Annex A

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| --- | --- |
| Title of Project | ***Measuring the level of Private Investment in Nature Recovery*** |
| Date and Time for Return of Bids | **Monday 7 February 2022 @ 16:00 hours** |
| Contract Reference Number | **F21-0701-1633** |
| Address for Bid Submission | 1 electronic copy to be sent to [TenderResponse@jncc.gov.uk](mailto:TenderResponse@jncc.gov.uk)  PLEASE DO NOT SEND BIDS DIRECTLY TO MARK COLLAR, MANSI KONAR OR COLIN BRADER VIA THEIR WORK EMAIL ADDRESSES AS THIS WILL INVALIDATE YOUR BID.  Bids must be less than 10 MB in size.  On receipt of your bid, you will receive an automated e-mail to confirm receipt by the JNCC Support Co. If you do not receive this automated email, please contact the individuals below, in the following order:  Sue Wenlock (00 44 1733 866880)  Chris Downes (00 44 1733 866877) |
| Contacts for **Technical Information** relating to this Project Specification | Joint Nature Conservation Committee  Name: Mark Collar  Email: mark.collar@jncc.gov.uk  Telephone: 01733 866921  OR  Joint Nature Conservation Committee  Name: Mansi Konar  Email: manaswita.konar@jncc.gov.uk  Telephone: 01733 866896 |
| Contact for Queries Regarding the **Procurement** **Procedure** | Dora Iantosca  Finance Team  Joint Nature Conservation Committee  Email: [colin.brader@jncc.gov.uk](mailto:colin.brader@jncc.gov.uk) or contractqueries@jncc.gov.uk  Telephone: 01733 866894 |
| Proposed Start Date | 7 February 2022 |
| Proposed End Date | 31 March 2022 |

**Title of Project**

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## Joint Nature Conservation Committee

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) is the statutory adviser to the UK Government and devolved administrations on UK and international nature conservation

Our role is to provide scientific evidence, information, and advice to inform decisions to protect the natural environment. Our specific role is to work on nature conservation issues that affect the UK as a whole and internationally, by:

* advising Government on the development and implementation of policies for, or affecting, nature conservation in the UK and internationally;
* providing advice and disseminating knowledge on nature conservation issues affecting the UK and internationally;
* establishing common standards throughout the UK for nature conservation, including monitoring, research, and the analysis of results; and
* commissioning or supporting research which it deems relevant to these functions.

Background to JNCC can be found on JNCC’s website at: <https://jncc.gov.uk/about-jncc/>

## Project Aims

The aim of the research is to produce a credible methodology for tracking private finance into nature recovery and identify the best data sources to do so including identifying ways to fill any gaps to improve the future methodology.

## Project Background

The UK Government recently committed to a target of private finance into nature recovery for England of £500 million per annum in 2027, rising to £1 billion annually by 2030.

No existing measures exist to adequately capture private investment in nature within England or the UK. One recent estimate for biodiversity spend in England was by GFI/EFTEC of £80 million per annum.[[1]](https://ukc-word-edit.officeapps.live.com/we/wordeditorframe.aspx?ui=en%2DUS&rs=en%2DGB&wopisrc=https%3A%2F%2Fdefra.sharepoint.com%2Fteams%2FTeam1638%2F_vti_bin%2Fwopi.ashx%2Ffiles%2F077f55641300462ab65f4450dfb4c4ad&wdenableroaming=1&mscc=1&hid=98550DA0-0028-3000-930F-AB39D89CB746&wdorigin=ItemsView&wdhostclicktime=1639657024049&jsapi=1&jsapiver=v1&newsession=1&corrid=f48dafdd-c2b7-d0e8-26b0-4bd663369ffb&usid=f48dafdd-c2b7-d0e8-26b0-4bd663369ffb&sftc=1&mtf=1&sfp=1&instantedit=1&wopicomplete=1&wdredirectionreason=Unified_SingleFlush&preseededsessionkey=06197e58-615f-14a1-3a61-fde05c5e1c5e&preseededwacsessionid=f48dafdd-c2b7-d0e8-26b0-4bd663369ffb&rct=Medium&ctp=LeastProtected#_ftn1)

