Guidance for Applicants

1. Aim of the Endangered Landscapes Programme

The Endangered Landscapes Programme is working to demonstrate and deliver a vision for the future in which landscapes:

- Maintain and increase viable populations of native species that can move and disperse;
- Provide space for the natural functioning of ecological processes – reducing the need for intensive management;
- Are resilient to short and longer-term change (such as climate fluctuations);
- Provide sustainable cultural, social and economic benefits to people.

The Endangered Landscapes Programme seeks to fund projects which will provide inspiration for a fundamental shift in the way people perceive and engage with nature; which introduce a positive agenda for action; and which offer an exciting vision of hope for the future.

Funded projects will inspire the creation of extensive, connected, resilient landscapes that provide habitat for Europe's native wildlife. Through the inclusion of novel approaches or techniques; their strategy of engagement with local communities and other stakeholder groups; or their scale and aspiration, projects will harness natural processes to demonstrate cost-effective and replicable ways of bringing nature back to degraded landscapes.

Grants will be awarded for a period of up to 5 years, starting from October 2018. There is no restriction on ecosystem type or types (projects in freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems are eligible). Grants will be awarded in the range of $1m to $5m.

2. Project eligibility

Applications are invited for projects that:

- Address biodiversity conservation priorities (for species and habitats) through the creation of dynamic landscapes suitable for threatened wildlife
- Establish large scale systems of continuous or ecologically-connected habitat
- Create areas where natural processes are given increased freedom to generate natural patterns and distributions of species
- Enhance ecosystem and species resilience to the impacts of climate change
- Have a clearly articulated 'theory of change' and a good understanding of the mechanism through which outcomes will be achieved
- Help overcome one or more barriers to ecosystem recovery (be they social, economic or political) enabling ecological processes to reach a 'tipping point' (an abrupt, discontinuous shift to a new state) beyond which, to an extent, they cascade and are self-sustaining

- Provide benefits to society, through restored ecosystem functions and ecosystem services
- Are from project teams that are committed to collaboration, have a strong and stable partnership, and with members that have the required skills and experience including capacity for research, monitoring, impact assessment and lesson-sharing

In addition, applications are likely to be strengthened where they provide evidence that:

- Secure tenure or long-term land-use agreements are in place (e.g. covenants), including beyond the life-time of the project
- Projects engage and empower local communities
- Projects incorporate innovative elements
- Approaches used by the project have prospects for wider replication
- Projects have identified opportunities to use a grant from the Endangered Landscapes Programme to leverage additional sources of funding
- Projects offer value for money

Annex 1 provides explanatory notes.

The Oversight and Selection Panel will use these criteria to assess whether projects are suitable for funding.

3. **Organisation eligibility**

- Application to the Endangered Landscapes Programme is by invitation only.
- Applications are invited from teams of organisations, where team-members are working in partnership, each contributing according to their individual and complementary experience, expertise and resources.
- Collaborations may include among their members international and national NGOs, national and local government agencies, research organisations, utilities companies, community organisations, local landowners, social enterprise businesses, the private sector and others.
- Each team should identify a 'Coordinating Partner' who will take ultimate responsibility for project delivery, coordination, communication and contracting with the Endangered Landscapes Programme. In most cases Coordinating Partners will be those organisations that have been invited to apply. Coordinating Partners must:
  o Be not-for-profit organisations including (*for example*) national, regional and international NGOs; social enterprise.
  o Have an active, existing nature conservation programme in EU or selected neighbouring countries (which includes experience of implementing landscape-scale conservation projects)
- Applicants shortlisted to go through to stages 2 and 3 will be required to provide evidence that they are financially stable (a recent audited report) and that they have capacity to manage and coordinate projects on the scale applied for (examples of recent projects). An invitation to apply should not be taken by applicants as meaning that they satisfy these conditions.
- Applicants that are awarded a full grant will be expected to have secured the consent and all required authorizations for the project from the government or other statutory body before any funds are disbursed.

4. Eligible countries:

Applications are accepted for projects in the following countries:

Albania	Greece	Norway
Andorra	Hungary	Poland
Armenia	Iceland	Portugal
Austria	Ireland	Romania
Azerbaijan	Italy	Russia (as far East as the
Belarus	Kazakhstan (west of River	Urals)
Belgium	Ural)	San Marino
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Kosovo	Serbia
Bulgaria	Latvia	Slovakia
Croatia	Liechtenstein	Slovenia
Cyprus	Lithuania	Spain
Czech Republic	Luxembourg	Sweden
Denmark	Macedonia	Switzerland
Estonia	Malta	Turkey
Finland	Moldova	Ukraine
France	Monaco	United Kingdom
Georgia	Montenegro	Vatican City
Germany	Netherlands	

5. Application process and timetable

Applying to the Programme is a three stage process:

Stage 1 – Expressions of Interest. Invited organisations will coordinate the development and submission of expressions of interest (EoI). EoIs will be reviewed by an independent Oversight and Selection Panel (OSP) made up of distinguished individuals with a range of experience and expertise relevant to the conservation of Europe's landscapes. Selected applicants will be invited to submit a Project Concept - up to 18 applications are expected to be invited to the Project Concept stage.

