

Request for proposals:

# Biodiversity strategy for the food & drink sector.

## 1. Introduction

Problem: Food production globally has caused 75% of deforestation and 70% of biodiversity loss. 75% of food production relies on pollinators.

Food production can cause biodiversity loss by reducing the quality of, and through direct conversion of, natural and semi-natural habitats, which reduces the available area as well as causing fragmentation of habitats. Use of pesticides and fertilisers can reduce biodiversity on farms, including in soils and on-farm habitats, and in the wider landscape; farmers and growers often see a conflict between biodiversity and economic productivity.

WWF-UK and Tesco are in partnership with an overall goal to reduce the environmental impact of the average UK shopping basket by 50%. The partnership encompasses a range of issues such as climate change, seafood, commodities, deforestation, landscapes, and water.

As part of this partnership, WWF-UK would like to commission a study to review what an appropriate biodiversity strategy could be for the food and drink sector (using Tesco as the demonstrator) to help address the problem statement above and establish the role the sector has in restoring nature in food production.

We are seeking proposals to address the following fundamental questions, which will shape and determine the content of the Strategy and are elaborated on in Section 2:

1. What on-farm biodiversity interventions are most effective in preventing loss and promoting restoration of biodiversity and habitats in the landscapes / regions identified in the geographic scope, and how can these be monitored appropriately to enable public reporting on progress?
2. How can these on-farm interventions lead to landscape level change? How can effective collaboration across agricultural supply chains be scaled most effectively to achieve common ambitions on biodiversity?
3. What are considered best practice on farm pest management strategies which minimise impact on biodiversity. How can these best practices be scale-up cost across the industry effectively and efficiently?
4. What needs to happen to ensure this landscape level improvements achieve the goal of nature recovery and maintenance required?

Our joint interest in the outcome of this study is to identify best practice and potential targets that can be advocated to the sector, recognising all stakeholders in the food production system have a role to play in restoring nature.

## 2. Approach

We are open to proposals for different approaches to best address the fundamental questions posed above. This may include working with other consultancies to ensure you provide appropriate expertise for each question/objective. A draft approach for each area is described below, but this is just for direction.

### 2.1 On-farm biodiversity

The food and farming sector rely heavily on pollinators, is this the right approach for the food and farming sector?

- Review on-farm biodiversity interventions and environmental standards that are most effective (recognising that different regions, geographies, landscapes have different biodiversity profiles)
- Provide recommendations on how on-farm biodiversity should be improved and monitored using insights from Tesco supply base and with costs of implementation associated, using two UK farming sector examples, and two international produce farming sector examples. (UK beef & potatoes sectors, South African Cape Floristic region, Southern Spain agriculture region.)
- Recommend a reporting metric and target that Tesco and other food and drink companies can report against.
- Create costed roadmap for Tesco and industry to reach best on-farm biodiversity practices.

### 2.2 Landscape-level biodiversity/ nature-based solutions

To ensure true nature recovery in farming systems, biodiversity improvements need to be scaled to a landscape level. How can on farm initiatives be scaled to achieve landscape level change?

- Assess the landscape level change that is required to achieve nature recovery (or halving env impact of food).
- Review nature-based solutions that are needed on farms according to sectors/farm profiles and how these can be implemented on farm and at a landscape level
- Review and recommend how landscape-level change can be measured and reported on.
- Provide recommendations for Tesco to enhance its landscape-level biodiversity priorities
- Create costed roadmap for Tesco and industry to achieve restoration in food production.

### 2.3 Pesticide strategy

To ensure a credible biodiversity strategy, a robust pesticide management system is required.

- Review best practice on farm pest management strategies which minimise impact on biodiversity.
- Review opportunities to replace conventional pesticides with alternative products and what strategies are required in order to expand and accelerate these opportunities.
- Review and recommend interventions/strategies that can be employed on-farm to achieve credible integrated pest management.
- Use insights to review cost and interventions required to move Tesco and the industry to pesticide use best practice (scaling-up).
- Provide recommendations for Tesco to enhance its corporate pesticide management approach.

### 2.4 Industry change

- Using the information gathered during this work and insights from elsewhere, provide recommendations, with case studies, that will move retailers, industry and governments to create and maintain the landscape-level change required to restore nature in food production.

## 3. Proposal Submission

### 3.1 Skill Set required for consultant

- Expert knowledge of the literature which identifies best practice agri-environmental farm management practices
- Expert knowledge of agri-environmental regulations
- In-depth interviewing expertise and ability to undertake research on sensitive subjects

### 3.2 Deliverables

The consultant should organise conference calls or in-person meetings with the relevant WWF and Tesco at inception, to ensure alignment of objectives, and also at regular intervals throughout the process.

Presentations for each focus area that pulls out the salient points and recommendations that can be used to inform Tesco and WWF senior stakeholders.

2 page Exec Summary; 20 page technical summary report covering each focus area; plus full report including appendices presenting all work undertaken.

We recommend three additional days be accounted for to support the Tesco and WWF team to create presentations that are appropriate for certain audiences. Any additional days required may be agreed in advance and charged according to agreed day rates.

### 3.3 Timeline

- Selection of chosen consultant: by 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020
- Kick-off meeting with WWF and Tesco: by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020
- Submission of draft report: by 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021
- Agreement of final report and conclusion of consultancy: by 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

### 3.4 Budget

The budget is up to £35k including VAT, for all fees and other associated costs

### 3.5 Submission of Proposals

Please submit your proposal by Midday, Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020 to the WWF-UK contact named below. Your proposal must contain:

- Your approach and proposed methodology to address the fundamental questions raised and suggested approaches
- An analysis of how you fulfil the required skill set
- Names and CVs of all staff who will work on the consultancy, and proposed roles
- A fee proposal including:
  - o Total days and day rates for each member of staff who will work on the consultancy
  - o Any travel/ancillary costs
  - o Your VAT status with VAT, if applicable, clearly identified

### 3.6 Assessment of Proposals

WWF will consider proposals and appoint the successful consultant through a mix of qualitative and quantitative assessment, to include:

- Quality of the submission
- Expertise and skills of staff
- Cost and overall resource inputs
- Quality and effectiveness of the proposed methodology and ability to deliver the brief

## 4. Contact for queries and submissions

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