

# Sharing Stories, Sharing Collections: Valuing Biodiversity in Wales. Valuing Nature Placement

Dr. Poppy Nicol

Home: Sustainable Places Research Institute, Cardiff University

Host: Amgueddfa Cymru-National Museum of Wales

## Placement Summary

This placement addresses the Valuing Nature Programme second research goal: improving understanding of the role of biodiversity and ecosystem services in human health and well-being. It investigates how the Amgueddfa Cymru-National Museum Wales (AC-NMW) Economic Botany Collection (EBC) can add value to public understanding of biodiversity and contribute to the AC-NMW well-being duty (Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015).

Poppy will work with the National Museum Cardiff (NMC) Botany Team to investigate the EBC and develop criteria for public value. External stakeholders in South Wales (eg. horticultural societies, ecology groups and other interest groups from civil society) will be invited to co-produce a Framework for Value, linking value to stakeholders' interests or preferences in relation to the EBC.

The research will identify how the EBC can be developed (acquisition and display) to improve the role of the collection in responding to the diverse biodiversity values and in ways that contribute to health and well-being. The placement will develop the candidate's skills and knowledge in knowledge-exchange and public understanding of science through the deployment of co-production methodologies.

## National Museum of Wales, Cardiff Economic Botany Collection

The Economic Botany Collection consists of about 3,500 specimens of various items ranging from things like coffee beans and other seeds, to vegetable oils, cotton and other fibres, aromatic resins, raw rubber. AC-NMW have recently acquired the Materia Medica Collection from Terry Turner who used to be Head of Department at Cardiff University Department of Pharmacy.

## Well-being of Future Generations Wales Act 2015

### Well-being Goals



A resilient Wales – where we're prepared for things like floods

A healthier Wales – where everyone is healthier and are able to see the doctor when they need to

A more equal Wales – where everyone has an equal chance whatever their background

A Wales of cohesive Communities – where Communities can live happily together

A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language – where we have lots of opportunities to do different things and where lots of people can speak Welsh

A globally responsible Wales – where we look after the Environment and think about other people around the World.

The Act says that 44 public bodies, such as Local Authorities, NHS, Fire and Rescue and others, must work together towards seven well-being goal

### AC-NMW Duty of Well-being

To show that they are working towards the seven well-being goals, they have to think about:

- The long term
- How to stop problems happening in the first place
- How they work together with others
- How they involve people in making decisions
- How connected our lives are

### Placement Timetable

#### Stage One

Week 1: Meet NMC team. Introduction to EBC, taxonomic principles and herbarium techniques. Submit form for ethical approval to CU.  
Week 2: Meet St. Fagans Project and Learning Teams. Initiate stakeholder mapping.  
Week 3-6: Investigate EBC and develop criteria. Prepare review, drawing upon AC-NMW Strategy and WBFGA.  
Week 7: Further develop criteria. Invite stakeholders to participate in consultation.  
Week 8: Present findings and draft criteria to Museum team. Roundtable discussion with Botany and Research Staff. Refine criteria. Develop stakeholder map. Draft Pop-up exhibition design.

#### Stage Two

Week 9: Develop stakeholder consultation methodology. Meet BD, SB and Learning Team. Milestone for reporting: end of January 2019  
Week 10-13: Pilot stakeholder consultation with identified stakeholders. Continue consultation. Draft report.

#### Stage 3

Week 14: Prepare report outlining findings of consultation.  
Week 15: Work with Museum team to develop Pop-up Exhibition. Prepare articles, report and video for VN, AC-NMW and PLACE.  
Week 16: Present findings to NMW team.  
End of Placement



## Inspiring people, changing lives

Our Vision, Inspiring People, Changing Lives, was developed within the framework of the emerging Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and informed through engagement and consultation with staff, volunteers and stakeholders.

Through this, we seek to inspire people through our museums and collections to find a sense of well-being and identity, to discover, enjoy and learn bilingually, and to understand Wales's place in the wider world.

We have set out five commitment areas where we can make the most significant difference to the people of Wales over the decade ahead, and in which we are committed to focusing our work towards achieving our Vision and to contributing to the seven Well-being goals. These are:

**Making a difference to Wales** Changing lives by working with local and national organisations to create a happier, healthier and more sustainable Wales, with access to culture for all, and a thriving economy.

**Museum Experiences** Visitors experience high quality museums, exhibitions, and public spaces for enjoyment and learning.

**Digital Experience** Users experience a connected and accessible digital museum for engagement, creativity and learning.

**Learning and Creativity** Everyone will have a wealth of opportunity to learn, research and create.

**Participation and Inclusion** Individuals, families and communities throughout Wales and beyond, shape and take part in inclusive and accessible cross-cultural activities for all.

