



INSTRUMENT NAME: 6.1 PUBLIC GRANTS

Pondscape-specific definition: Direct financial contribution from government (local, national, or EU) to a recipient in return for undertaking a specific activity. Grants are generally one-off payments (though they may be paid in instalments). Grants are commonly used to support activities aligned with government objectives that would not otherwise occur (e.g., due to a lack of market incentives), such as implementing NBS. Grants commonly involve an application process that may be competitive.

Grants are closely related to subsidies. Like subsidies, grants generally do not have to be repaid. The key difference is that grants are payments for a specific activity, while subsidies are payments made by the government to lower the costs of purchases or production (and can take the form of direct contributions, tax breaks, tax concessions, among other forms). EU examples of grant programmes include Horizon Europe, LIFE, European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD – pillar two of the Common Agricultural Policy).

CATEGORY	Subsidies		
ALSO-KNOWN-AS	Research funding		
RELATED INSTRUMENTS	Environmental subsidies; tax concessions		
APPROPRIATE FOR: Who can use this type of financing instrument?	Pondscape developer	NGOs and non-profits	Local/city/regional govt. and agencies
SOURCE OF FINANCE: Who provides the finance?	Public: local, national, and EU governments		
PAYMENT FORM: What form is the payment?	Cash		
IN RETURN FOR WHAT? What is the NBS project obliged to deliver in return?	Ecosystem-service provision – depends on grant (e.g. conservation, recreation) Market outputs – depends on grant(e.g. research services, implementation of NBS)		
RECIPIENT REQUIREMENTS: What requirements must recipients meet to receive finance?	Requirements differ per type of grant.		
PROJECT REQUIREMENTS: What requirements must the pondscape project meet?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grants generally require completion of an application process. - Grants are generally issued with specific objectives (e.g. a specific research goal or specific societal goal); the project must meet these objectives 		
OTHER REQUIREMENTS: What additional requirements are attached to the financing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grants may not cover the full costs of undertaking the funded activity; i.e. the recipient may need to provide or find “co-financing” in addition to the grant funding. - Grants are often awarded on a competitive basis (i.e. in competition with other regions, localities, or project types), so grant applications must be convincing. - Sometimes, grants require collaboration with other organisations. -Additional conditions depend on the specific grant requirements, and their intended objectives. 		
SPEED: How quickly do recipients receive money?	Fast (<4months) – Medium(5-12months) – Slow (12months+)		
FUNDING TIMELINE: When does the recipient receive the funding?	One-off (though payments may be paid in instalments over time.		
NBS TYPE: What types of NBS is the financing for?	Pondscape <u>creation</u>	Pondscape <u>restoration</u>	Pondscape <u>management</u>





SCALES: What scale of financing?	Small (<€10k)	Medium (€10k-€99k)	Large (€100k-€999k)	Very large (€1million+)
COMPLEXITY: How complex is applying for the finance	Simple		Medium	Complex
EXIST NOW IN EU?	Yes		No	
REFERENCES:	Baroni et.al (2019) Grow Green – Approaches to financing nature-based solutions in cities. Circular City Funding Guide (2022) Grants and subsidies https://www.circularcityfundingguide.eu/funding-types-and-their-applicability/grants-and-subsidies/			



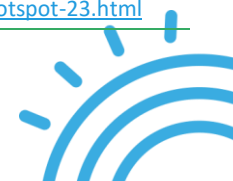


Instrument: 6.1 Public grants

Example name: 6.1.1 Hunte-Leda-Moorniederung, Delmenhorster Geest und Hümmling

Example description: For the support of the German national biodiversity programme, this project restored landscapes and wetlands in Lower Saxony, Germany. The recipient of the grant was the State of Lower Saxony, who received German federal government grant funding of roughly €5 million provided by 'Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, Bau und Reaktorsicherheit (BMUB)' and 'Bundesamt für Naturschutz' in context of the program 'Bundesprogramm Biologische Vielfalt'. The project received the grant through an application process which proves that the project is feasible, encourages public interest in biodiversity, exceeds mandatory actions, is partly financed by the project proponent, and can be completed within six years.

NBS DESCRIPTION				
LOCATION	Lower Saxony, Germany			
NBS TYPE	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Creation</td> <td>Restoration</td> <td>Management</td> </tr> </table>	Creation	Restoration	Management
Creation	Restoration	Management		
ECOSYSTEM TYPE	Landscapes, including wetlands			
NBS BENEFITS	Biodiversity			
NBS DESCRIPTION	Restoration and conservation of culturally significant landscapes (incl. wetlands) and their biodiversity and ecosystems.			
SCALE (SIZE)	1233.68 km ²			
NBS PERFORMANCE CRITERIA	No assessment of this project found. Generally, project specific ecological as well as socio-economic indicators, corresponding to the stated project objectives were identified. Examples include: water chemistry, species count, number of public workshops, volunteers mobilised.			
NBS PERFORMANCE	Not yet assessed.			
FINANCING DESCRIPTION				
SOURCE OF FINANCING	Federal German Government, Bundesprogramm Biologische Vielfalt			
RECIPIENT	State of Lower Saxony, Germany			
SCALE (FINANCING)	4.95 Mio. €			
TIMELINE	<p>Project implementation over six years, following these steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Submission of a project draft 2. Technical and economic evaluation of the draft 3. Request for a formal proposal 4. Submission of a proposal <p>Funding decision and transfer</p>			
FINANCING REQUIREMENTS	<p>The Project needed to demonstrate a national relevance by being representative of the goals in the national strategy for the protection of biodiversity. The project did so by targeting a rare German biodiversity hotspot (one of four possible criteria).</p> <p>Funding by the Bundesprogramm Biologische Vielfalt is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - not limited but cannot exceed 75% of the total project cost. The remaining costs have to be partly covered by the proponent and can include other sources of funding. - The project should be completed six years after the having received the grant, and - must not have started. <p>The project must not be limited to actions which are mandatory for the states, must be of federal interest, and must encourage the public interest in biodiversity</p>			
FINANCING PERFORMANCE	No financing indicators reported			
TRANSACTION COSTS	Preliminary research, grant application, coordination			
REFERENCE	<p>Bundesamt für Naturschutz (2021) Vielfalt in Geest und Moor – Landschaft im Wandel der Zeiten. biologischevielfalt.bfn. Available here: https://biologischevielfalt.bfn.de/bundesprogramm/projekte/projektbeschreibungen/hotspot-23.html</p>			





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