment is important, but not the principal reason for undertaking the initiative). • Non-targeted (e.g. initiatives where the promotion of gender equality is not part of the goal or purpose, or where gender equality and women's empowerment are mentioned only vaguely or not at all).	Provides suggestions and criteria for assessing gender when screening ToRs and bids; actions for improving sex disaggregated statistics and analysis; how to conduct gender sensitive audits and evaluations; ensuring voice and accountability is paramount throughout the project cycle; integrating gender into logical frameworks and strengthening women's involvement in community planning.
FCDO: UK Aid Gender Guidance	Provides practical guidance for how to mainstream gender throughout project cycle management, in line with FCDO's *Strategic Vision for Gender Equality.*	Provides suggested indicators for integrating gender in projects at: 1. Identification stage 2. Planning and implementation 3. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning.
CSSF: Gender Analysis Cheat Sheet	This cheat sheet outlines what is meant by gender analysis, why it should be undertaken and how to conduct gender analysis.	Provides tools for understanding how the experiences and priorities of different groups of women and men differ, the causes of gender inequalities in different contexts, and the practical implications of this for the design and implementation of strategies,

		policies or programming. Provides guidance on how to set objectives for gender analysis (e.g. what it will be used for) and key questions to answer. Also links to context specific analysis tools, programme scoping tools, Gender-sensitive Joint Analysis of Conflict and Stability (JACs) and thematic level analysis.
UNDP: Marginalised Minorities in Development Programming: A Resource Guide and Toolkit	A checklist which draws on guidance from UN OHCHR and the UN Inter-Agency Group on Minorities (composed of UNDP, UNESCO, UNITAR, ILO, WHO, UNOCHA and UNCTAD). Promotes social inclusion and non-discrimination in programming. Includes vulnerability assessment tools and a minority challenges matrix to assess the unique needs of vulnerable groups (including minority women, religious and ethnic minorities, indigenous groups and stateless and displaced people) during the project cycle.	Can be used during policy and programme development, situation and problem analysis and M&E stages. Provides pointers to ensure the rights and needs of marginalised groups are integrated into interventions, including consideration of human rights treaty bodies / special procedures on minority groups, consideration of minority groups' level of participation in public life and decision-making, consultations with NGOs working on minority issues, assessment of surveys and data produced by NGOs or National Human Rights Institutions, and disaggregated of data along ethnic or religious lines.
UN-REDD: Operational Guidance: Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Other Forest Dependent Communities	Provides key principles to consider when consulting and engaging indigenous groups in the context of environmental interventions. Can be used during project preparation, identification of participants, design and methodology, and communication and dissemination of information.	Principles include: Consultations should occur freely and voluntarily, without external manipulation; projects should recognise existing Indigenous and local authorities, institutions and processes; consultations should start as a first step in the programme design but opportunities to facilitate input during implementation should continue. Information should be disseminated to local communities in a timely manner to ensure meaningful input and feedback, and effective/appropriate communication channels should be used.
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity: Akwé: Kon Guidelines	Voluntary guidelines for the conduct of cultural, environmental and social impact assessments regarding developments proposed to take place on, or which are likely to impact on, sacred sites and on lands and waters traditionally occupied or used by indigenous and local communities. Guidelines are in line with Free, Prior and Informed Consent processes.	Includes pointers to consider when designing projects that may impact sacred resources, including: Notifying and providing a public consultation on the proposed project; identifying indigenous and local communities, and other relevant stakeholders, likely to be affected; establishing appropriate mechanisms for indigenous and local community participation, including for the participation of women, the youth, the elderly and other vulnerable groups; and establishing an agreed process for recording the views and concerns of the members of the indigenous or local community whose interests are likely to be impacted by a proposed project.
Forest Stewardship Council: FSC guidelines for the implementation of the right to free, prior and informed consent	Provides guidance to implement the six steps of the FPIC context as follows: Step 1: Identify rights holders and their representative institutions; Step 2: Prepare for further engagement with identified communities; Step 3: Map rights, resources, lands and territories and assess impacts; Step 4: Inform affected indigenous and local community rights holders; Step 5: Negotiate and let community decide on negotiated FPIC proposal; Step 6: Formalise, verify, implement and monitor the consent agreement.	Provides guidance for what activities and issues should be monitored, how to establish participatory monitoring mechanisms, how to record results and present these to local communities / other parties, steps to be taken if monitoring reveals problems during implementation, the type of problems and what levels of disagreement can trigger grievance processes and under what circumstances a consent process should be reinitiated and agreements renegotiated.

Table 6: GESI Framework

	Project	Sources consulted	Score	5: GESI transformative Project goes beyond GESI-mainstreaming and facilitates a 'critical examination' of GESI norms, roles, and relationships; strengthens or creates systems that support equality and inclusion.	4: GESI mainstreamed Project ensures that GESI perspectives and attention to the goal of gender equality are central to most, if not all, activities. GESI relevant components in most, if not all, activities.	3: GESI sensitive Project adopts some GESI sensitive methodologies, data collection and analysis, but the gender focus is only apparent in a limited number of project activities.	2: GESI aware Project recognises some issues related to GESI and there is occasional mention of GESI in project documents, but it is not consistently applied in design, implementation, M&E or decision-making.	1: GESI blind Project does not demonstrate awareness of GESI and it is not mentioned in any project documents. GESI does not feature in design, implementation, M&E or decision-making.
Project planning / design				**Indicators**	**Indicators**	**Indicators**	**Indicators**	**Indicators**
Analysis	X code	e.g. KIIs; ARs	e.g. 4	Thorough, high quality analysis has been taken in proportion to project size (recognising how environmental problems and solutions affect groups differently). Clear recognition of intersectional issues. Analysis includes information on priorities, roles, experiences, trends, gaps and opportunities to promote GESI and inform HMG engagement. This occurs even where gender is not an explicit objective of project or projects are gender neutral.	Strong analysis has been taken in recognising how environmental problems and solutions affect groups differently). Some recognition of intersectional issues but this is not as well developed. Some analysis on priorities, roles, experiences, trends, gaps and opportunities to promote GESI and inform HMG engagement, but this is not as well developed / consistent. This occurs even where gender is not an explicit objective of project or projects are gender neutral.	Analysis has been taken in recognising how environmental problems affect groups differently, though there is a lack of consideration of how solutions might impact groups and limited recognition of intersectional issues. Basic analysis on priorities, roles, experiences, trends, gaps and opportunities to promote GESI and inform HMG engagement.	Some analysis has been taken on the needs/concerns of different groups, but this does not clearly link to the problems/solutions relevant to the project. No recognition of intersectional issues. Unclear on the specific priorities, roles, experiences, trends, gaps and opportunities to promote GESI.	No analysis or consideration of GESI or intersectional issues has taken place, even at the most basic level.
			3	Project has clearly identified and considered international best practice and lessons relevant to GESI and project context, and integrated this into design.	Some identification and consideration of international best practice and lessons learned relevant to GESI and project context, and some evidence of this being integrated into design.	Some identification and consideration of international best practice and lessons learned, but not clearly relevant to project context and unclear how this has affected design.	Passing mention to international best practice or lessons learned, but this is generic, not relevant to project context and is not reflected in project design.	No identification or consideration of international best practice or lessons learned relevant to GESI.

			2	Project has proactively identified other relevant initiatives and partners working on GESI issues, synergised and integrated relevant expertise.	Project has consulted with / considered the work of other relevant initiatives working on GESI issues and started to synergise.	Project has identified the work of other relevant initiatives / partners but has not clearly synergised or integrated expertise.	Passing mention to the work of other initiatives or partners, but not clear how they link to project and no clear efforts to synergise / integrate expertise.	No identification of other relevant initiatives and partners working on GESI.
Stakeholders				Stakeholder mapping has been conducted to identify which groups need to be involved, and how, to ensure maximum benefit. Where relevant, this considers the rights and needs of indigenous groups.	Stakeholder mapping has been conducted to identify who needs to be involved and how they will benefit, but unclear *how* they should be involved. Where relevant, this considers the rights and needs of indigenous groups.	Stakeholder mapping has been conducted to identify who needs to be involved but unclear *how* they should be involved and how project should be tailored to ensure maximum benefit. No consideration of the rights and needs of indigenous groups.	Basic identification of stakeholders, including across different groups. Unclear how they will be involved or benefit. No consideration of the rights and needs of indigenous groups.	No stakeholder mapping or consideration of the rights/needs of indigenous groups.
				Different groups are consulted during design, with their needs, experiences and ideas clearly integrated into activities. Clear efforts have been made to ensure equal participation of the least powerful and assertive from these groups.	Different groups are consulted, with their needs, experiences and ideas clearly integrated into activities. Some efforts have been made to ensure equal participation of the least powerful and assertive from these groups.	Different groups are consulted, but unclear how their needs, experiences and ideas have been integrated into activities. Minor efforts have been made to ensure equal participation of the least powerful and assertive from these groups.	Some consultations have taken place, but there is no evidence that these have considered the needs/experiences/ideas across different groups. No clear plan for ensuring equal participation of the least powerful.	No consultations have taken place and no evidence of efforst to ensure equal participation of the least powerful.
Results				Clear articulation of all target outcomes from GESI perspective (e.g. milestones/indicators/targets) – even where outcomes do not explicitly target GESI issues. Where relevant, HMG GEM markers are integrated into logical framework.	Majority of target outcomes include GESI perspectives (e.g. in milestones/ indicators/ targets) – even when outcomes do not explicitly target GESI issues.	Some target outcomes include GESI perspectives (e.g. in milestones/ indicators/ targets).	Minor evidence of GESI within target outcomes (e.g. in milestones / indicators / targets) but this is very limited.	No evidence of GESI within any target outcomes.
				Clear vision for how project will benefit from GESI perspective, and assessment of GESI-relevant solutions	Evidence of how the project will benefit from a GESI perspective, but this is not as	Some evidence of how the project will benefit from a GESI perspective, but this is	Passing reference to GESI benefits but does not feature in ToC.	No mention of GESI benefits. GESI does not feature in ToC.

