



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



South Kerry Development Partnership CLG &

The MacGillycuddy Reeks European Innovation Partnership (EIP) Project

Request for Tender (RFT) for provision of

Rhododendron mapping for the MacGillycuddy Reeks European Innovation Partnership Project 2020.

1. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

In April 2018, the MacGillycuddy Reeks European Innovation Partnership (EIP) Project was established. This project is administered by South Kerry Development Partnership (lead partner) with funding through the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine under the Rural Development Programme 2014- 2020. The project aims to support the sustainability and economic viability of farming in the MacGillycuddy Reeks through the development of practical, achievable actions and innovative solutions to address the issues facing farmers on the Reeks, and to protect the biodiversity of this unique Natura 2000 area.

The MacGillycuddy Reeks form part of the MacGillycuddy Reeks and Caragh River Catchment Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and have been designated for several habitats and species of high nature conservation importance which can be found there.

The MacGillycuddy Reeks EIP Project is working with landowners to support and encourage sustainable upland hill farming and recreation. The project is undertaking rhododendron treatment across a number of sites after consultation with the farmers in the area, who highlighted it as a growing concern that would need to be addressed.

Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) is a large perennial evergreen, acid loving shrub which is native to the Iberian Peninsula and Asia. It was introduced to Ireland during the 18th Century as an ornamental garden plant because of its attractive flowers. There are over 900 species of Rhododendron, but only *Rhododendron ponticum* is invasive in Ireland. Since its introduction, Rhododendron has escaped into the wild and is particularly invasive in the west, north-west and south-west of the country. Rhododendron thrives on acidic soil in areas with mild, moist climatic conditions. It can colonise a range of habitats including agricultural land, grasslands, woodland, urban areas, roadsides and wastelands.



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Rhododendron is an aggressive coloniser which is both environmentally and ecologically damaging to infected sites. Once established, it forms dense, long-lived thickets which smother the ground flora and suppress the regeneration of native trees and shrubs. Its dense thickets can reach several metres in height. Well established thickets eventually form a toxic layer of leaf litter which produces a dark sterile environment and supports little wildlife. The foliage of Rhododendron is unpalatable to grazing animals. Dense tangles of Rhododendron stems can block pathways, smother watercourses and encroach on roadways, resulting in an impingement of sightlines.

2. AIM OF THE PROJECT

The aim of this tender is to collect baseline data on the rhododendron across 7 sites. This will involve

1. The identification and mapping of all rhododendron stands within the sites;
2. Determining the area, the approximate age and the degree of infestation for each stand

Lists of each site with supporting aerial photographs to be assessed are provided in Appendix I. All landowners have been consulted and have given their permission for the rhododendron on their land being mapped.

Project Outputs

The outputs of this project should comprise of:

- A spreadsheet detailing all field survey data recorded for each rhododendron stand
- Georeferenced digital mapping data showing the location of each rhododendron stand;
- A report summarising the work that was carried out including detailed methodology and an assessment of the results;
- A plan showing the location of rhododendron on each site; and
- A catalogue of photographs of rhododendron stands.

3. TENDER REQUIREMENTS

The MacGillycuddy Reeks EIP Project is inviting tenders for baseline mapping of rhododendron in seven sites in the MacGillycuddy Reeks.

3.1 Collection of baseline data for rhododendron



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All rhododendron stand data collected must be recorded using an agreed coding system which incorporates site codes provided by the MacGillycuddy Reeks Project team. Applicants are required to clearly outline their methodology for collecting the data.

The following information should be recorded for each rhododendron stand

1. Rhododendron stand reference number (using agreed coding system incorporating site codes provided by the MacGillycuddy Reeks Project Team);
2. A series of geo-referenced waypoints to define the boundary of each rhododendron stand using the ITM system;
3. The degree of infestation using (using the criteria outlined below);
4. The approximate age of the stand;
5. Supporting photographs for the stand;
6. The total area (recorded in hectares) covered by each stand;
7. Comments on the form and density; and
8. The survey date.

The degree of infestation should be assessed using the criteria outlined C Barron, D Little-Forest Service, 2009 which is summarised below.

