**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/quality  NRF 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