

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

Mar 2019-Dec 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 €6m project is funded under the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme, which is managed by the Special EU Programmes Body, 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, distributions and breeding success, through ground surveys, aerial surveys, Seabirds at Sea surveys and tagging and tracking. This information will 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 the following work package 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.

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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. Be responsible for management of field staff and contractors for survey work. Assist with procurement where required.
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 Mar 2019, to include NW coast islands, Donegal Bay, Carlingford Lough & Dundalk Bay, to identify key areas for birds.
 - Aerial surveys of marine waters in Donegal Bay, Carlingford Lough & Belfast Lough, one at each site during 2019 and 2020.
4. Organise and oversee the acquisition of GPS and GLS tags.
5. Be responsible for catching and fitting tags to selected species, ensuring appropriate licensing is sought from BTO and NPWS to cover these activities.
6. Be responsible for recovery and analysis of tracking data.
7. Collate and manage land-based census, ESAS surveys, tracking data and aerial survey data.
8. Produce project reports on the seabird census and tracking work as required.
9. Work with other project partners on analyses relating to modelling of distributions and VMS (Vessel monitoring system) analyses etc.
10. Participate in project partner meetings and steering groups.
11. Assist with the dissemination of project methods and findings and supply appropriate data to other relevant parties (NPWS and JNCC).
12. Assist with project communications via a range of media to ensure regular ongoing good dissemination of progress and outputs.

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.
- 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 tasks 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 marine or related field.
- Undertaking and managing of breeding and wintering seabird surveys.

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- Experience of GPS and GLS tagging and tracking (ideally of seabirds).
- Proficient in GIS.
- Demonstrable knowledge of marine protection mechanisms.
- Excellent data analysis and report writing skills.

Desirable

- European Seabirds at Sea (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.
- Awareness of aerial survey methodologies.

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

It is proposed that the project base provided will be a house in the South Donegal/North Sligo area, where much of the fieldwork will be based, from March 2019-Sept 2021. The project staff can avail of shared accommodation at the project base, or make their own accommodation arrangements at their own expense. For the final period from Oct-Dec 2021, the Project Manager can be based at home for a period of final project write up.

Travel to North Donegal and County Louth will be required at times throughout the years 2019-2021. The cost of project travel and accommodation away from the base for these trips will be covered.

This is a fixed-term contract with a salary of €38,000 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 and accompanying letter outlining your suitability for the position, should be forwarded to BirdWatch Ireland, Unit 20 Block D Bullford Business Campus, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow. Applications may also be sent via email to vlowth@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.

The closing date for applications is **5pm Monday 18th Feb 2019**, with interviews likely to be held on Tues 26th Feb, at the BirdWatch Ireland HQ, Unit 20 Block D, Bullford Business Campus, Kilcoole, Co Wicklow.

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.