

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Question 1: Do the 2011-2016 strategic priorities remain robust and relevant for the period 2016-2021?

Commentsno comment

Question 2: Do these ‘enabling principles’ set the right context or should additional principles be adopted?

Comments the principles remain relevant.

It would be worth referring to ‘scientific collections’ as part of ‘National and International Capability’ as RESAS funded institutes hold some globally important research, educational and heritage collections (e.g. RBGE’s herbarium of >3 million specimens, its extremely rich botanical library, and living plant collection of >13K species).

Question 3: Are the high level outcomes sufficiently clear, if not, what changes would you propose?

Comments The high level outcomes are broadly clear and appropriate.

However, the concept of ecosystem services means different things to different people. Under some definitions “ensuring the integrity, health and functionality of key ecosystem services” may on its own have little impact on the conservation of biodiversity/natural capital.

We thus view explicit mention of biodiversity conservation as important in the Ecosystem Services theme. Specifically, ensuring that the 2016-2021 research themes encompass the research and evidence needs required to enable delivery of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and associated CBD 2020 targets (Aichi Targets, Global Strategy for Plant Conservation).

Question 4: Are the three broad themes identified an appropriate way of structuring our work? If not, what alternatives should be considered?

Comments

The three themes are an appropriate way of structuring the work. However, as stressed above, we would prefer to see explicit mention of biodiversity under the Ecosystem Service theme.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss with RESAS how best to

integrate and align the activities of the RBGE international biodiversity research programme with this RESAS research strategy (e.g. our international research supporting the Convention on Biodiversity's 'Global Strategy for Plant Conservation' and 'Aichi Biodiversity Targets')

Question 5: How can the SG maximise the benefits of on-going investment in the MRPs to build and benefit from connectivity with the wider science base?

Comments no comment

Question 6: What are your views of the performance and operation of the CoEs to date, are there any additional areas that would benefit from such support?

Comments no comment

Question 7: Do you agree with the SG's proposal to end support for SPs and to explore alternative mechanisms to strengthen engagement between its investment in research and the business sectors it aims to support?

Comments no comment

Question 8: Do you have any proposals for how the research portfolio can better link to the business community to deliver the desired outcome?

Comments no comment

Question 9: Is the purpose and value of underpinning capacity sufficiently clear, if not how can it be improved?

Comments no comment

Question 10: Do you have any views regarding the performance and use of the Contract Research Fund including how it could be improved?

Comments no comment

Question 11: Could the overall delivery model be further simplified in a way which still enables SG to meet its strategic priorities for the portfolio, if so how?

Comments no comment

Question 12: Do you have specific suggestions as to how the RESAS research strategy can contribute to the delivery of the objectives of the CAMERAS partnership?

Comments no comment

Question 13: Do you have any suggestions for developing the partnership with other research funders?

Comments no comment

Question 14: Do you have any particular suggestions as to how greater engagement with the HEI sector might be achieved?

Comments no comment

Question 15: Are the research outputs from the RESAS portfolio of research readily accessible or can this be further improved, if so how?

Comments no comment

Question 16: Is the current performance management approach fit for purpose or can it be improved, if so how?

Comments no comment