

**iRes Project: Integrated restoration of post mining landscapes for ecosystem resilience and sustainability**

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Update: following the completion of the RESTORE project co-financed by Interreg NW Europe, in May 2016 RSPB together with 5 other partners from across NW Europe submitted a **Stage 1** application for a follow on project which seeks to develop the Natural Capital Accounting approach for identifying how post mining sites can contribute to replacing natural resources, including biodiversity.

The partnership is:

- VLM, the Flemish Land Agency,
- RSPB
- South Yorkshire Forest Partnership; urban green infrastructure planning
- Acom France; rehabilitating post mining communities
- SOME; a partnership between HeidelbergCement, local community and nature organisation in Netherlands
- ILS; a German environmental economics institute

Timescales: notified of outcome of Stage 1 in September; if successful submit stage 2 (detailed costed, timetabled plan) by end December; notified of outcome in June 2017, when project would start. Duration 42 months.

**Summary from stage 1 application:**

“This project focuses on developing a framework to help address a market failure to secure, renew and efficiently use natural resources in post-mining landscapes. Natural resource supply is critical to the circular economy. This is needed because: (1) No method is used to compare the value of natural resources/capital with other types of capital. The partnership will develop and disseminate Natural Capital Accounts (NCA) for a range of post-mining situations. (2) Eco-innovative solutions to natural resource efficiency/depletion are lacking; eg. groundwater recycling to reduce pumping need and generate energy instead, or use of natural processes to clean water. (3) The market's short term view omits the long term accrual of benefits at a site/area, so inadequately considers goods/services (i.e. natural resources) supply to local or regional communities/economies. The partnership will showcase best practice to stakeholders.

Market failure is due to strategic knowledge gaps; The partnership will help to fill these for stakeholders (incl the sector) in NWE, and help to integrate environmental and economic approaches into mining site rehabilitation to generate multi-functional afteruses.

The partnership will work in high mining activity and legacy areas, mainly urban industrial parts of the territory, with partners from 5 states (UK, Fr, Be, NL, De).

Main outputs: (1) Natural capital accounts for 10+ sites (5 states); (2) 5 pilot sites (total >500 ha; 3 states) applying innovative resource renewal techniques eg 0.35m<sup>3</sup>/yr water recycled for energy generation; (3) 25 case studies of natural resource efficiency in post mining restoration. Results will be actively disseminated to support long-term vision in decision making in the sector in NW Europe (c1/3mill ha of mining land). The NCA approach will be refined for this sector. Involving the sector federations, ngos, etc throughout the project's lifespan will ensure uptake of results by the sector and stakeholders into the future.”