Stage 2 – Project Concept. Project concepts will be more detailed descriptions that outline how the initiative will address the criteria of the Endangered Landscapes Programme. Concepts will be evaluated by the OSP and between 5 and 8 applicants will be invited to submit a Full Proposal.

Stage 3 – Full Proposal. In the full proposal applicants will describe their project plans in detail. Full proposals will be reviewed by the OSP whose members will be responsible for recommending which projects receive major grants by independently applying the programme's criteria. Organisations invited to prepare Full Proposals will receive a small grant to fund project development.

At each stage of the process, project applicants (both successful and unsuccessful) will receive notification of the results by email to the project leader identified in the application.

The *provisional* timetable for applications is as follows:

- Deadline for Expressions of Interest   18:00 GMT 21st August 2017
  - Announcement of Stage 1 results   Mid-October 2017

- Deadline for project concepts — Dec 2017
  - Announcement of Stage 2 results — February 2018
- Deadline for full proposals — June 2018
  - Announcement of Stage 3 results — October 2018

Applicants are invited to discuss their proposals with the Endangered Landscapes Programme Manager at any time during the application process.

6. Information to include in your application

Expressions of Interest

EoIs should not exceed 2 pages. It is not expected that EoIs will address all of the criteria listed above. They should, however, aim to include the following:

- A persuasive and compelling statement of your project's purpose
- A description of the key outcomes
- Background information that makes a case for the initiative (need, opportunity), including the theory of change (what the project will do to make a difference) and how a grant from the Endangered Landscape Programme will take the project through a positive 'tipping point'
- A list of project partners that will be involved in implementation, demonstrating a project team with the necessary capacity and expertise
- A description of plans for long-term viability (how the impacts will be sustained) – especially financial/economic aspects
- Any plans or prospects for leveraging additional financing
- An indication of the project's total cost and the amount likely to be requested (the maximum grant size that will be awarded is $5M; at this stage of the process a cost estimate or narrow range is acceptable).

Each organisation/network can submit a maximum of four EoIs. They must be submitted by the coordinating (invited) organisation (not from one of their member organisations or partners).

Project Concepts

Project concepts should be completed using the form provided and will include the following information:

- **About your organisation** – Background, experience and qualifications to carry out the project
- **Project team** - A description of the institutional partners to be involved in implementing the project
- **Justification** – A clear explanation of how the proposal relates to the vision and objectives of the Endangered Landscapes Programme
- **Landscape description and biodiversity importance** – For example its location, size, status, condition, habitat types, biodiversity importance, use by people, tenure, the opportunity for habitat creation; history of use, management and conservation efforts etc.
- **Theory of change** – Brief summary of the project's Theory of Change (e.g. a description of the barriers to restoration and how they will be overcome by the project)
- **Project description** - A description of the project's expected outcomes, outputs and activities (environmental and social – both positive and negative)

- **Stakeholders** – A description of the main stakeholders, their participation, consultation and involvement so far, and the role that they will play to ensure that the project is a success
- **Sustainability** – How the results will be sustained when funding from the Endangered Landscapes Programme comes to an end
- **Monitoring plans** – How impacts of the project will be monitored (applicants should refer to the separate guideline on monitoring (Annex 2))
- **Learning opportunities** – Opportunities to learn lessons and advance knowledge that is of wider relevance and applicability
- **Risks –** Whether the project will entail any economic, social, environmental, political or financial risks, and if yes what mitigating measures will be undertaken to minimize potential adverse impacts
- **Budget** – A breakdown of project costs, including between years
- **Funding** – Secured and potential additional sources of funding for the project

Full Proposals

Guidelines on preparing full proposals will be provided to short-listed applicants.

General

Unless instructed otherwise, all applications should be submitted:
- o in Word format
- o in English
- o in font size not less than Calibri 11pt

Completed applications should be submitted by the published deadline to cciadministrator@jbs.cam.ac.uk
Any enquires should be sent to the Programme Manager: d.thomas@jbs.cam.ac.uk

7. **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Projects must be able to produce robust evidence of their impact, including their contribution to biodiversity conservation and social and economic impacts where relevant.