[[1]](https://ukc-word-edit.officeapps.live.com/we/wordeditorframe.aspx?ui=en%2DUS&rs=en%2DGB&wopisrc=https%3A%2F%2Fdefra.sharepoint.com%2Fteams%2FTeam1638%2F_vti_bin%2Fwopi.ashx%2Ffiles%2F077f55641300462ab65f4450dfb4c4ad&wdenableroaming=1&mscc=1&hid=98550DA0-0028-3000-930F-AB39D89CB746&wdorigin=ItemsView&wdhostclicktime=1639657024049&jsapi=1&jsapiver=v1&newsession=1&corrid=f48dafdd-c2b7-d0e8-26b0-4bd663369ffb&usid=f48dafdd-c2b7-d0e8-26b0-4bd663369ffb&sftc=1&mtf=1&sfp=1&instantedit=1&wopicomplete=1&wdredirectionreason=Unified_SingleFlush&preseededsessionkey=06197e58-615f-14a1-3a61-fde05c5e1c5e&preseededwacsessionid=f48dafdd-c2b7-d0e8-26b0-4bd663369ffb&rct=Medium&ctp=LeastProtected#_ftnref1) [Microsoft Word - GFI Finance Gap\_Appendix 2\_Biodiversity spending\_final\_011021.docx (greenfinanceinstitute.co.uk).](https://www.greenfinanceinstitute.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Appendix2.pdf) Authors acknowledged this was an imprecise estimate.

## Project Objectives

To meet the overall aims of this project (Section 2), the objective is:

* to produce a credible methodology for tracking private finance into nature recovery and identify the best data sources to do so including identifying ways to fill any gaps to improve the future methodology. The methodology needs to provide reliable and robust evidence which can be easily replicated and refined in future to enable the consistent tracking of investment flows over time.

## Project Objectives: Detailed Tasks

The scope is the level of private finance into nature recovery in England for the most recent year for which data is available so that it can then be tracked annually through time.

The output of this research is to provide reports covering each of the following:

1. Produce an options paper for determining criteria for investments which should be counted towards the private finance nature recovery target including setting out which investments count towards the target based on the agreed criteria.
2. Produce options for measuring against this agreed investment from part i), identifying the pros and cons of different data sets and surveys that could be used. The assessment should include consideration of the cost where data sets are not free to use and highlighting any data gaps and identifying how this could be addressed in future.
3. Produce an assessment of how the proposed indicator would relate to the quantification of environmental benefits realised, and recommended steps to improve this linkage.

There are three parts to this study.

**Work package 1: Indicator design**

The first part of the study is to *“Produce an options paper for determining criteria for those investments which should be counted towards the private finance nature recovery target.”.* The work involves an initial review of the requirement and generating options for the indicator that will assess progress towards the overall target (delivering private finance into nature recovery for England of £500 million per annum in 2027, rising to £1 billion annually by 2030).

Nature Recovery can be defined in a number of ways. The glossary for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) defines ecosystem restoration as “*assisting in the recovery of ecosystems that have been degraded or destroyed, as well as conserving the ecosystems that are still intact”. Restoration can happen in many ways – for example, through actively planting or by removing pressures so that nature can recover on its own. It is not always possible – or desirable – to return an ecosystem to its original state*. Nature Positive 2030 states that *becoming Nature Positive by 2030 means reversing the current decline of biodiversity so that ecosystem restoration is underway, and species are increasing in abundance and fewer are threatened with extinction. This is a critical step on the way to thriving nature by 2050*

Within these high-level definitions there is room for interpretation, which the tenderer will be expected to explore and make recommendations about what types of investment should be included in the nature recovery target. The focus of the analysis should be on direct, positive, investment in nature recovery rather than reducing pressures on the natural environment.

The approach taken should focus on the strongest markets that are likely to drive investment in the natural environment particularly:

1. Biodiversity – specific investment in biodiversity restoration or enhanced management such as offsetting the impacts of activities through Biodiversity net gain
2. Carbon – investment in the natural environment, for example woodland and peatland restoration to sequester or retain carbon
3. Water movement – using the natural environment to mitigate the impacts of sea level rise and more frequent extreme weather events through slowing the movement of water
4. Water quality – improving the quality of water through the use of features such as reedbeds to strip out nutrients.

