**WWF-UK Request for Proposal**

**Justice-led nature conservation in UK: mapping of approaches and impact**

**INTRODUCTION**

WWF-UK is developing a delivery framework that will take a systems approach to nature’s restoration and climate recovery in the UK, with people and communities at the centre. This exciting opportunity will create a model for effectively managed seascapes, rivers and landscapes and advocate for change.

The WWF-UK Wholescape Programme has two main aims:

1. Build a new framework through which we will deliver our UK conservation programmatic work, developing an evidence-based and systems level methodology, that elevates our approach in-line with environmental emergencies.
2. To pilot and ground truth the methodology in our selected Wholescape regions, working with a growing network of local partners with the expertise to deliver across the four UK Initiative workstreams:

• Governance, Policy & Planning;

• Sustainable Finance;

• Communities & Livelihoods;

• Science & Evidence.

This Request for Proposals contributes to both aims, with the initial application of findings to be applied in Norfolk and Pembrokeshire.

**BACKGROUND**

Justice-led nature conservation interventions are designed to promote nature restoration **as well as** social outcomes for people and communities who experience marginalisation and exclusion (social equity).

This approach to nature conservation presents a unique and timely opportunity to address what WWF refers to as the ‘triple challenge’ – the interconnected issues of climate change, biodiversity loss and human wellbeing. It offers a new opportunity for strengthening nature conservation interventions by adopting interdisciplinary approaches and partnerships that can effectively address the biophysical and social drivers of environmental change. It also presents opportunities for strengthening social capital within and between social groups, recognising the heritage and culture rooted in livelihoods linked to food production on land and at sea, and ensuring nature conservation does not negatively impact social groups and/or drive existing systems of marginalisation and exclusion.

Underpinning our interest in this work is the belief that tackling climate change and biodiversity loss can and should benefit **all** people and nature.

Justice-led nature conservation seeks to facilitate social equity outcomes through a number of human rights-based approaches that promote:

1. **Recognition rights:** Respecting diversity of different people in a given region including their rights, identities, cultural and heritage ties and approaches to ecosystem management.
2. **Procedural rights:** Promoting fairness in decision-making and management by enabling transparency and accountability in the processes; acknowledging and addressing pre-existing structural factors (social, economical, political, and cultural) that affect the agency and voice of different stakeholders and rights holders to participate and/or lead in ecosystem management.
3. **Distributional rights:** Facilitating fair sharing of benefits and impacts arising from nature conservation interventions; ensuring social groups disproportionately affected by climate change and biodiversity loss – and the policies/strategies designed to tackle these twin emergencies – can benefit from conservation interventions in a way that is appropriate for them.
4. **Epistemic justice:** Recognising and incorporating plural knowledge systems, values, worldviews, in the way biodiversity is valued and conserved by different stakeholders, interest groups and rights holders in a given area.

**OBJECTIVE**

We are looking for a research and learning partner who can help us map approaches to justice-led conservation design, governance and management across the UK. This mapping will be used to design an appropriate justice-led methodology to pilot in our Norfolk and Pembrokeshire programmes, and possibly other future wholescape pilots in the UK

In particular, we seek to understand the following in a UK context:

* The conditions in which justice-led approaches are effective or ineffective in promoting social equity and nature restoration outcomes.
* Interventions that help communities and social groups address drivers of social, economic, and political marginalisation/exclusion.
* Approaches that strengthen agency, voice and empowerment of most affected social groups through nature conservation and restoration.
* How social equity outcomes are valued and measured and by whom.
* The intended and unintended consequences of justice-led approaches for nature conservation and restoration.
* How tensions and challenges in design and management are surfaced, named, addressed and the impacts of these actions.
* Examples of equitable governance, particularly where community members unaffiliated to interest groups have decision making power within conservation programmes.
* The role and positionality of WWF-UK, in facilitating and/or supporting justice-led conservation.
* Differences in approaches and impacts between the nations within the UK and in urban areas versus rural and coastal locations.

**Expected Deliverables and timeframes**

The contract will be from June 1 to 30 August 2023 and include the following deliverables:

* Inception meeting to review and agree methodology, delivery plan and key dates.
* Meetings scheduled at regular times throughout the mapping process to enable co-creation and provide support for the research partner.
* Mapping and presentation of mapping.
* Recommendations for WWF-UK on applying and/or supporting justice-led approaches to nature conservation and restoration in the UK across different nations and regions.
* Pilot methodology for Norfolk and Pembrokeshire specifically.

