



LIFE IP Wild Atlantic Nature Call for Tender

Services to deliver uplands farming demonstration and monitoring pilot programme.

The closing time and date for receipt of Tenders is:

15.00 hrs, Friday 14th Aug 2026



This project has received funding from the European Union's LIFE programme under Grant Agreement No. LIFE18 IPE/IE/000002.



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



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Background

The Contracting Authority is seeking to appoint a suitably qualified service provider to deliver a one-year comprehensive Upland Monitoring and Demonstration Pilot Programme for assessing and demonstrating good practice in upland farms. Depending on progress in this period, it is envisaged to expand to a further 2 years.

This initiative is supported through public funding from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM), and includes Shared Island Initiative funding via the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). It aims to support the development of sustainable upland farming systems through monitoring, demonstration and knowledge transfer. To meet the objectives of the Shared Island Initiative, the proposed project should include close liaison with agriculture stakeholders in Northern Ireland.

The programme will act as a proof of concept to inform future scaling and development of a longer-term initiative.

The objectives of this contract are to:

- Establish a network of pilot upland farms
- Monitor and demonstrate sustainable farming practices
- Generate data and insights to support environmental and economic performance
- Promote knowledge transfer and stakeholder engagement
- Inform the development of a potential multi-annual programme

It is expected that the successful contractor will work closely with key stakeholders including NPWS, DAFM and the ACRES CP teams, farming organisations, Teagasc and the private advisory sector. This may be in the form of a series of workshops designed to capture key areas of interest. Important thematic areas of focus for monitoring and demonstration should include farm economics, farming systems and good practice agricultural management, broader rural development elements, and environmental areas including climate, water, and nature. The pilot should particularly focus on addressing key policy areas across these themes.

Scope of work and deliverables

Scope of Services

The Contractor shall be responsible for the design, implementation and delivery of an Upland Monitoring and Demonstration Pilot Programme.

The Contractor shall ensure that the Pilot Programme delivers a coherent set of outcomes over the contract period which collectively demonstrate the viability and value of the approach.

At a minimum, the programme shall deliver:

- The establishment and effective management of a pilot cohort of 10 upland farms, with sustained engagement throughout the project duration. This cohort should be recruited within the first 4 months of the project, should have a good geographical spread across the uplands in Ireland and be done in close collaboration with LIFE IP Wild Atlantic Nature.
- The collection and analysis of relevant farm-level data, providing meaningful insights into environmental, economic and production performance, detailed in a report. This should

include the barriers and solutions to delivering improved environmental and social outputs from the farm.

- The identification and assessment of practical land management and nature restoration measures suitable for upland farming systems, presented as a report or handbook aimed particularly at farmers.
- The delivery of structured knowledge exchange and engagement activities that support learning, collaboration and the sharing of best practice among participants.
- The development and delivery of communications outputs that demonstrate the work undertaken and support wider dissemination to stakeholders and the farming community.
- The production of clear, evidence-based outputs and reports which outline key findings, lessons learned and opportunities for improvement.
- The provision of informed recommendations to support the potential development of a future multi-annual programme.

Tenderers shall clearly describe how their proposed approach will achieve these outcomes and how success will be measured.

The Contractor shall propose a comprehensive and coherent approach to delivering the following elements:

Tasks

Task 1: Project Management and Resourcing

The Contractor shall provide appropriate personnel and management structures to deliver the programme effectively.

Tenderers should clearly describe:

1. Proposed team structure
2. Roles and responsibilities
3. Approach to project coordination and oversight

The Tenderer must provide a dedicated Project Lead who will act as the primary point of contact and ensure a minimum of 1.0 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) is allocated to the role for this contract to meet the intensive 12-month delivery schedule.

Deliverables and timeline:

- *Project lead in place (November 2026)*
- *Document presenting the management structure for project including the above points 1-3 (December 2026)*
- *Privacy statement, Data Protection Impact Assessment (if required) and any other documents required under GDPR (February 2027)*

Task 2: Recruitment and Engagement of Pilot Farms

The Contractor shall recruit and engage a cohort of suitable pilot farms. In addition, some consideration should be given to having a representative(s) of those who may have recently bought into farming or inherited the land but may not have a farming background.

Tenderers should outline:

- Proposed approach to identifying and selecting participants
- Engagement process
- Mechanisms for ensuring ongoing participation and commitment, including potential payment to participants
- Demonstrate how links or comparative learning with similar upland initiatives in Northern Ireland will be addressed
- A risk mitigation plan for participant recruitment.

Deliverables and timeline:

- *Documentation of the process for selection of participants and Terms and Conditions of participation (December 2026)*
- *Proposed list of full cohort of participants (February 2027)*

Task 3: Land Cover Mapping

The Contractor shall undertake land cover and habitat assessment activities across the participant farms.

Tenderers should outline:

- Proposed methodologies across the whole-farm (within a given biographical area/region)
- Use of available datasets or benchmarks
- Approach to identifying improvement opportunities in environmental and agricultural performance, and ensuring overall sustainability
- How they will ensure all GIS data and mapping outputs are compatible with NPWS systems and data standards.

Deliverables and timeline:

- *Overall land cover mapping GIS draft dataset (June 2027)*

Task 4: Environmental performance, sustainable land management and nature restoration assessment

The Contractor shall assess environmental performance and propose appropriate conservation measures, sustainable land management practices and nature restoration measures on the participating farms, where appropriate. This will include identifying the range of schemes the landowners is currently participating in and ensuring alignment and complementarity of any proposed actions/activities.

