Biodiversity and Ecosystem Evidence and Research Needs Programme

Briefing Note

The Biodiversity and Ecosystem Evidence and Research Needs (BEERN) Programme aims to identify and address biodiversity and ecosystem evidence and research needs that will deliver and impact on Welsh policy and delivery priorities.

The programme aims to engage with the research community in Wales and beyond, deliver new approaches and integrate with existing mechanisms to ensure good provision of evidence and advice to the Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales, the broader environmental sector and others.

We therefore seek to:

1) bring together practitioners, policy-makers and academics from across Wales to identify gaps in our evidence base;
2) provide a mechanism and route for translating these gaps into deliverable research projects; and
3) prioritise and fund projects according to need (based on policy and delivery priorities).

We ask for projects to be submitted to us that fulfil policy and/or delivery priorities. These are outlined in the Project Submission flowchart and accompanying guidance.

Projects must be allocated to an individual lead person.

Once submitted, project proposals will be made available on the WBP website (all personal or sensitive information will be removed).

Projects may be undertaken by the submitter or be available to be undertaken by others. Unless otherwise specified, submitted projects will be available for others to select to deliver. And indeed, this is the intended aim of the programme and will comprise opportunities for proposers and delivers to collaborate. We anticipate universities to be the most likely conduit to delivery of projects (in the form of undergraduate or graduate projects). *If you would like to discuss a project with an academic before submitting, then please get in touch via the WBP email address (walesbiodiversitypartnership@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk).*

Project proposals can be of any form or scale, but must be deliverable at the time of submission. The submission form must include an informed estimate of cost, timeframe and scale of delivery. More information on this can be found in supplementary guidance. Projects themselves can be of varied content and might include field or desk research, surveys, literature reviews, citizen science activities, contracted work or in-house work by an environmental (or other) organisation.

We would recommend working collaboratively on project proposals before they are submitted.

Workshops

There will be opportunities to get involved in themed workshops that will help to facilitate collaboration and gap/need identification. The first of these will be on 'Ecosystem Resilience and Its Practical Application to Wales' in June 2018.

Others will follow and will be advertised on the WBP website and beyond.

Please do also get in touch (walesbiodiversitypartnership@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk) if you are unsure of who/how you can best collaborate or develop an idea outside of these workshops.

Submission of Projects

We ask for submission of projects that can be readily delivered. Projects should be submitted on the project template included in accompanying documentation on the WBP web pages, and sent to the WBP email address: walesbiodiversitypartnership@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

WBP will confirm receipt of the submission and keep you informed of progress.

All submitted projects will be prioritised and funding will be awarded competitively to the highest priority projects first. You will receive feedback following prioritisation.

Before submitting, it would be useful to first work your way through the guidance documents and ensure that the proposed project meets the first set of criteria (outlined in the accompanying flowchart and guidance document).

What happens next?

Should your submitted project be accepted, it will then go through the standard prioritisation process and you will be notified of the outcome.

Projects will be ranked on a high-medium-low priority basis.

Funding will be awarded on a competitive basis and priority will be given to those assigned the highest priority and where a deliverer has been assigned (either prior to or following project submission).

Funding

- Welsh Government have confirmed funding

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