What the job entails

Please read the following information in conjunction with the Role Profile and then complete the Application form making clear reference to the qualifications, knowledge, skills and experience listed in the Role Profile and how these are applicable to the purpose of the role and key tasks described below.

Wider background to the role

Northern Ireland, Scotland and the Republic of Ireland comprises a range of special habitats resulting from the wet and mild climate, such as internationally significant areas of blanket bog, large inland and coastal waterbodies, and a myriad of lakes, fens and raised bogs. The CABB project will be implemented across Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland. It aims to work on a cross border basis to bring about the recovery of protected habitats (active raised and blanket bog) and priority species (breeding waders, hen harrier and marsh fritillary) at specific key sites. The project proposes to support 2228ha of habitat attaining better conservation status and produce 8 Conservation Action Plans (CAPs) across all three jurisdictions. It is proposed that these will be delivered in designated SCA, SPA, SSSI and ASSI sites.

The objectives of CABB, are as follows:

Objective 1: Mapping for 7 Conservation Action Plans (CAPs) preparation sites (Montiaghs SAC, Garron SAC, Pettigo SAC, Drumragh/Pettigo SAC, Meentygranagh SAC, Croaghanagh Bog SAC, Lough Nilan Bog SPA. 1 site (Muirirk Uplands SSSI) has already been mapped. This objective will result in 8 protected sites of cross border relevance being mapped, one of which will be an actual cross border site. This objective will establish baseline data for use in monitoring and evaluation.

Objective 2: Development and implementation of conservation action plans for protected sites of cross border relevance. 8 CAPs will be prepared for the following protected sites: Montiaghs SAC, Garron SAC, Pettigo SAC, Drumragh/Pettigo SAC, Meentygranagh SAC, Croaghanagh Bog SAC, Lough Nilan Bog SPA and Muirirk Uplands SSSI. 2228ha will also be supported to attain better conservation status across the following 5 sites: Montiaghs SAC, Garron SAC, Drumragh/Pettigo SAC, Gruinart SPA and Muirkirk Uplands SSSI.

Objective 3: Tangible conservation actions will be put in place for priority species to encourage sustainable natural regeneration of species populations. This includes the purchase of specialist machinery, capital works, works on sea wall and habitat trials.

Objective 4: Development and sharing of best practice and enhancement of skills in ecosystem management.

Objective 5: Develop databases to gather and share data on priority species and habitats.

Objective 6: Education and outreach activities will be put in place resulting in greater awareness of protected habitats and species, their needs and the actions required for their recovery.

Key purpose of role

To oversee the delivery of the CABB project and ensure the successful delivery of outputs and objectives of the programme within budget and time while managing risk and issues throughout.

The outputs and objectives to be delivered are spread across South West Scotland, the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Each country will have staff allocated to the delivery of the programme.

The Programme Manager will be the single point of contact for all partners and they will disseminate all relevant information to appropriate partners and stakeholders. RSPB NI is the Lead Partner and the delivery Partners are RSPB Scotland, BirdWatch Ireland, Northern Ireland Water, Butterfly Conservation and Moors for the Future. This post will involve close liaison with the Special European Union Programmes Body (SEUPB).

The Programme Manager will be based in our RSPB Northern Ireland Headquarters in Belfast and will have to travel as often as is required across the project area. A Finance and Administration Officer will be directly responsible to the Programme Manager.
The Programme Manager will be part of RSPB NI’s Reserves Team, a team of 25 staff working closely across NI with our Conservation, Fundraising and Communications Teams.

CABB is core funded by the European Regional Development Fund, administered by the Special European Union Programmes Body. Match funding is provided by the government of Ireland, the Northern Ireland Executive, Mines Restoration Ltd in Scotland and RSPB Scotland.