

# CALL FOR PILOT REVIEWS

## LIVING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE – OBJECTIVE B

### INTRODUCTION

The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) are pleased to welcome applications to conduct pilot reviews to better understand existing data and highlight trends and gaps in our knowledge of managing ecosystems for human well-being and how to protect the natural environment as the environment changes (LWEC Objective B).

Applications can be made for up to £15,000 for each review. It is anticipated that awards will be conducted from a period of 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009 and end 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009. The final product of the review will be a written report to be submitted within 1 month of the end date. The pilot reviews will be assessed by the LWEC Partners' Board and those most relevant will be considered for full Systematic Review.

The closing date for applications is 4pm on **20<sup>th</sup> February 2009** via the paper application form.

### BACKGROUND

Living With Environmental Change (LWEC) is one of six of the Research Council's cross council research programmes. It is a ten year programme designed by many partners and is made up of existing research, new programmes and schemes. LWEC will bring together researchers from across the different disciplines in the natural, engineering, economic, social, medical, cultural, arts, and humanities. It will engage with businesses, government bodies, NGOs and the public to understand the research colleges the social and economic implications of environmental change. The programme is governed by a Partners' board consisting of the different funding partners. The Director of the programme is Professor Andrew Watkinson.

It is anticipated that LWEC will provide the knowledge and tools that are needed by people, government and business to make informed choices about the future. The research will help inform predictions and analysis of environmental change and aid in adaptation and resilience.

The LWEC partners have agreed six strategic objectives that will inform progress towards the design of the programmes of work that will make up LWEC. This scheme specifically supports **LWEC Objective B - to manage ecosystems for human well-being and protect the natural environment as the environment changes**. We are keen to support activities that cover both aspects of Objective B. These include the assessment of links and feedbacks between the natural environment, ecosystem services and human well-being; how these might continue to develop within environmental limits in the face of major environmental change; and how decision-making and local and national planning can take account of these links and feedbacks to help in the development of new social, environmental and economic opportunities.

Further information about LWEC is located at: <http://www.nerc.ac.uk/research/programmes/lwec/>

## OBJECTIVES

The Pilot Reviews offer the opportunity to scope academic literature and public reports published on specific questions falling within areas relating to LWEC Objective B, **to manage ecosystems for human well-being and protect the natural environment as the environment changes**. It is intended that these reviews will outline the existing data and highlight the trends and gaps in knowledge.

The pilot reviews will:

- Scope academic literature and recent public reports on a specific question or questions relevant to LWEC Objective B - **to manage ecosystems for human well-being and protect the natural environment as the environment changes**.
- Report on extent of evidence and gaps in knowledge
- Where possible provide critical appraisal of data and knowledge
- Produce a resource via a written report for stakeholders. It is anticipated that the report will be up to 10,000 words in length (references not included) and follow the guidelines given for systematic reviews at: <http://www.environmentalevidence.org/Authors.htm>
- The report should contain a draft protocol or protocols for a full systematic review or reviews and a scoping report containing details of the search strategy employed, inclusion/exclusion criteria, numbers of relevant articles identified and types of studies that they contain. An Endnote library (or equivalent) of relevant articles should be appended to the report. Example protocols can be found at [www.environmentalevidence.org/Reviewsinprogress.html](http://www.environmentalevidence.org/Reviewsinprogress.html)

## FUNDING TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Applications may be up to £15,000 from 2nd March 2009 and end 30th April 2009. This research does not fall under the Full Economic Costing (REC) that Research Council grants follow and as such the contract made between the successful applicant and the NERC will be on a consultancy basis. Subsequent contracts will be based on SSC Ltd Consultancy terms and conditions; a copy is available on request

The amount requested will cover the time spend researching and writing the review, and where listed, workshops or seminars needed to carry out the reviews (funding can be sought for accommodation, hire of audio-visual equipment, travel costs for speakers/reporters and ancillary costs).

It is expected that the author submit their pilot review to NERC within one month of the end date.

## ELIGIBILITY

This call is open to UK researchers eligible for NERC directed funding and UK organisations that are eligible for Defra research funding. NERC's funding web pages can provide further guidance with respect to eligibility for UK applicants.

## ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Applicants will be assessed according to the following criteria.

- The applicants knowledge is sufficient to undertake the review
- Clearly identified and potentially reviewable question(s)

- Relevance of the review to the various LWEC partners
- Clear and appropriate strategy for scoping of literature and data
- Novelty of the proposal
- Cost effectiveness of the approach
- Clear working timetable to meet review timeline
- Likelihood of this leading to a proposal for a full Systematic Review