



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

## South Kerry Development Partnership CLG

Wishes to recruit a

### **Biosphere Officer**

UNESCO Biosphere Reserves are described as learning places for sustainable development, Biosphere Reserves promote solutions reconciling the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use. They are learning areas for sustainable development under diverse ecological, social and economic contexts, touching the lives of more than 250 million people worldwide.

There are currently 727 biosphere reserves in 131 countries, only 2 of which are located in Ireland.

Biosphere Reserves involve local communities and all interested stakeholders in planning and management. They integrate three main "functions":

- Conservation of biodiversity and cultural diversity
- Economic development that is socio-culturally and environmentally sustainable
- Logistic support, underpinning development through research, monitoring, education and training

These three functions are pursued through the Biosphere Reserves' three main zones. The Core, Buffer and Transition zones.

The Kerry Biosphere Reserve is managed in partnership between South Kerry Development Partnership, Kerry County Council and the National Parks and Wildlife Service. South Kerry Development Partnership employ the Biosphere Officer.

The Kerry Biosphere Reserve is a Mountain Biosphere covering an area of approx. 65,000 hectares with a population of approx.. 25,500. Originally designated in 1982 as Killarney National Park Biosphere Reserve, the area was extended following review in 2017 and the named changed to Kerry Biosphere Reserve, to reflect the new areas included. The extension allowed for the designation of the required three biosphere zones as described above.

The Core Zone of the Kerry Biosphere is made up of Killarney National Park and Eirk Bog Special Protection Area. The Buffer Zone includes areas of the MacGillycuddy Reeks and The Paps Mountains. The Transition Zone extends to the North East and South East of these

areas, taking in the Lough Leane Catchment. Killarney Town, Beaufort, Kilcummin, Glenflesk and Barraduff are all within the Transition Zone. Otherwise, the buffer and transition areas are predominantly agricultural in nature with forestry and quarries also present. The main water supplies for Kerry are sourced from loughs and watercourses located in the Biosphere.

The extended areas of the Buffer and Transition Zones 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 Biosphere Officer will play a key role in working with a variety of stakeholders, including Kerry County Council, National Parks & Wildlife Service, LAWPRO, landowners and the MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountain Access Forum to promote and support the implementation of the goals & objectives of the Kerry UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in line with the guidelines set by the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme.

### ***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 and the concept of ecosystem services
- 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 or as part of a team
- Possess excellent computer and social media skills, including MS Office packages- Word, Excel, Power-point Experience of graphic design software would be an advantage.
- Experience of making grant applications, event organising, facilitating training and seminars

ii. **Character** - candidates must be of good character.

iii. **Education, Training, Experience, etc.**

- Hold a recognised degree, level 8 or 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.

**Or**

- ❑ Hold a recognised degree, level 8 in the National Framework of Qualifications, in a subject relevant to Project Management, Community Development, Science Communications or Communications

**and ideally**

- ❑ Have a minimum of 2 years' experience in a role relating to environmental management/Environmental communication
- ❑ Have satisfactory experience of project management processes including managing public engagement
- ❑ Have knowledge and experience of current legislation, issues and challenges relating to- agri-environmental management & biodiversity in Ireland
- ❑ Possess excellent communication, research, report writing 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:

- ❑ Manage all communication channels for the Kerry Biosphere including: website, email and social media.
- ❑ Create a cohesive plan for delivery of public engagement and research events throughout the year to include activities for biodiversity week, heritage week etc.
- ❑ Identify funding sources for the development of a strategic action plan for the KBR and coordinate the delivery of same
- ❑ 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,
- ❑ Work with communities in the KBR to identify training relevant to supporting Biosphere objectives and facilitate same
- ❑ 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, ,
- ❑ Liaise with the MacGillycuddy Reeks European Innovation Partnership Project and with the Kerry-West Cork cooperation (agri-environmental) project team to support information dissemination where relevant to the Kerry Biosphere Reserve geographic area
- ❑ 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,
- ❑ Consult with stakeholders and make submissions on 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 with the possibility of hybrid working arrangements.

### ***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 five years from August 2022 to August 2027. The contract may be extended there-after, 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.**