



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



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

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Evidence and Research Needs Programme

Funding Application Form 2020 FAQ Guidance

What is the BEERN Programme?

The Biodiversity and Ecosystem Evidence and Research Needs (BEERN) Programme is part of the Nature Recovery Framework in Wales and 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 please visit the [Wales Biodiversity Partnership website](#).

2020/2021 Special Provision

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions on fieldwork we are expecting a different focus for applications this year. We expect there to be a focus on analysing/mining existing data sets or metanalysis of data, and that funding requests might be for software, purchase of GIS layers, digital enhancements, etc.

All applications which clearly align with one or more of the NRAP Objectives 1 to 4 (see below) will be considered, but in your application you will need to demonstrate that you can meet your project goals under the current Covid-19 guidelines.

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. It reflects the need to:

1. identify and develop more collaborative and cost-effective ways of promoting nature recovery i.e. mainstreaming biodiversity;



2. promote greater ownership, including funding, of actions by the whole community including business, land owners and the general public;
3. develop new ways of working that move away from a reliance on short-term project funding (focused on specific species) to longer-term sustainable practices.

Actions taken to help biodiversity should be guided as far as possible by the 6 objectives of the [NRAP](#) which have been identified to contribute to reversing the decline of biodiversity in Wales.



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	<p>Placing nature at the centre of decision-making is essential to address the underlying cause of biodiversity loss. Therefore we need to improve understanding and raise awareness of the importance and value of nature, giving people and organisations the knowledge to take action to maintain and enhance biodiversity. Key to achieving this is the integration of biodiversity values into decision making at all levels, so that it is integral to everything that we do.</p> <p>This integration should be at every level so that biodiversity considerations are embedded throughout all levels of society, from individuals and small businesses, to large companies and public authorities.</p> <p>Types of project might include valuation systems, biodiversity metrics, environmental economics, decision support tools, auditing processes, literature reviews.</p>
OBJECTIVE 2: Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management	<p>Our species and habitats of principal importance are those that have been identified through legislation for Europe, the UK and for Wales.</p> <p>We need to ensure our protected sites and species are in good condition in their natural habitats, both for their intrinsic value, and for the benefits they provide to us. Improving the condition of these priority areas while expanding and making connections between them will improve the resilience of our ecosystems, and help develop protected sites as the cores of large-scale functional networks ('resilient ecological networks') rather than being 'islands' within the landscape.</p>



Nature Recovery Action Plan Objectives	
	Types of project might include studies of species and habitats, their management and best practice, reviews of guidance and/or best practice.
OBJECTIVE 3: Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation.	<p>Degraded habitats are ones that no longer support the full potential of our native wildlife and the biodiversity they support. To address this, we need to be able to recognise this wherever it occurs, in urban, rural and marine areas, for example in parks, and on farms, understand how to restore these habitats, and put this into practice at every opportunity.</p> <p>We need to better integrate protected sites with the wider countryside, which when linked to appropriate management and restoration of degraded habitats, will build the resilience of our ecosystems across the whole of Wales. We need to use nature based solutions to address societal challenges wherever possible.</p> <p>Types of project might include use of bio-diverse nature based solutions, increasing/measuring ecosystem resilience, novel methods for restoration or research</p>
OBJECTIVE 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats	<p>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.</p> <p>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, such as green infrastructure initiatives, including private gardens, verges and street trees to absorb pollutants and sustainable drainage schemes.</p> <p>Types of project might include studies of any/all of the pressures with novel relevance to Wales (e.g. light pollution).</p>



When considering the NRAP objectives the resilience of ecosystems should be taken into account wherever possible. The [Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016](#) sets out the following attributes of ecosystem resilience:

- **Diversity** – generally speaking, more diverse ecosystems are more resilient to external influences and their impacts. This includes biological, geological and physical diversity. A measure of this would be the number of native species within a given area.
- **Connectivity** – within and between ecosystems.
- **Scale and Extent** – the bigger the ecosystem extends, without fragmentation, the more resilient it is likely to be.
- **Condition** – ecosystems need to be in a healthy condition to function effectively, to deliver a range of important ecosystem services.
- **Adaptability** – the ability of ecosystems to adapt to events, understanding that ecosystems are not static and will change over time.

Further details on the NRAP objectives can be found [here](#), and information about Welsh Government policy and legislation, together with more general information about biodiversity in Wales can be found on the Wales Biodiversity Partnership [website](#).

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, to increase evidence and understanding of biodiversity and its needs (objective 5 of the NRAP). Applications which are also funded elsewhere (e.g. PhDs) should explain how the additional funding is important and how the additional chapter will enable increased impact and outputs.

Who can apply?

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

Applications can be submitted by the project lead or by the project supervisors/academic leads. Project leads should discuss the project with their academic supervisor before submitting the application.

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.



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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.

What is the funding timeframe?

Applications must be submitted by **5pm** on the **30th JUNE 2020**. 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 during the first weeks of September.

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 a Wales Biodiversity Partnership Conference (held biennially in the autumn).
- 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.