



This project is supported by the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

MarPAMM: Marine Protected Area Management and Monitoring

Project Manager

Jan 2019-Mar 2021, fixed term contract.

Contract dates subject to final confirmation.

Background

Over the next three years, *the Marine Protected Area Management and Monitoring (MarPAMM)* project will develop models and management plans for protected habitats and species across the regional seas of Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland. The project brings together the knowledge and expertise of 7 organisations - the Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute (AFBI) (the lead partner), Marine Scotland Science (MSS), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), BirdWatch Ireland (BWI), the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), Ulster University (UU) and University College Cork (UCC).

Four models for seabirds, benthic species, marine mammals and coastal habitats will be developed and will feed into the preparation of six Marine Protected Area (MPA) management plans - two for Scotland (Argyll/Outer Hebrides), one for Northern Ireland (Murlough SAC) and three cross/adjacent border areas (Co. Down – Co. Louth, North Coast Ireland – North Channel and Carlingford Lough SPAs). The overall aim is to increase capacity in and collaboration between Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland for MPA management planning, and to link MPA management planning to wider, integrated marine planning and management.

Seven work packages deliver the full range of outputs with BirdWatch Ireland contributing to two, the aims of which are set out below.

Seabird Monitoring and Modelling Work Package

-To collect data on marine bird population sizes and distributions, to feed into the production of a bird model to provide information on how protected marine bird species or populations within the INTERREG VA region may be impacted by key pressures.

To ensure that this evidence is provided in a manner that allows it to effectively inform the Management Plans being developed under WP7, as well as wider policy makers/ stakeholders.

MPA Management Plans Work Package

-To collate existing best practice on the production of Marine Protected Area (MPA) management plans and producing four regional plans which aim to deliver site conservation benefits and identify aspirations of local communities and stakeholders particularly in relation to how they may benefit from the MPAs.

-Sharing lessons learned from this innovative approach of management planning at a regional scale amongst project partners and more widely. A part time Marine Policy Officer will assist with the delivery of many aspects of this work.

BirdWatch Ireland are seeking a full time Project Manager, to oversee and manage the delivery of all bird aspects of these two work packages. This post holder will be the principal point of contact for BirdWatch Ireland on this project and will be expected to ensure the project results are delivered in accordance with the funding application requirements, EU regulations and contractual obligations within normal organizational policies and practices.

Duties include:-

1. Procurement and management of field staff and contractors for survey work and of the Marine Policy Officer.
2. Oversee and assist with field-based data collection of breeding seabirds for key species and sites, including coastal areas and offshore islands, in Donegal/Sligo in 2018/19. This to be in consultation with NPWS.
3. Procure contractors for and assist with other surveys, to include:-
 - ESAS boat surveys over a two year period from Jan 2019, to include NW coast islands, Donegal Bay, Carlingford Lough & Dundalk Bay, to identify key areas.
 - Aerial surveys of marine waters in Donegal Bay & Belfast Lough, one at each site during early 2019 (may be delayed to winter 2019/20 and in summer 2019).
4. Organise and oversee the acquisition of GPS tags and the tagging and tracking of selected species in 2019 and 2020 breeding seasons.
5. Collate and manage land-based census, ESAS surveys, tracking data and aerial survey data from.
6. Produce two reports on the seabird census and tracking work.
7. Work with other project partners on analyses relating to modelling of distributions and VMS (Vessel monitoring system) analyses etc.
8. Participate in project partner meetings and steering groups.
9. Assist with the dissemination of project methods and findings.

Other general requirements include:-

- Establish and maintain the systems necessary for operating the Project in the Republic of Ireland and for monitoring and reporting on the activities and finances to the Lead Partner.
- Work with Lead Partner to ensure programme regulations and requirements are met.
- Participate in Delivery Groups and Steering Groups to ensure effective delivery of the project.
- Work with NPWS to ensure effective collation and delivery of seabird data.
- Assist with project communications.
- Ensure efficient and effective reporting of the project finances.
- Exchange knowledge and experience with colleagues.
- Contribute to an exit strategy for the project and other duties necessary to complete the project.

The following skills and attributes are required :-

Essential

- Post graduate qualification in Natural Sciences or equivalent.
- Project Management in a related field.
- Undertaking and managing of breeding and wintering seabird surveys.
- Experience of GPS tagging and tracking (ideally of seabirds).
- Proficient in GIS.
- Demonstrable knowledge of marine protection mechanisms.
- Excellent data analysis and report writing skills.

Desirable

- ESAS training
- Experience of EU funded projects, preparing financial and progress/results reports and claims
- Procurement of goods and services within set guidelines
- Managing staff and volunteers and supervising contractors.
- Experience of aerial surveys for marine seabirds.

Other

- Ability to communicate effectively with a range of audiences.
- Ability to work co-operatively as part of a team and to prioritise and manage own workload.
- Ability to use own initiative to solve problems and work under pressure.

Location and Salary scale

This post will be based in Donegal/Sligo during the field seasons (April 2019-Jul 2020).

This is a fixed-term contract with a salary of €32,000 pa. The suitable applicant will be required to provide an average of 35 hours per week. Leave entitlement is 20 days per annum pro rata plus statutory holidays.

A completed application form should be forwarded to BirdWatch Ireland, Unit 20 Block D Bullford Business Campus, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow. Applications may also be sent via email to info@birdwatchireland.ie,

Please ensure you indicate the job title in the subject line. You must include your name in the attachment of the application form. There is no requirement to send a covering letter or CV.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 17:00 Wed 28th Nov 2018. Interviews will be held the week following, venue will be confirmed on notification.

The intended start date will be Jan 2019.

We expect you to carry out your job responsibilities in an environmentally aware manner, ensuring as little damage to the environment as possible. Our aim is to ensure all resources are utilised effectively and efficiently. You will be expected to apply 'sound value for money' principles in undertaking purchasing or supply of goods and services and in accordance with the requirements of SEUPB/Interreg.