

Landscape Restoration Grant

Guidance for Applicants

1. Purpose of the Endangered Landscapes Programme

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

- Support viable populations of native species with the capacity for landscape-scale movement
- Provide space for the natural functioning of ecological processes
- Provide sustainable cultural, social and economic benefits to people
- Are resilient to climate change

Across Europe, centuries of use have resulted in many landscapes that are ecologically degraded, fragmented, disconnected, missing key species and that are vulnerable to climate change.

Ecological restoration can stimulate sustainable economic and social change in ways that are sensitive to past histories and the connections between culture, livelihoods, language and landscape.

As a contribution to the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#), of which CCI is a supporting partner, and to the global commitment of restoring 1 billion hectares of degraded land by 2030, the ELP provides funding for the implementation of large-scale restoration initiatives that restore and harness ecosystem processes, bring back nature to degraded landscapes and revitalise local economies. Projects will be sources of inspiration, models of good practice, and foci for lesson-learning.

2. Criteria

Applications are invited for restoration projects that:

1. Restore nature and ecosystem processes at landscape scale to address global, regional or national biodiversity conservation priorities (for species and habitats).
2. Establish large scale systems of continuous or ecologically connected habitat where natural processes are given increased freedom to generate natural patterns and distributions of species (reducing the need for conservation management in the long-term) and which enhance ecosystem and species resilience to the impacts of climate change.
3. Demonstrate a good understanding of the mechanism through which they will help overcome one or more barriers to ecosystem recovery (be they social, economic or political) enabling restoration processes to reach a 'tipping point' beyond which they are self-sustaining.

4. Are developed and delivered through a process that involves engagement or partnership with local communities, which can show they have support from key landowners (State, Private, NGOs) within the project area, and which can demonstrate positive community impact.
5. Are from project teams that are committed to collaboration, have a strong and stable partnership, are already active in the project area, have members that have all the skills and experience required for landscape restoration; and have a commitment, capacity and strategy for long-term custodianship of the landscape.
6. Use approaches and address issues that are of relevance to landscape restoration elsewhere, and therefore which have prospects for wider replication.
7. Offer value for money and have identified opportunities to use a grant from the Endangered Landscapes Programme to leverage additional funding.

The maximum awarded per project will be US\$5 Million, over 5 years. The Programme welcomes applications for smaller amounts as a contribution towards landscape-scale projects supported by other donors. In your application you should indicate the total cost of your project over the next 5 years – i.e. including funds secured and/or applied for and any in-kind funding.

The Oversight and Selection Panel will use these criteria to assess and recommend projects for funding.

3. Organisation eligibility

- Applications are invited from partnerships, where organisations contribute 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. Government agencies and for-profit companies should not be major beneficiaries of ELP funding.
- Each team should identify a Lead partner who will take responsibility for project delivery, coordination, communication and contracting with the Endangered Landscapes Programme. Lead partners must:
 - Be not-for-profit organisations including (*for example*) national, regional and international NGOs; social enterprise organisations.
 - Have previously managed grants of no less than 60% the amount being requested from the ELP¹.
 - Be currently or very recently active in the project landscape.
- Applicants invited to submit a full proposal to Stage 2 will be required to provide evidence that they are financially stable (by providing audit reports from the last 2 years).
- 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.

¹ For example, if US\$3,000,000 is being requested from the ELP, the Lead Partner must be able to demonstrate previous successful management of grants of at least US\$1,800,000.

Eligible countries:

Applications are accepted for projects in the following countries. The ELP is keen to see applications from countries not currently receiving significant conservation attention.

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	

4. Application process and timetable

Applying to the Programme is a three-stage process:

Stage 1 – Expressions of Interest (Eols). Eols from eligible organisations 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 Proposal (Stage 2) - up to 18 applications are expected to be invited to proceed to the Project Proposal stage.

Stage 2 – Project Proposal. Project proposals will be more detailed descriptions that explain how the initiative will address the criteria of the Endangered Landscapes Programme. Proposals will be evaluated by the OSP and based on their recommendations between 6 and 8 applicants will be given in-principle approval. Final approval will be given pending applicants adequately addressing any points raised by the OSP, and further satisfactory development of key planning documents in Stage 3.

Stage 3 – Co-development of project plans. During a funded co-development phase applicants will work with the ELP management team to finalise project documents (monitoring plans etc.).

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. Due to the anticipated high number of applications, we will not be able to provide individual feedback at Stage 1.

The *provisional* timetable for applications is as follows:

- Announcement of Stage 1 results 11th November 2021
- Deadline for project concepts (Stage 2) 3rd February 2022

- Announcement of Stage 2 results

End of February 2022

Projects should anticipate a start date of no earlier than spring 2022.

5. Submission of an Expression of Interest (Eoi)

Applications must be made using the online form on the ELP website.

Organisations can submit a maximum of three Eois. There is no limit to the number of applications in which organisations may be included as partners.

Applications not following the guidelines will be rejected.

Completed applications should be submitted by **23:59 BST on 23rd September 2021**.

Any enquires should be sent to The Endangered Landscapes Programme Manager:
s.sanders@jbs.cam.ac.uk

6. Land purchase

The ELP will consider funding costs of land purchase, but only if such costs are a small proportion of the total requested. Land purchase must be fully justified as necessary to restore the wider landscape and will only be considered as a part of a long-term strategy for landscape restoration.

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

Projects awarded a grant from the ELP must be able to demonstrate evidence of their impact, by providing robust monitoring of the biodiversity, ecosystem service and social and economic benefits delivered.

In order to promote best practice, and to ensure that information and experiences across projects are comparable, the programme asks each project to develop a monitoring plan according to a standardised but flexible [monitoring framework](#). Further details will be provided to applicants at the relevant stage.

All projects are expected to make adequate provision in their cost estimate 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.
- 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.
- Include strong leadership and participation from any communities directly involved in or affected by the project, to ensure 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 that receive in-principle approval will be required to complete a screening of potential social impacts.

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.