To support investment and ensure it is robust and consistent, a suite of “codes” have begun to emerge particularly in the carbon area (e.g. the woodland code and peatland code). Where defined, these codes could be a key aspect of assessing investment against the overarching target.

There are two broad types of investment: capital investment to enable initial habitat restoration and ongoing investment to maintain and manage ecosystems and the benefits they accrue. Both these types of investment are considered within scope of the target.

The work also needs to consider the point at which investment is counted. Our starting point is that funding will have been transferred to the balance sheet of the body carrying out the nature improvement not just a commitment to invest. By contrast, we don’t want to wait until nature recovery has occurred before booking in the finance as this may be some distance into the future.

The following are not in scope for the target:

1. Money delivered by the private sector whose original source is central or local government, for instance grants for nature-based solutions.
2. Transactions in secondary markets e.g., trading of environmental credits.
3. Investments in the devolved nations or internationally (target is for England only)
4. Taxation policy where this involves raising revenue from the private sector.
5. Charging / cost recovery fees levied by the Defra Group for their services

The methodology should be mindful of the future Green taxonomy which will be in place by 2027 and cover the following objectives (climate change mitigation and adaptation; water and marine resources; circular economy; pollution; biodiversity and ecosystem services). This will identify activities that meet a threshold to be classified as green including delivering nature recovery.

We are agnostic about the approach that is taken to measuring the level of private finance. One approach would be to look at investment funds going into nature recovery, whilst another would look at owners of land and measuring where those private owners spend their money on nature recovery. Equally the methodology could combine approaches albeit being mindful of double counting.

The contractor will be required to submit and present the findings of the options paper to the steering board. Following this discussion, the options paper will be finalised.

**Work package 2: Indicator development**

The second part of the study is to “*Produce options for methodologies for measurement against this agreed target including identifying the pros and cons of different data sets and surveys that can be used. The assessment should include consideration of the cost where they are not free to use and highlighting any gaps and how these could be addressed.”* This section builds on the outputs from the first section of the work and begins to consider the practicalities of how the indicator could be measured.

The following data sets may be relevant for this section of the work although not all are currently live but are expected to be live by 2027 when the first private finance target is set:

1. Land Carbon Registry – Covering projects under the Woodland and Peatland Code. DEFRA is also establishing a register of peatland restoration projects which is due to go live in April 2024.
2. Biodiversity net gain register - will be a publicly accessible record of sites secured for the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain which is due to be live in 2023.
3. OFWAT – as the regulator of the water companies can be expected to hold data on water company spend on nature recovery.
4. CSR and local business spend – Green Finance Institute (GFI) Centre of Excellence (Hive) is developing case studies here.

The contractor must identify relevant surveys and data sets. The contractor needs to discuss the quality of the individual data sets and surveys including identifying pros and cons associated with each data set in terms of providing a robust, replicable and cost effective measures of nature’s recovery. Costs of surveys and data sets should be reported where they are subject to pay wall restrictions.

Where there are gaps that current data do not cover, the contractor is required to identify how these gaps could be filled, including identifying the potential cost and which institution would be best placed to fill this gap.

The contractor should present these findings and an overall recommendation as to the best fit approach of the data to capture private investment in nature recovery to the steering board. Following this discussion, the contractor will finalise the paper, setting out the agreed best current methodology.

**Work package 3: Assessment of outcomes**

The final part of the study is to “Produce an initial assessment of how the proposed indicator would relate to the quantification of benefits realised, and recommended steps to improve this linkage.” This will be a first attempt to assess the extent to which financial flows relate to intended outcome and what steps are needed to improve this linkage.

The target and indicator will be focused on financial flows. As noted above actual outcome in terms of nature recovery can take many years for the full benefits to be realised. However, it is still important for investors and government to be able to assess that investments are generating benefits and track progress in these. This evidence base will also be key in increasing and directing the continued flow of investment into natures recovery. Note that many of the benefits are strongly spatially dependent; in other words, the extent of the benefits realised will be highly dependent on where the restoration is implemented.

