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Call for Expression of Interest (EOI)

Using evidence from Aviva funded programme delivery to catalyse systems transformation.

Locations / themes	Ingleborough – Yorkshire – upland nature restoration Firth of Forth – Scotland – community led seagrass and oyster restoration. Trent – Leicestershire – increasing climate resilience via Nature Based Solutions Norfolk, East Anglia - increasing climate resilience via Nature Based Solutions
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WWF and AVIVA PARTNERSHIP OVERVIEW

Since 2021, WWF and Aviva have been working together to restore UK landscapes and seascapes, build healthier more resilient communities and help transform one of the biggest indirect drivers of climate change: the UK finance sector.

As part of the partnership, we are working on the ground in the UK and Canada to protect and restore nature, and in turn create climate-resilient communities. Together we are supporting habitat restoration by funding conservation in 4 locations across the UK – harnessing nature to reduce flooding in communities, liaising with farmers and landowners to support a shift to more regenerative farming practices, funding pioneering research into climate data collection, and helping to inspire and mobilise local communities to get involved in nature restoration.

A key purpose of these on the ground projects is to deliver improved climate and flood resilience to communities. However, there is a lot to be learned from these projects; they can provide the evidence and social mandate to help shape and underpin the policy and regulatory asks Aviva and WWF advocate for so investing in nature restoration becomes a more attractive proposition for the financial sector, which in turn will unlock finance to drive change at the scale and pace necessary.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THIS PIECE OF WORK

The current phase of the Aviva partnership will come to an end in June 2024. To ensure a strong legacy we are looking to capture learnings from the delivery to date and use this to ensure there is robust legislation, policy, and regulation and funding mechanisms that will facilitate scaling of private nature finance.

The overarching objectives of the evaluation are:

1. To provide a comprehensive overview of the policy, financial, legislative and regulatory barriers the delivery projects have encountered; highlighting areas where current policies/approaches need to shift and setting out actions needed to make these investible at scale.
2. To test how an integrated systems approach to climate, nature and people would evidence overcoming barriers and deliver cost-effective solutions that restore nature, mitigate and adapt to climate change and meet the needs of communities.
3. To inform and support WWF's & Aviva's individual and joint asks for legislation, policy, regulation and funding that would support integrated delivery of climate and nature targets.

The findings will be used to inform policy position papers for discussion, provide evidence to underpin WWF's & Aviva's asks and/or shape draft skeleton legislation. WWF's current advocacy priorities are set out in the Annex.



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The project will be overseen by Jane Crabb, UK Landscapes Project Manager in consultation with the core delivery colleagues and key partnership contacts.

SCOPE OF THE PROJECT:

We want the deliverables from this piece of work to:

- Based on Aviva and WWF's nature-based projects, identify the policy and/or regulatory barriers and present recommended solutions for policymakers to make NbS investable at scale.
- Highlight the challenges and gaps with current agriculture, nature and climate policy in supporting integrated delivery of the restoration of nature, mitigation of climate change and meeting the needs of people.
- Provide evidence of how a robust Land Use Framework could help to overcome the barriers currently encountered by delivery projects, and to ensure that the framework works in different contexts – upland, lowland, coastal etc
- Collate evidence and compelling case studies to support wider engagement with politicians, civil servants, businesses and others in calling for changes to overcome the identified barriers to NBS investment.

The evaluation will look at the learning from the 4 delivery projects from their launch in 2021 to present day.

The 4 delivery projects are as follows. Further information on each will be provided to the successful contractor ahead of work commencing:

- Wild Ingleborough. A partnership with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Natural England, the University of Leeds, the United Bank of Carbon, Woodland Trust and local communities to restore over 1500 hectares around Ingleborough mountain in the Yorkshire Dales. [Wild Ingleborough: a vision for a wilder future | WWF](#)
- Restoration Forth: Supporting local communities to restore seagrass meadows and native oysters in the Firth of Forth [Restoration Forth | WWF](#)
- Trent Natural Flood Management. A partnership with the Trent Rivers Trust to reduce flooding risk in the Soar catchment and the resilience of local communities via catchment scale Natural Flood Management Interventions [Natural Flood Management in the Soar - Trent Rivers Trust](#)
- Norfolk Natural Flood Management. A partnership with the Norfolk Rivers Trust to catalyze catchment scale Natural Flood Management to reduce flood risk [Norfolk Rivers Trust | Riverscape East Anglia](#)

