Guidance document for registering an Expression of Interest to join a research team for the UK NEA follow-on phase

12 March 2012

This guidance document is a supporting document to assist you in completing the online Expression of Interest form that can be accessed via the Home page of the UK NEA website (http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org/).

Contents

1. Background to the call for Expressions of Interest

In 2011 the UK National Ecosystem Assessment (UK NEA) delivered a wealth of information on the state, value (economic and social) and possible future of terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems across the UK, but also identified a number of key uncertainties. Defra, along with a number of other funders, are now supporting a two-year long follow-on phase of the UK NEA to address some of these uncertainties and further develop and promote ways to use the evidence within decision and policy making at a range of spatial sales across the UK to a wide range of stakeholders.

One of the strengths of the UK NEA was getting people to work together. Although the follow-on project is not an assessment per se, this interdisciplinary approach remains at the heart of this new phase of research.

The UK NEA Secretariat is currently looking for suitably experienced individuals from a variety of disciplines (including economics, environmental science, geography, political science, social science) and organisations to register their interest in joining a research team for the follow-on project. This can be in the form of:

1. A Team Member – as an individual registering interest in being a member of a team that will be responsible for one (or more) work package(s). During the registration process you will be asked to

indicate which work package(s) you are interested in and if there any specific elements of the work package(s), state your daily rate and to upload your CV. *Note, we will be able to pay up to a maximum of £250 per day except in exceptional circumstances as agreed by the Funders Group.*

And/Or,

2. A Principal Investigator – registering interest in leading a team for one (or more) work package(s). During the registration process you will be asked to indicate which work package(s) you are interested in leading, what you would do to deliver the research within the timeframe, how much it would cost (bearing in mind the maximum daily rate we would pay a Team Member), what kind of team you would need and suggest contributors, and upload your CV including the CV's of your suggested contributors contained in a single pdf.

The research component of the follow-on phase, which will have 14 months designated to undertaking the research, will focus on **four Project Objectives** covering the **value of ecosystem stocks and service flows, cultural ecosystem services and shared values, scenarios, and tools and resources**. These areas have been broken down into **10 Work Packages**, which will ultimately form the basis for chapters of the resulting technical report. *To assist with your application, descriptions of the Work Packages are included in Annex 1 of this document. These have been agreed as being priority research areas by the Funders Group and an expert workshop, but they should not be regarded as finalized research plans. Once research teams have been formed the exact details of the Work Packages and budget will be discussed amongst the Expert Panel and its Co-Chairs and the Funders and Stakeholder Groups to distill key questions to be addressed. As experts themselves, the research teams will also have an opportunity to input into this process.*

2. Registering your Expression of Interest

If you would like to be involved in the research component of the follow-on phase as an individual (Team Member) or as a Principal Investigator, please complete the online form to register your expression of interest which can be accessed via the Home page of the UK NEA website (http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org/).

2.1 Completing the online form

► Register via the form on the left hand side of the introductory page of the form. This will provide log in details that will enable you to add to or amend content of the form at a later date if necessary.

► The Expressions of Interest form is divided into 5 parts:

Part 1 **provides a list of the 4 Project Objectives which are divided into 10 Work Packages (see Annex 1 of this document for descriptions of the Work Packages).**

Part 2 **asks you to select the Role you wish to register an expression of interest in – either as a Team Member or as a Principal Investigator.** *At the end of the form you will have the opportunity to return to the list of Work Packages and select another Work Package and/or role. Each Work Package requires a separate expression of interest.*

Note: If you apply as a Principal Investigator you will be asked to indicate (for each Work Package) if you are happy to be considered as a Team Member should you be unsuccessful in your bid to be a Principal Investigator. Therefore it will not be necessary to separately apply as a Team Member for those Work Packages.

For any Work Packages you wish to apply for just as a Team Member a separate expression of interest will be required.

If you first apply as a Team Member and subsequently decide to apply as a Principal Investigator you can log in again and complete an expression of interest as a Principal Investigator.