				(e.g. GESI features in ToC and assumptions).	well tested or developed (e.g. in ToC assumptions).	not as well developed (e.g. in a ToC).		
				Project feeds into GESI-relevant international frameworks (e.g. SDGs 5 and 10) or relevant domestic action plans / legislation / goals. These clearly relate to project context.	Mention of GESI-relevant frameworks that relate to project context. Unclear how project contributes to these.	Mention of GESI-relevant frameworks but unclear how project contributes to these.	Passing reference to international frameworks but not GESI specific and unclear how project relates to these.	No mention of relevant international or domestic frameworks relevant to GESI.
Power and safeguarding				Clear consideration and mitigation of GESI-related risks (including Do No Harm assessment / conflict analysis). Project adequately assesses risk of backlash or exacerbating tensions between groups.	GESI-related risks are detailed but unclear if Do No Harm analysis / conflict analysis has taken place.	GESI-related risks acknowledged but not detailed. Insufficient assessment of how project may exacerbate GESI-related risks.	Generic GESI-related risks mentioned but these don't relate to project context. Insufficient assessment of how project may exacerbate GESI-related risks.	No consideration of GESI-related risks.
				Assessment of possible project impact on customary use of natural resources, including sacred sites where relevant, and plans are in place to ensure meaningful consultation in line with Free, Prior and Informed Consent.	Assessment of possible project impact on customary use of natural resources, but unclear if plans are in place to ensure meaningful consultation in line with Free, Prior and Informed Consent.	Assessment of customary use of natural resources but no consideration of how project may impact this. No plans are in place to ensure meaningful consultation in line with Free, Prior and Informed Consent.	Passing reference to customary use of natural resources but no consideration of how project may impact this. No plans are in place to ensure meaningful consultation in line with Free, Prior and Informed Consent.	No consideration or acknowledgement of how project may impact customary ways of life. No acknowledgement of Free, Prior and Informed Consent.
				Clear consideration and plans for how to respect and preserve traditional knowledge, innovations and practices through the project	Some consideration and plans for how to respect and preserve traditional knowledge, innovations and practices through the project	Project recognises value of traditional knowledge and practices, but unclear how it will proactively use or preserve these.	Passing/generic reference to the importance of traditional knowledge, but not relevant to project.	No recognition of importance of traditional knowledge, innovations and practice.
				Comprehensive Ethical Protocols are in place. This is fully tailored to target groups.	Ethical Protocols are in place, and this is partially tailored to target groups but there is room for improvement.	Ethical Protocol is in place with minor evidence of tailoring, but significant room for improvement.	Standard Ethical Protocol in place but this is not tailored to target groups.	No Ethical Protocol is in place.

				Relevant government institutions and CSOs have been identified (e.g. with GESI/environmental expertise; with power to increase legitimacy or buy-in) have been consulted. Project is mindful that these organisations do not replace these groups representation and knowledge, beliefs and perceptions. Project has clearly identified potential opposition to GESI which may undermine achievement of objectives, and built-in time to build understanding or buy-in.	Relevant government institutions and CSOs have been identified (e.g. with GESI/environmental expertise; with power to increase legitimacy or buy-in) have been consulted. Project is mindful that these organisations do not replace these groups representation and knowledge, beliefs and perceptions.	Some relevant government institutions and CSOs have been identified (e.g. with GESI/environmental expertise; with power to increase legitimacy or buy-in) but not clearly consulted.	Project has only engaged with government institutions / CSOs where required (e.g. for permission or sign off).	No identification of relevant government institutions and CSOs.
Budget				Dedicated budget for GESI-specific activities, including provisions to respond to emerging needs in project lifetime.	Dedicated budget for GESI-specific activities, with some flexibility to respond to emerging needs in project lifetime.	Dedicated budget for GESI-specific activities but unclear if there are any provisions to respond to emerging needs in project lifetime.	Some budget earmarked for GESI-specific activities but no provisions to respond to emerging needs in project lifetime.	No budget set aside for GESI-specific activities or flexibility to respond to emerging needs.
Implementation / delivery				**Indicators**	**Indicators**	**Indicators**	**Indicators**	**Indicators**
Inputs				Gender balanced (or gender appropriate) team is in place, including a dedicated GESI Specialist or GESI Champion / Focal Point.	Gender balanced (or gender appropriate) team is in place, with ability to draw on internal/external GESI expertise if required.	Gender balanced (or gender appropriate) team is in place. Unclear if dedicated GESI expertise is available.	Consideration of need for gender balanced team but no recognition of how to tailor this to project needs.	No consideration of gender balanced/appropriate team.
				GESI action plan (or equivalent) is in place and shared with key staff and partners.	GESI action plan (or equivalent) being considered / under development.	GESI principles / thinking in place, but not developed into an action plan or shared with key staff and partners.	Minor evidence of GESI thinking taking place, but not developed into an action plan or shared with key staff and partners.	No GESI action plan (or equivalent) in place.
Implementing partner				Engagement with CSOs and GESI advocates as project counterparts and advisers to	Consultation with CSOs and GESI advocates, with integration of their views into project. Could be improved	Some evidence of engagement with CSO and GESI advocates, but this is on adhoc/opportunistic	Minor evidence of engagement with CSOs and GESI advocates but	No evidence of consultations with CSOs and GESI

				ensure continued integration of GESI perspectives.	with more regular engagement.	basis and it is unclear how their views are integrated into project.	their views are not integrated into the project.	advocates at any stage of project.
				Comprehensive GESI training / capacity building opportunities provided for staff and partners with less expertise.	One-off GESI training / capacity building opportunities provided for staff and partner with less expertise.	Staff are signposted to relevant GESI resources but could benefit from training / capacity building.	Recognition of staff/partner GESI capacity gaps but no real provisions in place to address these.	No assessment of staff and partner GESI capacity levels or provisions to address these.
Governance				Clear feedback mechanisms for ensuring inclusion of target groups in project decision-making, and strategies to ensure their voices/needs are taken seriously.	Some evidence of feedback mechanisms for ensuring inclusion of target groups in project decision-making, and strategies to ensure their voices/needs are taken seriously.	Some evidence of feedback mechanisms for ensuring inclusion of target groups but unclear how this then affects project decision-making and how voices/needs are taken seriously.	Minor / tokenistic feedback sought from target groups but this does not clearly impact project decision-making.	No feedback mechanisms are in place to ensure inclusion of target groups, and this does not appear to have been considered.
				Equal voice among women and men in the decision-making process of the project.	Strong inclusion of both women and men's voices in decision-making process of the project.	Some inclusion of women and men's voices in decision-making process of the project.	Unclear if women and men's voices are included in decision-making process of project.	Disproportionate inclusion of women or men's voices in decision-making process.
Activities				Activities clearly respond to issues identified at analysis stage, and aim to advance and empower specific GESI groups (e.g. through formation of collectives, capacity-building for women, gender training with men, increased opportunities to participate in decision-making, increased access to resources)	Activities clearly respond to issues identified at analysis stage, with some efforts made to empower specific GESI groups.	Some activities respond to issues identified at analysis stage.	Minor/weak evidence of activities responding to issues identified at analysis stage. Inconsistent approach.	No evidence of activities responding to issues identified at analysis stage, or efforts made to empower GESI specific groups.
				Activities/approaches have been tested during a pilot phase and adapted to ensure they are GESI responsive and sensitive to context.	Some evidence of activities / approaches being tailored so they are GESI responsive and sensitive to context, with evidence of adaptation.	Some evidence of activities / approaches being tested but unclear how they have been tailored / adapted to be	Minor/weak evidence of activities or approaches being tailored so they are GESI responsive and sensitive to context.	No evidence of activities or approaches being tailored so they are GESI responsive and sensitive to context.

