

# Strategy for Nature Fund

## Application Guidance Notes

The Strategy for Nature (SfN) Fund offers financial support for environmental initiatives which aim to further the objectives of the [States of Guernsey 2020 Strategy for Nature](#) and help to address negative drivers of change stated in the [State of Nature 2024](#) report. The scheme is funded by the States of Guernsey Agriculture, Countryside and Land Management Services (ACLMS) and managed by the Nature Commission.

These guidance notes explain the application process and rules that apply to this scheme. Applicants are advised to read these notes before making an application.

### Who can apply?

Anyone can apply for the SfN Fund; you do not need to be a registered charity. An amount up to £5,000 can be applied for at any one time, whether it is for the full cost of the project, or as part of the costs.

More than one application from any organisation, group or individual can be submitted in any one fund year.

### Which projects qualify?

To qualify, a project's main activity must:

- Meet the overall goals and at least one objective of the Strategy for Nature;
- Help address one or more drivers of change stated in State of Nature 2024;
- Be based in Guernsey and/or Herm

Applications could be for projects relating to specific species or habitats (marine, coastal, freshwater or terrestrial) or they could be for community-based projects (i.e. general education and awareness).

Work stipulated under a planning obligation or legal requirement cannot be funded by the scheme and work within a domestic curtilage is not eligible.

Applications can be made at any stage of a project, i.e., for those which have commenced and require further funding in order to continue or those which are yet to be established.

If submitting an application for the part funding of a project, a successful applicant shall be required to provide evidence to confirm that they have sufficient funding for the whole project and/or be willing to return the funds if ongoing additional fund raising is unsuccessful.

# How to apply

Please complete the application form and send, together with supporting plans, images, maps, quotes or documentation that are relevant to your application. Please email your application form to [office@naturecommission.gg](mailto:office@naturecommission.gg).

Applications must be received by **9am on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024**. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.

For assistance or additional guidance in completing the application form, please contact the Nature Commission on [office@naturecommission.gg](mailto:office@naturecommission.gg).

## Assessment of applications

Applications will be assessed by an approval panel. The panel is comprised of representatives from the States of Guernsey and the Nature Commission. They will assess each application objectively and without bias, based on the below assessment criteria. Should any member of the panel believe they have a conflict of interest which does not allow them to review applications objectively, they will be asked to recuse themselves from review of that application.

All applications will be received and reviewed in confidence, however ACLMS and the Nature Commission reserve the right to promote or publicise all grants awarded, unless there are exceptional or legal reasons not to.

## Assessment Criteria

The selection process will be conducted to ensure that all applicants are evaluated fairly, to ensure best value for money and that applicants fulfil all funding requirements. Applicants are evaluated in order to identify those most aligned with the Strategy for Nature and State of Nature 2024, whilst also ensuring they will achieve measurable and meaningful benefits. The selection criteria is as follows, along with the weight afforded to each criteria when considering an application.

### **1. Alignment with the objectives of the Strategy for Nature – 30%**

Applications are assessed on their delivery of the Strategy for Nature objectives:

Objective 1 – Encourage everyone to get out into nature

Objective 2 – Increase awareness, understanding and support for nature

Objective 3 – Ensure the economic, social and environmental value of nature is understood and integrated into local decision making

Objective 4 – Ensure an integrated, broad-scale approach to the conservation and management of our nature

Objective 5 – Maximise the diversity of species and ecosystems

Objective 6 – Reduce pressures on nature and ensure the resilience of our natural capital and assets

Objective 7 – Bring nature to life through learning

Objective 8 – Share and use information effectively

Objective 9 – Improve knowledge about nature to inform decision making

## **2. Addressing drivers of change as stated in the State of Nature 2024 – 20%**

Applications are assessed on whether they help to address one or more of the drivers of change stated in [State of Nature 2024](#).

- Land management
- Development and land use change
- Invasive non-native species
- Pollution
- Climate change
- Commercial/recreational fishing and harvesting
- Gaps in knowledge and understanding

## **3. Measurable benefits of the projects – 10%**

Applicants should provide information on what benefit the project will provide for the island's environment and what key performance indicators (KPIs) will be used to measure that benefit.

## **4. Previous experience in managing similar projects – 10%**

Applicants should provide any information on previous relevant experience.

## **5. Adequate planning and methodology – 10%**

The methodology should be realistic and practical with a clear pathway for actual delivery of the aims and, where possible, include milestones which can be used to demonstrate and monitor progress.

## **6. Sustainable impact – 10%**

Applicants should demonstrate that the outcomes will be sustained after the funding is finished and will leave a lasting impact.

## **7. Value for money – 10%**

Applicants should demonstrate that the project represents good value for money and, where appropriate, that alternative means of delivering the same outcomes have been assessed for cost effectiveness.

# Payment

- The maximum funding is £5,000. If costs exceed this, they can be met by the applicant or alternative funding sources.
- Payment will be made upon approval of the project by the fund panel and subsequent receipt of a signed Fund Agreement.

# Conditions

1. Provision of funding is discretionary and applications may be rejected or deferred if they do not meet the assessment criteria, or due to budgetary constraints.
2. The panel reserves the right to set funding conditions relevant to each project. Any conditions set will be detailed in the Fund Agreement.
3. The project must be completed according to the Fund Agreement, including ongoing care and maintenance. Failure to comply with the Fund Agreement may require all or part of the grant to be repaid.
4. The project or phase(s) of the project must be completed within one calendar year of the funds being released. A subsequent application could be made for further funding for additional phases of a project (where applicable) in subsequent years. If the project or phase(s) are not completed within this timescale, ACLMS and the Nature Commission reserve the right to request all or part of the grant to be returned.
5. Copies of all records and details relating to each project must be submitted to the Nature Commission, where they will be kept for a minimum of 6 years (in accordance with The Charities etc. (Guernsey and Alderney) Ordinance, 2021) and be available for inspection by the Nature Commission, the Office of the Committee for the Environment and Infrastructure, or their appointed agents during this period. [The full Fair Processing Notice for the Nature Commission can be found here.](#)
6. The type and extent of monitoring will depend on the project and will be agreed by the Nature Commission and ACLMS and detailed in the Fund Agreement. This may include stipulations of milestones and KPIs.
7. Subject to appropriate conditions and safeguards, copies of all biological records and reports relating to each project, or phase of a project, should be submitted to the Guernsey Biological Records Centre.
8. Any items purchased or work carried out using SfN Fund monies should be readily available for inspection by the Nature Commission, ACLMS, or their appointed agents, on request.
9. The Nature Commission and ACLMS reserve the right to withhold part or all of the payment, or require part or all of the payment to be re-paid if;
  - Information provided in the application or in subsequent correspondence is found to be substantially or materially incorrect or incomplete;
  - There is change to the work agreed which is considered to be substantial in the nature, scale, cost or timing of the work, without prior approval.
10. The Nature Commission and ACLMS accept no liability in respect of loss due to any delay in the payment of funds, or to any suspension, reduction or cancellation of funding.