

## Announcement of Opportunity: Valuing Nature Demystifying Health Metrics Report

Applications must be received by [Demystifying@valuing-nature.net](mailto:Demystifying@valuing-nature.net) by **midday 3 June 2019**.

Staff of institutes eligible for UKRI grant funding are invited to apply for up to £12,000 to develop a 'Demystifying Health Metrics' publication for the Valuing Nature Programme Coordination Team. The purpose of the document will be to provide an overview to using measures of health & wellbeing to demonstrate the value of the natural environment for human health & wellbeing. The report is intended as an introduction for a broad audience of researchers and users of research, who are not specialists in Health Metrics. The output will be published as part of the Valuing Nature [Demystifying Series](#) (see [Demystifying Economic Valuation](#), [Demystifying Health](#)). The report is intended as an introduction for a broad audience of researchers and users of research, who are not specialists in Health Metrics.

### Background

The Valuing Nature Programme includes a research goal on the role of the natural environment for human health & wellbeing. This aims to improve our understanding of the value of the natural environment in terms of the role it plays in human health and wellbeing. One major challenge in this area is what to measure to compare the effectiveness of different interventions based on the natural environment. In medical science measures such as QALYs (Quality Adjusted Life Years) are well established, but are these the right measures for interventions related to the natural environment? Should qualitative measures be included as well as quantitative measures?

### Further Background Information

A: The recent Valuing Nature publication "[Demystifying Health](#)" provided an introduction to this topic:

*"Health metrics are tools with which we can capture some form of population measure of health state, disease, injury, death or disability. Typically they assess prevalence or incidence of an outcome. Key examples of metrics include:*

- *Global Burden of Disease metrics (linked to Sustainable Development Goals) and*
- *World Bank health nutrition and population metrics.*

*To facilitate comparison of health outcomes and between different areas of health care (e.g. survival rates against drug use) common summary measures have been developed. Examples include the Quality Adjusted Life Year (QALY), Healthy Year Equivalent (HYE) and the Disability Adjusted Life Year (DALY). These 'encapsulate the impact of a treatment on a patient's length of life and also the impact on their health-related quality of life, which is recognized as a key indicator of treatment outcomes'. For instance, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) in the UK require the production of QALYs for health technology assessment. These common measures are also used to evaluate the cost-utility of a treatment, intervention or service against a set threshold of cost-effectiveness. NICE's threshold for funding treatments is typically between £20,000 and £30,000 per QALY. Cost benefit and cost consequence analyses are also used by bodies such as NICE to judge whether or not health interventions are value for money."*

B: Further feedback on demystifying health metrics was sought at the Valuing Nature Annual Conference 2018 Health & Wellbeing Session, where attendees were asked:

“What questions/issues should the Valuing Nature Demystifying Health Metrics publication include?”. The following were the responses, grouped by type:

1. Definitions
  - What are metrics? Why do we need them? Who will use them? E.g. for business case / funding application.
  - Review of methods- overview of existing approaches
  - Disentangle and get the right metrics – who is using what / why / at what scale = glossary
2. Issues and Guidance on use
  - Metrics need guidance and signposting on use
  - Practicalities of capturing data for metrics
  - Process of generating metrics – participatory, not just outcomes
  - Simple universal metrics – for all stakeholders
3. Metrics for different users and different needs
  - Who is audience: cross-cutting, common language, bring sectors together
  - How metrics need to change for different groups e.g. children vs elderly
  - Follow up longitudinal studies to assess intervention success – not just snapshot approach
  - Metrics that are sensitive to changes in the environment.
  - Prevention is better than cure. Government focus is on cure – how to measure prevention success.
4. Beyond quantitative measures
  - Qualitative data – methods and challenges
  - Qualitative stories to support quantitative metrics
  - Qualitative & quantitative combined. Beyond the tick box to behavioural change.

Hence, this report should address the following key questions:

1. What established health metrics can be used to demonstrate the value of the natural environment for human health & wellbeing?
2. What issues should be considered in applying these to understanding the value of the natural environment for human health & wellbeing?
3. What is the role of qualitative approaches?

## Scope of this call

As with previous Demystifying publications, the lead team should engage the wider community in developing the content of the publication. This could be done through face to face engagement (e.g. workshop(s)) or through inviting input through web forms or by email. The Valuing Nature Programme Coordination Team (VNPCT) will support the successful team by providing feedback on the content developed, promoting community engagement through Valuing Nature communication channels (e.g. our newsletter to 1800 members of the Valuing Nature Network, through our website,

on Twitter) and can provide help with technical aspects if needed. The VNPCT will arrange and pay for design production, web publication and printing of the final report.

Applicants should complete the form which asks the following questions:

- Summary of approach (what will be the focus and overall approach)
- Key questions to be addressed (list the major questions / issues that the publication will address)
- Method (what approach will you take, what activities are included, please provide a timetable)
- Track record of applicant (or team if appropriate) please provide a brief overview of your relevant experience
- Funding requested (specify amount for staff time and other costs, and sum the total)
- Justification of resources (specify how the funds will be used)
- Contract contact (provide the name and contact details of the person who will deal with the contract if successful)

## **Available resource & eligibility**

Up to £12,000 is available, which is expected to cover the development of the report. Activities must be complete by 30 September, 2019.

The Valuing Nature Programme Coordination Team will provide support for final formatting of the Demystifying Report, and will promote the output via Valuing Nature communication channels.

Awards can only be made to institutions eligible for funding from UKRI - see <https://www.ukri.org/funding/how-to-apply/eligibility/>

## **Other requirements**

The final report will need to be available by the end of September 2019 to be launched at the Valuing Nature Annual Conference in October 2019. Applicants should include resources to attend a kick-off meeting (date to be arranged with the successful team), as well as another 2 days to attend the Annual Conference in London. All other key dates are included in the timelines table below.

## **Assessment Procedure**

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Quality of proposal (clear objectives, effective proposed approach, fit to call)
- Expertise of applicant team (experience of lead / team (i) at this type of activity (ii) in this topic area)
- Feasibility of proposal (realistic timescales and scope of project)
- Value for money

Applications will be assessed by members from the Valuing Nature Programme Coordination Team and Programme Advisory Board.

## Key Timelines

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| 03-Jun     | Deadline for submissions on application form to <a href="mailto:Demystifying@valuing-nature.net">Demystifying@valuing-nature.net</a> |
| 10-Jun     | Successful team notified   |
| 12 -17-Jun | Kick off meeting (date TBC with successful team)   |
| Jun - Sep  | Regular catch ups with VNPCT - phone/email   |
| 31-Jul     | First outline draft paper sent to VNPCT  |
| 06-Aug     | Review returned to Team  |
| 06-Sep     | Second draft paper sent to VNPCT   |
| 16-Sep     | Review / approval from VNPCT   |
| 30-Sep     | Final paper sent to VNPCT  |
| 18-Oct     | Report published on VN website and a limited number of hard copies produced.   |
| 28-Oct     | Team attend Valuing Nature Annual conference   |

## Contact

Please contact the Valuing Nature Programme Coordination Team with any enquires, by emailing [Demystifying@valuing-nature.net](mailto:Demystifying@valuing-nature.net)