



Biodiversity and Ecosystem Evidence and Research Needs Programme Funding Application Form 2019 FAQ Guidance

What is the BEERN Programme?

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 engages with the research community in Wales and beyond, delivers new approaches and integrates with existing mechanisms to ensure good provision of evidence and advice to the Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales, the broader environmental sector and others.

For further information on the Programme visit the Wales Biodiversity Partnership [website](#).

What is the Nature Recovery Action Plan and its objectives?

The Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) addresses the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by putting nature at the heart of our decision-making; increasing the resilience of our natural environment; and taking specific action for habitats and species. It sets out how Wales will deliver the commitments of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the EU Biodiversity Strategy to halt the decline in our biodiversity by 2020 and then reverse that decline.



The project must clearly align with one or more of the NRAP Objectives 1 to 4.

Nature Recovery Action Plan Objectives	
OBJECTIVE 1 Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision-making at all levels	Placing nature at the centre of decision-making is essential to address the underlying cause of biodiversity loss. A lack of awareness, and subsequent valuation of the critical contribution that our nature makes to our well-being and livelihoods, means we often do not account for that contribution in decision-making, at all levels of society, from individuals through local authorities, to businesses.
OBJECTIVE 2 Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management	Species and habitats are the building blocks of our ecosystems and their functioning, from which we derive many services and benefits. Sites designated for nature conservation play an important role: for maintaining natural diversity; contributing to ecosystem services and benefits; and protecting and enhancing our rarest natural biodiversity and geo-diversity.



Nature Recovery Action Plan Objectives	
OBJECTIVE 3 Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation.	Degraded habitats are ones that no longer support the full potential of our native wildlife. We need to restore networks of habitats to a healthy condition, on both land and sea, to safeguard species and improve the resilience of our natural environment. Restoration will be based on the four attributes of resilience: Increasing diversity; Increasing ecosystem extent through reducing fragmentation; Increasing connectivity within and between ecosystems; and Improving habitat condition.
OBJECTIVE 4 Tackle key pressures on species and habitats	Land and marine management practices can have a detrimental effect on habitat and species loss and fragmentation. Key pressures identified by the UK NEA and others include: agriculture; urbanisation; pollution, invasive non-native species; eutrophication, acidification, unsustainable human activity; and climate change. It is vital to anticipate, prevent and mitigate the causes of biodiversity loss at source, using both our legislation, and innovative and holistic nature-based solutions.

A full copy of the NRAP is available [here](#) and see [here](#) for more information.

What funding is available?

Funding is available up to £1000 per applicant. Funding is provided by Welsh Government, a member of the BEERN Programme Steering Group.

Who can I apply?

This funding is suited to defined research projects being undertaken by undergraduate, masters and postgraduate students.

Project leads should discuss the project with their academic supervisor before submitting the application. Applications should be submitted by the project lead, although project supervisors/academic leads may submit if required.

What can I include in the costs?

Applications should demonstrate a clearly defined piece of research, which will have an identifiable outcome e.g. dissertation on completion of the funding.

Projects may be of varied content and might include costs associated with undertaking field or desk-based studies, surveys and citizen science activities. For example, equipment and software costs, consumables (e.g. materials), reasonable travel expenses (excludes flights) and subsistence for essential field research.

Please note, projects must be undertaken in Wales. Any survey work undertaken outside of Wales must be clearly relevant to Wales' Nature Recovery Action Plan and its relevance demonstrated in the application form.



Partneriaeth **Bioamrywiaeth** Cymru
Wales **Biodiversity** Partnership

What is the funding timeframe?

Applications must be submitted by **5pm** on the **31st JULY 2019**. Applications will then be reviewed by members of the BEERN Programme Steering Group. Applications which strongly meet the objectives of the Nature Recovery Action Plan and contain clear delivery information will be viewed favourably. A response will be provided by the end of August.

How do I submit the funding application form?

Applications can be submitted to the BEERN Programme via the Wales Biodiversity Partnership. Please email your application form to walesbiodiversitypartnership@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk.

Additional information

- Findings of the research project must be provided to the BEERN Programme following completion, for example an undergraduate dissertation report. Findings will be published on the website, as suitable.
- Project leads will be invited to present a research poster at the Wales Biodiversity Partnership Conference in Autumn 2020 or at a subsequent conference.
- Data preserving and sharing are key principles of the programme. Where this is possible, you should consider data sharing as an essential component of the project outputs. For example, submitting any species records to your [Local Environmental Records Centre](#). Please provide details if you cannot adhere to data sharing.
- Please ensure you conform to [Welsh Language Standards](#) where required.
- Information provided in the application form will be stored by WBP and shared with members of the [BEERN Programme Steering Group](#). If you provide consent for us to hold your information you have the option to withdraw this at any time and ask for your information to be deleted. See our [Privacy Policy](#) which describes how we collect, use and share your information.

Contact

If you have any questions, please contact the BEERN Programme via the Wales Biodiversity Partnership at walesbiodiversitypartnership@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk.