Specification for the provision of Education and Outreach Support Services for the LIFE on Machair Project 2027-2028

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.

A. 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. Engaging the landowners in these areas has been key to the objectives of the project. Much success has been seen, and we are now looking to celebrate those successes in the public domain and broaden the reach of the project actions to include educating the public on the nature of machair habitats. The approach taken will be to foster behavioural change through enhancing general understanding of these habitats, their sensitivities, and the species that inhabit them. This will be achieved through engagingly delivered, but scientifically sound communications.

LIFE on Machair Project Sites:

SCI	IE0000147	Horn Head and Rinclevan SAC
SCI	IE0000507	Inishkea Islands SAC
SPA	IE0004004	Inishkea Islands SPA
SPA	IE0004037	Blacksod Bay/Broad Haven SPA
SPA	IE0004093	Termoncarragh Lake and Annagh Machair SPA
SCI	IE0001141	Gweedore Bay and Islands SAC
SCI	IE0001497	Doogort Machair/Lough Doo SAC
SPA	IE0004235	Doogort Machair SPA
SCI	IE0001529	Lough Cahasy, Lough Baun and Roonah Lough SAC
SCI	IE0001932	Mweelrea/Sheeffry/Erriff Complex SAC
SCI	IE0002074	Slyne Head Peninsula SAC
SCI	IE0002129	Murvey Machair SAC
SCI	IE0000470	Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex SAC

B. General description of Services

The LIFE On Machair Project of Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, is looking for suitable provider for services:

- To support conservation works underway.
- To engage with the project team, and with their collaboration, be responsible for providing scientific and technical guidance and support for the delivery of project's education and outreach objectives.
- To regularly liaise with the Project Manager and with staff from the contracting authority (NPWS, DHLGH).
- In conjunction with the Project Manager and project team, to also liaise with local landowners, farmers, communities and other key stakeholders to foster productive relationships to achieve project objectives. This will require working some unsociable hours.
- To work with other team members and stakeholders to raise awareness on site-specific conservation measures for breeding waders, habitats and pollinators where required/directed. This will require the use of all appropriate communication platforms, including social media, broadcast media, events and nature walks, etc. for the public.
- To assist in the completion and delivery of a Schools Programme, to be rolled out on LIFE on Machair sites in the coming school year.
- To contribute scientific information and communications support to assist in the promotion of stakeholder engagement, public awareness and dissemination of results.
- To support the overall objectives of the Project Team and play an active part in drafting all relevant reports to the contracting authority (DHLG).
- To prepare quarterly newsletter to the public, including subscribers from various social media.

LIFE on Machair (LOM) will coordinate and administer a contract for services for Communication and Education Services at a national level.

C. Terms

- The tenderer must demonstrate an understanding of machair and dune habitats in the project area, their associated habitats, their threat 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 educational projects and working with schools will be an advantage.
- Tenderer to provide total pricing which includes expenses (e.g. travel and equipment).
- All necessary insurances to be provided along with Health and Safety Method Statement.
- All necessary legal and standard practice protocols to be followed to the highest professional and ethical standard.
- Necessary equipment to be provided by tenderer.
- Communication and engagement with LOM Project Team will be an essential part of the role.
- Induction will be scheduled once contract is awarded.
- Communication and engagement with the local community (landowners, farmers, and other interests) will be essential to access the lands being monitored and will be facilitated by LOM team.

- Regular reports / updates by email will be submitted to the project manager to show progress. LOM Ecologists and/or project officer will also attend surveying visits as much as possible.

The tenderer is requested to quote for 112 days (based on an estimate of two days per week, over 56 weeks) of communications and educational support as described. This price will include travel and VAT.

This support will begin on the **1st of January 2027**, and will be delivered by the **31st of January 2028**, unless circumstances within the project dictate that a delayed end time is appropriate.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

	Points given (max)	**Comments**
Relevant expertise and skills of personnel assigned to this project	50	Please attach CV and complete the "Tender Pricing" document
Plan for delivery of these services	30	Please complete the "Tender Pricing" document
Proposed cost for providing service	20	Please complete the "Tender Pricing" document
Tax clearance/C2	-	Disqualifying if not provided
Safety Statement	-	Disqualifying if not provided

The project's aim is to work with local suppliers and to include green solutions where it is possible (sustainable energy use, environmentally sensitive materials, etc.).