Part 3 asks specific questions based on if you have selected a Team Member role or a Principal Investigator role. Within a role the questions will be the same for Work Packages 1 to 9 but Work Package 10 has a unique set of questions. *Please see Annex 2 for a list of the main questions asked in Part 3 of the form.*

Part 4 asks you to upload your CV. CVs should include details of relevant projects to date, your role in those projects and include information on key publications of relevance to this work as well as any URLs to relevant websites or reports.

If you apply as a Principal Investigator please include the CVs of any suggested contributors you have mentioned in Question 4. This can be uploaded with your CV or separately as a second file.

Please use the following naming convention for the file:

Application type	Naming convention for CV file	Example CV file name
Team Member (TM)	TM-Work Package number-TM name	TM-WP1-JBloggs
Principal Investigator (PI)	PI-WP number-PI name	PI-WP1-JBloggs
Principal Investigator (PI) with contributors	PI-WP number-PI name-contributors	PI-WP1-JBloggs-contributors

Part 5 indicates that you have completed an Expression of Interest application and provides a link back to Part 1 to enable you to apply for a further Work Package.

2.2 Deadline for submission

The submission period will close on the 4th April 2012.

The UK NEA Secretariat will be in touch in April 2012 to inform you whether you have been successful in joining or leading a team. Most of the work is expected to begin about a month later.

If you have a specific query about the expression of interest please contact the UK NEA Secretariat at **nea@unep-wcmc.org**.

3. Frequently Asked Questions

Is the expression of interest only open to academics?
No, the Secretariat would welcome expressions of interest from individuals who feel they have relevant experience to significantly input into the research component of the follow-on phase. These individuals may be from the academic field, but also may be from government agencies, NGO's and the private sector. This is particularly relevant to the Work Packages in Project Objective 4.

What is the role of a Team Member?
A Team Member's role would be to undertake the research and write up the findings as directed by the Principal Investigator.

What is the role of a Principal Investigator?
A Principal Investigator's role would include coordinating the research team, organise who will do the research/analyses and writing, manage the budget and be responsible for delivering the report on time. They may or may not undertake the research themselves. Note, in expressing an interest to be a Principal Investigator, you will be asked to indicate which work package(s) you are interested in leading, what you would do to deliver the research within the timeframe, how much it would cost (bearing in mind the maximum daily rate we would pay an Individual), what kind of team you would need and to suggest contributors.

Can I register to be a Team Member and a Principal Investigator?
Yes, if you apply as a Principal Investigator you will be asked to indicate (for each Work Package) if you are happy to be considered as a Team Member should you be unsuccessful in your bid to be a Principal Investigator. Therefore it will not be necessary to separately apply as a Team Member for those Work Packages. For any Work Packages you wish to apply for just as a Team Member a separate expression of interest will be required. If you first apply as a Team Member for a Work Package and subsequently decide to apply as a Principal Investigator you can log in again and complete an expression of interest as a Principal Investigator.

How will the selection process work?
Each expression of interest, whether it is from an individual or a team, will be carefully considered. In constructing the teams, the Funders Group and Co-Chairs will consider the expertise within the team and ensure it is most useful for answering the questions that each Work Package will address. The expression of interest aims to be the start of the process of building teams. Principal Investigators will also be consulted about the proposed make-up of their team. Should your expertise be required, you will be contacted by the Secretariat inviting you to join or form a team. Please note, not all Work Packages will start immediately – you will also be contacted if you have expressed an interest in work that will not start until later in the year.

When will I hear if I have been successful in my application?
Successful applicants will be contacted by the UK NEA Secretariat during April 2012.

Are the details and resource allocation outlined in the Work Packages finalized?
No. To assist with your application descriptions of the Work Packages are presented in Annex 1 of this document (and as pop up boxes throughout the form). These 10 Work Packages have been agreed as being priority research areas by the Funders Group and an expert workshop but they should not be

regarded as finalised research plans. Once research teams have been formed the exact details of the Work Packages and budget will be discussed amongst the Expert Panel and its Co-Chairs and the Funders and Stakeholder Groups to distill key questions to be addressed. As experts themselves, the research teams will also have an opportunity to input into this process.

