**NRF Project Assessment**

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| **Legacy & Exit Strategy** Extent to which the project will impact/benefit biodiversity beyond the funding period and where applicable, there is a clear exit strategy so that its impact/benefit can be delivered without future grant dependency |  |
| **Value for Money**The extent of environmental improvement/enhancement to be delivered by the project in relation to the level of NRF grant requested  |  |
| **Match Funding/In-kind support**The extent to which the applicant has demonstrated that they have tried to source match funding or the leverage of other funds that the NRF grant will bring including in-kind support. |  |
| **Equality**Extent to which the project can demonstrate it has considered equalities and individuals in groups with protected characteristics and/or can demonstrate that it will advance equality of opportunity, in relation to the nature/scale of the project |  |
| **Additionality**If NRF funding is not awarded will the project happen anyway or happen at a reduced scale/qualityNRF funding is required to:* Allow the project to proceed
* Increase the scope of quality of the project
* Accelerate the implementation of the project
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| **Assessment Criteria**  | **RAG** |
| **Project robustness**Are delivery plans achievable?Are all consents in place?Is match funding in place (if applicable)?Additionality – will the project happen without NRF funding? |  |
| **Biodiversity**Extent to which the project is improving/ enhancing/delivering positive effects for biodiversity and local ecosystems. |  |
| **Environmental impact**Extent to which the project has considered net zero ambitions/environmental sustainability/address the climate emergency and its impacts through mitigation and adaptation by promoting nature-based solutions. |  |
| **Meets local environmental plans and strategies** The extent to which the project delivers against local/strategic environmental plans/policies |  |

NRF applications are assessed using a Red, Amber Green rating for each of the following criteria.

 **Red** – is where the is little evidence or the project does not meet this criteria

 **Amber** – is where there is some evidence or the project partly meets this criteria

 **Green** – is where there is strong evidence or the project meets this criteria