



An Roinn Cultúir,
Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta
Department of Culture,
Heritage and the Gaeltacht

South Kerry Development Partnership CLG

Wishes to recruit a

Biosphere Officer

Killarney National Park (KNP) was designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1982. KNP encompasses a variety of mountains, lakes, woodlands, waterfalls and antiquities that are world famous. The park is of particularly high ecological value because of the quality, diversity and extensiveness of many of its habitats and the wide variety of species, some of which are rare. The Reserve was extended and renamed as the UNESCO Kerry Biosphere Reserve in 2017.

The extension primarily incorporated the MacGillycuddy Reeks and Lough Leane catchment, within buffer and transition areas. The extended areas are generally not in State ownership but are hydrologically linked or have habitat connectivity with the core area of the Biosphere (Killarney National Park). Therefore, sustainable land uses as well as community and scientific understanding in these areas are important in supporting the integrity of the Biosphere. There are many legislative and policy instruments in place to safeguard key ecological interests (NPWS Natura 2000 Conservation Objective documents are informative in this regard), while Kerry County Council land use plans seek to ensure sustainable land use and development in these areas. In addition, continued stakeholder collaboration is required to ensure that the region is managed effectively but also meets the requirements of the local communities and wider interest groups.

The MacGillycuddy Reeks, located immediately to the west of KNP UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, is Ireland's highest mountain range. The mountains cover over 100 km² and contain nine of the country's twelve summits that exceed 900 m in altitude, including Ireland's highest peak, Carrauntoohil. The Reeks contain wildlife and actively farmed upland habitats complimentary to those within KNP UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. However, the MacGillycuddy Reeks is one of Ireland's leading outdoor recreational destinations and resulting pressures (e.g. soil erosion) represents a threat to upland habitats and high nature value farmland.

The MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountain Access Forum was established in 2014 to manage, protect and sustainably develop lands within the MacGillycuddy Reeks. The forum comprises a combination of local and statutory agencies and authorities, land owners and interest

groups. Objectives of the forum include conservation of the uplands, provision for the growing number of visitors and sustainable development of the region.

The SKDP Biosphere officer will play a key role in working with a variety of stakeholders, including Kerry County Council, National Parks & Wildlife Service, landowners and the MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountain Access Forum to promote and support the implementation of the goals & objectives of the Kerry UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

Job Description

i. The ideal candidates shall

- Possess excellent report writing, organisation and presentation skills,
- Good knowledge of semi-natural habitats associated with the Biosphere Reserve area, as well as an understanding of the conservation requirements for the habitats/species present. Experience of habitat survey and mapping, data management and analysis methods would be an advantage,
- Possess excellent interpersonal and communication skills and have the ability to engage with a wide range of possible stakeholders
- Be enterprising and innovative and be capable of working on own initiative and as part of a team
- Possess excellent computer and social media skills, including MS Office packages-Word, Excel, Power-point and at a minimum have an operating knowledge of Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

ii. Character - candidates must be of good character.

iii. Education, Training, Experience, etc.

- Hold a recognised degree, level 8 in the National Framework of Qualifications, in a subject relevant to Environmental Management , e.g. environmental science, ecology, earth/natural sciences, zoology, botany, wildlife biology, natural resources management, planning.

or

- Hold a relevant postgraduate qualification level 9 in the National Framework of Qualifications, in a subject relevant to Environmental Management, e.g. environmental science, ecology, earth/natural sciences, zoology, botany, wildlife biology, natural resources management, planning.

and ideally

- Have a minimum of two years relevant postgraduate experience at a high level in an environmental field
- Have satisfactory experience of project management processes including managing public engagement
- Have knowledge and experience of current legislation, issues and challenges to managing agri.-environmental issues & biodiversity in Ireland
- Possess excellent communication, research, reporting, organisation and management skills

- ❑ Have knowledge and awareness of current Health and Safety Legislation & Regulations, their implications for the organisation and the employee, and their application in the workplace.
- ❑ Have knowledge and experience of farming practices and policy

iv. Duties

The Biosphere Officer will have particular responsibility for the following duties:

- ❑ Devise and manage local biodiversity projects in collaboration with the local authority, development company, other agencies and community organisations in the Biosphere Reserve Area,
- ❑ Coordinate and implement programmes for environmental education and biodiversity awareness, including activities for Biodiversity Week, Heritage Week, and other events such as local nature walks and talks.
- ❑ Devise and implement a school's program to raise awareness of designated areas and their importance,
- ❑ Create education packs on the biodiversity of the Biosphere and roll out of Leave no Trace awareness training,
- ❑ Work with a diverse group of stakeholders and interest groups to promote the UNESCO biosphere objectives, through providing updates at meetings e.g. Municipal Districts, Killarney Chamber of Commerce etc.,
- ❑ Support the work of the MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountain Access Forum through the roll out of the MacGillycuddy Reeks 2019-2023 Strategic Plan, including co-ordinating meetings of the MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountain Access Forum,
- ❑ Liaise with the MacGillycuddy Reeks European Innovation Partnership Project,
- ❑ Investigate and explore potential sources of funding to support the Biosphere Reserve, including conservation activities and initiatives which would support the sustainability of rural communities (e.g. EU funding, National Biodiversity Action Plan, EPA, LAWCO, Forestry, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Heritage Council), and make applications for this funding where appropriate,
- ❑ Investigate and explore potential sources of funding to support the work of MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountain Access Forum, in particular maintenance funding requirements for paths already restored,
- ❑ Develop applications for planning permission for further path restoration works in the MacGillycuddy Reeks, where applicable,
- ❑ Consult with stakeholders and make submissions on CAP reform and other policies of relevance
- ❑ Update the Biosphere & Reeks websites and other social media regularly with appropriate content,
- ❑ Any other duties as assigned by South Kerry Development Partnership from time to time.

Post Location

The post will be work-based at the offices of South Kerry Development Partnership CLG, at the Old Barracks, Beaufort Village, Co Kerry.

Employment Administration and Responsibility

The payment of salary, travel & subsistence, and other matters relating to the financial administration of the post will be the responsibility of the South Kerry Development Partnership CLG.

Reporting To

The Biosphere Officer will report to both the MacGillycuddy Reeks EIP Project Manager of SKDP and the SKDP CEO.

Particulars of Employment

The Biosphere Officer will be employed by South Kerry Development Partnership CLG on a full time (37.5 Hours per Week) fixed term contract basis. The contract period will run for 24 months initially - May 2020 to April 2022. The contract may be extended annually thereafter, subject to continuing funding.

Salary

The salary scale for the position will be €39,825 - € 44,931 per annum with start point dependent upon qualifications & experience.

Travelling & Subsistence Expenses: - Any travel undertaken by the Biosphere Officer will be paid at approved Partnership rates.

Selection

- i. Selection shall be by means of competition based upon interview.
- ii. A panel will be formed on the basis of such interview.
- iii. Candidates may be short-listed on the basis of relevant qualifications and experience as set out in their application. The candidates short-listed will be invited to attend for interview. South Kerry Development Partnership CLG will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by candidates in attending for interview.
- iv. The Board of South Kerry Development Partnership CLG shall require persons to whom appointments are offered to take up such appointment within a period of not more than one month.

The South Kerry Development Partnership CLG is an equal opportunity employer.

The South Kerry Development Partnership CLG acknowledges the assistance of Kerry County Council and the National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) in supporting this post.