Is this also the selection for the Expert Panel or Stakeholder Group?
No, this will be a different process with both the Expert Panel and Stakeholder Group being selected by agreement between the Co-Chairs of the Expert Panel and the Funders Group. Those selected will be contacted directly in March to be invited to become part of either of these groups. Once the Stakeholder Group has been established there will be opportunities to engage through the process of the work programmes.

Will there be other opportunities to get involved in UK NEA follow-on phase?
If you have been unsuccessful in the selection process to join a research team there will be other opportunities to get involved in the follow-on phase, for example through offering to peer-review the draft chapters later on in the process. It will be announced in 2013 via the UK NEA website when the peer-review period will open. Alternatively, individuals can email nea@unep-wcmc.org at any time to express their interest in contributing in this way.

ANNEX 1 - Description of Work Packages for the UK NEA follow-on project to inform the call for Expressions of Interest

March 2012

This document should be read in the context of the call for Expressions of Interest in joining research teams for the UK NEA follow on project. The online form can be accessed via the Home page of the UK NEA website (http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org/). It provides descriptions of 10 Work Packages that we are inviting people to express an interest in to inform their application.

Please note that, although the Work Packages described below (and presented in Annex 1 of this Guidance Document) have been agreed as being priority research areas by the Funders Group and an expert workshop, the descriptions here are provided for guidance only to allow experts in all disciplines to express their interest in leading or contributing to the research undertaken in each area. The aims and objectives presented below should therefore not be regarded as finalised research plans. Furthermore, one of the strengths of the UK NEA was getting people to work together. This interdisciplinary approach remains at the heart of this new phase of research, and therefore you are encouraged to consider the links between the individual packages and how to bring together the different expertise required to address them.

Once research teams have been formed, the exact details of the Work Packages and budget will be discussed amongst the Expert Panel and its Co-Chairs and the Funders and Stakeholder Groups to distil key questions to be addressed. As experts themselves, the research teams will also have an opportunity to input into this process. Following on from these discussions and final agreement, fuller descriptions of the finalised research plans in each of these areas will be published on the UK NEA website.

Project Objectives	Work Package number	Work Package name	Elements of the Work Package	Proposed budget allocation (£)
1	1	Developing the evidence for a Natural Capital Asset Check.	Aim: *To develop the framework and address evidence issues arising from the scoping study on the Natural Capital Asset Check.* Objectives: note these will depend on the outcomes of the scoping study which is due to report in June and September 2012 – further details will be available on the Defra website shortly under project NE0128: Scoping study to develop understanding of a natural capital asset check. a. Review and develop the conceptual framework	125k

developed in the scoping study, researching in more depth any evidence and technical issues highlighted. (starting June 2012)

b. Review and develop further information on (i) data inputs and (ii) relationships between natural capital assets. This may include research into issues such as quantification, quality assessments, resilience, valuation and sensitivity analyses. (starting June 2012)

c. Conduct further case studies and testing of this approach in decision making and appraisal situations. (starting September 2012)

d. Seek solutions to issues for implementation as highlighted in the scoping study report. (starting September 2012)

e. Undertake an assessment of the alternatives for modified national income accounts (incorporating ecosystem services value) and/or the construction of a separate but complementary ecosystem services value index. (starting June 2012)

