

DOE Environment Fund 2015 FUNDING PRIORITIES

The **Overarching Factors** we will take into account in allocating funding to projects will be:

- a) **Value for money** including activities that:
 - Lever significant match funding;
 - Lever significant voluntary and community action;
 - Develop partnerships and new ways of working together towards sustainable, long term delivery of outcomes to increase efficiency and streamline activities.
- b) **Evidence of the need for the project and its outputs**, especially activities and projects that will help ensure continued adherence to our environmental obligations under EU and domestic law.
- c) **The sustainable impact** of the project.
- d) **The project's environmental impact** (priorities for funding below).

Environmental Impact Priorities for Funding

Your application must outline how your project will undertake action to help deliver at least one of the priorities for funding listed below, under either or both of the Themes:

Theme 1: Ensuring good habitat quality, landscape and species abundance and diversity:

- A. Development of Conservation Action Plans¹ which establish the necessary conservation measures for NI Natura 2000 sites.
- B. Delivery of essential management of designated site selection features or factors directly affecting them on sites of international and national importance² to ensure adherence to environmental obligations under domestic and EU law.
- C. Development of management schemes for European marine sites³ and the review of existing schemes.

¹ in accordance with Article 6.1 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). *Clarify which sites you are proposing with DOE prior to submitting applications as some will be developed by other measures.

² This excludes work and associated staffing that is targeted by other funding programmes such as the Environmental Farming Scheme, Woodland Grant schemes, Management of Sensitive Sites (MOSS) and national and European grants.

³ As defined by the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995



- D. Delivery of key biodiversity and geodiversity outcomes to ensure adherence to environmental obligations under domestic and EU law and deliver the NI Biodiversity Strategy including:
- Significant/large scale improvements in the area and/or condition of priority habitats;
 - Significant improvements in the status of NI priority species.
 - Plans and projects that provide for a resilient, coherent ecological network at a landscape scale. (Projects must demonstrate that they have been selected by analysis at the landscape scale to identify key areas and key species).
- E. Strategically significant projects to monitor and control invasive alien species which pose, or have the potential to become, a high risk to native biodiversity.
- F. Projects that address critical strategic evidence needs including:
- Collection and/or analysis of key data that is essential for the protection and management of priority habitats, species or geological features and reporting on status at national and international scales.
 - Development of targeted management plans which are essential for the delivery of priority habitat and species action and geodiversity objectives.
 - Sharing skills and knowledge to further goals and build long term capacity for protecting biodiversity at a national level where there is a significant gap in provision.
 - DOE's monitoring obligations.
 - Development of coordinated, sustainable citizen science approaches and delivery of surveillance and monitoring data.
- G. Implementation of actions that are a high priority for the protection and/or positive management of strategically significant landscapes (priority will be awarded to AONBs and the World Heritage Site).

Theme 2: Promotion of health, well-being, resource efficiency and sustainable economic development, realising the full value of our environment:

- H. Coordination and implementation of actions that are essential to delivery of DOE strategic outdoor recreation priorities identified in the Outdoor Recreation Action Plan and the Access to the Countryside (NI) Order to increase sustainable public enjoyment and understanding of land and seascapes.
- I. Delivery of projects to further public access to and enjoyment of the countryside on NIEA sites, particularly for those for whom access is currently difficult.

- J. Strategic development and promotion of NIEA approved long distance walking routes in partnership with district councils.
- K. Strategic projects that make environmental awareness and action an intrinsic part of the life and ethos of schools and communities and will improve community responsibility and local environmental quality issues.
- L. Dissemination of good practice and operation of national awards which promote exceptional environmental action and foster a sense of civic pride.
- M. Strategic projects which engage and influence business and industry to deliver:
- Reduction in risk to the environment from industrial and commercial operations through the application of prevention and management measures;
 - Increased uptake of accredited environmental management standards;
 - Mobilisation and engagement of the business community to raise corporate environmental standards;
 - Promotion of circular economy principles to reduce costs for business and the regulator;
 - Reductions in waste and emissions from operations;
 - The development of targeted training for industry on specific compliance and environmental issues;
 - Engagement of the business sector to partner with NGOs to deliver projects with biodiversity objectives.
- N. Strategic projects essential to the delivery of the Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy and Waste Prevention Plan that promote a circular economy, maximise the use of materials, and divert waste from landfill. They will deliver:
- A move to a sustainable and resource-efficient economy;
 - Growth in the circular economy, getting the best value from resources;
 - Increasing re-use, repair and recycling to maximise the benefits to the environment and economy;
 - Reduction in food wastage by consumers and within food systems, and maximise the value of by-products;
 - A step-change in the sustainable production of food and drink products.
- O. Projects to deliver improved air quality, particularly in those areas which have the potential to exceed health based EU limit values for air pollutants, and in line with relevant EU and NI Air Quality Strategies and legislation. They will deliver:
- Local actions/measures designed to improve areas of poor air quality;
 - Assessment by modelling or monitoring of air quality and related supporting activities.