Many of the codes referred to above do include a monitoring element and it would be useful for the contractor to assess these. There are also other existing and emerging monitoring programmes across government which should also be reviewed within this context.

The contractor should carry out a time limited review of the approaches that exist and provide initial recommendations on the need for improving the linkage between financial flows and outcome and how the area could be developed. 

## Outputs

Any products or outputs submitted to JNCC [for publication] should adhere to JNCC’s house-style and should be produced in an accessible format (see product specification for more information).

## Product Specification

JNCC is committed to making its publicly available resources and documents accessible, in accordance with the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018.

Making material accessible means making sure it can be used by as many people as possible.  This includes those with:

* impaired vision
* motor difficulties
* cognitive impairments or learning disabilities
* deafness or impaired hearing

The outputs and material that JNCC publishes should be compliant with the [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.1](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/) AA standard.

To meet this standard, all reports and other documentation which are to be made publicly available must adhere to JNCC’s house-style (details to be forwarded the successful bidder) and be produced using a JNCC template (details to be forwarded to the successful bidder) unless otherwise stated. (***Project managers to note – there are two templates, please decide which is most appropriate, either the ‘standard’ template or the JNCC report template***). All reports (draft and final) should be provided electronically via email both as a Microsoft Word document and an Adobe PDF.

Copies of documentation associated with case studies should be provided in electronic format with an associated reference catalogue.

For any other outputs or products which are to be made publicly available through JNCC, evidence regarding how the accessibility standard will be reached should be included.

*(***Note for author if research project/contract: s***ee EQA Policy Appendix 4 (Communicating Evidence Quality). Ensure that data management and storage requirements are stipulated taking into account relevant policy for data access. See* <https://jncc.gov.uk/about-jncc/corporate-information/evidence-quality-assurance/>

## Dissemination

The products/outputs produced under this contract will be a JNCC product and shall not be published or disseminated without the written permission of JNCC. Outputs may at some point be published on the JNCC website and all material supplied as part of this contract shall remain copyright of JNCC. The findings from this contract will also be made available to staff within JNCC, the UK country nature conservation bodies and Defra.

## Timescale

Provisional dates for delivery of the contact outputs are set out below. Exact dates are to be agreed at the start-up meeting based on Contractor and JNCC staff availability.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Output** | **Provisional Date** |
| Start-up meeting (UK) | w/c 7th February 2022 |
| Final outputs provided | By 31st March 2022 |

In agreeing exact dates, please note that the potential for work under this contract to be funded into 2022/23 is subject to availability of funds.

## Health and Safety

The successful bidder is expected to follow appropriate Health & Safety procedures including adhering to JNCC’s policy on safeguarding. For further information <https://jncc.gov.uk/about-jncc/corporate-information/safeguarding/> and to be able to undertake appropriate risk assessments, evidence of which should be supplied to JNCC. (NB under no circumstances should any work or service commence prior to the receipt of written approval of the risk assessment by the JNCC H&S Advisor).

Any incidents occurring within the contract period should be immediately reported to JNCC.

## Project Management

The successful Contractor shall nominate a project manager who shall be responsible for ensuring the project is completed satisfactorily and who shall be the main contact point for JNCC.

JNCC’s main contact point will be:

Name: Mark Collar

Email: mark.collar@jncc.gov.uk

Telephone: +44 (0)1733 866921

## Instructions for Bid Submission

The bid submission should include the following:

