**How good is our third sector organisation? - Video transcript for the John Muir Trust**

The John Muir Trust is a conservation charity dedicated to protecting wild places. Organisations across the UK use the Trust's John Muir Award every year to encourage their participants to explore outdoors, take responsibility for nature, and share what they do.

This video describes the John Muir Trust's approach to piloting the 'How good is our third sector organisation?' (HGIOTSO) self-evaluation framework and what they learned from the experience.

**Transcript**

My name's Kim McIntosh. I'm from the John Muir Trust. I work for the John Muir Award, which is an environmental award scheme that's all about encouraging people to get out into nature, explore, take some responsibility and share their experiences.

We got involved in the pilot of 'How good is our third sector organisation?' because we had evaluation and impact assessment in our operational plans already. It looked like a great opportunity to have a little bit of extra support from Education Scotland and also be able to use a framework that is set up specifically for evaluation for improvement. We also thought it would be great to have a better understanding of the framework, as we think it may be used in the future by organisations that use the John Muir Award and we would be better placed to support them in that as well.

We looked specifically at the part of 'How good is our third sector organisation?' that helped us evaluate the impact that we have on our stakeholders. We were keen to find out the impact of the John Muir Award and we wanted to look specifically at the people that we work with, the people who get involved and have experiences of the John Muir Award.

The John Muir Award staff team worked through the challenge questions. This was a great process because it encouraged reflection on our current practice and it helped us to become more aware of the work that we're already doing to assess the impact of the John Muir Award.

It was reassuring to see that we were already doing a lot of good work in this area. It was also good to help us highlight some areas for potential improvement. It encouraged us to create ways to assess our impact beyond quantitative data and informal stories.

We created a provider survey where we invited everyone who uses the John Muir Award in Scotland to answer questions about how they felt the award worked for them and their organisation. Sixty-six people responded to the survey which was great. It was just over 10 per cent of the organisations that use the award in Scotland.

The framework is not overwhelming. It's structured in a way that you can dip in and out of different sections and you can choose what you want to focus on. You can use it to evaluate what part of your work that you're particularly looking at, at any one time.

I see the benefits of using 'How good is our third sector organisation?' for the John Muir Award to be a real tool for encouraging us to evaluate our practice, with a focus on improvement as well, which is great. How can we move forward and improve the work that we do?

I also think that it's a really easy to use tool for a wide range of other organisations. When I was going through the pilot I was thinking about the organisations that use the John Muir Award and would they be able to use this framework. I really think they could - anything from a small team of three or four in an informal charitable organisation to a larger organisation like us. I think it is adaptable and can be relevant to everyone.

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