1	2	Macroeconomic implications of ecosystem service change and management	Aim: *Provide a scoping review and research agenda for understanding the macroeconomic implications of ecosystem service change and management in the UK.* Objectives: a. Select key areas for the focus of this study which allow inspection of how alternative policies and usage regarding ecosystem services impinge upon the macro-economy. Suggested foci include impacts upon jobs, growth and food production. b. Conduct the scoping review accessing the widest possible existing evidence base. c. Prepare a research agenda and suggested methodology for undertaking a detailed quantitative analysis of the macroeconomic implications of ecosystem service management and change in the UK.	75k
1	3	Economic values of ecosystem services.	Aim: *To conduct further economic analysis of the value of ecosystem service change to the UK, examining the trade-offs between selected ecosystem services and their values arising from alternative uses of natural resources.* Objectives: a. Extend the analysis of the valuation to consider further ecosystem services, at least considering those	300k

			associated with other (non-carbon) greenhouse gases, the water environment (water quantity and quality), timber production, and to consider approaches towards the incorporation of the physical and mental health services of the natural environment. In addition, consider valuation of ecosystem services under the different scenarios in the Marine environment. b. Analyse trade-offs and the impact of different response options on the value of all of the ecosystem services considered in the UK NEA scenario analysis (agricultural land use and food production; net carbon emission or sequestration; recreation; urban greenspace). c. Broaden the evaluation of biodiversity change, and consider ways to value these changes. With regard to the above issues, the research should consider: - Spatial variation in ecosystem service values; - The issue of scale in ecosystem service analysis and decision making; - Distributional effects; - Uncertainty effects in ecosystem service provision and valuation. The above work might consider useful illustrative analyses such as the management of ecosystem services in peri-urban environments; the different values (e.g. recreation, carbon storage, timber, opportunity costs of agriculture; subsidy savings) associated with land use change between conventional farming and multi-purpose woodland; etc.	
2	4	Cultural ecosystem services (CES) and human well-being	Aim: *To extend the theoretical, methodological and practical understanding of Cultural Ecosystem Services (CES) through development of the conceptual framework and data infrastructure, drawing on evidence from the social sciences and humanities to enable integration, analysis and practical application of CES across environmental settings and spatial and temporal scales.* Objectives: a. Develop a framework for classifying CES that builds on existing UK NEA and SITF (DEAS 3) frameworks and reflects the cultural, shared and plural values people and stakeholder groups hold for CES in a range of environmental settings and at different spatial scales. b. Develop an approach and techniques for assessing	130k

			environmental settings and the status and trends in CES at a variety of spatial and temporal scales, including an assessment of relationships between different components of natural capital and other forms of capital, experiences of CES by different members of society, and their combined impact on wellbeing (as measured by ONS) c. Characterise, assess and improve the evidence infrastructure available to decision makers who may affect environmental settings and the cultural goods and benefits derived from ecosystems. d. Provide empirical insight, for instance by way of new case studies and the analysis of existing work, into areas of potential conflict and opportunity relating to the future provision of CES in a variety of settings. e. explore, on the basis of the above, how CES can be incorporated robustly into decision making, appraisal and evaluation processes, and management practices, including the transferability of information between situations.	
2	5	Cultural, shared and plural values: ecosystem services and decision making	Aim: *To understand the respective impact of cultural, shared and plural values versus aggregated individual values on CES decision making and outcomes.* Objectives: a. Improve theoretical and empirical understanding of the nature of cultural, shared and plural values and their relationship with aggregated individual preferences towards the natural environment through systematic review of the evidence (including in other relevant policy settings). b. Drawing on the review findings, HMT Green Book and Magenta Book guidance, UK NEA Shared Values chapter, Defra's PDT study and DEAS 5 on non-monetary valuation, design and undertake new empirical work that can be used to assess cultural, shared and plural values in relation to ecosystem services alongside other forms of ecosystem service valuation in ecosystem service assessments (for example, through the consideration and development of hybrid valuation techniques, as discussed in the NEA Shared Values chapter). c. Through the design and undertaking of new empirical work in a real-life decision context and natural environmental setting outlined in Objective b, assess and demonstrate the respective impact of the different techniques and cultural, shared and plural	200k

