



Scottish Natural Heritage grant programme Information sheet

Supporting biodiversity

Grants for biodiversity action

We would like our wildlife to be rich and varied. We want to encourage action which:

- improves, protects and manages native species and habitats;
- restores those that have been lost; and
- helps more people from all walks of life to care about biodiversity (the total variety of all living things).

This scheme will support:

- actions set out in the Strategy Implementation Plans supporting the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs);
- actions which help the 'habitats and species of principal importance' on the Scottish list, and those on the United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) list of priority habitats and species;
- managing and controlling non-native species, especially invasive species (those which threaten native species); and
- biological recording and sharing biodiversity data (information).

Background

The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (SBS) is supported by the Strategy Implementation Plans, which give a positive and clear direction to the activities needed to take biodiversity forward in Scotland. The strategy aims to put new energy into how we develop biodiversity action and put it into practice. We have an important role in supporting partners in delivering the aims of the strategy.

Who should apply

- Community groups
- Individuals
- Organisations
- Other people who are able to contribute to the aims of the scheme

We will consider applications from businesses where the public benefits can be clearly shown.

What we will pay for

The main types of projects we will pay for are listed below. We will also pay for other biodiversity conservation proposals. You should consider the 'Involving People' grant scheme for projects involving training (other than for biological recording) and publications designed to educate and raise awareness of biodiversity. Please contact us if you need more information.

- Setting up local biodiversity partnerships and supporting Local Biodiversity Action Plan officers. Our contributions will not be open-ended – we will review funding levels after the first three years of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.
- Activities identified in the Strategy Implementation Plans.
- Targeted management to support species and habitats which are listed as priorities in Scotland because they are under threat.
- Special schemes aimed at conserving, improving and saving UKBAP priority species and habitats.
- Work to support re-introducing species which used to be present in Scotland.
- Control and management of non-native, especially invasive, species.
- Events or schemes which tackle wildlife crime.
- Identifying, surveying and monitoring habitats and species of local importance, and taking action to manage them.
- Surveying and monitoring priority habitats and species.
- Projects and partnerships for sharing biological data, including any staff posts needed to improve the reliability and accessibility of data.
- Providing training, equipment and information technology software to support people who collect biodiversity data and people who want to take part in this for the first time.

Our priorities

We particularly welcome:

- projects which contribute to delivering the key aims of the SBS and the Strategy Implementation Plans which support it;
- projects which help to deliver the key targets for UKBAP priority habitats and species, and those on the Scottish list of 'habitats and species of principal importance'; and
- projects that encourage partnership working.

We particularly welcome data-management projects which:

- cover areas of the country where there is little biological recording or no local biological records centre;
- cover groups of plants and animals which are poorly recorded;
- cover groups of plants and animals which are a priority in terms of our other commitments; and
- aim to make as much biodiversity information as possible available to the public with as few restrictions as possible.

How much we will pay

We will pay up to half of the total eligible cost of the project, although some community groups may be eligible for more support. Eligible cost includes any 'in-kind' contributions, such as land, labour or materials donated to the project.

Public organisations have new legal duties to promote biodiversity. We will work with them to identify where our funding can help benefit biodiversity.

What we will not pay for

- Long-term funding of project officers. We hope that our funds will lead to self-supporting posts.
- Management schemes or survey programmes which last longer than five years.
- Fees, travel and accommodation costs for training courses, except where you are the trainer.
- Commercial ventures, even when the outcomes fit the scheme aims.
- Re-introducing species to Scotland without a licence.
- Collecting and managing information that will not be made available to us and the wider public. In some cases, we may pay for collecting and managing sensitive information on protected species where availability may be restricted.

If you plan to charge for providing environmental data, gathered using one of our grants, you must work closely with our grant officer and tell us what you plan to do. Charging procedures must meet the conditions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004.

What other information your application should include

To support your application, you should send us:

- an extract or reference to any relevant Habitat or Species Action Plan, your Local Biodiversity Action Plan or the relevant Strategy Implementation Plan;
- where we are paying for posts, details of work programmes with targets and outputs;
- assurances that the project will not break information-management laws; and
- details of how the project will be maintained once it has been completed, and how this will be funded.

Where to get more help

- Visit www.biodiversityscotland.gov.uk for information on:
 - the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy which presents a 25-year strategy to conserve and improve biodiversity in Scotland;
 - the Strategy Implementation Plans which support the SBS cover the following themes – Interpretation, Communication and Education (ICE), Urban, Rural, Marine and Local Delivery; and
 - Local Biodiversity Action Plans for your area.
- Visit www.ukbap.org.uk for information on the full range of UK Biodiversity Action Plans, Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) and Species Action Plans (SAPs).
- Visit www.searchnbn.net and www.NBN.org.uk for details of the National Biodiversity Network.
- Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004.
- Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Other possible sources of funding

You will find detailed information in the leaflet 'Other sources of funding' in the application pack. Projects within this scheme may also be eligible for support from:

- your local authority or LBAP partnership; and
- charitable trusts and foundations, such as the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.



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