

Integrated Natural Resources Scheme: Project Delivery Plan - Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation (MRE) Framework and Interim Activity Indicators

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Introduction and Purpose of the Interim MRE Framework

The [Agriculture \(Wales\) Act 2023](#) (the “Act”) outlines four sustainable land management objectives (listed below) that place specific legal duties on Welsh Government and the schemes it operates. For each objective, Schemes and the projects they fund must also meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs. Projects should align with the well-being goals in section 4 of the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

The four SLM objectives are:

- **To produce food and other goods in a sustainable manner.**

Outcome indicator: - Area of land, number of recipients and total value of investment made in sustainable land management actions.

- **To mitigate and adapt to climate change.**

Outcome indicator: - Area of land, number of recipients and total value of investment to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

- **To maintain and enhance the resilience of ecosystems and the benefits they provide.**

Outcome indicator: - Area of land, number of recipients and total value of investment to *maintain and enhance biodiversity ecosystems*

- **To conserve and enhance countryside and cultural resources and promote public access to and engagement with them, and to sustain the Welsh Language and promote and ease its use.**

Outcome indicator: - *People-friendly communities with ample recreational, creation of sense of place, cultural and promotion and use of the Welsh Language opportunities.*

The Act requires Welsh Government to regularly monitor and report on targets, indicators and compliance with sustainable land management objectives.

This framework seeks to ensure:

- Welsh Government is delivering its statutory reporting duties outlined in the Act;

- Project leads and the collaborations they represent understand their reporting obligations and establish effective systems to capture and report the required information on project progress and achievements;
- Welsh Government tracks and reports on investment progress, including financial performance, activity and result indicators aligned to the SLM objectives;
- all evidence and data collected work towards supporting a robust evaluation of schemes and their contribution towards the SLM objectives, in addition to providing learning opportunities that can inform future policy design and delivery;
- accountability and proper stewardship of public resources and expenditure both in the short and long term.

Following assessment of project plans, successful applicants will be asked to complete a delivery profile when signing their contract to provide **The Multi Annual Support Plan**. This will allow Welsh Government to collate information to demonstrate how well the projects are doing to achieve their sustainable land management objectives.

SLM Indicators for use by INRS Projects

Not all the indicators will be relevant to each project and may be subject to change and or amendment during the Project Development phase. The indicators are organised around 7 key themes as illustrated in table 1.

Table 1 – SLM Overarching Reference Table

Theme	Activity
Innovation & Digitalisation	Digitalisation, Farm Modernisation
Socio- Economic	Equality, Language, Community Growing, Social Enterprise, Supply Chains
Climate Change	Adaptation, Mitigation, Renewable Energy
Forestry	Woodland Creation, Woodland Restoration, Agro-Forestry, National Forest (Community]
Environmental	Biodiversity, Water Quality, Air Quality
Food Production / Security	Farm Viability (investments), KT&I, Agri Diversification, Horticulture
Co-operation	Supply Chain, Pilot Projects, INRS

Integrated Natural Resources Scheme Indicators

The following tables provide the index of 'performance indicators' to be used for 2024/2026 (This is known as the interim reporting period prior to the SFS schemes beginning) for the whole INRS Scheme. The individual Performance indicators set out in table 3 will provide evidence that the Scheme is delivering against these Scheme Indicators.

The indicators are to be utilised to help with the monitoring of project **activities** as they progress and when reporting the project outcomes (**results**) against the themes.

- Activity indicators - used for monitoring outputs against the implementation of the funding
- Result indicators - used to monitor progress against themes

Theme	Objective	Measurement
Innovation Climate Change Environmental	Environmental or climate related performance through knowledge and innovation	Number of persons benefitting from advice, training, knowledge exchange, or thematic operational groups related to environmental or climate-related performance
Socio – Economic	Growth and jobs in rural areas	New jobs created through projects
Socio – Economic	Growth and jobs in rural areas	Jobs safeguarded through funded projects
Socio - Economic	Scheme coverage	Share of rural population covered by WG investment
Socio – Economic	Developing the rural economy	Number of rural businesses, including bio-economy businesses, developed with WG support
Socio – Economic Innovation & Digitalisation	Connecting rural Businesses	Share of rural businesses benefitting from improved access to services and infrastructure through WG investment
Socio - Economic	Supporting the health & wellbeing of the rural community	Number of persons covered by supported social inclusion projects % of investment
Climate Change	Adaptation to climate change	Share of utilised agricultural area (UAA) under supported commitments to improve climate adaptation
Climate Change	Reducing emissions in the livestock sector	Share of livestock units (LU) under supported commitments to reduce emission of greenhouse gases and/or ammonia,