**budget & PAYMENT SCHEDULE**

The budget is **£25,000** (inclusive of VAT) in total. The successful research partner commissioned for this work will be issued with a contract and/or purchase order through WWF’s Panda Purchasing system.

**RESEARCHER EXPERIENCE**

To complete this work, we are looking for a research and learning partner who ideally brings the following experience and skills:

* Experience of leading and/or managing environmental and social sciences and research.
* Knowledge and experience of social equity theories and how they are applied in environmental, climate and conservation policy and practice.
* Practice of collaborating with social groups experiencing marginalisation and exclusion in the UK within the context of nature restoration, traditional livelihoods based on land/at sea, conservation and/or climate action.
* Knowledge of the context of UK nature conservation and related policy, and how this differs between nations within the UK; good understanding of Welsh and Scottish contexts is desirable.
* Knowledge and/or experience of ethical research practices centred on equity, inclusion and care with the stakeholders affected by the research in the UK.
* Report writing skills and ability to produce a mapping report, methodology and presentation in English

**TENDERING PROCESS**

Please provide a written quote for the work described above, outlining the approach you would take to deliver the required activities, a timeline and breakdown of costs, along with a CV outlining relevant skills, knowledge, and experience by **9am on Thurs 25** **May 2023**. The budget should include any expected travel and accommodation costs. The consultant will be expected to provide all their own office and communication facilities.

In your response, please share your:

* Understanding of the brief and approach and methodology.
* Experience as outlined in the researcher experience qualification.
* Your approach to ethical research practices, particularly when covering or engaging with communities affected by structural inequalities.
* Your proposed budget.
* Consent and approach to confidentiality and data protection.

**Please note that all submissions longer than 8 pages will be automatically discounted, therefore please link or signpost to any additional information (policies, statements etc.)**

Additional requests as part of the tendering process:

* Please confirm you have read and are willing to work to the WWF-UK standard T&C’s.
* Please confirm you have read and accept the WWF-UK 3rd party expenses policy.
* Please confirm you have read and accept to work to the WWF-UK supplier code of conduct.
* The successful party will be required to register on Panda Purchasing, the WWF PO & invoice system. Please confirm you will be willing to do so.

**EVALUATION**

The process of evaluation of responses/tenders will be carried out by a suitably competent panel and a contract award made on the basis of:

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| **Evaluation Criteria**  | **Weight**  | **Sub-Criteria**  | **Weight**  |
| Quantitative  | 25%  |  Value for money    | 25%  |
| Qualitative  | 75%  |  Proposed approach and methodology | 25%  |
|  Organisational values and demonstrable commitment to environmental justice  | 25% |
|  Relevant experience  | 25%  |

A decision will be made as soon as possible after the deadline, with a view to the project starting and an inception meeting in the first week of June 2023.

To discuss any of the above information, or if you require accessibility accommodations in order to submit the application within the given deadline, please email: **Charlie Cutt, WWF-UK**, ccutt@wwf.org.uk and **Marion Osieyo,** mosieyo@wwf.org.uk

To submit an application, please email: **Charlie Cutt, WWF-UK**, ccutt@wwf.org.uk and **Marion Osieyo,** mosieyo@wwf.org.uk with the email title ‘Proposal submission for ‘Justice-led nature conservation in the UK’

**ADDITIONAL LINKS OF RELEVANCE**

1. Details on WWF’s mission to enhance safeguards and social policy can be found online [here](https://wwf.panda.org/discover/people_and_conservation/advancing_social_policies_and_principles/#:~:text=Advancing%20social%20policies%20%26%20principles%20%7C%20WWF&text=Safeguards%20are%20designed%20to%20manage,environmental%20impacts%20within%20our%20work.).
2. Decoloniality and anti-oppressive practices for a more ethical ecology –

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41559-021-01460-w>

1. [The Triple Challenge: synergies, trade-offs and integrated responses for climate, biodiversity, and human wellbeing goals (tandfonline.com)](https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14693062.2023.2175637)

If you would like further background information on social capital research we have commissioned in relation to our UK conservation programmes, please also contact Charlie and Marion via the details above.

**A NOTE ON WWF’S POSITIONALITY**

We acknowledge that our positionality as a nature conservation NGO with significant influence in the world, and the impact of the findings from the Independent Review, may result in scepticism about our commitment to justice-led nature conservation. As a prospective research partner, we want to assure you that our intentions with this research project is learning how to support justice-led conservation in a way that is cognisant of our role, histories and positionality and can be of service to the wider nature conservation sector in the UK. Thank you for expressing an interest in working with WWF-UK on this important piece of work. We look forward to receiving your response.