



Research & Innovation Grants

Grant Application Form

1. Individual / Organisation Name and contact details

SCOTLAND: The Big Picture
Registered Scottish Charity No. SC050432
www.scotlandbigpicture.com

Contact: Sarah Sall
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2. Description of the project including: What do you want to do? Who will be involved? Where will it take place? How will it be managed?

Project: Loch Abar Mòr Riverwoods

Led by SCOTLAND: The Big Picture, **Loch Abar Mòr** is a new partnership of landholders, stewarding more than 100,000 acres across Lochaber, who have all made a 50-year commitment to restore nature as a solution to climate breakdown and biodiversity loss.

The partnership's vision is to create a rich mosaic of habitats alive with nature, weaving across boundaries, in which people work and live with a sense of pride and belonging.

Loch Abar Mor is focused on three core areas:

- **Community** – Working with communities to ensure that ecological recovery works in tandem with employment, learning and recreation opportunities.
- **Connectivity** – Expanding and connecting a dynamic mosaic of habitats, shaped by natural processes, that is home to an abundance and diversity of life.
- **Climate** – Creating climate-resilient living systems, capable of carbon capture and storage, reducing the local impacts of climate change.

Within the partnership's **Connectivity** theme, the **Loch Abar Mòr Riverwoods** project will focus on expanding river woodlands to improve ecosystem functionality and connectivity, and to benefit vulnerable and/or under-represented species, such as aspen, pearl mussels and Atlantic salmon.



The initial phase of the project involves stakeholder engagement to influence those in the area able to drive or deliver change.

1) Influencing key land managers via demonstration site visits

We aim to inspire river and land managers in Lochaber to establish or restore river woodlands on their land through **3 x demonstration visits to advanced river restoration sites**. These visits would provisionally be to:

- The Reay Forest Estate, River Laxford (integrated deer management and riparian woodland restoration)
- Cairngorms Connect, western Cairngorms (significant site for aspen restoration in river catchment)
- Ben Lawers NNR, Perthshire (pioneering site for woodland connectivity between riverwoods and high-altitude woodland)

Through our experience of delivering 'Rewilding Journeys' and training events, we have seen first-hand the power of experiential learning in the field to inspire commitment to nature restoration, and help people to identify the opportunities for change on the land under their management.

Estimated cost for approx. 20 river/land managers per 3 x events: £5,000

2) Engaging local people with the value of riverwoods to drive support for restoration

We aim to engage local communities with the value of functioning, connected river woodlands to drive support for restoration, through the delivery of **5 x community screenings of our Riverwoods film across Lochaber**, including Q&A forums to stimulate discussion and debate.

Our previous Riverwoods screening tour and independent screenings across Scotland had a significant impact in raising awareness and understanding of the issue, and driving river woodland restoration projects.

Estimated cost for 5 x community screenings of Riverwoods across Lochaber: £5,000

The events and community screenings will be planned and delivered by our Loch Abar Mòr team – Partnership Convenor, Peter Cairns, and Operations Officer, Abel McLinden –



working closely with the Loch Abar Mòr land partners to identify the relevant land and river managers to invite, and the appropriate locations to target for community engagement screenings.

Loch Abar Mòr already has strong operational management in place, with a partnership Management Team overseeing strategy and progress with key projects and activities, and additional oversight of project progress and spending through SCOTLAND: The Big Picture's management reporting. This work would be tracked and governed in the same way.

3. What will be the key targets of this work (maximum of three) in the first 12 months?

The key targets of this work in the first 12 months are as follows:

1) Increased understanding of the value of river woodlands amongst all stakeholders

Across both the site visits and screenings, we would be looking to increase understanding of the value of river woodlands. This knowledge building is key to create the conditions for river woodland restoration, establishment and ongoing protection.

2) Increased support for river woodland restoration within local communities

The screenings and discussion forums would be planned to take those attending on a journey through increased understanding to a position of support for river woodland restoration within their communities.

3) More land and river managers inspired to establish or restore river woodlands

The demonstration site visits would be focused on inspiring land and river managers to explore opportunities to establish or restore river woodlands on land under their control, learning from others who are some way along the journey and seeing positive results.

4. How will you monitor and evaluate the work so that you know whether or not you have been successful?



We would survey those attending the site visits and screenings to gauge the change in their understanding of, support for and commitment to river woodlands as a result of the events.

We would also be seeking to support those land and river managers looking to establish or restore river woodlands in the next phase of the project, so would in part evaluate the success of this initial phase through the number of opportunities for practical projects arising as a result of the engagement.