		including manure management
Climate Change	Reduced use of pesticides / Synthetic fertilisers	Number Ha of UAA impacted
Climate Change	Carbon storage in soils	Share of utilised agricultural area (UAA) under supported commitments to reduce emissions or to maintain or enhance carbon storage (including permanent grassland, permanent crops with permanent green cover, agricultural land in wetland and peatland)
Climate Change (mitigation)	Renewable energy from agriculture, forestry, biomass and from other renewable sources	Supported investments in renewable energy production capacity, including bio-based (in KW)
Climate Change	Investments related to climate / Renewable Energy	Share of farms benefitting from WG investment support contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation, and to the production of renewable energy or biomaterials
Forestry	Afforested land	Area supported for afforestation, agro-forestry and restoration, including disease breakdowns
Forestry	Investment support to the forest sector	Total investment to improve the performance of the forestry sector
Forestry	<i>Accredited standards</i>	Area of commercial forestry under sustainable adaptive management meeting UK Forestry Standard
Forestry	Supporting sustainable forest management	Share of forest land under commitments to support forest protection and management of ecosystem services
Forestry	Commercial Forestry	Area of commercial forestry planted with climate appropriate and ecologically

		suitable tree species (avoiding invasive or water – hungry species and damage to native biodiversity).
Environmental	Improving and protecting soils	Share of utilised agricultural area (UAA) under supported commitments beneficial for soil management to improve soil quality and biota (such as reducing tillage, soil cover with crops, crop rotation included with leguminous crops)
Environmental	Improving air quality	Share of utilised agricultural area (UAA) under supported commitments to reduce ammonia emission
Environmental	Protecting water quality	Share of utilised agricultural area (UAA) under supported commitments for the quality of water bodies
Environmental	Improving water quality	Greater on-farm water storage capacity/lower abstraction
Environmental	Improving water quality	Appropriate slurry store / silage clamp engineering
Environmental	Sustainable nutrient management	Share of utilised agricultural area (UAA) under supported commitments related to improved nutrient management
Environmental	Sustainable water use	Share of utilised agricultural area (UAA) under supported commitments to improve water balance
Environmental	Sustainable and reduced use of pesticides	Share of utilised agricultural area (UAA) under supported specific commitments which lead to a sustainable use of pesticides to reduce risks and impacts of pesticides such as pesticides leakage
Environmental	Environmental performance in the livestock sector	Share of livestock units (LU) under supported

		commitments to improve environmental sustainability
Environmental	Investments related to natural resources	Share of farms benefitting from WG productive and non-productive investment support related to conserve/manage the natural resources
Environmental Climate Change	Environmental or climate related performance through investment in rural areas	Number of operations contributing to environmental sustainability and the achievement of climate mitigation and adaptation actions in rural areas
Environmental	Preserving habitats and species	Share of utilised agricultural area (UAA) under supported commitments supporting biodiversity conservation or restoration including high-nature-value farming practices
Environmental	Investments related to biodiversity	Share of farms benefitting from WG investment support contributing to biodiversity
Environmental	Improving land under SSI management	Share of total SSI area under additional supported commitments in management plans.
Environmental	Preserving landscape features	Share of utilised agriculture area (UAA) under supported commitments for managing landscape features, including hedgerows and trees
Food Production / Security	Development of organic agriculture	Share of utilised agricultural area (UAA) supported by Welsh Government for organic farming, with a split between maintenance and conversion
Food Production / Security	Limiting antimicrobial use	Share of livestock units (LU) concerned by supported actions to limit the use of antimicrobials (prevention/reduction)
Co-operation		Pilot Projects
Co-operation		Supply Chains

INRS Project Performance Indicators

The following table provides the INRS ‘performance indicators’ to be used for reporting period 2024/2026 for each project and includes:

- activity indicators, which will be used for monitoring outputs against the implementation of the funding; and,
- result indicators, which will be used to monitor progress against themes

Type(s) of interventions	Activity / Output indicator
Knowledge Transfer & Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of thematic operational group projects supported. • Number of networks established. • Number of operations supported. • Number of training days given • Number of participants in training • Number of jobs created. • Number of supported training, advice and awareness actions or units
Knowledge exchange and dissemination information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of advice actions or units to provide innovation support for preparing or implementing research /operational group project. • Number of supported training, advice and awareness actions or units
Schemes for the climate, the environment and animal welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of hectares benefitting from eco-schemes • Number of of livestock units hectares benefitting from eco-schemes
Risk Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number-of Safety Partnerships established. • Number of Safety Partnership Training hours completed.
Environmental, climate-related and other management commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of livestock units (LU) benefitting from support for animal welfare, health or increased biosecurity measures • Number of litres of increased on-farm water storage capacity

Co-operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of supported producer groups and producer organisations • Number of beneficiaries receiving support to participate in official quality schemes
Types of interventions in the apiculture sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of actions or units for beekeeping preservation or improvement
Types of intervention in Animal Health & Welfare sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of professionals trained • Number of products launched