			values versus aggregated individual values on decision making. d. Critically evaluate and apply findings to feed back into the framework, assessment approach and evidence infrastructure developed in WP 4, and to inform Project Objective 4.	
3	6	Development of the UK NEA scenarios.	Aim: *To deepen the analysis of the six scenarios developed in the UK NEA to facilitate the inclusion of a wider range of ecosystem services and explore how these influence well-being values.* Objectives: Note: this work needs to link closely with work in Project Objectives 1, 2 and 4. Objectives a-h below could support the other research, but may need to be prioritized or added to to maximize the value this work package can add. a. Develop robust rules for population distribution within the scenarios. b. Undertake sensitivity analysis around changing one assumption (driver) serially. c. Separate out the land cover change and land use change outputs of the scenario. d. Legitimise the methods for assessing change in delivery of ecosystem services in a systematic way, where possible combining process and spatially-explicit models with expert judgement. e. Down-scale level of aggregation (nations, regions within nations, etc.) f. Review the strength of climate change driver interaction with other direct and indirect drivers across the six scenarios. g. Explore how one would build in non-linearities, complexities and feedbacks to the scenarios in a proportionate way. h. Building on the existing literature and expertise within the resilience/security, examine how ecosystems and society might respond to "shocks" and "wildcards" in these scenarios.	150k

| 3 | 7 | Interactions of different response options with the UK NEA scenarios | Aim: *To analyse how current policies/practices/institutions play out under the six different scenarios and what the implications might be for the design of future response options.*

Objectives: This study would need to:
a. Consider different scales.

b. Consider the full range of values that people derive from ecosystems in its analysis.

c. Assess implications for different sectors and interactions between sectors.

d. Consider outcome at intermediate timelines as part of the review of evolution to 2060.

e. Identify the constraints on the suite of options available to reach a given outcome and how this would influence the use of these options.

f. Consider how the same response option would fair in each of the different scenarios (wind-tunneling).

g. Review the suite of scenarios against a broader range of views held by stakeholders, through participatory visioning techniques. | 100k |
| 4 | 8 | Understanding and influencing cultures and behaviours to maintain and enhance the delivery of ecosystem services and take better account of cultural, shared and plural values | Aim: *To examine the barriers and enablers to embedding consideration of ecosystem services (including CES) in policy decision making and design of instruments which affect behaviours and cultures (e.g. through regulation, fiscal instruments, spend, behavioural interventions, etc.), in the context of other cultural and social drivers, economic pressures, regulatory reform, localism and enhanced role of civil society and private sectors.*

Objectives: Working closely with the Stakeholder Group to:

a. Identify what groups are important to maintaining/enhancing ecosystem services and the goods and benefits derived from ecosystems.

b. Identify and examine what behaviours/cultures are helpful in, or hinder, taking better account of ecosystem services and their economic, cultural, shared and plural values, and explore whether there are differences between types of ecosystem services (e.g., regulating or cultural).

c. Draw on evidence of what works - and is worth | 90k |

			investing in - in driving cultural and behavioural change in relation to ecosystem services throughout policy, decision and delivery processes and across time and spatial scales. d. Design tools to help embed understanding of cultures and behaviours in decision making systems that affect ecosystem services. The analysis could be divided into public, private and voluntary sector, thematic areas, or scales and then would require synthesis of results obtained between these different parties. The work will also require some outreach function to studied groups. Within the resources available it is suggested that the work involves initial scoping with the opportunity for deeper analysis in a few selected areas.	
4	9	Engagement with end users and development of a framework to prioritise tool development.	Aim: *To review (through literature and active engagement with user groups) the existing tools and decision making processes available into which the UK NEA methods and analysis could be incorporated.* Objectives: a. Consider how best to segment the different user groups – e.g., private, public, voluntary sector; local/regional/national level; thematic – e.g., planning, countryside use, marine; or through specific groups that already exist. b. Consider prioritising engagement based on potential impacts suggested by the UK NEA analysis. c. Use the Expert Panel and Stakeholder Groups to test this prioritisation and then to bring relevant groups of people together to discuss resources/tools/information needed. d. Do this in connection with the ongoing communications work throughout the rest of the project, and linking to external (e.g., Scottish or EU) initiatives in related areas.	50k but may be enlarged if more engagement is necessary

| 4 | 10 | Development and enhancement of tools and resources for with the findings/methods of the UK NEA | This work package will be defined and informed by the review and engagement with end users in Work Package 9. At this stage we are seeking expressions of interest from individuals or groups who have expertise working in a variety of ecosystem service-related processes, and using a variety of approaches including action learning and co-production.

