Specification for the supply of Ecological Support Services (Coastal Habitats) for the LIFE on Machair Project

The **LIFE on Machair Project** of Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH). The LIFE On Machair Project is an EU LIFE Nature and Biodiversity Project. The project focuses on improving the conservation status of machair systems inside the Natura 2000 network, at project sites in Counties Galway, Mayo and Donegal.

We are seeking a quote for the below listed services to support ongoing habitat restoration and conservation works in Donegal, Mayo and Galway.

Context: The LIFE On Machair project aims to protect and restore machair systems inside the Natura 2000 network in Ireland (SAC's/SPA's), with a particular focus on machair habitat, breeding waders and pollinators. Machair is a coastal habitat characterised by a plain of lime-rich, wind-blown sand that is unique to the north and west of Ireland and Scotland. The typical flower-rich vegetation of machair is traditionally maintained through low-intensity livestock grazing. The machair habitat is part of a coastal complex which includes wet and dry machair, drift line vegetation, embryonic, mobile and fixed dunes, lakes and transitional habitats linking the coast to its hinterland.
Machair systems present a complex landscape mosaic of habitats comprising both wet and dry areas. They are bordered by beaches and sometimes extensive dune habitats on the seaward side, with wetland areas backed by peatland and heathland habitats on the landward side. It is this landscape mosaic of Machair (wetland and dryland habitats) that gives rise to a diversity of species, notably breeding waders and pollinators.

The various Dune and Machair habitats within the LIFE on Machair boundaries are a focus for trial restoration works and conservations measures within the LIFE on Machair project. Monitoring and development of continuing habitat restoration is ongoing and requires the input from an experienced coastal ecologist. The person appointed will be responsible for providing scientific and technical guidance and support for the delivery of project objectives, with particular responsibility for objectives related to habitats of dune and machair systems. The successful candidate with report to the Project Manager and regularly liaise with staff from the contracting authority (NPWS, DHLGH). In conjunction with the Project Manager and project team, they may be required to liaise with local landowners, farmers, communities and other key stakeholders to foster productive relationships to achieve project objectives.

The successful candidate will contribute scientific information to assist in the promotion of stakeholder engagement, public awareness and dissemination of results. He/she will support the overall objectives of the Project Team and will play an active part in drafting all reports to the contracting authority (DHLGH).

General description of Tasks

In conjunction with the Project Manager, the person appointed will contribute to the following, as and when required:

- Lead on and provide specialist input on project actions related to coastal habitats,
- Assist in the design and monitoring of the pilot measures at project sites.
- Engage with and support farmers, land managers, local communities and businesses in the sustainable management and utilisation of machair systems to achieve project goals

- Assess selected machair systems to identify remediation and management measures required to improve the conservation condition of coastal habitats.
- Manage contractors and work with other team members and stakeholders to implement site-specific conservation measures for coastal habitats.
- Assist in the development of guidelines and action plans for sustainable amenity on selected machair sites
- Undertake monitoring of habitats.
- Assess the restoration of ecosystem functions resulting from project actions
- Produce and disseminate technical outputs on the project results (e.g. reports, peer-reviewed publications, and conference presentations)
- Contribute to general public awareness of the project, its goals, benefits and results (e.g. via print and online media), and support and promote local community engagement
- Develop strategies and deliver policy recommendations for the improvement and continuation of project results, as well as their replication and transfer to other areas
- Participate in and engage with panels for scientific and local stakeholders
- Participate in and deliver training days, workshops and meeting for project beneficiaries and other stakeholders
- Engage, coordinate and collaborate with regional and national NPWS staff throughout the project to ensure delivery of project objectives
- Provide specialist ecological input and advice to team members, farmers, local communities, and other stakeholders (including local authorities and government departments), as required, to achieve the objectives of the project
- Provide support, advice and assistance to the project team, and undertake additional duties essential to the project as required and directed by the Project Manager

LIFE on Machair (LOM) will coordinate and administer a contract for services for Ecological Support Services (Coastal Habitats) at a national level.

The tenderer must demonstrate an understanding of machair and dune habitats in the project area, their associated habitats, their threats and pressures, and an understanding of the community and wider stakeholder dynamics.

The tenderer must demonstrate their capacity to deliver the tasks as described. Experience in similar coastal habitat restoration work will be an advantage.

This contract will begin on the 01st of January 2027, and end on the 31st of January 2028, unless circumstances within the project dictate that a delayed end time is appropriate.

The tenderer is requested to provide a quotation for the full period of ecological support as described, based on a daily rate. Services are expected to be provided for approximately **1.5 days per week over a 13-month period**, equating to an estimated **85 days in total**.

This quote must include all anticipated costs associated with the delivery of the services, including but not limited to mileage, subsistence, administration, remote office facilities, communications and all other expenses incurred by the Tenderer in performing the services.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

	Points given (max)	Comments
Relevant expertise and skills of personnel assigned to this project	40	Please attach CV and complete the "Tender Pricing" document
Proposed cost for providing service	30	Please complete the "Tender Pricing" document
Methodology	30	Please complete the "Tender Pricing" document
Insurance	-	Disqualifying if not provided
Tax clearance/C2	-	Disqualifying if not provided
Safety Statement	-	Disqualifying if not provided