						GESI responsive and sensitive.		
Adaptation				Ongoing, consistent analysis to capture changes to context, including GESI and intersectional issues / implications.	Periodic analysis to capture changes to context, including GESI and intersectional issues / implications.	Some evidence of analysis to capture changes to context, but not always clear how this relates to GESI and project. No consideration of intersectional issues.	Minor/weak evidence of analysis to capture changes in context, but unclear how this relates to GESI or project. No consideration of intersectional issues.	No analysis has taken place to capture changes in context.
				Consistent, responsive adaptation of project to meet emerging needs of relevant groups (e.g. change / introduction of new activities in response to changes in context or articulated needs of groups).	Some evidence that the project has responded / adapted to meet the emerging needs of relevant groups.	Occasional evidence that the project has responded / adapted to meet the emerging needs of relevant groups.	Project has identified some needs but there are no provisions / flexibility to respond and adapt to these.	No evidence that the project has responded or adapted to meet the emerging needs of relevant groups.
Accessibility				Relevant project information is communicated and disseminated to beneficiaries in a culturally appropriate way (e.g. appropriate languages, non-literacy based formats).	Some project information is communicated and disseminated to beneficiaries, with some efforts to sensitise this (e.g. appropriate languages) and disseminate through accessible means.	Some project information is communicated to beneficiaries, but no evidence of this being sensitised in a culturally appropriate way.	Basic information communicated to beneficiaries, but no evidence of this being sensitised in a culturally appropriate way.	No efforts to communicate or disseminate project information to beneficiaries.
				Appropriate measures introduced to address barriers to participation, with consideration of security and legal restrictions. Examples include organising training in line with schedules, increasing mobility, holding sessions in safe spaces, gender-separate groupings, compensating or providing incentives. The benefits of participation are judged to outweigh time/input burdens. Measures have clearly	Appropriate measures introduced to address barriers to participation, with consideration of security and legal restrictions. Measures have clearly helped to increase participation. Unclear if benefits of participation are judged to outweigh time/input burdens.	Some evidence of appropriate measures introduced to address barriers to participation for certain groups. Unclear if this has increased participation. Unclear if benefits of participation are judged to outweigh time/input burdens.	Recognition of barriers to participation of some groups but project has not clearly addressed these.	No evidence of appropriate measures introduced to address barriers to participation for certain groups.

				helped to increase participation.				
Beneficiaries				Equal (or appropriate) levels of participation and inclusion among groups, including women, which is clearly appropriate to context.	Equal (or appropriate) levels of participation and inclusion among groups, including women.	Some evidence of equal level of participation and inclusion among groups but unclear if this is appropriate to context.	Project has aimed for 50/50 split of participation between women and men but hasn't, for example, considered if this is appropriate to context.	No consideration of participation levels among different groups.
				Distinct capacities and skills of different groups have been considered, with activities tailored accordingly. Project proactively identifies opportunities to utilise/celebrate participant skills and knowledge.	Distinct capacities and skills of different groups have been considered, with activities tailored accordingly.	Some recognition/assessment of the capacities and skills of different groups but unclear how activities have been tailored accordingly.	Passing reference to capacities and skills of groups, but no clear assessment or accompanying evidence, and activities have not been tailored accordingly.	No recognition or assessment of beneficiary skills or capacities.
Power and safeguarding				Local communities have been informed and sensitised to the projects and appropriate entry points have been identified and used to gain buy-in.	Local communities have been informed and sensitised to the projects, but project could benefit from identifying entry points to increase buy-in.	Local communities have been informed of project, but no clear efforts to sensitise or gain buy-in.	Local communities have been notified of project but not received meaningful information.	Local communities have not been informed of project.
				Ongoing Do No Harm assessments have been taken place to monitor, pre-empt and mitigate any potentially negative consequences of active on stakeholders and the environment.	Some evidence of Do No Harm assessments taking place to monitor interaction of projects with stakeholders and environment.	Minor evidence of Do No Harm assessments taking place to monitor interaction of projects with stakeholders and environment, but unclear how risks are being pre-empted/mitigated.	Informal updates to Do No Harm assessments but not consistent, and no clear plans for pre-empting and mitigating risks.	No Do No Harm assessments have taken place at any stage.
				Comprehensive plan in place for communities to raise grievances and complaints in line with Free, Prior and Informed Consent procedures	Plan in place for communities to raise grievances. Unclear if this complies with Free, Prior and Informed Consent.	Evidence of some informal processes in place for communities to raise grievances. No mention of Free, Prior and Informed Consent procedures.	Evidence of recognition of need for communities to raise grievances but no provisions taken to ensure this.	No consideration of right for communities to raise grievances or mention of Free, Prior and Informed Consent procedures.

Monitoring and evaluation				Indicators	Indicators	Indicators	Indicators	Indicators
Data collection				GESI-disaggregated data is collected and reported at baseline, midline and end line so that impacts across groups can be tracked. Intersectional data included (e.g. gender split by poverty status, age or ethnicity).	GESI-disaggregated data is collected and reported at baseline, midline and end line so that impacts across groups can be tracked. Intersectional data is not consistently included.	GESI-disaggregated data is collected and reported, though this is not consistent across baseline, midline and end line. Passing consideration of intersectional data.	Some GESI-disaggregated data is collected and reported, but this is very inconsistent. No consideration of intersectional data.	No collection / reporting of GESI-disaggregated data. No consideration of intersectional issues.
				Marginalised groups are meaningfully consulted and well represented during M&E stages. Clear steps have been taken to ensure data collection methodologies enable groups to express their experiences and views freely and safely.	Marginalised groups have been meaningfully consulted and are well represented during some M&E stages. Some steps have been taken to ensure data collection methodologies enable groups to express their experiences and views freely and safely.	Some consultations with marginalised groups have taken place but not consistently as part of M&E. Unclear if steps have been taken to ensure data collection methodologies enable groups to express their experiences and views freely and safely.	Minor evidence of consultation of marginalised groups but not consistent across M&E stages and room for improvement. No steps taken to ensure data collection methodologies enable groups to express their experiences and views freely and safely.	No consultations have taken plae with marginalised groups at ancy M&E stage.
Results				Project effectively responds to GESI-specific needs identified during the planning stage, and additional needs, with robust supporting evidence.	Project effectively responds to GESI-specific needs identified during planning stage, with some good supporting evidence.	Project has responded to some of the GESI-specific needs identified during the planning stage, with justification for areas not achieved. Areas for improvement in terms of supporting evidence.	Unclear if project has responded to GESI-specific needs identified during the planning stage, and no explanation/ supporting evidence required.	No GESI-specific needs identified during planning, or addressed during implementation.
				Monitoring and results framework includes measurable GESI indicators appropriate for the project. This is included across all outcome areas, and not just those focused on GESI.	Monitoring and results framework includes measurable GESI indicators appropriate for the project. This is included across the majority of outcome areas.	Monitoring and results framework includes measurable GESI indicators appropriate for the project. This is only really included for outcome areas focused on GESI.	Monitoring and results framework includes some GESI indicators but these are not always appropriate to project.	Monitoring and results framework includes no GESI indicators

				Project reports on differential GESI benefits through employing both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods to contribute to triangulation of results and to capture change that is difficult to measure.	Some reporting on differential GESI benefits, using mixture of qualitative and quantities methods. Some room for improvement in terms of triangulation.	Some reporting on differential GESI benefits, but could be improved through triangulation of different methods.	Very limited/generic reporting on differential GESI benefits.	No reporting on differential GESI benefits.
Evaluation and learning				Evaluation/assessment of project has taken place, addressing achievement of GESI objectives, results and impacts on different groups, power relations, resources and opportunities.	Evaluation/assessment of project has taken place, addressing achievement of GESI objectives, but more detail could be provided in terms of impacts on different groups, power relations, resources and opportunities.	Evaluation/assessment of project has taken place, with some evidence of how the project has achieved GESI objectives. No detail provided on impacts on different groups, power relations, resources and opportunities.	Passing reference to GESI achievements but no evidence to support this and no clear evaluation/assessment has taken place.	No formal evaluation/assessment has taken place, and no evidence of project GESI achievements.
				Learning is documented and shared with wider Defra network with clear ideas for informing future gender-transformative projects (e.g. through case studies or workshops).	Learning is documented and shared with wider Defra network, with some consideration / ideas for how this can inform future GESI projects.	Learning is documented but not actively shared with Defra network. Potential for learning to inform future GESI projects, but this is not well developed.	Minor learning is documented, with some potential to inform future GESI projects but this needs a lot of work. No haring with wider Defra network.	No GESI-relevant learning has been documented or shared.
				Plans are in place for GEM scoring or HMG gender audits (for larger projects).	Consideration / discussions on GEM scoring or HMG gender audits (for larger projects).	No awareness of GEM scoring / HMG gender audits.	No awareness of GEM scoring / HMG gender audits.	No awareness of GEM scoring / HMG gender audits.
Sustainability				Activities have built the capacity of national/local actors to promote GESI beyond the project lifetime. Clear commitment from these actors.	Some evidence of increased knowledge/awareness/buy-in among national/local actors to promote GESI beyond project lifetime.	Emerging evidence of increased awareness among national/local actors to promote GESI, but no clear commitment/buy-in.	National/local actors have been engaged, but unclear if their knowledge/awareness has increased and no clear commitment or buy in.	No efforts made to include national / local actors or increase their knowledge or awareness on GESI issues.
				New entry points to advance GESI have been identified and capitalised on, and plans	New entry points to advance GESI have been identified and capitalised on, and some	New entry points to advance GESI have been identified,	Vague mention of entry points, though these are not well developed and no	No entry points to advance GESI identified. No plans in

				are in place to develop and build on these.	thinking starting to take place regarding how to build on this.	but unclear how this will be developed and built upon.	plans are in place to build upon them.	place to develop entry points beyond funding.
Aggregate score				*(e.g. 160-200)*	*(e.g. x-x)*	*etc*	*etc*	*etc*
			x	*Overall score: Gender transformative*	*Overall score: Gender mainstreamed*	*Overall score: Gender sensitive*	*Overall score: Gender aware*	*Overall score: Gender blind*

Annex 10: Evidence of impact

In this annex we present summaries of the thematic reviews carried out to date

Thematic Programme of Work: Islands

The Thematic systematic review of the Darwin Initiative's main contributions on Islands (van Gardingen and Wild, 2007) provided evidence of impact with respect to island-based projects' contributions to the CBD articles and the goals of the CBD Island Programme of Work. The review demonstrates that the 105 Island Darwin projects in 44 Islands over the period of 1993-2006 produced disproportionately positive impacts in relation to the relatively small value of Darwin funding. However, as will be highlighted, the review argues that the Darwin Initiative still faces critical limitations despite it producing significant positive impacts.

