

Lough Carra Catchment Association

The attached document is the invitation to tender that was sent to prospective consultants to carry out the feasibility study with Leader funding. It was then used as the basis for the contract with the selected consultants (Woodrow Sustainability Solutions) once the funding had been confirmed.

The “Appendix 1” referred to in this document is the project logframe which is also available in this same section of the website.

The invitation to tender and project logframe, combined, in effect form the terms of reference for the consultancy work. But it is important to note that the Working Group and Consultants have agreed that flexibility will be necessary as the work progresses to ensure that the best outcome is achieved.

13 February 2019

Lough Carra Catchment Association

Invitation to Tender

For

A Feasibility Study for a LIFE (Biodiversity) Project application for Lough Carra, Co Mayo.

Project Title

Feasibility Study for a project to reverse the ecological decline and eutrophication of Lough Carra through sensitive and sustainable land-use practices in the catchment.

Background

Lough Carra and its lakeshore habitats are designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA) and water is extracted from several points for group water schemes and domestic supplies. However, water quality has declined and the ecological status of the lake has been gradually degraded.

In an effort to reverse this trend, the local communities have come together, with the assistance of the Local Authority Water and Communities Officer, to form the Lough Carra Catchment Association (LCCA) in May 2018. The LCCA is now pursuing the possibility of applying for European funding for a major project under the LIFE (Biodiversity) Programme.

The LCCA has formed a Working Group of representatives from the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Local Authority Water Support and Advice Team, the Local Authority Waters and Communities Office and academia which has drawn up a draft outline plan for a major project to address the problems in and around the lough. It is anticipated that the main output will be an application for European funding from the LIFE (Biodiversity) Programme. The draft outline plan is attached as Appendix 1 in the form of a logframe document and includes 30 activities to address the following six objectives:

1. To maintain and enhance existing priority habitats in the SAC.
2. To ensure the protection and conservation of key species in the SPA, the SACs and the catchment.
3. To prevent and reverse eutrophication by reducing the flow of nutrients into the Lough.

4. To promote and encourage truly sustainable and environmentally sensitive land use practices in the catchment.
5. To prevent the further conversion of land and intensification of agriculture in the catchment.
6. To raise awareness of the unique values of the Lough, including ecosystem services, and promote its enjoyment by local communities and all sectors of society.

This consultant(s) will conduct a feasibility study into the activities required to establish improved land-use practices in the Lough Carra catchment with the goal of **restoring, protecting and conserving the biodiversity value and ecological integrity of the lake and its lakeshore and catchment habitats and ensuring the quality of water in the lough.**

In order to elaborate how these activities will be carried out, how the project will link in with state agencies and which partners will be needed for the project to succeed, a feasibility study is required.

The feasibility study will require a minimum of about 60 working days spread over a period of about five or six months, and the consultant will be expected to work closely with the LCCA and its LIFE Project Working Group as well as with specialist experts in various fields. The project should start in early 2019 and the LIFE Concept Note is required by 31 May 2019 and the final report by 30 June 2019.

Aim

The aim of this project is to provide an assessment of the feasibility of applying for LIFE (Biodiversity) funding in 2019 and to provide the initial documentation required for such an application.

Tasks

The consultant will report to the Working Group of the LCCA and using, but not being limited to, the draft project outline in Appendix 1 will carry out the following tasks:

1. Identify and liaise with relevant state agencies, community groups, other organisations and relevant experts to specify which activities should be carried out and at what scale;
2. explore and make recommendations on possibilities identified by the LCCA Working Group;
3. assess the costs of activities and devise a suitable budget for a LIFE application, including the necessary “local” contribution;

4. identify and obtain formal confirmation of participation of Project Partners;
5. prepare a “Concept” note for a LIFE application; and
6. prepare the details required for a full LIFE application.

Timetable

It is estimated that approximately 60 days will be required for this work under the following timetable:

Deadline for receipt of quotations:	26 September 2018
Award of contract:	December 2018
Start of contract:	Early January 2019
Interim report:	30 April 2019
LIFE project Concept Note:	31 May 2019
Final report:	30 June 2019

Qualifications and Requirements

Essential:

- Professional qualification(s) in ecology, environmental science or similar
- Knowledge of SAC and SPA requirements and biodiversity conservation in general
- Experience in project planning
- Experience in multi-disciplinary approaches to environmental projects
- Advanced communication skills for working at all levels with diverse agencies, individuals, NGOs and communities
- Ability to provide detailed assessments of proposed remedial environmental actions
- Skill in preparing technical documentation for large-scale projects

Desirable:

- Knowledge of water quality issues and the Water Framework Directive
- Knowledge and understanding of agricultural issues
- Knowledge of Lough Carra and/or the area

Submissions

The tender should include:

- detailed CV(s) describing relevant qualifications and experience

- an outline of how the tasks would be tackled, including a provisional timetable
- a breakdown of roles and responsibilities if more than one person is involved
- total cost of the consultancy inclusive of all expenses, plus VAT if applicable

Criteria for evaluation and selection

The tenders will be evaluated according to three criteria:

1. The total cost (60%)
2. Qualifications, experience and technical presentation (20%)
3. Availability (20%)