METHODOLOGY CONSIDERATIONS

It is anticipated that the evaluation will take a mixed-method approach to optimise information generation and corroboration. This should include:

- Desktop review – review of key partnership documents (e.g. strategies, programme & partnership proposals, monitoring plans, workplans, technical reports, implementation documents) to inform evaluation design and identify key issues;
- Key stakeholder interviews to engage with relevant WWF, Aviva and partner staff, beneficiaries and stakeholders (if appropriate).
- Collation of findings, insights and creation of the final report, including case studies.

EVALUATION ARRANGEMENTS AND PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS

An independent evaluator will conduct this partnership evaluation between the start of March 2024 and the end of May 2024.



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The assignment may require travel to the program areas. If travelling is required, WWF-UK staff will help in organizing accommodation, arranging meetings and transportation.

Selection of the Independent Evaluator will be undertaken by a *steering group* and will be based on the strength of the information provided by candidates through their *Expressions of Interest* for the assignment. The successful candidate will be expected to take complete responsibility for all the activities identified in the TOR. The *Expression of Interest* should contain:

1. A cover letter demonstrating your interest in the project, availability during the timeframe indicated, relevant experience and ability, in response to the evaluator essential skills set out below [total, no more than 2 pages];
2. Summary CV(s) (1-2 pages of relevant work extracts)
3. A technical expression of interest: summary of proposed methods and project plan (including timeframe per action) including any visits to projects proposed [no more than 3 pages];
4. A fee proposal, to include total days, day rate, for each staff member and any non-staff/ancillary costs.
5. Completion of the sustainable procurement questionnaire shared with this document.

Candidates expressing their interest may have a one or two person team to undertake the evaluation with the following essential skills:

- Significant experience of engaging with and evaluating charity /private sector partnerships
- Significant experience in assessing diverse portfolios of work, across regions and themes;
- A strong understanding and experience of using/applying quantitative and qualitative evaluation methodologies for portfolios (e.g. result-based M&E, contribution analysis);
- Prior knowledge and experience of UK environmental issues, policy, legislation, investment and corporate engagement.
- Knowledge of WWF or similar NGOs; an affinity with WWF's conservation mission; and ideally knowledge of corporate-charity partnership delivery.
- Experience of helping organisations to build capacity to learn;
- Excellent writing and communication skills;
- Adaptable: ready to work with a range of approaches as best fits each of the projects and delivery partners within the portfolio;
- Engaging: able to relate well to a range of cultural backgrounds and able to build trusting relationships quickly.

EVALUATION DELIVERABLES, BUDGET AND PAYMENT TERMS

The key deliverables are:

	Deliverables and schedule of payments	Due Date	Payment %
1.	Proposal of approach – the proposal of approach should document overall design, methodology, key questions for evaluation; timetable, field logistics (if applicable), preparations and report structure. This should be mutually agreed with WWF-UK and Aviva at an inception meeting before work commences;	Week 1	15%
2.	Presentation of preliminary results	Week 8	35%
3.	Submission of draft report no longer than 30 pages, including a number of case studies following WWF template	Week 10	25%
4.	Submission of final evaluation report – This should be no longer than 30 pages, minus annexes	Week 12	25%
	Total Payment		100%



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Budget The budget for the full project is £60,000 inc VAT. A regular check in with WWF & Aviva will be required, proposed bi-weekly frequency but to be agreed at the inception meeting.

Submission of Bids:

Bids should be sent to jcrabb@wwf.org.uk before **5pm on 23rd February** and clearly marked **AVIVA WWF BID**. Any queries can also be directed to Jane Crabb at the same email address.

ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSALS

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

- Quality of the submission and adherence to the brief.
- Relevant organisational experience, expertise and skills of candidates.
- Cost and overall resource inputs.
- Quality and effectiveness of the proposed methodology and ability to deliver the brief.
- Sustainable procurement questionnaire.

Virtual interviews will be arranged with the short-listed candidates in order to finalize the selection. The contracting documentation will be developed based on a revised ToR and agreements made with the successful candidate(s).

