



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



Roinn an Taoisigh
Department of the Taoiseach



Request for Tender for Research Services

Peatland Restoration (For fens, blanket bogs, upland bogs, cut over bogs) – A review of literature and case studies to identify best practices.

Closing Date: 23rd January 2023



Request for Tender for Research Services

Applications for tenders must be returned by **4pm on 23rd January 2023**.

1.1 Background to the tender

Monaghan County Council invites tenders for research on “Peatland Restoration – A review of literature and case studies to identify best practices”. Peatland Restoration is a term used to describe management measures that aim to restore the original form and function of peatland habitats to favorable conservation status. Peatlands are a type of wetland which are critical for preventing and mitigating the effects of climate change, preserving biodiversity, minimizing flood risk, and ensuring safe drinking water. Peatlands are the largest natural terrestrial carbon store. They store more carbon than all other vegetation types in the world combined. Damaged peatlands are a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, responsible for almost 5% of global anthropogenic CO₂ emissions. Peatland restoration can reduce emissions significantly.

1.2 Background to Shared Island

This project will support one of the stated objectives of the Shared Island funding: conservation projects to support biodiversity or cross-border peatland protection. The NESC Shared Island Shared Opportunity, Comprehensive report launched in April 2022 notes “Climate Change and biodiversity loss provide a clear and urgent platform for ambitious all-island action and collaboration”. This project proposal takes cognizance of the Shared Island Dialogue held on the 5th February 2020, where the establishment of a necklace of peacelands- peatlands along the border to knit the landscape together with common biodiversity objectives, restoration actions and community buy-in received support. Inger Andersen of UNEP at COP26 said that “peatlands offer super solutions for people, climate and the planet”. Peatlands were called “super- powered ecosystems” for biodiversity, climate mitigation and adaptation by the Minister for Heritage at the Peatlands Gathering in 2021.

There is a clear need to pivot use and perspectives for peatlands towards the restoration of ecosystem goods and services in changes in overall landscape management. This need together with the shared ambition of our partners to demonstrate the connected nature of climate crisis and biodiversity emergency would be reflected in this joint programme of shared action.



1.3 Project Background

- Develop a project plan setting out where and how to restore peatlands in the east border region; to deliver quantifiable GHG emission reduction targets and measurable areas of degraded peatlands in improving ecological condition.
- The east border region includes counties Monaghan, Louth, Meath, Armagh and Down.
- The project will set out how best to work with local communities and farmers on a cross-community and cross-border basis to conserve and improve the quality of peatlands and associated habitats, and the ecosystem services they provide including carbon storage, clean water, flood control and biodiversity.
- Identify and prioritize sites for restoration in the East Border region using the following criteria: vulnerability of sites, habitat value of sites, recreation potential of sites, site accessibility etc.

1.4 Components to be addressed in this tender

- Literature Review – review literature and case studies from Ireland and the United Kingdom to identify best practices for peatland restoration.
- Identify peat restoration techniques suitable for different habitat types.
- Research methodologies on how best to carry out restoration works.
- Identify potential issues with conflicting restoration techniques on habitats and ecosystem services.
- Create a blueprint for the restoration works to peatlands and wetlands in the region.
- Create a decision tree on the selection process for peatland restoration techniques in different habitats.



The main habitat classification system used in Ireland is The Heritage Council's "Guide to the Habitats of Ireland" (Fossitt, 2000).