* A brief summary of the bidder’s experience in relation to the requirements of this contract;
* A proposed approach for achieving the objectives of the contract and delivering the detailed tasks identified within each objective. This should be sufficiently detailed to allow assessment against the evaluation criteria (Section 14);
* A detailed project plan (including Gantt chart) with proposed work programme and an estimate of time required to achieve each objective;
* A draft Table of Contents for the final report;
* Details of Quality Control procedures to be followed (**note for author if research project/contract:** *see EQA Policy Appendix 1 (Bias, Conflicting Evidence and Uncertainty) and EQU Policy Appendix 3 (Quality Assurance of Expert Knowledge and Opinion):*
* Details of the bidder’s own internal Quality Management System;
* Details of the Project Team including their roles and experience, an estimate of their time input into each task and CVs of all personnel who will be involved in the contract/project;
* Availability of the Project Team for a start-up meeting (held virtually)
* Overall quote for the contract to include:
  + Day rates for all members of the Project Team;
  + Rates for attending start-up, interim and final meetings in Peterborough or Aberdeen (costs for travel and accommodation are attached and should be used. These rates are analogous to the civil service rates).
  + Costs and time allocation should be clearly allocated to specific tasks within this contract/project; and
  + **VAT if applicable.** **The contractor is to specify whether VAT at the prevailing rate would be applicable to this project and if so, provide their VAT registration number.**
* The following documentation:
  + Copies of health and safety policy statements where available or a note regarding such items as lone working, emergency procedures and accident reporting;
  + Copies of current public and employer liability insurance certificates;
  + Copies of any appropriate risk assessments; and
  + Copies of any environmental policies should you have them.

In addition, note that the bid submission should provide sufficient information to allow assessment against the evaluation criteria outlined in Section 14.

## Evaluation Criteria

JNCC is not bound to accept the lowest priced or any bid. Having the technical expertise and experience to complete the work to a high standard and being able to complete it within the timescale are of the essence for this contract.

The bid evaluation may be undertaken by a panel consisting of JNCC staff and staff members from Defra.  Unless otherwise stated in your bid submission, bids will be forwarded to these bodies for evaluation purposes only.

For information on how we handle personal data please see our Privacy Notice at <https://jncc.gov.uk/about-jncc/corporate-information/privacy-statement/>

Bids will be evaluated using the following criteria:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | EVALUATION CRITERIA | Maximum Score | Score |
| **1. Quality of Bid (50% of the total for the three assessment categories)** | | | |
|  | *Clarity of proposal particularly work programme and deliverables* | *10* |  |
|  | *Understanding of, and relevance to, the requirements in particular the adequacy of outputs and understanding of private sector investment in the natural environment including the markets that drive this and indicator development)* | *10* |  |
|  | *Soundness and logicality of methods* | *5* |  |
|  | *Realism and measurability of outputs* | *5* |  |
|  | *Evidence provided of how accessibility standards will be met* | *5* |  |
|  | *Identification and proposed solutions to potential risks/issues* | *5* |  |
|  | *Serious weaknesses which threaten success* | *5* |  |
|  | *Probability of success* | *5* |  |
|  | Sub Total | *50* |  |
| **2. Details of Contractor (20% of the total for the three assessment categories)** | | | |
|  | *Demonstration of suitable expertise and experience (including any subcontractors) with examples of successful work in any of the following areas: soils monitoring, complex systems, conceptual models, indicator development, working with multiple stakeholders* | *9* |  |
|  | *Risks if important team members drop out* | *5* |  |
|  | *Adequacy of subcontractors if any* | *6* |  |
|  | *Sub Total* | *20* |  |
| **3. Cost (30% of the total for the three assessment categories)** | | | |
|  | *Transparency and correctness of presentation what does presentation mean here in relation to cost?* | *10* |  |
|  | *Fairness/reasonableness for the level of work and expertise required* | *6* |  |
|  | *Appropriateness of ratio of senior to junior staff time* | *6* |  |
|  | *Clarity of each team member’s contribution and value added* | *8* |  |
|  | *Sub Total* | *30* |  |
| *Total Score* | | *100* |  |

## Payment

Unless a payment schedule is stated in your submission and agreed by JNCC project manager. Payment will be made on completion of the objectives following the submission of invoice(s) and based on the satisfactory undertaking of the contractual elements to the agreed standard of the JNCC Project Officer.

## Additional Requirements

All bidders are requested to carefully read the Terms and Conditions applying to this contract. Payment will only be made upon delivery of key outputs.

It is assumed that all costs associated with the production of figures, reproduction of photographs and the final report are accounted for within the rates/fees given.

The bidder is expected to supply all necessary equipment, software, licences, etc. to carry out the obligations required under the contract.