

# Planning Grants | Guidance for Applicants

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## 1. Aim of the Endangered Landscapes Programme

The Endangered Landscapes Programme provides inspiration for a future in which biodiversity and ecosystem processes are restored to Europe's degraded lands, establishing resilient, more self-sustaining ecosystems. Working in partnership with landowners, organisations and local communities, the programme supports the restoration of large, connected landscapes that:

- Address biodiversity conservation priorities (for species and habitats) through the restoration of dynamic landscapes suitable for threatened wildlife.
- Establish large scale systems of continuous or ecologically-connected habitat where native species can move and disperse.
- 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.
- Help overcome one or more barriers to ecosystem recovery (be they social, economic or political) enabling ecological processes to reach a 'tipping point'<sup>1</sup> beyond which, to an extent, they cascade and are self-sustaining.
- Provide sustainable cultural, social and economic benefits to society, through restored ecosystem functions and ecosystem services.

More details on the programme's strategy and the projects currently being funded can be found on the programme website: [www.endangeredlandscapes.org](http://www.endangeredlandscapes.org). Please make sure that you have viewed the website before submitting an application.

## 2. Purpose of Planning Grants

The principle activity of the ELP is the provision of large grants (\$3-\$5M) for the restoration of biodiversity and natural ecological processes to degraded landscapes. However, the consultation, participatory planning, research, analysis and team-building required for landscape-scale projects takes time and resources and may present a barrier to the development of new and innovative projects. Therefore, in addition to the provision of these large grants, Planning Grants from the ELP will support the preparatory work needed for exciting new landscape restoration initiatives. ***These are stand-alone grants – there is no plan for the Endangered Landscapes Programme to fund projects beyond this planning stage.***

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

A Planning Grant might, for example, include work to plan a project through a combination of the following:

- Building alliances of stakeholders.
- Collecting, collating and reviewing available information.
- Carrying out surveys of the landscape.
- Conducting expert technical assessments and scoping studies (e.g. of hydrology or forest regeneration potential).
- Undertaking a stakeholder analysis.
- Reviewing the policy and/or planning frameworks.
- Assessing the opportunities for funding restoration.
- Preparing maps of the area.
- Engaging with local communities.
- Preparing business plans.
- Establishing land ownership and land rights.
- Co-designing a vision and theory of change.
- Developing a landscape restoration plan.
- Preparing funding proposals.

This is an open call for proposals – eligibility criteria are described below. The maximum that any individual project can apply for is \$100,000. Applications for smaller amounts are encouraged.

### 3. Planning Grants – criteria

Applicants should be able to demonstrate that:

- There is potential to restore the landscape.
- Landscape restoration is likely to deliver on the aims of the ELP as outlined above.
- There are barriers (knowledge, partnership, stakeholder support, resources) to developing a plan for restoring the landscape and the work that will be undertaken with a Planning Grant will help overcome these barriers and allow the project proponent/team to develop a clear and costed plan, which has the support of relevant stakeholders.

By the end of their Planning Grant, grantees are expected to have:

- A clearly articulated plan for restoring the landscape, including but not limited to:
  - A theory of change.
  - A description of any tipping points that a future project would reach should it ultimately be implemented.
  - A stakeholder analysis.
  - A detailed estimate of costs.
- A partnership of relevant organisations (including local communities).

- A plan for raising the funds required (and/or a proposal prepared for a specific donor).

Planning Grants will last for up to 2 years. There is no restriction on ecosystem type or types. There is a limit of one application per organisation.

#### 4. Eligibility

- Applications that are led by not-for-profit organisations including, for example: local, national, regional and international NGOs; social enterprise organisations; and research institutions are invited. Project leads may partner with e.g. industry, local government or private land owners.
- Applicants that are awarded a grant will be required to provide evidence that they are financially resilient (a recent audited report) and that they have capacity to manage and coordinate the project.