The most significant impact of the Darwin Initiative reported in the Thematic Review on Islands' biodiversity conservation was its necessary and essential contributions in improving financial, human, scientific and technological resource and capacity constraints through generating knowledge and developing skills to support the conservation of biodiversity, and effectively implement the CBD. Most projects centred on identification and monitoring, in-situ conservation, research and training, and technical and scientific cooperation alongside supporting the exchange of information, education and awareness raising, and general measures for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, which together addressed one of the most important constraint on islands of human capacity and knowledge gaps in tackling biodiversity issues. The application of new skills and knowledge to support local institutions can positively influence nearly all dimensions of the CBD.

In addition to this, the review suggests that the Darwin Initiative had significant impacts on certain goals of the CBD's Island Programme of Work. The Darwin Initiative significantly contributed to promoting the conservation of the biodiversity of island ecosystems, habitats, biomes and island species diversity, such as through securing conservation areas, developing biodiversity action plans, protecting threatened endemic species, and generating new knowledge about key elements of biodiversity. Positive impacts on policy and legislation related to the establishment of protected areas and the controlling of invasive diseases was also observed, however the review notes this is an area where DI projects could enhance impact, particularly as Island governments' CBD officials lack knowledge on relevant outcomes and do not frequently incorporate information produced within policy processes. The Darwin Initiative also produced significant project partnerships, synergies between projects, and networking relationships which extended beyond geographic focus and the life of projects, illustrating cross-boundary and cross-project knowledge sharing as a significant long-term impact. However, due to the distance and isolation of different islands from one another, the financial barriers of inter-country travel were posited to obstruct learning between them. The review also raised concern over the sustainability of technology transfers forged by project partnerships and networking relationships. In particular, the review noted that some projects' abilities to maintain or run new analytical techniques and equipment after project completion is questionable, whilst for others there is the risk that such new technologies will displace the perceived value of indigenous knowledge, influencing the degree of impact of biodiversity conservation. Finally, the review highlighted that the Darwin Initiative also had positive impacts on promoting the sustainable use and consumption of biodiversity.

However, despite the Darwin Initiative producing disproportionately positive impacts related to improving scientific knowledge and skills, building human and institutional capacity, and implementing key biodiversity conservation activities to effectively implement the CBD, the review makes clear that this alone is not sufficient to achieve long-term significant impact on the conservation of biodiversity. The evidence

demonstrated that projects needed to link with other processes or activities in order to deliver sustained impacts, particularly in providing sustainable financial resources for implementation of the convention. The lack of sustainable financial resources and other local constraints limited the ability of island communities and governments to make progress in biodiversity conservation, particularly in order to expand and convert local actors' capabilities generated by newfound knowledge and skills from theory to more extensive practice to increase impact. Although, the Darwin Initiative does provide a steppingstone for projects to maintain themselves using local resources or other conservation funds after project completion. For example, a subset of projects were able to gather additional funding, particularly UKOTs with funding from EU and islands in the Pacific with funding from the IASPCEPF as a result of the Darwin Initiative generating the knowledge and skills to identify and suggest solutions and empower local stakeholders to apply for funding elsewhere to implement further measures. However, for most small island communities, the process of applying for new funding is burdensome. Together with the above on interpreting positive impacts of the Darwin Initiative, existing constraints on human and institutional resources, absorptive capacities, and also 'island politics', must be acknowledged and addressed in order to develop effective strategies and plans for the conservation of biodiversity and ensure the sustainability of impacts.

The review also found that the Darwin Initiative projects' impact on particular areas of the CBD vital to protecting and managing Islands' biodiversity were inadequate or non-existent, largely because of the lack of sustainable financial resources evidenced. Firstly, the review demonstrated clear evidence gaps on the Darwin Initiative's impacts on addressing biodiversity threats. Darwin projects had inadequate impacts on controlling threats to island biodiversity from invasive alien species, as specific actions related to controlling threats requires much greater resources than available in the size of the grant. Thus, the ability of projects to use local resources and/or acquire further sources of funding after project completion is posited as vital to producing impacts in controlling invasive alien species threats. However, the review emphasises that the Darwin Initiative, where applicable, provided the knowledge necessary to develop control programmes funded by other agencies after project completion. Other threats that the review highlights that inadequately Darwin projects have had little impact on minimising adverse impacts include, habitat loss, land use change and degradation, and sustainable water use on Islands. In addition to this, very few projects contributed to promoting the conservation of island genetic diversity, and thus limiting the extent of impact on this goal.

Importantly, the review highlighted that the lack of impacts generated in certain goals have consequences for the achievement of other goals, as these can act as essential pre-requisites for other goals. For example, for projects to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources, this requires progress on protecting the components of biodiversity from various threats, promoting sustainable use, and the provision of adequate financial and human resources as essential pre-requisites. As a result of this, as many Darwin projects had made inadequate progress on some of these other goals, it limited the ability of Darwin projects to start addressing the issue of benefit sharing. However, the review noted that as local capacity begins to expand, the implementation of this CBD Programme of Work goal expected to increase.

Thematic Programme of Work: Forest Biodiversity

The Thematic Review on Darwin Initiative projects related to Forest Biodiversity (Hardcastle, 2008) provided an overview on the relevance, impact and legacy of projects related to forest biodiversity against the goals and targets of both the CBD COP 6 (2002) Forest Biodiversity Goals and the CBD COP 8 (2006) CBD 2010 Targets. Given the level of funding applied, the diversity and effectiveness of individual projects is a major contribution to the conservation of forest biodiversity at a global level, as well as exceptional value for money. This review's analysis of aggregated projects' content related to forest biodiversity against programmes of work suggests strongly that, although there are a number of "gaps", the Darwin Initiative was effective in providing resources to those goals that are relevant for the type of intervention it can

provide. In particular, Darwin Initiative forest biodiversity projects collectively contributed to all the CBD Forest Biodiversity Goals and CBD 2010 Targets, however contributing to some more than others. However, the evidence of impact detailed in this thematic review should be interpreted with slight caution as the majority of this evidence is related to relevance rather than impact. Furthermore, much of the evidence of impact is suggested based on project activities, as well as being eluded to using correlation figures, therefore not eliciting the scheme's actual impacts on the relevant goals and targets.

The most notable impacts as a result of contributing to these goals have been the Darwin Initiative's critical capacity building function with lasting impacts over the long-term. The Darwin Initiative produced impacts through building human, technical and financial capacity at a range of levels in all partner countries, including in the provision of equipment and formal skills transfers between people. However, the precise level of this contribution depends on the number and structure of the projects. Furthermore, the review noted that impacts produced through capacity building functions were enhanced when there were multiple and sequential projects generating strong synergies. This is what is termed "Darwin Initiative Project Hotspots". These synergies included staff trained under one project being able to cascade their skills to new people, and previous technological transfers such as equipment being used in subsequent projects. Single, isolated projects on the other hand, especially when there were weak institutional frameworks surrounding them, lacked contact and opportunities to share resources and ideas, and thus missed out on the impacts produced from the exchange of resources, transfers of trained staff and technologies within a country or region, and links with non-Darwin agencies and organisations. However, it must be highlighted that the review bases this link on informal analyses rather than a formal evaluation of the impacts of linked projects in comparison to single, isolated projects. Although, Kapos et al. (2010) find that the hypothesis has been proven true on many occasions through Closed Project Evaluations, where multiple projects built upon the success and awareness of biodiversity issues raised by previous Darwin projects. A later Closed Project Evaluation on two Kenya projects' contribution to the country and region (LTS International, 2015) also found that funding these two projects working in a similar area on similar issues over a period of seven years led to significant impacts on Kenya's ability to manage its resources, benefiting both biodiversity and fishing communities. Therefore, evidence of impact related to this 'Darwin Initiative Project Hotspot' hypothesis is relatively well justified.

Darwin Initiative projects also produced particular impacts through the projects' generation of information and the improved access to this information. The generation of specific surveys of local ecosystems or ecosystem components and the engagement of local people in biodiversity surveys helped increase the amount and utility of accessible information generated from Darwin Initiative reporting. Furthermore, the Darwin Initiative's website provides a pool of readily accessible knowledge of biodiversity components and of forest ecosystems, especially at a local level, generated by forest biodiversity projects. In terms of advancing the frontiers of scientific knowledge, whilst only a few projects explicitly contributed to the improved scientific understanding of the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning, the review stated that the high quality of research and value of publications had important contributions to improving understanding of basic ecological processes and assisting partner countries to meet their obligations under forestry elements of the CBD. Other contributions of Darwin Initiative projects on forest biodiversity CBD goals and targets were that it increased support for a substantial number of projects that have made useful contributions to species conservation in a large number of countries. Furthermore, the Darwin Initiative developed a useful range of innovative and creative projects to address the goal of habitat loss, land use change and other drivers of biodiversity loss in a number of partner countries. The review suggested that this should be of assistance to practitioners elsewhere in terms of identifying successful approaches, issues and problems that need to be considered in order to enhance impacts.

