

Quantification and elimination of threats to the Caspian seal



Project Initiation meeting – Baku
14th – 15th September 2006

<http://www.darwin.gov.uk/>
<http://www.caspianseal.org>

Overview

- Introduction
- What is the Darwin Initiative
- CISS Caspian seal film (Introduction to Caspian seal conservation)
- Relationship between CISS, population survey and Darwin project
- Aims of the Darwin project
- Introduction of Seal Conservation Action and Management Plan (SCAMP)
- Establishment of Caspian Seal Conservation Network with Darwin project
- Research activities in the Darwin project and how these will be divided up between the country centres
- Training and capacity building workshops
- Explanation of this week's workshop and future workshops.
- Education programme (at all levels); link-up with other Darwin Caspian project
- Respective responsibilities of Darwin project and country centres for developing programme and also funding
- Discussion of role of each centre
- Project administration

What is the Darwin Initiative?



- UK government grant scheme administered by the UK department for environment & agriculture
- Aims to promote conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of resources by helping partner countries to meet the aims for the international convention on biological diversity
- Since 1993 has committed £27m to over 270 projects in over 100 countries
- Current annual budget is £7 million
- Our project is one of 41 funded in 2006

Philosophy of the Darwin Initiative



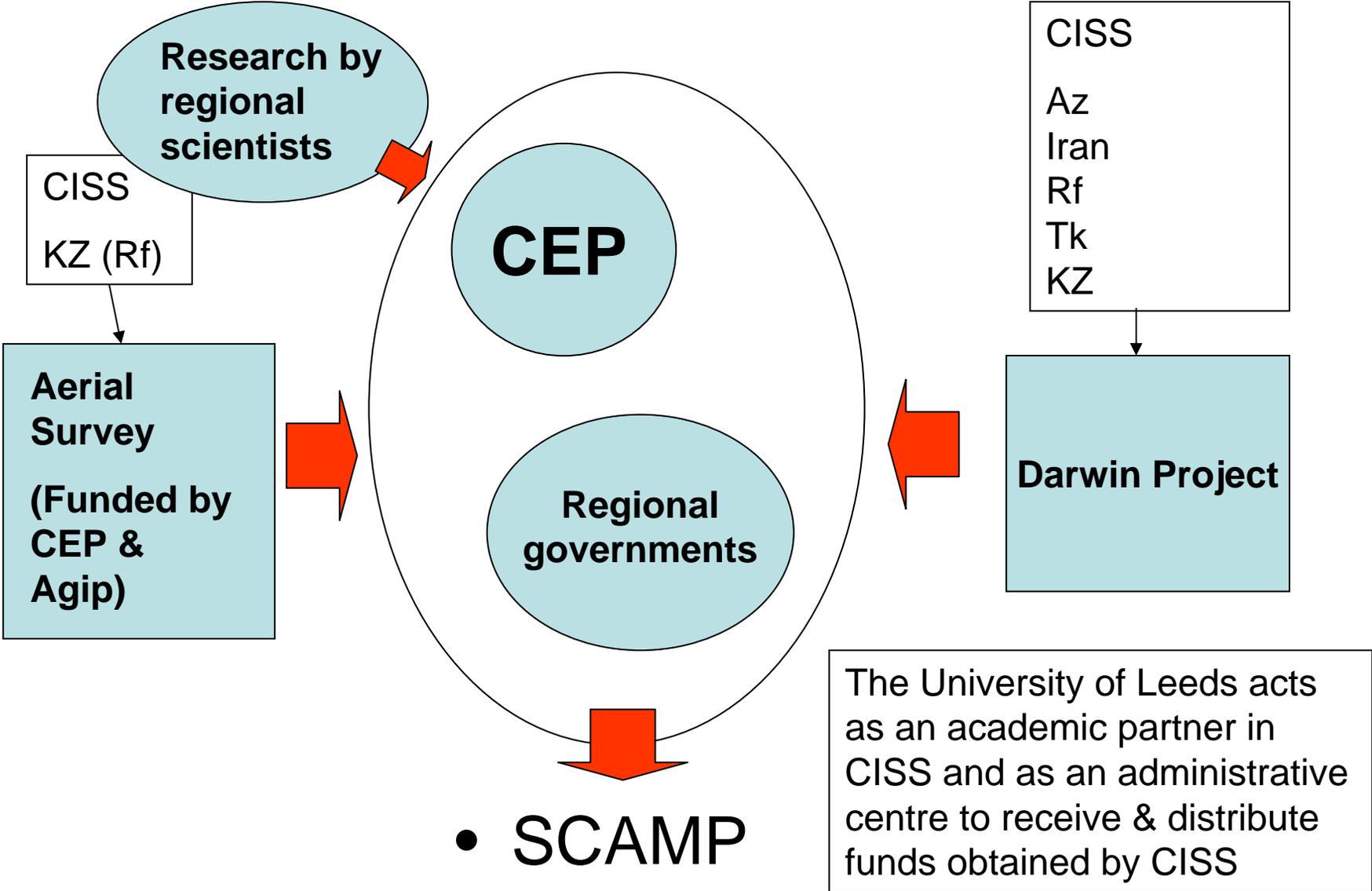
- Darwin Initiative projects are about partnership
- Capacity building to allow countries to meet aims of CBD
- Research for conservation
- Community education and involvement
- Policy and implementation of conservation strategy

Introduction to Caspian seal conservation

- Population status
- Causes of seal mortality
- Caspian seal health
- Changes in ecology of Caspian sea due to human activities

- Caspian seals the movie...

Caspian seal research



Aims of the Darwin Project

- Formation of Caspian seal conservation network (CSCN)
- Establish programme of systematic monitoring of population size, distribution, health and diet of Caspian seals
- Assessment of threats from invasive species, disease, pollution, fisheries by-catch, climate change and habitat degradation
- With regional partners develop SCAMP and work on implementation
- Work with local communities to reduce fishing by-catch
- Work with local communities to raise the profile of the Caspian seal as a flagship species for conservation in the Caspian
- Darwin budget ~£260,000 over 3 years

SCAMP

Seal Conservation Action and
Management Plan