5. What is the total estimated cost for this piece of work? Please provide a fully costed budget.

Influencing key land managers via demonstration site visits

Site #1 fees, presentations/talks at visits, catering etc	£1,200
Site #2 fees, presentations/talks at visits, catering etc	£1,200
Site #3 fees, presentations/talks at visits, catering etc	£1,200
SBP staff and trainer/specialist travel costs (across all site visits)	£1,400
Total cost for 3x demonstration site visits	£5,000

Engaging local people with the value of riverwoods via film screenings

Screening #1 venue hire, panel member fees/travel, etc	£800
Screening #2 venue hire, panel member fees/travel, etc	£800
Screening #3 venue hire, panel member fees/travel, etc	£800
Screening #4 venue hire, panel member fees/travel, etc	£800
Screening #5 venue hire, panel member fees/travel, etc	£800
SBP staff travel costs (across all screenings)	£1,000
Total cost for 5x Riverwoods screenings	£5,000
TOTAL COST FOR ENGAGEMENT EVENTS	£10,000

Note that the above breakdown does not include the cost of Loch Abar Mòr team resource time in planning, attending and delivering the events, which are covered through funding for the partnership running costs already secured.



6. What support are you requesting from Future Woodlands Scotland?

We are seeking funding of £10,000 from your Research & Innovation Grants scheme to enable this programme of site visits and screenings as part of the **Loch Abar Mòr Riverwoods** project to take place over the coming 12 months.

Our experience of delivering similar events through wider SCOTLAND: The Big Picture work has shown the impact these can have in terms of increasing understanding, fostering communication and collaboration, and driving practical change.

7. What match fund or in-kind support do you have in place?

As noted above, the budget breakdown for the targeted events does not include the cost of Loch Abar Mòr team resource time in planning, attending and delivering the events.

If we assumed two days' time planning for each site visit and screening, and one days' time attending each, this would equate to 24 days' resource time, which charged at our internal average day rate of £170 would be £4,080 in in-kind support for the work.

8. When is the funding required?

We would hope to deliver the first site visits and screenings in late spring/early summer 2025, so funding in March/April would enable the relevant planning and booking work to begin in line with this timescale.

9. Have you got consents, permissions and insurance required to deliver the project?



Future Woodlands Scotland

Innovative Thinking for Native Woodland

SCOTLAND: The Big Picture has all relevant insurance in place (employers' liability, public liability) to deliver the events and activities outlined in this application.

We would work with all relevant landowners hosting the demonstration site visits and secure any permissions required.

10. Please use this space to give us additional supporting information which you feel is relevant to your application.

For more information about the Loch Abar Mòr partnership, see: www.lochabarmor.scot

To learn more about our Riverwoods film, see:
<https://www.scotlandbigpicture.com/riverwoods>

Example of the impact of the Riverwoods film:

"After Riverwoods was shown in Torridon, the local community decided to do something to help the fish in our own rivers. Landowners ... put up 'mini-enclosures' along the Rivers Torridon and Thrail to start a seed source for our very own 'riverwoods'."

Louise Gray (Made in the shade)
Freelance journalist writing in the Scottish Field

To see the range of rewilding training and journeys we are experienced at delivering, see:
<https://www.scotlandbigpicture.com/rewilding-training>
<https://www.scotlandbigpicture.com/rewilding-journeys>

11. How did you find out about Future Woodlands Scotland grants?

Future Woodlands Scotland generously supported our SCOTLAND: The Big Picture project 'Painting Scotland Yellow – Phase Two', with a grant of £7,000 in April 2024.



Future Woodlands Scotland

Innovative Thinking for Native Woodland

To the best of my knowledge, the information provided on this application gives a true and accurate account of the work and needs to complete the project. I confirm that I am authorised to commit myself/my organisation in this way. I confirm that myself/my organisation unconditionally authorises Future Woodlands Scotland to publish details of financial support given to myself/my organisation and of the objectives of myself/my organisation; to pass any details obtained about myself/my organisation through this application or through subsequent assessment procedures to external agencies, including other grant-making bodies, and also to use such information as part of any survey undertaken by Future Woodlands Scotland; and/or to use any such details as part of any press release or publication; and that without the need at any time to obtain the further consent or agreement of myself/my organisation.

Signature

S. Sall

Date

26 February 2025

Once you have completed the application, please email it to Ailsa Watson at ailsawatson@futurewoodlands.org.uk