In order to promote best practice, and to ensure that information and experiences across projects are comparable, the programme is developing a monitoring framework and associated guidance which will be provided to applicants at the relevant stage.

All projects are expected to make adequate provision in their budget for monitoring and evaluation throughout the life of the project.

8. **Open Access Policy and Data Sharing**

- CCI operates an open access policy for any data and information acquired during a project supported by the Endangered Landscapes Programme. This means that all project outputs, including publications, should be made available on-line and free to users whenever possible.
- In the application, please consider the project outputs you expect and how this information can be shared with others.
- Grant recipients will be required to agree to this open access policy as a condition of accepting their grant.

9.   Partnership and ethics

All projects are expected to meet key principles of good and ethical project implementation practice. They should:

- Meet all legal and ethical obligations of both the UK and the countries involved in the project, including relevant access and benefit sharing legislation pertaining to the utilisation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.
- Follow access and benefit sharing best practice where there is no legislation or measures in country (see http://www.cbd.int/abs/instruments/default.shtml).
- Include strong leadership and participation from the communities directly involved in the project, to enhance the chances that the perspectives, interests and wellbeing of those directly affected are properly addressed.
- Recognise the potential value and relevance of local knowledge and utilise it, where appropriate, alongside international scientific approaches and methods.
- Respect the rights, privacy, and safety of people who are the subject of research and other project activities or other intended beneficiaries, whether direct or indirect.
- Use Prior Informed Consent (PIC) principles with partner communities.
- Protect the health and safety of all staff working full and part time on their project.

10. Social safeguards

- Projects will be assessed not only on their biodiversity impacts and technical merit but also on their social consequences. All projects should aim to prevent and mitigate any harm to people.

- The OSP will evaluate proposals to determine the potential for projects to cause adverse social impacts and the capacity of applicants to implement any required safeguard-related measures during the preparation and implementation of the project.

- Applications going forward to Stage 3 will be required to complete a screening of potential social impacts and for funded projects monitoring social dimensions will be incorporated as an intrinsic part of project cycle management.

11. Security considerations

If there are concerns about the stability of the country where your project will take place, either now or in the next 5 years, or if there is ongoing conflict in any part of the country, applicants should indicate what steps are proposed to mitigate the risk to project personnel, to project implementation, and to the sustainability of project outcomes.

The Selection Panel will refer to advice on safety and security provided by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice).

12. Changes

The Endangered Landscapes Programme reserves the right to make minor amendments, changes and updates to the Guidelines for Applicants during the term of an award. The Endangered Landscapes Programme will endeavour to notify those affected as soon as possible of any such changes.

Annex 1: Explanatory notes

	Notes
The project addresses biodiversity conservation priorities (species and habitat level) through the creation of dynamic landscapes suitable for threatened wildlife	The Endangered Landscapes Programme aims to contribute to a reversal in Europe's diminishing populations of many species and declining area of habitats and natural, functioning ecosystems. With limited resources, it is important that efforts are focused on some of the highest conservation priorities, including (*but not restricted to*) those identified in the following analyses. • EU review of restoration efforts required to achieve objectives of Birds and Habitats Directives (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/knowledge/restauration_and_natura2000_en.htm) • The IUCN species Red List (http://www.iucnredlist.org/) • The IUCN habitats Red List - terrestrial and marine (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/knowledge/pdf/terrestrial_EU_red_list_report.pdf and http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/knowledge/pdf/Marine_EU_red_list_report.pdf) • Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) (http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/site/mapsearch) and Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) (http://datazone.birdlife.org/home) • Hotspot analyses (http://www.cepf.net/where_we_work/regions/europe_central_asia/Pages/default.aspx and http://www.cepf.net/resources/hotspots/Europe-and-Central-Asia/Pages/default.aspx) • IUCN Red List of Ecosystems (http://iucnrle.org/)
The project establishes large scale systems of continuous or ecologically-connected habitat…	Bigger (and spatially connected) sites are preferable to small ones because, *on average*, larger sites: contain more species than small sites; have proportionately less edge; have greater topographic, geological and hydrological diversity - facilitating species' adaptation to climate change (making them more resilient); and provide opportunities to restore more natural geological, ecological and hydrological processes and the ecosystem services on which society depends. Larger sites also need less management per unit area.
… where natural processes are given increased freedom to create natural patterns and distributions of species…	Landscapes can be arranged along a continuum of human modification from those that are highly urbanised to 'true' wilderness - largely untouched landscapes with intact ecosystems unmodified by human land use (usually only in remote and unpopulated areas). Projects will move ecosystems along this continuum, creating functional spaces (through establishing larger areas for conservation, including by improving connectivity between existing nature conservation areas and developing wildlife corridors) where nature has more freedom to exist and adapt.

