



Job Description

Conservation Action Plans (CAP) Officer for the CABB Project

Post Title:	Conservation Action Plan (CAP) Officer
Department:	Conservation & Science
Main place of work:	BirdWatch Ireland, Cedarwood House, Kilmacrennan Road, Letterkenny, Co Donegal
Immediate Line Manager:	CABB RoI Project Manager (PM)
Period covered:	August 2020-July 2021 (12 month position)
Salary:	€31,000 per annum

Background

CABB is a €4.78m project that will be delivered across Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and the west coast of Scotland between 2017 and 2021. Funding is principally from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), administered locally by the Special EU Programmes Body. RSPB NI is the Lead Partner; the other partners comprise BirdWatch Ireland, RSPB Scotland, Northern Ireland Water, Butterfly Conservation and Moors for the Future.

Job purpose:

BirdWatch Ireland is seeking a full time Project Officer for a 12 month fixed term contract to prepare Conservation Action Plans (CAPs) for two Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) in Donegal, Meentygrannagh Bog SAC (000173) and Lough Nillan Bog (Carrickatlieve) SAC (000165). Preliminary work has been undertaken, land ownership data has been purchased from the Property Registration Authority of Ireland (PRAI) and the sites have been surveyed in the last three years and detailed habitat maps and shapefiles are available. Plans will follow a template agreed by the statutory agencies, the key purpose of which is to enhance the conservation status of the site. One Plan, for Croaghonagh Bog SAC (000129) has been almost completed and may require a final review.

Key tasks:-

- Complete two plans in the existing template.
- Gather all relevant existing information on habitats and condition and help identify gaps in knowledge.
- Assess existing condition and identify key conservation actions required to improve condition.
- Meet with landowners and other stakeholders to consult about conservation actions and pathways for delivery where possible.
- Work with contractors appointed to complete the processing of mapped data which has been collected for the sites.
- Update land ownership information which has been obtained from Land Direct.

In addition, you will be expected to:

- Undertake agreed activities to deliver the CABB project outputs and objectives in accordance with the project plan.
- Liaise with NPWS local and scientific staff at all stages.
- Work with staff, partners, external contractors and volunteers as necessary to ensure that actions are delivered to agreed standards of cost, quality and time.
- Produce relevant project documentation as directed by the CABB executive and RoI PM.
- Develop and deliver appropriate communication activities such as events, media interaction, briefings, talks and production of materials in association with communications colleagues to support the delivery of the project.
- Co-ordinate meetings and report to the CABB RoI Manager.
- Ensure that risks and issues are highlighted to the CABB RoI PM.
- Support the CABB RoI Manager in managing the project budget.
- Contribute to project reviews.

Qualifications, knowledge, skills and experience required:

Essential:

- Educated to Degree Level in a scientific discipline or equivalent relevant experience.
- Demonstratable knowledge of blanket bog ecology.
- Familiarity with habitat and floristic community classifications in use within Ireland.
- Experienced in use of GIS software.
- Competent IT user (e.g. MS packages, Outlook etc).

Desirable:

- Experience of writing Conservation Action Plans for key habitats / species.
- Experience of working with a wide range of stakeholders, with ability to persuade and influence.
- Understanding of DAFM agricultural support payments and systems

You will be employed by BirdWatch Ireland and will be based in Donegal, with an option to work from home or from the Letterkenny Office. (Please note, BirdWatch Ireland does not provide home office working or additional travel costs if you choose to work from home). Regular visits to the sites and to landowners will be necessary.

You will be part of the CABB project team, which includes 2 CAP Officers working on Northern Ireland sites for RSPB and one other CAP officer working on another Donegal (cross border) site.

Please complete the application form and return to Michelle Kavanagh, BirdWatch Ireland, Unit 20 Block D, Bullford Business Campus, Kilcoole, Co Wicklow, A63 RW83 or email mkavanagh@birdwatchireland.ie. When emailing your application, please include your name and the position applied for in the SUBJECT line of the email.

Closing date: 5pm Wed 15th July 2020.

Interviews will be held at Cedarwood House, Letterkenny, Co Donegal in July/early August.



Special EU Programmes Body
Foras Um Chláir Speisialta An AE
Boord O Owre Ocht UE Projecks

CABB is an Interreg VA project funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Government in Ireland and the Northern Ireland Executive. Interreg VA is managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).