#### 5. Countries:

Applications are accepted for projects in the following countries:

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

#### 6. Application process and timetable

Applying for a Planning Grant is a two-stage process:

Stage 1 – Expressions of Interest. Eols will be reviewed by an independent Oversight and Selection Panel (OSP) made up of distinguished individuals with a diversity of experience

and expertise relevant to the conservation of Europe's landscapes. Selected applicants will be invited to submit a project proposal (Stage 2).

Stage 2 – Project proposal. Project proposals will provide a more detailed description of the proposed project, its activities and outputs, and the team that will deliver it. Proposals will then be reviewed by the OSP, whose members will be responsible for recommending which projects receive grants.

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 timetable for applications is as follows:

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| • Deadline for Expressions of Interest | 00:00 GMT, 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2023        |
| ○ Announcement of results              | 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2023                     |
| • Deadline for project proposals       | 00:00 (midnight) BST, 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2023 |
| ○ Announcement of results              | By 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2023                   |

Beyond the deadline for Expressions of Interest the dates are provisional and subject to change.

Applications should be submitted through the [online form via the website](#).

Any questions about the application process should be sent by email to [s.sanders@jbs.cam.ac.uk](mailto:s.sanders@jbs.cam.ac.uk).

## 7. Information to include in your Expression of Interest

The EoI should include the following information:

- A description of your organisation and why it is qualified to carry out the project.
- A list of project partners.
- A description of the landscape that needs to be restored, including (where known):
  - Its importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services.
  - The landscape's history (including past and present use of the site, and what has caused its degradation and is preventing its recovery).
  - The background to your involvement at the site.
  - Why now is the time to restore the site (any opportunities you are responding to).
- The activities that you will carry out with ELP funding to plan and prepare for restoration of the landscape, why they are necessary, and the outputs that will be delivered.
- The amount (US\$) you expect to request for project planning if the project is approved through to the next round.
- An uploaded map showing the landscape's location and boundary.

## 8. Format for project proposals (Stage 2)

Project proposals should provide the following information:

- **Landscape importance** – What is the current importance of the landscape for:
  - Biodiversity conservation priorities.
  - Natural processes.
  - Cultural, social and economic benefits through the provision of ecosystem services etc. How will the above values be restored or enhanced through restoration?
- **Landscape description** - A description of the current situation. Where is its location? What is its size and designation status? Who owns the land and how is it managed? In what ways is the landscape degraded? Please describe any previous or on-going conservation efforts (including details of any previous funding).
- **Barriers to restoration** - At this stage of planning, what is your understanding of the barriers to restoration? How do you think they would be overcome by a future restoration project.
- **Opportunities for restoration** - Why do you need a planning grant now? What are the opportunities to restore the landscape once your planning is complete?
- **Barriers to developing landscape restoration plans** - Which barriers have prevented the development of landscape restoration plans and how will these be addressed through the Planning Grant.
- **Risks and assumptions** - What factors would (a) prevent you from carrying out your planning activities; (b) prevent delivery of a future restoration project.
- **Partners and/or stakeholders** – A brief description of the main partners and/or stakeholders (including the local community), and the role that they will play in project planning.
- **Fundraising plans** – Explain what steps you plan to take to raise the funding needed to implement the restoration project.
- **About your organisation** – Its background, experience and qualifications to lead and manage the project.
- **What you will do with your Planning Grant** – A table summarising the objectives and activities that you will carry out with a Planning Grant to plan and prepare for restoration of the landscape, the outputs that will be delivered by the end of the grant, and how the work will be managed (roles and responsibilities etc.).
- **Budget** – A breakdown of your costs.

Proposals should not exceed 10 pages and should use Arial 10 font throughout. They should be submitted to [s.sanders@jbs.cam.ac.uk](mailto:s.sanders@jbs.cam.ac.uk) using the Planning Grant Stage 2 application form.

Any questions about the application process should be sent by email to [s.sanders@jbs.cam.ac.uk](mailto:s.sanders@jbs.cam.ac.uk).