… and which enhance ecosystem and species resilience to the impacts of climate change.	Climate change is one of the biggest threats to biodiversity, especially where species are unable to shift their altitudinal or geographic range in response to changing conditions. By improving habitat connectivity and creating large areas of continuous habitat landscape conservation has potential to enhance species and system resilience to climate change.
The project has a clearly articulated 'theory of change' which demonstrates a good understanding of the mechanism through which outcomes will be achieved	Bringing nature back to landscapes requires an understanding of the political, institutional, social, economic and ecological factors that have caused biodiversity loss in the first place, and how the project's intervention will trigger changes leading to their recovery and return.
The project helps overcome one or more barriers to ecosystem recovery enabling ecological processes to reach a 'tipping point' (an abrupt, discontinuous shift to a new state) beyond which they cascade and are self-sustaining	Establishing dynamic, large-scale ecosystems suitable for repopulation by threatened biodiversity may be prevented by one or more obstacles, be they ecological, financial or institutional (governance) related. The programme aims to support projects where removal of these obstacles, through a one-off intervention, has a catalytic effect, setting in motion a cascade of far-reaching restorative effects which are amplified through feedback loops, and which reduce the need for ongoing, intensive management.
Projects provide benefits to society, through restored ecosystem functions and ecosystem services	Ecosystems restored to health have potential to deliver social and economic benefits through ecological processes and ecosystem goods and services. Where these benefits are present, equitably distributed within a clear rights framework, and clearly communicated to stakeholders, they can increase value for money and help win public support. In some cases there may be markets for ecosystem services which can provide long-term revenue to help finance ongoing management, subsidies or expansion.
Project teams are committed to collaboration, have a strong and stable partnership… **… and has members with the required skills and experience including capacity for research, monitoring, impact assessment and lesson-sharing**	To be successful landscape scale projects will nearly always require a diversity of institutions with complementary skills, experiences, resources, networks, interests and powers to work together. They may include private land owners, government agencies, utilities companies, NGOs, academic institutions and local businesses. We are interested to know about these partnerships - what sorts of partnership arrangements are used, how are partnerships set up and managed, and how is governance and decision-making approached? Implementing best-practice in monitoring and evaluation, and documenting and sharing evidence about the effects of project interventions, are core values of the Endangered Landscapes Programme. The programme expects all successful projects to implement a robust monitoring and evaluation programme. The programme's managers will provide a framework and protocols for all projects to follow.

Initiatives are sustainable in the long-term (in terms of any on-going costs, management, tenure and rights)	This is linked to several of the points above. The programme will seek to support projects which have measures in place which ensure continuity of process (policy, tenure, financial, stakeholder engagement/benefit) and which aim to achieve a self-sustaining state (ecologically, politically, socially and financially).
Secure tenure or long-term land-use agreements are in place (e.g. covenants), including beyond the life-time of the project	Restoring landscapes takes time – in many cases, although barriers may have been removed (and tipping points reached) within the project timeframe, the process of recovery won't be completed in 5 years. The programme expects the processes put in train during the project period to continue in the long-term. Grantees will need to demonstrate that tenure or land-use agreements are in place (or will be – in some cases this may be a key activity) which allow this.
Projects build capacity of local and national organisations to achieve biodiversity conservation	To be sustained in the long-term, and to help spread a culture and vision for a more ambitious, exciting approach to nature and the environment, requires individuals and teams with the skills and experience to sustain, expand, replicate and advocate the approach.
Projects engage and empower local communities	Large scale landscape change needs the support, understanding and empowerment of the people who live and work in or near the areas affected. Local communities may have deep cultural ties associated with existing patterns of land management, and their livelihoods may be affected (or they may perceive they will be affected) by any change. Successful projects will show clearly how local communities have been engaged – and how they are expected to benefit.
Projects incorporate innovative elements	The programme seeks to fund teams that are breaking new ground and testing new approaches as part of their strategy for creating resilient, biodiversity-rich landscapes.
Projects have prospects for wider replication	Projects have particular value in situations where what is learned can be widely replicated (i.e. the threat or cause of degradation is pervasive, affecting places beyond the landscape targeted by the project).
Projects have identified opportunities to use a project grant to leverage additional sources of funding	In some cases, funding from the Endangered Landscapes Programme will provide opportunities to leverage additional resources (including from the private sector, local government, trusts and foundations), multiplying the grant's impact. The Endangered Landscapes Programme encourages proposals that demonstrate the existence of co-financing or the ability to leverage additional funds, including from EU-LIFE.
Projects offer value for money	The programme seeks projects that deliver value for money – across their range of social and environmental outcomes.