The review highlights two critical factors underpinning the impacts Darwin Initiative projects produce which is the scheme's relatively small size and limited timeframe of funding. Whilst the three year time horizon is appropriate for a "scientific" project, it is short for projects that engage more with people, changes in their attitudes, and the development of new systems influenced by people to impact several key areas related

to biodiversity and conservation. The review contains particular areas that are affected by this. First, this reduces projects' capacity to deal with policy and legal related elements as this requires larger and longer levels of support. The review finds that Darwin projects contribute to the development of policy and legislation instruments but cannot impact policy in other capacities, and thus is not the most appropriate intervention to impact policy or governance extensively. Secondly, these critical factors also limit impacts of the initiative on reducing destructive processes of forest biodiversity, as these tend to be far too strong for effective leverage from the level of resources provided by the Darwin Initiative fund. Finally, the small size of Darwin Initiative projects makes it difficult for projects to marshal the expertise required for heavier engagement with livelihood issues. The small level of knowledge means that projects prioritise people with scientific knowledge, with less priority on those with knowledge of the social sciences, and thus this limits impacts in social and economic goals and targets related to biodiversity such as access and benefit-sharing of forest genetic resources. In addition to these, the review also highlights a weakness of the initiative that limits impacts, which is the extent to which the relative economic development level should be a criterion in fund allocation, as assumptions made during project formulation can be overly optimistic. The Darwin Initiative faces the problem that the on-the-ground situation with respect to institutions, policies and legislation are often neglected, both by applicants and the programme itself. A negative consequence of this is that this neglects whether projects adequately fit with the wider strategies of their host countries, and projects may over-promise the level of support they will receive if accepted into the Darwin Initiative.

Cross-cutting issue: Taxonomy

The Thematic Review on the Darwin Initiative's contribution to the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) (Wortley and Wilkie, 2005) examines the scheme's contributions to each of the five Operational Objectives of the GTI with respect to their effectiveness, impact and legacy. In particular, it demonstrates the Darwin Initiative's impacts on capacity building for taxonomy to contribute to removing the taxonomic impediment which hinders abilities to effectively manage and use biodiversity. The review finds that Darwin Initiative projects had significant impacts for a modest amount of funding on all the major Operational Objectives of the GTI.

The Darwin Initiative had substantial impacts on assessing taxonomic needs at the local level for implementation of the CBD by improving knowledge of species taxonomy. In particular, this produced lasting impacts for some projects through the integration of data into national biodiversity strategies and action plans. However, the review noted that such impacts depended upon strong relationships with government, but also the nature of governance as well. The instability of national governments, ministries, associated fluxes of policy, and problems of bureaucracy at a local level are key constraints to impacts.

The Darwin Initiative's most significant impacts were observed in building and maintaining the human resources, systems and infrastructure needed to obtain, collate, curate and manage taxonomic collections. Many projects established and developed local and national taxonomic reference centres, of which the latter produced significant impact as it increased the likelihood of projects gaining worldwide recognition, additional government support, stable funding, and use of collections by the international taxonomic community to make future taxonomic work easier and more efficient. In addition, significant impacts were also produced through a combination of on-the-job training, formal qualifications such as masters and doctoral-level training, and the inherent motivation of those trained with proven interests in taxonomy as a career. These factors increased the skill base of trainees and enabled them to better maintain collections, develop policy initiatives, and train subsequent generations of taxonomists. In particular, impacts were maximised by projects developing an understanding of local politics, training people to gain positions of responsibility and ensuring information was disseminated to influential organisations and local education programmes. However, the review noted key constraints to these significant impacts. First, national taxonomic reference centres were expensive to establish and local taxonomic reference centres often had high short-term impacts but risked fragmenting resources, making them harder to maintain and access

and less likely to receive stable funding. Second, the lack of investment in buildings and equipment, as well as in reliable transport and communication networks, limited the capacity of projects to sustain impacts produced. Finally, the availability of suitable trainees in terms of motivation, skills and education, compounded with the availability of long-term employment and the retention of staff in project localities, influenced the degree of impacts the Darwin Initiative could produce.

The Darwin Initiative also contributed to making taxonomic collections accessible, particularly in country of origin. The repatriation of identified specimens from the developed world provided a lasting source of taxonomic reference material to host countries which spurred further taxonomic research. However, this was dependent on the capacity and funding of institutes which receive this material and information. The publishing of field guides and manuals was the main source of impact in this objective, as it contributed significantly to providing long-term access to taxonomic information. As these guides were produced mainly as responses to user demand, and because they became incorporated into the public domain, this was expected to maintain uptake and produce lasting impacts over the longer-term whilst also being relatively inexpensive. However, limiting factors to such impact included whether there was suitable infrastructure to support computer databases and access to internet, whether there was ongoing distribution of public domain information to appropriate user-communities, as well as whether databases and publications were available in local languages in order to increase usability for accessing collections and associated information.

Darwin Initiative projects have produced significant impacts in generating the taxonomic information required for decision-making in conservation in all of the major thematic work programmes of the CBD, mainly through the discovery of new species, records and populations, and identifying new areas and taxa for conservation. Projects increased overall knowledge of species composition in all ecosystems, particularly in forest and marine and coastal environments. At least 10 projects resulted in the selection of sites for protection through contributions to Biodiversity Action Plans, identification of areas with high levels of endemism or endangered species, or designation of internationally recognised reserves. Darwin Initiative projects also significantly contributed to previously identified taxonomic research, which importantly confirmed or reinforced these priorities and because of such actions highlighted taxa for future taxonomic research. However, the immediate impact of taxonomic work on conservation often lacks clarity and there is a long time-lag between taxonomic research and its often-substantial conservation impact, acting as a constraint for projects focusing on taxonomy in attracting further funding from organisations that require immediate conservation outcomes. However, the review noted that the Darwin Initiative's critical development of networks and close relationships between projects and host institutes aids the long-term reduction of the taxonomic impediment as it supports, for example, long-term awareness of a wider-range of user-communities for projects' taxonomic information and provides facilities available for CBD implementation across its major thematic work programmes.

Finally, in addition to the Darwin Initiative's significant contribution to the GTI, it has simultaneously contributed to most of the cross-cutting issues of the CBD, largely due to the Darwin Initiative's objectives being wider-ranging than those of the GTI Operational Objectives. In particular, Darwin Initiative projects focusing on the GTI also generated impacts related to communication, education and public awareness (CEPA), sustainable use of biodiversity, and technology transfer and cooperation. A notable strength of the Darwin Initiative noted in the review is the ability to act as a catalyst in securing additional funds and new projects. This review, dissimilar to other thematic reviews, attributed this mechanism to the eagerness of Darwin projects to maintain contact after project completion due to common goals, hopes of future project collaborations, friendships, ongoing supervision of shared students, or continued links through additional collaborations.

Cross-cutting issue: Communication, Education and Public Awareness

The Thematic Review on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) (Edwards et al., 2007) analysing and documenting the contribution of a cluster of 45 Darwin Initiative projects to objectives in Article 13 of the CBD on public awareness and the Global Initiative on CEPA finds that projects' breadth of activities and innovations related to CEPA had significant impacts on both project success. CEPA is "a mechanism for bringing about social change in support of the conservation of biodiversity" (p.30), and thus impacts of CEPA activities in Darwin Initiatives are largely related to the successful changing of perceptions, attitudes or behaviours in relation to biodiversity and conservation.

The main channel of impact through CEPA activities of Darwin Initiative projects were projects' development of new networks, and synergies between existing ones. Darwin Initiative projects' creation and management of global, national and regional conservation networks, as well as more local networks between organisations, local government, communities and individuals, facilitated participatory dialogues and exchange of knowledge and expertise, whilst also providing mediums for capacity building. The review notes that a multiplier effect arises from training teachers, community leaders and other stakeholders in education and communication techniques, enhancing the impact of Darwin project activities. Furthermore, projects' alignments with existing cultures, traditions or social context and livelihoods through CEPA activities contributes as a critical success factor to Darwin Initiative projects. The most powerful of the contributions of CEPA to project success detailed above were only observed amongst a minority of projects that invested more time and resources into CEPA activities. However, the increasing importance, diversity and ingenuity of CEPA methods and activities by the Darwin Initiative projects was suggested to contribute to future project success. It is noted, however, that because CEPA is a long-term process of social and behavioural change, and because Darwin projects operate on short time frames, the amount of time that can feasibly be dedicated to CEPA is limited, and thus the potential impacts of CEPA activities as well. Furthermore, whilst the review notes that it is relatively easy to measure some CEPA activities, it is harder to assess the outcomes or impacts these activities have on knowledge, perceptions and behaviours, and few projects have successfully looked at changes in attitudes and behaviours.

Cross-cutting issue: Aichi Biodiversity Targets

The Thematic Review on Poverty and the SDGs (LTS International, 2015) provided evidence that the Darwin Initiative has contributed to biodiversity conservation with respect to its contribution to each of the strategic goals of the Aichi targets (A to E). In particular, there is a medium body of evidence that demonstrates projects' contributions to Strategic Goal E, on enhancing implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building, and Strategic Goal A on addressing the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across society and government. Contributions to other Strategical Goals that make up the Aichi Targets, as well the as the quality of evidence generated for contributions, vary by the type of project, whether they are research, policy-oriented, practice-oriented or combination projects. For example, only practice-oriented projects demonstrated the strongest contributions to Strategic Goal D on enhancing the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services.

CBD 2010 Targets

The Thematic Review on the Darwin Initiative's contribution to the 2010 Biodiversity Targets (Kapos et al., 2010) found that the Darwin Initiative had made a notable contribution to the 11 Goals in the global attempt to meet the 2010 biodiversity target. The majority of projects explicitly addressed Goals 1 and 2 on promoting conservation of ecosystem, habitats and biomes, and of species, with many projects in addition contributing to ecosystem conservation indirectly; as well as Goal 4 on dealing with sustainable use. The

remaining goals also reveal demonstrable positive contributions, albeit with varying degrees. In particular, contributions Goals 8 and 9 will be summarised here, however mentioned in more detail in the section on "Impacts on poverty and livelihoods" given the greater relevance to eliciting evidence on poverty and livelihoods and development objectives more broadly.

