

This presentation is from the Second Wales LIFE Forum, held 13 April 2016.  
For more information please see: [jncc.defra.gov.uk/WalesLIFE](http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/WalesLIFE)



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**JNCC**  
Joint Nature Conservation Committee





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# 2nd Wales LIFE Forum

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# Aims of Wales LIFE Forum

## Enhancing Wales' success in obtaining LIFE funding, focussing on Nature and Biodiversity

- An active forum with a practical focus;
- Facilitate information exchange to improve knowledge of potential bids, develop partnerships, and to avoid the submission of competing bids on similar topics;
- Identifying requirements for, and sources of match funding;
- Prioritisation of bids, developing a pipeline of priority projects;
- Agreeing a common way forward when sharing prioritisation of projects with funders/ funding groups;
- Cross border cooperation to take forward bids in partnership wherever possible, but ensuring this fits into the Wales policy framework.

# Objectives for today

**Develop LIFE projects for submission in September 2016, through:**

- Sharing best practice, experience and problem solving with others;
- Promoting collaborative approaches where appropriate;
- Receiving one-to-one support and advice from the JNCC (as the UK LIFE National Contact Point) and Welsh Government on project content and development, application writing and match funding.

# Key messages - 1<sup>st</sup> Wales LIFE Forum

- The ability of partners to utilise match funding for the full period of a LIFE project is critical. WG and NRW need to confirm their approach to this issue.
- Establishing a single point of contact for LIFE nature and biodiversity issues in WG and in NRW is important.
- Fourteen (14) potential Nature and Biodiversity LIFE bids have been identified. Three bids are intended for submission in 2016, including Atlantic Oakwoods (RSPB), North Wales Moors (RSPB) and Wye and Usk river SAC restoration (Wye and Usk Foundation).
- Three promising peatland project which could be submitted in the near future have been identified including North Wales Moors (RSPB), Black Mountains peatland restoration (Brecon Beacons NPA) and Ceredigion raised bogs (NRW).
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-7108#documents>

# Match funding – WG position

- WG set aside funding for landscape-scale interventions – potentially available as match funding for LIFE bids.
- Need to ensure best fit in term of
  - Priorities for LIFE funding in Wales;
  - Delivering against the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources approach;
  - Delivering against WFG Act goals; and
  - Likelihood of success.
- Need to agree criteria for providing match funding for LIFE bids with new Minister.
- Please send details of developing bids, with timescales for decisions, and likely match funding requirement to [WalesLIFE@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:WalesLIFE@wales.gsi.gov.uk).

# Sustainable Management Scheme – alternative funding source?

- Collaborative landscape-scale projects delivering action that improves natural resources & delivers benefits to farm and rural communities, including projects for co-ordinated, landscape-scale, land management work for the sustainable management of natural resources, improvement of ecosystem services and mitigation and adaptation of climate change.
- Expressions of interest by 7 May 2016; EOI decision date 5 July 2016
- More detail on <http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcounttryside/cap/ruraldevelopment/wales-rural-development-programme-2014-2020/sustainable-management-scheme/?lang=en>

# Prioritised Action Framework

- Prioritised Action Framework received Ministerial sign off in February 2016 and has been submitted to the European Commission. Final PAF available on the WG website
- <http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/conservationbiodiversity/habitatdirective/paf-for-natura-2000-sites/?lang=en>
- The aim for the Natura 2000 network in Wales is to have appropriate conservation measures in place to maintain or restore the designated habitats and species to favourable condition, contributing to Favourable Conservation Status.
- Priorities, based on ecosystems found within the Natura 2000 network, are shown below:
  - **Terrestrial/freshwater** - Peatlands – lowland and upland; Sand dunes; Rivers; Woodlands
  - **Marine** - Lagoons and associated vegetated shingle; Estuaries and saltmarsh



# Prioritised Action Framework - actions

- Deliver a continuous rolling programme of major externally-funded project addressing major priorities for N2K in Wales;
- Develop the necessary support structures and means to facilitate more timely bid preparation;
- Implementation of a more co-ordinated and strategic approach to the process of selecting and supporting high priority bids;
- Develop access to discretionary funds to support major external funding applications. E.g. match funding, funds to support bid preparation;
- Capacity building E.g. via training, mentoring, networking, advice, handbook, shared resources, etc in relation to bid preparation, project management, financial management, reporting etc.

# Wales Natura 2000 afterlife project

- Wales Natura 2000 project completed.
- **11 Thematic Action Plans** (priority strategic actions to address major issues and risks which have an adverse impact on Natura 2000 features)
- <https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/our-projects/life-n2k-wales/?lang=en>
- **Prioritised Action Plans** – see Colette Price’s presentation from 1<sup>st</sup> LIFE Forum
- [http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/wlw2015\\_07ColetteWALESLIFEFORUM.pdf](http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/wlw2015_07ColetteWALESLIFEFORUM.pdf)
- To be taken forward under Nature Recovery Plan objective 2 (*Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management*)