Code	Description	EU Annex I habitats (Natura 2000 code, * = priority type)
PB1	Raised bog	*Active raised bogs (7110)
PB1	Raised bog	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration (7120)
PB1	Raised bog	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion (7150)
PB2	Upland blanket bog	Blanket bog (*if active bog) (7130)
PB3	Lowland blanket bog	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion (7150)
PB4	Cutover bog	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion (7150)
PB5	Eroding blanket bog	
PF1	Rich fen and flush	*Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> (7210)
PF1	Rich fen and flush	Alkaline fens (7230)
PF2	Poor fen and flush	
PF3	Transition mire and quaking bog	Transition mires and quaking bogs (7140)

1.5 Project deliverables

- A synthesis report to identify best practice techniques which are supported in scientific literature that can be deployed in the peatlands within the East Border region.
- Examples of case studies & sites in Ireland and the United Kingdom where this type of peatland conservation has occurred, and monitoring is taking place.
- Review current literature on peatland restoration.
- Findings and results of each literature review study.
- Categorize by conservation technique/habitat which are ecologically beneficial.
- Pros/Cons of the different methods and techniques.



1.6 Budget

The currency and invoices in which all prices and rates shall be quoted, and which payments under the contract will be paid, shall be Euros (€). The maximum budget is €25,000, inclusive of VAT and overheads where applicable.

1.7 Timeline

Publication of tender	15th December 2022
Deadline for tender submissions	23rd January 2023 4pm
Award of tender and start of project	31st January 2023
Project initiation meeting	Week commencing 6 th February 2023
Draft report submitted	17 th March 2023

Applicants should outline their proposed timeframes for project completion along with justification for the timeframes in their submission.

1.8 Award Criteria and Scoring

A report should be submitted which meets project deliverables, components, specifications, outputs, timescale, and budget.

1.9 Marking Scheme

All submissions will be assessed by a panel of suitably qualified persons. Marks will be awarded (maximum 100 marks) based solely on the information provided in the submission. The tenderer will be required to outline the approach that is proposed to be taken in undertaking this work. In doing so the following key questions must be addressed as part of the overall response:

Criterion Marks Basis for evaluation	
Cost (25%)	Price quoted (within budget)
Competency and specification of service (25%)	Provided in your report
Deliverables/outputs (25%)	Provided in your report
Project team skills (25%)	CV's



The award of a score for cost will be computed on an objective mathematical basis, with the lowest price receiving 100% of the available score and all other tenders receiving scores

proportionately. Competency and specification of services, and deliverables/outputs will be assessed. To ensure consistency and equity the evaluation panel will assign scores for quality of response to the qualitative desirable requirements based on the indicative scoring definitions below:

Scoring System Indicator

- 5 Indicates an excellent response with no weaknesses.
- 4 Indicates a good response with few weaknesses.
- 3 Indicates a compliant response but lacks specific information.
- 2 Indicates that the response is limited in detail.
- 1 Indicates there is insufficient detail in response.
- 0 Very limited information provided.

1.10 Queries and Clarifications

All tenders must be submitted by email, subject line **‘Request for Tender for Research Services’** and addressed to **shclerkin@monaghancoco.ie** by closing date **23.01.2023**.

1.11 Evaluation of tenders and award of contract

Each tender will be reviewed to determine if the mandatory Selection Criteria have been met. Selection Criteria will result in a pass or fail result. Tenders that have passed the selection stage will then be evaluated on Award Criteria. Please ensure that all the information required for the Selection and Award evaluation is included in your tender.

This contract will be awarded on the basis of a fixed price contract, and as such, all costs must be submitted as a fixed cost in Euro. No amount over and above the negotiated total contract price amount will be paid to the appointed contractor.

1.12 Payment

The payment schedule for the contract will be agreed on award of the tender.



1.13 Contract evaluation and monitoring

The performance of the appointed service provider will be subject to continuous monitoring, management, and review.

All invoices and supporting documentation must be submitted by post to Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Officer, Monaghan County Council, The Glen, Monaghan.

The client reserves the right not to accept any of the submissions.

The management team will require a copy of the final draft of the written reports for comment and approval prior to completion.

Monaghan County Council operates under the Freedom of Information Act 1997, and all information held by the County Council may be subject to requests under this Act.

Monaghan County Council does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender, and no person making a submission will be remunerated for any trouble or expense incurred in preparing a submission.



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