The processes which may be studied as part of this work could include: Strategic Environmental Assessments, Environmental Impact Assessments, Impact Assessments for policy development, cost benefit analysis, GIS-based analysis, management for ecosystem services and the use of spatially specific scenarios in decision and policy making.

Expressions of interest are also welcomed which suggest further tools/resources/processes which could be developed or enhanced by the findings of the UK NEA, including details of the end user groups who would need to be involved in this work and the timescales related to any specific opportunities for making suggested changes. | 150k but dependent on WP 9 |

ANNEX 2 – List of questions asked in Part 3 of the Expressions of Interest form

If you select <u>Team Member under Work Package 1 to 9</u> you will be asked the following questions:

1. What is the specific element(s) in the work package you are interested in? Please give evidence of your expertise in this area. *(300 words)*
2. What is your daily rate? Note, we will be able to pay up to a maximum of £250 per day except in exceptional circumstances as agreed by the Funders Group. *(200 words)*
3. Please outline your likely availability during the project period (May 2012 to November 2013) *(200 words)*
4. Additional information. Please include below any additional information you feel is relevant. *(500 words)*

If you select <u>Principal Investigator under Work Package 1 to 9</u> you will be asked the following questions:

1. What will you do to deliver the work package within the timeframe? Note, the full project period will be May 2012 to November 2013 with the zero order draft due in June 2013. *(500 words)*
2. How much would it cost to undertake the research and associated report writing? Please bear in mind the maximum daily rate we would pay an Individual (Team Member) is £250 except in exceptional circumstances as agreed with the Funders Group) *(500 words)*
3. What kind of team would you need to undertake the research? *(500 words)*
4. If you would like to suggest any contributors, please list them below along with their affiliation (use one line per contributor name). *(200 words)*
5. Please outline your likely availability during the project period (May 2012 to November 2013) *(100 words)*

If you select <u>Team Member under Work Package 10</u> on Tools and Resources Development you will be asked the following questions:

1. Which ecosystem service-related process(es) do you have expertise in? E.g. expertise in Strategic Environmental Assessments *(300 words)*
2. Can you suggest further tools/resources/processes which could be enhanced by the findings of the UK NEA? *(200 words)*
3. If so, who would be the end user groups who would need to be involved in this work? *(200 words)*
4. What are the timescales related to any specific opportunities for making suggested changes? *(200 words)*
5. What is your daily rate? Note, we will be able to pay up to a maximum of £250 per day except in exceptional circumstances as agreed by the Funders Group. *(100 words)*
6. Please outline your likely availability during the project period (May 2012 to November 2013) *(100 words)*
7. Additional information. Please include below any additional information you feel is relevant. *(300 words)*

If you select <u>Principal Investigator under Work Package 10</u> you will be asked the following questions:

1. Which ecosystem service-related process(es) do you have expertise in? E.g. expertise in Strategic Environmental Assessments *(300 words)*
2. Can you suggest further tools/resources/processes which could be enhanced by the findings of the UK NEA? *(200 words)*
3. If so, who are the end user groups that would need to be involved in this work? *(200 words)*
4. What are the timescales related to any specific opportunities for making suggested changes? *(200 words)*
5. What kind of team would you need to undertake the tool development and enhancement? *(300 words)*
6. If you would like to suggest any contributors, please list them below along with their affiliation *(use one line per contributor name).*
7. Please outline your likely availability during the project period (May 2012 to November 2013). *(100 words)*