According to the review, the Darwin Initiative's contributions to Goal 1 of the CBD 2010 Targets had increased over time, reflecting a wider trend towards ecosystem-based conservation. The Darwin Initiative overall improved the effectiveness of conservation activities through several activities, including Protected Area Strategies by improving those already in existence and the establishment of new ones; the joint development of management plans that built local authorities' capacities to identify and manage key factors threatening priority ecosystems; and, mechanisms for community conservation that improved the capacity of local communities to both monitor and manage ecosystems and the resources within them, leading to impacts of increased community awareness and support for conservation management. However, the long-term impact of protected area strategy projects are heavily dependent on the receptiveness and commitment of the host government which cannot always be influenced by projects, and the impacts of projects on livelihoods and wellbeing of local communities is often difficult to document compared to broad changes in attitude and involvement in monitoring programmes. In addition, the Darwin Initiative has also supported ecosystem conservation projects to increase their contributions to Goal 1 through improving the identification of areas of particular importance for biodiversity and the subsequent protection of such areas, where Darwin projects have overall contributed to the conservation of, and the formal protection of, areas of high global importance for biodiversity.

With respect to Goal 2 on promoting the conservation of species, many Darwin projects have had an explicit focus on a particular taxonomic group, ranging from very broad groups such as plants to very narrow groups such as the Amur Leopard, in addition to focus on taxonomic groups that are often neglected. Projects dealing with particular taxonomic groups also covered a wide range of topics that were relevant to other goals and sub-targets, including the conservation of genetic diversity and sustainable use of resources. Within these projects overall, the species that were targeted were often those most threatened, and the Darwin Initiative demonstrated significant impacts on improving the conservation status of a number of highly threatened species involved. However, there are several obstacles to ensuring impacts, especially over the longer-term. For smaller projects dealing with species that are widely distributed, it is more difficult to have a species-wide impact, despite it being locally very successful. Relatedly, securing the future of a threatened species is difficult given the challenge of detecting significant improvements in status in the typical three-year time span of Darwin projects. In addition, for high-profile species such as elephants and rhinoceroses, the existence of many conservation efforts continuing simultaneously makes it difficult to discern the impact of any of them. In addition, securing the future of a threatened. Whilst these considerations on impacts are reflective of the Darwin Initiative, they offer relevant considerations for the IWT Challenge Fund which primarily focuses on species in the illegal wildlife trade.

Many Darwin Initiative projects contributed to Goal 4 on dealing with sustainable use in one way or another, either very broadly or highly specifically, to ensure that biodiversity-based products are derived from sources that are sustainably managed and consistent with biodiversity conservation, to reduce the level of unsustainable consumption of biological resources or resources that impact biodiversity, and to eradicate the number of species of wild flora or fauna endangered by international trade. This goal also shared complementarities with addressing and implementing aspects of CITES, where there exists synergistic improvements in impacts when contributing to both conventions.

The Darwin Initiative has also contributed in some capacity to other Goals of the CBD 2010 Targets. Relatively few projects were evidenced to focus on the promotion of genetic diversity, which is Goal 3 of the CBD 2010 Targets. With respect to Goal 5 on reducing pressures from biodiversity loss drivers, many of the Darwin projects which engaged in conservation of sites or species also aimed to reduce specific pressures on conservation targets, either through providing research insights into pressures and their

respective mechanisms, planning and building capacity to manage pressures directly, or by working with communities and incorporating education and awareness raising to change pressure-generating behaviours. With respect to Goal 6 on controlling threats from invasive alien species, the majority of projects have focused on research assessing the importance and role of invasive species, demonstrably generating a substantial volume of high quality scientific research on invasive species published in peer-reviewed journals. Evidence on Goal 7 on addressing challenges to biodiversity from climate change and pollution reflects the evidence from a previous thematic review on the extent to which projects address climate change (Dawson et al., 2008). This evidence is presented in the section titled "Impacts on climate change" later on in this section on Evidence of Impact.

The Darwin Initiative contributed to Goal 8 on maintaining capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services and support livelihoods, however the number of projects are relatively small. Just over 10% of projects in this review were identified as explicitly addressing the relationship between biodiversity and the livelihoods of local communities, primarily through work directly with communities on managing and conserving resources and through education and awareness-raising programmes. Furthermore, the Darwin Initiative also contributed to Goal 9 on maintaining socio-cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities, where engagement with traditional knowledge and practices had been a small but steadily increasing component of Darwin projects. On Goal 10 on access and benefit sharing, the review noted that it was surprising that few projects had contributed to addressing access and benefit-sharing issues. However, this was most likely due to the lower number of proposals on this issue rather than a bias against including it.

The whole of the Darwin Initiative had contributed to the Goal 11 on the improved financial, human, scientific, technical and technological capacity to implement the convention, given that all projects represent at least a small influx of financial resources and explicit capacity building activities. Darwin projects not only increase the financial resources available for activities but also increase the technical capacity available for these actions. However, the review also noted that projects can contribute to this goal without explicitly addressing other goals under the 2010 Target, such as not focusing on localised or specific conservation issues. In addition, the Darwin Initiative has built the capacities of non-governmental organisation (NGO) actors, through enhancing researchers' skill base and improving with great effectiveness advocacy and policy skills in NGOs. The review found that many Darwin projects had significant impacts and left substantial legacies in the form of trained individuals who continue training others, building technical skill bases, and teaching and raising awareness among the wider public of the importance of biodiversity. However, the overall degree to which the Darwin Initiative contributed to this goal and these impacts is limited by the scale of the programme.

Impact on the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD)

The Darwin Initiative, from 1992-2010, has funded a diverse range of projects that have improved biodiversity conservation and addressed the majority of topics under the CBD, including different thematic Programmes of Work (Hardcastle, 2008; van Gardingen and Wild, 2007); Cross-cutting issues, including Global Taxonomy Initiative (Wortley and Wilkie, 2005), the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (LTS International, 2015), and Communication, Education and Public Awareness (Edwards et al., 2007); and contribution to the CBD 2010 Targets (Kapos et al., 2010). Climate Change and Biodiversity (Dawson et al., 2008) is another CBD cross-cutting issue, however evidence on this contribution is detailed in its own section due to climate change being a significant contemporary objective for each of the schemes.

The evidence on the scheme's impacts on the CBD, however, are confined to older thematic reviews (2005-2010) and thus are largely outdated. In addition, the evidence also omits evidence of impact for the Darwin Plus and IWT Challenge Fund schemes by default, as these were only introduced in 2012 and 2014, respectively. Therefore, the evidence of impact on the CBD presented must be interpreted with caution. However, the evidence on the Darwin Initiative's contributions to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets from the

Thematic Review on Poverty and the SDGs provides more contemporary evidence of impact relevant to the CBD cross-cutting issues.

Impact on other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

The Thematic Review on the Darwin Initiative's contribution to the 2010 Biodiversity Targets (Kapos et al., 2010) noted that the Darwin Initiative had greatly contributed to aspects of other MEAs such as CMS and CITES in addition to the CBD, however the exact details of such contribution is not detailed as it is beyond the scope of this paper's focus on the CBD 2010 targets. However, evidence detailed in Kapos et al. (2010) suggests the complementarities between these MEAs, whereby reducing the number of species of wild flora and fauna endangered by international trend and the rising trend in sustainable use are both heavily influenced by projects addressing issues and implementing aspects set out by CITES.

Overall, the available documentation on scheme-level impacts identified does not present comprehensive evidence on each of the schemes' contributions to other MEAs, such as CITES, CMS, ABS, ITPGRFA, and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Therefore, evidencing the impacts of the Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus, and IWT Challenge Fund schemes on these other conventions is a crucial gap.

Impact on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Thematic Review on Poverty and the SDGs (LTS International, 2015) best demonstrates the Darwin Initiative's positive contributions to 9 of the 15 SDGs that are relevant to the scheme, supporting a range of projects strengthening marine governance, enhancing natural resource management, and strengthening the local capacity of people to manage marine and terrestrial resources. This section omits evidencing impacts on SDG 1 (zero poverty), SDG 5 (gender equality), and SDG 13 (climate change), as evidence on these is presented in the headings relating to demonstrating impacts on poverty and livelihoods, gender, and climate change respectively. As a result, this section demonstrates the Darwin Initiative's evidence of impact on SDGs 2 (food security), 6 (water management and sanitation), 8 (sustainable economic growth), 12 (sustainable production and consumption), 14 (sustainable use of marine ecosystems) and 15 (sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems).

The Darwin Initiative has positively contributed to SDG 2 on Food Security by increasing food production, promoting sustainable agriculture, and increasing access to food, with indirect contributions to food security through the conservation of natural resources and improving local access to resources. However, the quality of evidence collected by projects to demonstrate how successful they have been at promoting sustainable agriculture is mixed, as various projects assume or claim food security benefits despite these being not widely measured or monitored by the projects. The Darwin Initiative's contribution to SDG 6 on sustainable management of water and sanitation has been limited, largely due to the limited direct impacts that water and sanitation interventions have on biodiversity conservation and are only tenuously linked to wider conservation issues. However, water resource management interventions within the Darwin Initiative engage with habitat conservation and related biodiversity outcomes whilst contributing to SDG 6, however the wider water resource management impacts of this work is often left unreported.