Those interested should send their application, including all items highlighted, no later than Friday the 23rd of February, electronically to jcrabb@wwf.org.uk and llee@wwf.org.uk Please indicate “Aviva programmatic review ” in the mail’s subject line.

The final report will need to be submitted to WWF-UK no later than Friday the 14th of June.

CONTRACTING WITH WWF-UK

It is our requirement that an appointed external partner adopts our standards terms and conditions for engaging with us. These are included within the tender documents. Please confirm you are willing to accept these terms. Should you have any amends you need to make, these will need to be put in a word document and submitted for approval by the WWF-UK legal team. The T&C’s are included within the tender pack.

WWF-UK asks all suppliers to comply with the Supplier Code of Conduct and WWF-UK 3rd Party Expenses Policy. Both documents are enclosed within the tender pack. Please confirm your acceptance of both.

All contracted suppliers are required to register on Panda Purchasing (WWF-UK’s PO and invoice system). Should you be successful in your bid, please confirm you will be willing to register on the system.

ANNEX

WWF-UK’S POLICY AND ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

Currently, halting and reversing nature loss by 2030 is off-track. There is clear evidence that challenges in meeting climate and nature targets and meeting the needs of people are interlinked and need to be addressed together to manage trade-offs, maximise co-benefits and accelerate progress. Yet, they are often pitted against each other, and efforts to achieve one goal often have unintended consequences for another. Policies on climate do not adequately integrate nature, nor does the government have a coherent plan for decarbonisation of agriculture and food systems. We have laws, targets, and commitments on climate, nature restoration and food production but they are piecemeal, trapped in siloed departments with no mechanism to ensure they are all achievable on a finite amount of land, freshwater and sea. And



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heightened concerns about food security, which doesn't consider the nutritional quality or sustainability of the food we eat, may make things worse. Moreover, government is not held to account for failures in delivery or inconsistencies in approach.

Living Planet Bill

WWF are proposing to call for a new piece of legislation 'The Living Planet Bill' that would establish a framework of duties and processes for government to make the best use of land, water and sea resources to meet the Triple Challenge in England, namely restoring nature, mitigating and adapting to climate change and meeting the needs of people. The Bill would set a core duty on the Secretary of State to achieve these objectives in a mutually beneficial way. It will also set a duty for government to come forward with a science-based plan to meet this core duty. We want the Bill to support obligations under those pieces of legislation, and if feasible, ratchet up the nature target in the Environment Act to align with the Global Biodiversity Framework ambition to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030.

New legislation and targets need to be balanced against the fact that we're off track against existing ones and need to prioritise action and government accountability. Therefore, alongside the Living Planet Bill framework, there are a number of key policies which we will continue to advocate for as the substantive interventions to achieving the Triple Challenge.

Transforming the finance sector

Through our partnership, WWF and Aviva work together to help ensure the UK has the policies, guidance and regulatory settings needed to support the UK's transition to a net-zero, nature positive financial centre. We have released [several position papers](#) together, and are currently progressing joint policy analysis on topics such as nature positive sectoral pathways and transition plan implementation. We also work together through other fora such as the government's Transition Plan Taskforce where we play an active role in it's Nature Working Group and its work exploring a roadmap to holistic transition plans that incorporate both nature and climate objectives.

Land use and agriculture

Our policy asks on land use and agriculture sit at the heart of the triple challenge. WWF's [Land of Plenty pathway](#) highlights the need to shift to regenerative / agroecological approaches to deliver a nature-positive pathway to Net Zero for the food and farming sector. Modelling commissioned by BEIS has confirmed the same. Delivering this agricultural transition will require wide uptake of ambitious farm payment schemes across the UK, as well as significant private finance.

We want government to deliver a Land Use Framework that demonstrates how we can use our land and freshwater resources to meet the Triple Challenge, while also putting local communities at the heart of the conversation. Currently, the aims of the Land Use Framework are to demonstrate how we can meet net zero, targets under the Environment Act and maintain food security with available land. If implemented well, the Land Use Framework could be a critical policy that shows how the government will meet the triple challenge – but currently it is looking unlikely that the Land Use Framework will have teeth, and it does not cover international or marine environments. The Living Planet Bill would create the legally binding accountability framework within which a land use framework could sit.