Tender for commission: Production of digital training resources for upskilling BES members in science communication and public engagement.

The British Ecological Society (BES) wishes to expand the reach of its science communication and public engagement training programme. By creating professional quality resources hosted online, we wish to enhance training accessibility for our members during this uncertain period of home working and provide resources able to be utilised in future.

We are seeking proposals for training resources which can circulated directly by BES staff, be accessed within the private Members Area of the BES website, or as resources that can be hosted privately on other platforms with restricted access. These may be as live or pre-recorded video, audio, text, or other interactive media.

We welcome training proposals for both fundamental theory and skills in addition to or in combination with innovative communication methods. A focus on skills that can be worked on within the home environment are of particular interest.

Please address the following criteria when formatting proposals. World limit 1500. Additional appendices are welcome to provide evidence of past content produced.

Criteria for proposals:

- Proposals up to a maximum of £2,000 (all expenses inclusive). We encourage budgeting components individually, so that sections may be selected if not all aspects are desired.
- Proposals are particularly sought for activities and resources that are able to be delivered as soon within 2020 as possible, though longer-term proposals will also be assessed.
- Proposed content within the training must be directly relevant to and of value to ecologists in delivering impact through their work and benefit their career development.
- The output of the training and skills provided must clearly meet the Society’s Strategic Aims of reaching wider audiences and communicating the value of ecological science.
- The benefits of providing training on the chosen topic(s) via digital platforms must be stated, specifically in ensuring wider access and reach, and providing longevity of use and relevance.
- The ability of activities and resources to be hosted and accessed exclusively within the BES website Members Portal (Wordpress) or via another restricted access platforms.
- Preference will be given to formats for training that are engaging to use (e.g. videos, interactive e-learning platforms, or high graphic design quality text resources).
- You may suggest interactive Webinars in addition to resources provided. These can include one-off events, Webinar series, and the inclusion of coursework and feedback components.

** Please email questions and submit applications by the now extended deadline of Thursday 16 April 18:00 BST **

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About the British Ecological Society:
We were established in 1913 and we have been fostering the science of ecology ever since. We have 6,000 members around the world and bring people together across regional, national and global scales to advance ecological science. Membership is open to anyone, anywhere.

Our vision is for nature and people to thrive in a world inspired by ecology. We rely on the commitment of hundreds of volunteers to help us – particularly in delivering public engagement and schools outreach activities.

We actively value the diversity and wide range of perspectives that people from different backgrounds bring to their work, to ecology and to our Society.

Public Engagement at the BES:
The British Ecological Society’s Strategic Plan 2020 – 2023 outlines our goal to support ecologists of all disciplines and career stages to pursue and achieve their career ambitions, and to help their work have impact through communicating effectively with diverse public groups and stakeholders.

Example public engagement science communication skills sought:
- Media production: Podcasts, photography, video vlogging, graphic design, illustration etc.
- Popular science writing / blogging
- Production of education materials such as worksheets, activity books, and home activities.
- Developing engaging online workshops e.g. Skype a Scientist sessions. Youtube videos.
- Advanced social media techniques for engaging publics. Use of interactive media.
- How to market and distribute your science communication content effectively
- Making your own or project websites
- Home based activities to engage others with nature
- Translating complex science into accessible visualisations and other media.
- Creating training resources for others
- Using open-access / free / accessible software for science communication and engagement