The Darwin Initiative demonstrates contributions to SDG 8 on inclusive and sustainable economic growth, particularly in the promotion of income generating activities and skills-based capacity building of individuals and organisations that contribute to job creation and employment that contribute to economic development at the local-level. However, the quality of evidence varies as whilst some projects select and use appropriate baselines and indicators to demonstrate progress towards these ends over the lifetime of projects, it is challenging for other projects to measure changes in household incomes or growth in the short timeframe of project cycles. In particular, the review does not mention details or evidence on measurement of these impacts after project completion. Furthermore, evidence that states staff trained

are continued to be employed which increases sustainability of projects are often anecdotal. The Darwin Initiative should include in annual reporting of standard measures projects' number of jobs created, disaggregated by type of employment, as an example indicator to capture these effects.

The Darwin Initiative has strong positive contributions to SDG 12 on sustainable production and consumption of natural resources through projects' conservation and protection of natural resources, particularly in forests. Some projects facilitate this through alternative livelihood opportunities, whilst others place greater emphasis on changing regulatory systems, however the ultimate objective of conserving and protecting natural resources to contribute to sustainable production and consumption of natural resources remains the same across projects.

Finally, the thematic review demonstrates that the Darwin Initiative has both direct and indirect impacts on the sustainable use of marine (SDG 14) and terrestrial (SDG 15) ecosystems as the scheme has a strong grounding in biodiversity projects with varied focus across a diversity of different marine and terrestrial ecosystems. On the sustainable use of marine resources, positive direct impacts include livelihood diversification to promote sustainable use, reductions in environmentally degrading behaviour, increases in diversity and abundance of marine species and reductions in coral reef degradation; whilst positive indirect impacts include capacity building of local people in ownership over resource use and the development of initiatives to strengthen marine governance at both the local and national level. On the sustainable use of terrestrial resources, the Darwin Initiative has had direct impacts on research, monitoring and thresholds to inform the sustainable use of resources, whilst indirect impacts have been evidenced on capacity building to support contributions to CBD articles. Whilst the Darwin Initiative positively contributes to the sustainable use of marine and terrestrial ecosystems, projects based in marine ecosystems are observed to be better able to demonstrate direct impacts on biodiversity and wellbeing compared to forest projects. Furthermore, in evidencing impacts, it is important to consider ecosystem characteristics and dynamics as these influence the rate at which an ecosystem can recover, and what types of changes projects can expect to see.

The evidence from this thematic review demonstrates the Darwin Initiative's strong positive contributions to the above SDGs over time reflects the Darwin Initiative's strong position to further contribute to the SDGs in the future. However, evidence limitations and projects' underreporting must be addressed in order to better demonstrate the scheme's contributions to, and impacts on, the SDGs.

Impact on poverty and livelihoods

Given that the majority of thematic reviews are from the period 2005-2010 and thus written before the introduction of ODA requirements on poverty alleviation, pre-2011 thematic reviews provide a good indication of the impact the Darwin Initiative had on poverty and livelihoods before these were mandated objectives. The Thematic Review on Poverty and the SDGs provides the most comprehensive and contemporary evidence of impact on poverty and livelihoods. Overall, each of the thematic reviews highlights that projects had significant impacts on livelihoods and on poverty, where prior to 2011's introduction of ODA requirements this was due to the implementation of livelihood components.

The mandate of the Darwin Initiative was broadened prior to 2011 to include attention to livelihood-related aspects of biodiversity conservation, although very few projects placed livelihoods as their main focus, producing heterogeneity across projects on whether livelihoods were minor or major components of work at this time (van Gardingen and Wild, 2007). Hardcastle (2008) highlighted that the aim of projects prior to 2011 was to be livelihood-friendly rather than livelihood-focused, which is now the objectives of contemporary Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus and IWT Challenge Fund projects. The incorporation of livelihoods was gradually increasing during this period due to community-focused conservation having become an increasingly central theme to project implementation and to the future protection of

biodiversity (Kapos et al., 2010). Projects were increasingly mentioning in project reports the human dimensions of conservation such as resources, health, social relations and security and freedom, the provision of training and capacity building, and focus on community and participation. Although, there were no direct mentions by projects of issues such as income, jobs, gender, land rights, land tenure, governance, equity or justice (LTS International, 2015). Despite this, Darwin Initiative projects achieved livelihood impacts through livelihood-related components such as involving the community and using participatory activities in knowledge building and access to support livelihoods and enhance goods and services derived from biodiversity within local communities as part of biodiversity conservation activities (Edwards et al., 2007; van Gardingen and Wild, 2007). The level and type of engagement in livelihoods by the Darwin Initiative prior to 2011 therefore provided a significant level of innovation in incorporating livelihoods and increased the potential of improving outcomes to support biodiversity conservation that is intertwined with socio-cultural and economic factors (Hardcastle, 2008).

However, despite a strong emphasis among many Darwin Initiative projects on improving local livelihoods, Kapos et al. (2010) found that there was relatively little evidence assessing their impacts on livelihoods directly or of improved livelihoods resulting directly from projects. Evidence that is anecdotal by projects and analyses of evidence that is based on what is mentioned within projects' reporting content based upon human dimensions of conservation provide limited evidence of impact prior to 2011 on poverty alleviation as this at most demonstrates what projects were 'talking' about rather than what they were actually 'doing' (LTS International, 2015). Furthermore, livelihood impacts are likely only be detectable over the longer-term, therefore post-project assessments would be required to identify the degree to which Darwin projects have in fact contributed to sustaining and enhancing livelihoods and the resources on which they depend (Kapos et al., 2010). Other limitations on livelihood impacts were expressed by van Gardingen and Wild (2007), who found that in island-based Darwin projects, livelihood impacts were limited by very few projects acknowledging the impacts of cultural diversity on natural resource use and the role of traditional and indigenous knowledge of island communities as major components of work, despite island communities having high levels of social capital and a wealth of cultural experience in the use and management of biodiversity. Therefore, the incorporation of cultural values and the impacts of Darwin projects on these limited the development and enhancement of effective strategies and plans for the conservation of biodiversity. However, Kapos et al. (2010) noted an important evaluative scrutiny when it came to assessing impacts against previous conventional standards based on Western scientific practice. In particular, there was sometimes a divergence between project executants and evaluators as to what might be defined as 'successful' project outcomes, therefore showcasing the difficulties in fitting indigenous and local-based projects into the more mainstream science-based conservation paradigm.

Despite this, the existence of livelihood impacts as demonstrated above is significant given that these were not explicit objectives as now under ODA requirements since 2011. Since 2011, the Thematic Review on Poverty and the SDGs (LTS International, 2015) has identified the Darwin Initiative's positive contributions to a range of wellbeing dimensions, including basic material needs, freedom of choice, security and governance, social relations, and health; therefore, contributing to global poverty reduction efforts. However, in evidencing each wellbeing dimension, the review noted the various limitations in measuring, collecting and reporting such evidence, as well as the contributions to each wellbeing dimension also differing by the type of project, whether it was a research, policy-oriented, practice-oriented or combination project.

Firstly, there is evidence of both direct and indirect contributions by the Darwin Initiative to improving basic material needs, and the evidence base is growing and demonstrating positive increases. However, evidence of direct impacts is weak as this is often based on assumptions, where monitoring is often beyond the scope of projects. Furthermore, indirect impacts often depend upon a range of factors that are also beyond the scope of projects and are thus difficult to monitor without a theory of change.

Secondly, the Darwin Initiative has strengthened freedom of choice and security and governance through capacity-building activities that raise awareness and empower people, and work with government officials, to increase knowledge, skills and capacity to act and implement plans, respectively. In some cases, security and governance impacts can be observed as projects as catalysts for change for lead and host institutions to secure additional work and obtain additional resources to continue policy-oriented objectives. However, evidence of impact on freedom of choice and security and governance varies by ability of projects to collect and report evidence and use appropriate indicators to measure such impacts. Furthermore, whilst the quality of evidence on security and governance can be strong given current monitoring and reporting provides evidence of contribution through planning documents, meeting minutes, agreements and policies; demonstrating 'how' projects contribute to changes is challenging. Causal links are difficult to demonstrate given the complex links between changes in policy processes, governance structures, and attribution to Darwin Initiative projects. This can be observed through a range of constraining factors, such as changing governance systems, particularly shifts in control from national to local-level ownership, access and control over resources; resource availability, politics of decision-making, different timescales of effects, and the relationship between implementing organisations, policymakers and the broader political situation, particularly where some projects have limited impacts on policy due to knowledge or recommendations being ignored or less valued. Due to Policy-oriented projects, as the thematic review notes, are necessary but not sufficient on their own, as impacts depend upon continued implementation and monitoring of these factors after project completion. Evidence of impact on social relations and health benefits is mixed.

Third, whilst the Darwin Initiative overall has made direct contributions to improving social relations, evidence of impact is largely anecdotal and lose value as the review highlights that projects have reported both intended and mostly unintended social conflicts and other negative consequences, particularly when social and economic development takes places and when there is an inequitable distribution of resources benefits within communities. Fourth, evidence of impact on health dimensions of wellbeing is most limited, as where impacts were anticipated, projects had not collected data or data availability was limited to evidence potential rather than actual health benefits.

When looking at different types of projects, the review finds that research projects contribute strongly to freedom of choice and capacity to act due to their focus on training, education, awareness raising and capacity building activities. Policy-oriented projects contribute to strengthening government processes in securing rights and resource access in addition to increasing individuals' and organisations' capacity to act. Practice-oriented projects contribute to the broadest range of wellbeing dimensions, including basic needs that often lacks amongst other projects, as there is strong evidence of tangible impacts on improving access to basic needs, such as income, assets, food and/or livelihoods. These projects often involve direct interaction with stakeholders due to their direct implementation or piloting of tools, approaches and/or frameworks, as well as oft-measurement of changes in these indicators through household surveys, individual case studies and stories of change. Combination projects, which are often a mix of the above three project types, both directly and indirectly contribute to wellbeing, through increasing individual and institutional capacities to act and strengthening government arrangements, to enabling policy environments to improve basic needs, social relations and health, respectively.