(AC-NMW 2015)

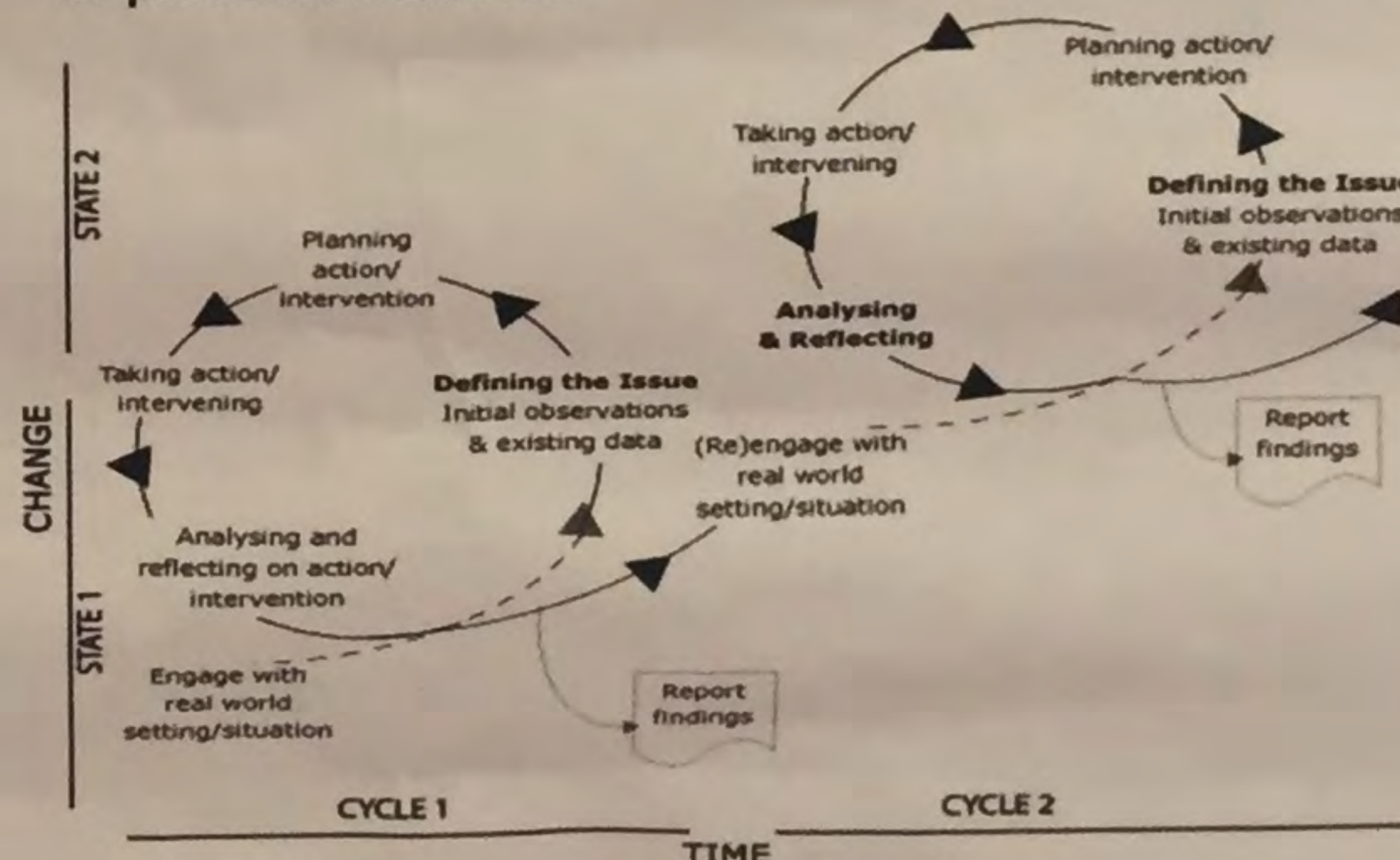
- Long term** Our well-being objectives are focused on delivering our long-term Vision 'Inspiring People, Changing Lives'.
- Measurement** Our well-being objectives have been designed to prevent problems from occurring by getting worse within our Vision commitment areas.
- Integration** Our well-being objectives relate to each other and are our strategic objectives for delivering our Vision 'Inspiring People, Changing Lives'.
- Collaboration** Collaboration will be a key feature of the delivery of our well-being objectives.
- Measurement** We have a community of some 1.7m visitors and 1.6m digital visitors. This, aligned to our commitment of participation and inclusion, will enable many people to engage with us in the delivery of our well-being objectives.

The placement benefits the host organisation and wider society through investigating the value of biodiversity to people in Wales and the role of the AC-NMW Economic Botany Collection (EBC) in supporting public understanding of biodiversity and well-being. Through developing a co-produced Framework for Value that links stakeholder preferences and interests to the EBC, the placement improves AC-NMW understanding of how the EBC can further societal appreciation of biodiversity and fulfil AC-NMW's duty of well-being under the WBFGA.

A report presenting findings, recommendations and co-produced Framework for Value will inform the AC-NMW Collections Strategy regarding EBC acquisition, display and activities. Findings will inform design of a mobile Pop-Up Exhibition that will target diverse audiences that might not normally engage with the EBC or Museum.

The placement will make methodological contributions through investigating how co-production methodologies can support investigation of the value of biodiversity that takes into account different stakeholder interests and preferences through development of a framework for valuing biodiversity, and the building of value of biodiversity within society. A blog, video and short formal report for the VN website will communicate learning of the placement to the public. A journal article and conference paper will present findings to academic audiences.

## Co-production Methods



(Velasco, 2013)

### Contact Details

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