Tenderers should describe:

- Their approach to environmental performance assessment, including evidence of previous experience including peer-reviewed publications, where relevant
- How practices and measures will be identified and prioritised
- How relevant expertise and stakeholder input will be incorporated

- How they will demonstrate a formal approach to collaborating with DAFM, LIFE IP Wild Atlantic Nature Project, NPWS Farm Plan Scheme and relevant ACRES CP teams, agricultural advisory services, to align Nature Restoration and management measures, and mitigate double funding
- How they will ensure compliance with relevant legislation, e.g. undertaking of Appropriate Assessment as necessary

Deliverables and timeline:

- *Detailed report characterising environmental performance of participant farms individually and collectively (August 2027)*

Task 5: Socio-economic Data Collection and Analysis

The Contractor shall collect and analyse relevant farm-level economic, agricultural and production performance data.

Tenderers should detail:

- Types of data to be collected relating to, for example, farm inputs, farm production, stock management, other farm practices, etc.
- Experience they have analysing this type of data, including peer-reviewed publications, where relevant
- Proposed methods of analysis within individual, and across all, participant farms
- How outputs will support programme objectives

Deliverables and timeline:

- *Detailed report characterising socio-economic performance of participant farms individually and collectively (August 2027)*

Task 6: Knowledge Exchange

The Contractor shall facilitate knowledge sharing and engagement among participating farms/farmers, with DAFM and ACRES CP teams, Teagasc/private advisors and NPWS.

Tenderers should outline:

- Their proposed approach to knowledge exchange
- Format, frequency and structure of engagement activities
- Methods to encourage participation and knowledge transfer and how these will be expressed in the overall project recommendations

Deliverables and timeline:

- *Report on knowledge exchange activities, including recommendations (September 2027)*

Task 7: Communication and Dissemination

The Contractor shall develop and deliver a communications and dissemination programme. This should include a minimum of six published articles in national media, a national presentation and an end of year newsletter.

Tenderers should describe:

- Proposed communication activities
- Channels and formats to be used
- Approach to maximising reach and engagement

Deliverables and timeline:

- *Communications and dissemination plan (February 2027)*
- *Copy of all project communications (October 2027)*

Task 8: Reporting

As important as this pilot is to ensure lessons learned are clearly expressed along with recommendations for upscaling, as appropriate.

Deliverables and timeline:

- *Based on Task 3, 4 and 5, integrated assessment report / plan for each participant farm. This should include all actions proposed and their location on the farm, rationale, expected socio-economic and environmental outcomes, potential funding supports, potential for scaling across other upland farms, and compatibility with existing supports (e.g. considering conditionality, additionality, avoidance of double-funding, etc.) (September 2027)*
- *Final report summarising overall outcome of the pilot. If the pilot is a success, clear steps should be provided on the development on the future programme development, including potential opportunities for funding, etc. (October 2027).*

Contract duration

The initial contract term is 12 months, with an option to extend for two further periods of 12 months, subject to funding and performance. The anticipated commencement date is 01/09/2026.

Indicative budget

The estimated total budget for this project is approximately €125,000 (ex VAT), inclusive of all costs. This estimated budget is for the initial 12 months.

Tenderers should provide a fully inclusive fixed price.

Payments, contractual liaison

Payments will be dependent on deliverables being satisfactorily received and clearly identified in any payment request. A proposed payment schedule including a payment timeline and expected achieved deliverables should be provided in the tender (please see below). Final deliverables are due by September 2027, but several aspects of the contract will be produced and finalised in sequence in advance of this. In the instance that satisfactory progress is made within the initial 12 month period, these will be interim deliverables and final deliverables will due one month after the conclusion of the core project work. All contractual liaisons will be with Dr Derek McLoughlin of LIFE IP Wild Atlantic Nature NPWS or another nominated project team member.

Award Criteria

The Services Contract will be awarded on the basis of the most economically advantageous tender. This will be evaluated based on the following:

- Proposed methodology (30%)
- Team experience and technical expertise (30%)
- Communications and stakeholder engagement (20%)
- Cost (20%)

Services Contract

Before the services contract can be awarded, the successful tenderer will be required to supply a Tax Clearance Access Number and Tax Reference Number. It is a condition that the successful tenderer shall, for the term of such contract, comply with all EU and domestic tax laws. Where applicable, relevant payments shall be subject to Irish 'Professional Services Withholding Tax' at the prevailing rate (currently at 20%) as laid down by the Revenue Commissioners in Ireland.

Type of Insurance	Indemnity Limit
Employers liability	€12.7m for any one claim or series of claims arising out of a single occurrence (if self-employed this is not necessary)
Public liability	€6.5m limit for any one claim or series of claims arising out of a single occurrence

Instructions to the Supplier

Costs

All costs and expenses incurred by Tenderers relating to their participation in the procurement competition including, but not being limited to, site visits, field trails, demonstration and/or presentation shall be borne by and are a matter for discharge by the Tenderers exclusively.

All prices quoted must be all-inclusive (i.e. including but not being limited to all cost/expenses/indexation), be expressed in Euro only and exclusive of VAT. The VAT rate(s) where applicable should be indicated separately.

Tenderers must confirm that all prices quoted in the Tender will remain valid for 3 months commencing from the closing date for the receipt of quotations.

The contract will be awarded on the basis of the most economically advantageous tender.