However, across all projects in the Darwin initiative scheme, the review noted that measuring direct impacts across wellbeing dimensions can be difficult as these are often beyond the scope of Darwin Initiative projects, or an unintended consequence that is not captured as it is not anticipated. Where evidence is available, it is weak due to projects not systematically reporting impacts and also given that poverty alleviation impacts are assessed based on self-reports from Annual and Final Reports and thus can be anecdotal and not rigorously evaluated. Therefore, it is challenging to attribute changes to the Darwin Initiative. In addition, the relationship between poverty and biodiversity is inherently complex. For example, the dynamics, drivers and patterns of economic development can result in multiple development pathways that can have various positive and negative impacts on both poverty and biodiversity. Therefore, uncovering

evidence of impact on poverty and livelihoods in relation to biodiversity is a challenging endeavour (LTS International, 2015).

Impact on gender

None of the earlier thematic reviews from 2005 to 2010 made any references to impacts on gender, as this was not an explicit objective for Darwin Initiative projects. Therefore, there is not a substantial body of evidence demonstrating gender impacts at the scheme-level. However, this is expected as the introduction of gender equality as an explicit objective for the schemes occurred in 2014 with the introduction of the International Development (Gender Equality) Act passed in 2014, which greatly influenced the inclusion of gender. However, there are documents that reveal some information on the Darwin Initiative's contribution to addressing gender equality, which are the Thematic Review on Poverty and the SDGs (LTS International, 2015), particularly on SDG 5 Gender Equality, and the Darwin Initiative Gender Analysis (LTS International, 2019).

The Thematic Review on Poverty and the SDGs (LTS International, 2015) demonstrated that the Darwin Initiative has contributed to SDG 5 on Gender Equality through its encouragement of women's participation in project design and monitoring, support of projects to target women directly, aim to empower women financially, and encourage their participation in decision making. However, the established measures for evidencing impacts on gender equality in some project components and reporting raise many misconceptions about tackling gender inequality effectively. This is because projects equate 'gender' with 'women', thus omitting broader gender considerations such as underlying power relations, and thus limiting the scope of expected impacts. Furthermore, projects believe that collecting gender disaggregated data from workshops demonstrates female participation, however local norms and customs may limit women's participation in workshops despite their attendance. Where women do not have the cultural resources to act on opportunities, it limits their ability to apply knowledge and skills gained. Therefore, additional research is required to examine how the Darwin Initiative projects are engaging with equity issues and the distribution of costs and benefits.

The Darwin Initiative Gender Analysis (LTS International, 2019) conducted an analysis of the inclusion of gender in Darwin Main Projects between Rounds 21 and 24 primarily by developing and analysing gender inclusivity scores for 115 Darwin Initiative projects. Of the 115 projects reviewed, most projects had at least of one of the following elements of gender inclusion, such as encouraging equal female participation, disaggregating data by gender, having separate training and workshops for women held at suitable times and inclusion of other vulnerable groups, indirect and direct project benefits for women. The highest scores included all these features, however only three projects achieved this and this was in Round 24. Despite this, the report's findings suggest that projects have become more gender inclusive over the period covered between Round 21 and Round 24, thus more recent projects are producing or are expected to produce positive gender impacts. The report also finds that projects which had a direct focus on community management and incorporated alternative livelihoods tended to score higher in gender inclusivity than those projects solely focused on conservation, and projects that were in Africa also had on average higher scores. However, the report notes that impact on gender is influenced by whether community management settings are male dominated or not, and benefits to women in such settings is often unclear or indirect. Whilst the gender inclusivity scoring was a strong component of this report's analysis, a limitation to evidencing impact comes from its rapid assessment of application forms and reports for all named rounds using quantitative content analysis, which at best identified projects' relevance to addressing gender equality rather than impacts on gender equality.

Impact on climate change

The Thematic Review on Climate Change and Biodiversity (Dawson et al., 2008) assessed the extent and degree of success of 245 Darwin Initiative projects in identifying and addressing climate change impacts. It found that focus on climate change has played a minor role in Darwin Initiative projects, therefore producing little contribution to better understanding impacts on climate change and biodiversity. This echoes an earlier thematic reviews where although a handful of island-based projects collected information relevant to climate change impacts or variability, Darwin projects explicitly addressing the threat of climate change was largely underrepresented across the scheme (van Gardingen and Wild, 2008). However, Dawson et al.'s (2008) focused thematic review on climate change demonstrated that projects in fact have engaged in relevant climate change adaptation and mitigation activities and thus have contributed to building ecosystems' adaptation to, and mitigation of, climate change impacts, despite these not being explicit activities. Importantly, these findings have not changed much since 2008, as highlighted by the Thematic Review on Poverty and the SDGs (LTS International, 2015), however this later thematic review highlights with greater clarity the exact nature of the Darwin Initiative's contributions to climate change. The Darwin Initiative's contributions to SDG 13 on Climate Change are mixed, as whilst there is no clear evidence of direct impacts on climate change, there is suggestive evidence that Darwin projects are likely contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation but do not report on this. No projects explicitly engage with climate change, adaptation, or mitigation activities and/or objectives and thus by default projects seldom demonstrate clear evidence of direct impacts on tackling climate change despite the links between climate change and biodiversity being well known. However, projects do promote ecosystem resilience and activities that indirectly contribute to adaption and mitigation, such as through forest restoration and carbon storage, habitat connectivity and migration corridor improvements, coastal zone conservation and ex-situ conservation.

Dawson et al. (2008), although outdated, found that projects that do have such climate change components are involved in setting up long-term monitoring for detecting and better understanding the role of natural and human factors leading to change. Better understanding the Darwin Initiatives' contribution to climate change activities through the impacts it induces is vital for particular areas where there is insufficient ecological knowledge about the ecosystem and potential climate change impacts at a local level. Aligning with this, van Gardingen and Wild (2007) advocate the need to promote additional research on the impact of climate change and the impacts the Darwin Initiative has on mitigating and adapting against it. However, this is a difficult task for a number of reasons. First, the complex interplay of factors related to people, biodiversity and ecosystems in social-ecological systems makes determining and demonstrating impacts difficult. For example, protected area strategies to allow species mobility under a changing climate is ambiguous. This is because strategies such establishing corridors would facilitate community participation and the dispersal of species, but it may also facilitate the spread of invasive species. In addition, the impacts DI projects have on sustainable and alternative livelihoods and the influence this has on climate change impacts needs to be more carefully understood, as it can both exacerbate climate change impacts and hinder adaptation activities or be a part of adaptation processes and still provide a means of local livelihoods (Dawson et al., 2008). Second, producing evidence on climate change impacts is also a difficult task given that the short-term nature of DI projects (average 3-year duration) makes initiating longer-term monitoring a challenge, thus producing an obstacle for the detection and attribution of climate (and other) ecosystem changes of which impacts take longer to materialise (Dawson et al., 2008). And third, relatedly, to effectively address climate change threats requires the mobilisation of financial, human and technical resources that is beyond the remit of the Darwin Initiative's funding size, where this is a particularly limiting factor for Island-based Darwin projects (van Gardingen and Wild, 2007).

Therefore, overall, the evidence of impact of the Darwin Initiative on climate change at the scheme-level is hard to elicit from these thematic reviews due to the complex nature of climate change, the lack of explicit focus of Darwin projects on climate change impacts during this period of time, and the financial, human, and technical constraints faced by individual projects funded by the Darwin Initiative.

Impact in overseas territories

The Thematic Review on the Darwin Initiative's Support to Overseas Territories (Forbes et al., 2010) is the closest thematic review that is able to provide scheme-level evidence of impact as relevant as possible to the Darwin Plus scheme given its focus on UKOTs. However, this document reviews what activities and elements of projects were enabling or constraining factors critical to determining UKOT projects' success, rather than identifying what explicit contributions or impacts the projects had. In fact, the review directs its finding towards the application process on how UKOT projects can better access Darwin Initiative funds for biodiversity conservation rather than outputs, outcomes, or impacts. Therefore, the information in this thematic review provided little information for evidencing scheme-level impacts of the Darwin Initiative in UKOTs.

Summary

The available evidence demonstrates that the Darwin Initiative generated positive long-term impacts in contributing to the majority of areas under the CBD, including Thematic Programmes of Work, almost all of the Cross-cutting issues and all of the 2010 Biodiversity Targets. In addition, the Darwin Initiative has positively contributed to 9 of the 15 SDGs that are most relevant to the scheme, although some contributions - SDG 8 Sustainable Economic Growth, SDG 12 Sustainable Production and Consumption, SDG 15 Protect terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity, and SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts – are much stronger than others. The Darwin Initiative has also demonstrated positive contemporary impacts on poverty and livelihoods, gender equality and climate change. The range of impacts are significant given the modest amounts of funding received by projects and the time frame which funding is allocated for, which also suggests that the programme represents good value for money[47].

[47] Hardcastle, 2008; van Gardingen and Wild, 2007; Kapos et al., 2010; Wortley and Wilkie, 2005

5th Floor
Queen Elizabeth House
4 St Dunstans Hill
London
EC3R 8AD

T: +44 (0) 207 444 4200
E: london@ecorys.com

ecorys.com