

# UK: Darwin Initiative

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For further info see: [www.darwin.gov.uk](http://www.darwin.gov.uk)

## Fund overview:

The Darwin Initiative is a Defra grant scheme which helps developing countries meet their obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity. Latterly the focus of this aim was expanded by to embrace the objectives of the other two main biodiversity related conventions, namely the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (aka CITES) and the Convention on Migratory Species (aka CMS or the Bonn Convention).

The Initiative draws on the wealth of biodiversity expertise in the UK to work with local partners in host countries to protect and enhance their biodiversity. The Initiative is funded and managed by Defra. All Darwin Initiative projects are subject to a rigorous application process, overseen by the Darwin Advisory Committee.

The objectives of the fund:

- To assist countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources with the conservation of biological diversity and implementation of the Biodiversity Convention.
- To draw on British expertise in the field of biodiversity.
- Projects funded under the Initiative will be collaborative, involving either local institutions or communities in the host country.
- Projects will have a real impact on the ability of the host country to meet its obligations under the Biodiversity Convention.
- Projects will be of high quality and scientific (or other appropriate professional) excellence.
- Whenever possible, Darwin funding will be used as a catalyst to lever additional funding for project work, which would not otherwise be forthcoming.
- The outputs and outcomes from projects should be additional to that from work being funded through other mainstream environmental or research programmes.
- Projects funded under the Initiative will demonstrate good value for money.

Since its launch in 1992 with an annual budget of £3 million, the Darwin Initiative has committed over £60million to over 464 projects in over 100 countries. Phase II of the Darwin Initiative was launched on 19 November 2002, doubling the financial commitment to £7 million a year from 2005/6 (round 13 onwards).

## Results and impacts:

The aim of the Darwin Initiative is to help developing countries fulfil their CBD obligations, which also includes the funding of experts from the UK to assist the UK Overseas Territories in implementing their biodiversity commitments. A number of highly successful projects have been funded in the Overseas Territories. Since the Darwin Initiative began in 1992, fifteen projects in the Overseas Territories have been funded with a total value of over £1.5million. Darwin projects include: the development Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) in Bermuda, Cayman Islands, British Virgin Islands; capacity building for conservation in British Virgin Islands, Turks & Caicos Islands, Anguilla and Monserrat; and research on invertebrates and flora in the Falklands, the St Helena wirebird and green turtles in Ascension.

**Basic fund information:**

Operational since 1992 - Since its launch the Darwin Initiative has committed over £60million to over 464 projects in over 100 countries. The annual budget increased from £3m in 1992 to £4m in 2003-04, £5m in 2004-05 and £7m per year from 2005-06. *NB. Darwin Initiative works on financial years, not calendar years.*

Total income (mil US\$): Figures given in GB Pounds Sterling (£)

2002: £3m

2003: £4m

2004: £5m

2005: £7m

2006: £7m

2007/08 £7m