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United Kingdom
National Commission
for UNESCO

Climate Change & UNESCO Heritage Pilot Project

Evaluation Consultant Expression of Interest

February 2024

Overview

UKNC is seeking an evaluation consultant to identify suitable approaches for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of its high-profile pilot project: ‘Climate Change and UNESCO Heritage’. The consultant will produce an evaluation plan for the pilot, complete with reporting framework, to be used by both the central UKNC project team and by teams at the three project pilot sites. Additionally, the consultant will return to support the end of project evaluation needs at the end of the project.

About the project

The groundbreaking Climate Change and UNESCO Heritage project, overseen by the UK National Commission for UNESCO (UKNC) and the Department for Culture, Media, and Sport (DCMS), will test innovative ways to tackle the impacts of climate change on the UK’s cultural and natural heritage in three pilot UNESCO designated sites through the sharing and better use of spatial and non-spatial data.

Evidence shows that cultural and natural heritage is being significantly impacted by climate change. From extreme weather fluctuations such as increasing temperatures and flooding to the devastating effects of pests and non-native species, nowhere will be spared. The UK Government has recognised that monitoring and managing the multiple impacts of these climate change threats are confounded by the siloed nature of public sector agencies and the data they hold.

The Climate Change and UNESCO Heritage project will lay the groundwork for tackling these impacts by bringing public and private sector organisations together for the first time across three UK UNESCO-designated sites.

The project will co-create and test new models of improved joint working between public, private, and third-sector organisations, and develop new shared data tools to make data more accessible, meaningful, and usable for communities and stakeholders to understand the multiple impacts of climate change on cultural and natural heritage and communities.

The project is therefore not looking to problem-solve the challenges that sites face from climate change in the first instance. Instead, it will develop tools that can help visualise the interconnected ways in which climate change will impact the environmental, social and economic dimensions of cultural and natural heritage in a landscape (or UNESCO site) to help design and facilitate a shared understanding and allow stronger integrated approaches. This will allow for all stakeholders across a site to understand the multiple impacts of climate change, understand trade-offs, and break-down sectoral boundaries.

The Climate Change & UNESCO Heritage project will include site-level collaboration activities to test approaches to joint-working and develop new data tools and templates. This will be carried out at three pilot site designations across the UK: a UNESCO World Heritage Site; a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve; and a UNESCO Global Geopark.

The project is overseen by a Steering Group of key Government Departments, chaired by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Evaluation Consultant Brief

An evaluation consultant is needed to support the UKNC's understanding of how effective the overall approach has been in addressing the issues around joint-working and data-sharing, the efficiency of project delivery, and to what extent the combined activities and outputs have made a contribution towards a change in behaviour.

The evaluation consultant will be expected to:

- Review the full pilot project brief and identify suitable methodologies for evaluating the overall progress of the pilot project and the effectiveness of the overall processes and governance approach taken.
 - Recommendations should reflect monitoring and evaluation approaches that will help to capture both the extent to which activities have made a contribution towards desired behavioural change and improved joint-working across organisations, as well as methods for assessing overall process evaluation and any limitations to impact.
 - Recommendations should acknowledge the exploratory, pilot nature of the project, allowing for a necessary amount of uncertainty in the results to be achieved. The approach should also be realistic about the level of progress that can be measured within the delivery timeframe of the pilot (project delivery phase is estimated to last 12 months), and consider where more indicative measures may be appropriate.
- Liaise with other appointed consultants engaged on the project, principally the audience development and systems methodology consultants, to help inform a suitable approach for the pilot. Liaise with UKNC staff to ensure the approach joins up with longer term plans and provides a baseline for future work.

- Create a monitoring and evaluation plan to support process and impact evaluation across the pilot project. This will define key monitoring indicators, methods of data collection for establishing baseline information and for the compilation of ongoing monitoring data, and clear guidance to support analysis. The plan should also include a reporting framework which will be scalable to the pilot site level activities, with the aim of ensuring a consistent approach to monitoring and evaluation across pilot sites and the central UKNC project team.
- Provide an independent review of the draft evaluation report carried out by the central project team towards the end of the pilot, helping to inform a final project assessment.

The evaluation consultant will not be expected to introduce evaluation measures for individual pieces of work to be completed by other consultants engaged on the project (e.g Data Consultants and Audience Development experts); the evaluation approach should instead focus on measuring the success of the overall pilot approach and the efficiency of project delivery.

It is expected that the consultant's overall approach to the work will be consistent with good practice outlined in the HM Treasury Magenta Book guidance on evaluation.

Deliverables

1. A clear recommendation on the evaluation method(s) appropriate for the pilot project, for agreement with the central project team.
2. A monitoring and evaluation framework plan (M&E) with accompanying reporting framework for use by both the central Climate Change & UNESCO Heritage project team, and by pilot site coordinators engaged on the project.
3. Impartial feedback on the draft evaluation report produced for the pilot (anticipated June / July 2025).

Contract management and key timescales

We expect the appointed evaluation consultant to begin by the end March 2024 with dialogue between project consultants taking place as soon as possible upon appointment.

It is envisioned that a suitable evaluation approach will be recommended to the central Climate Change & UNESCO Heritage project team in early/mid April.

The final M&E plan and reporting framework will be required to be complete by week commencing 6th May 2024.

The anticipated budget ceiling for this work is £10,000 (including expenses and VAT). The payment schedule will be as follows:

- 50% of the agreed contract value on signing of contract (est. end March 2024)
- 25% of the agreed contract value on successful completion of the evaluation plan (est. May 2024)
- 25% of the agreed contract value on successful completion of all deliverables (est. end June 2025)

Award Criteria

An expression of interest should include:

- An outline of your approach / brief methodology for undertaking this work
- An outline of internal responsibilities and liaisons
- Details of staff allocated to the project and your collective experience in carrying out similar projects
- Allocation of days across members of your team and your daily charging rates
- Your timescale for carrying out this work
- Overall budget plan
- An overview of your relevant experience and qualifications related to this brief

Proposals will be assessed by UKNC against the following points:

- To what extent does the proposal demonstrate understanding of the issues and social values related to the project brief?
- To what extent is the methodology set out in the proposal appropriate to the requirements set out in the brief?
- What level of relevant experience and qualifications does the applicant demonstrate in order to successfully complete the work?
- Overall value for money and financial viability of the quote

Submitting an expression of interest

Expressions of interest should be submitted by email to the UKNC Climate Change & UNESCO Heritage Project Administrator, Aisling Parrish (aparrish@unesco.org.uk) **no later than 12 noon on Wednesday 13th March 2024.**

The successful applicant will be expected to start work on the commission by Monday 25th March 2024.



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