Criteria for Assessment	Approx. Age of Rhododendron	Degree of Infestation
No rhododendron present.	Not applicable	1-Absent
Some rhododendron, but plants scattered and mostly small and not flowering.	Up to 12 years	2 – Slight Rhododendron frequent but not clumping.
Some flowering, many seedlings present.	Up to 24 years	3 – Moderate
Rhododendron abundant, some forming dense clumps, many seedlings.	Up to 30 years	4 – Severe
Plants forming dense thickets with almost total absence of ground flora.	More than 30 years	5 – Very severe

3.2 Reporting

A report should be prepared containing the following:

1. Aims and objectives
2. Detailed methodology
3. Summary of results for each site





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4. Detailed spreadsheets for each site containing the data as stated above in section 5
5. Maps showing the location of rhododendron stands in each site
6. Supporting photographs

3.3 Mapping and photographs

All mapping should be carried out using the Irish Transverse Mercator (ITM) coordinate reference system. A vector-based GIS dataset of and associated metadata should be supplied as part of the mapping output.

Mapping should be supplied in a format which is compatible with QGIS.

The MacGillycuddy Reeks EIP Project will provide aerial photography, showing the boundaries of each site.

A catalogue of site photographs should also be provided.

3.5 Project Timing

The project timeframe is set out below:

Date	Action	Deliverables
August-September 2020	Commence field work	Collection of baseline data
September 2020	Report writing	Draft report
September 2020	Completion of project	Final report and mapping with all associated outputs

4. AWARD CRITERIA

Tenders will be evaluated on the information provided at the time of tender. The successful applicant will be notified within a period of 1 week from closing date for receipt of tenders. Unsuccessful tenders will be notified when the appointment of the successful tender has been confirmed.

Eligible tenders will be assessed against the following criteria:

Criterion	Maximum Score Available	
	Proposed methodology and timeframe	200





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Evidence of skills and experience required to deliver the project, including previous experience in upland habitat mapping. Demonstrated capacity and track record of delivering similar projects	300	30%
Proposed structure of field recording forms/ spreadsheet for data collection	100	10%
Value for Money*	400	40%
Total Maximum Score Available	1,000	100%

* Value for Money will be scored using the following formula

$$\frac{\text{Marks for value for Money} * \text{lowest tendered rate per day cost (excl Vat)}}{\text{Tendered rate Per Day cost (excl. VAT)}}$$

SKDP may shortlist tenderers for interview on the basis of the written tender before making a final decision on tender selection. SKDP is not obliged to accept the lowest priced tender, any tender or all of any tender.

SKDP may decide, following evaluation of tenders, not to proceed or to proceed with a limited number of elements of the proposal. SKDP also reserves the right to republish this request for tenders.

Information supplied by tenderers will be treated as contractually binding. However, SKDP reserves the right to seek clarification or verification of any such information.

5. INFORMATION TO BE SUBMITTED

Tenderers are required to submit the following information as part of their tender proposal to South Kerry Development Partnership CLG

- Tenderer's Contact details - Name, address, telephone number and email address.
- Tenderer's profile including personnel and resources necessary to satisfy suitability criteria
- Details of relevant experience - with examples of previous similar programmes delivered
- Details of proposed project team and team leader– Brief profile of team members with accompanying CV's





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- Proposed methodology and proposed timeframe for undertaking the habitat mapping and an outline structure for report writing and management of digital data.
- Fee proposal
- Tax clearance certificate for consultant and any sub-consultant

6. FEE PROPOSAL

The fee proposal submitted shall be in the form of a lump sum in Euro (€), inclusive of VAT (if Applicable – with the VAT rate & amount shown separately) and all expenses. A breakdown of total costs should be shown including cost per day, and number of days required to complete the tender requirements and a breakdown between consultant's time and expenses.

7. TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

Where a group or consortium submits a proposal, a lead consultant must be nominated who shall be fully responsible for providing the services required by this brief.

8. TAX CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE

It is a condition for the award of this contract that the tenderer selected and all proposed sub consultants must be able to provide a valid Tax Clearance Certificate Number and Access Number for Revenue System. The tenderer to which the contract is awarded and all sub-contractors shall continue to hold valid certificates for the duration of the contract.

9. PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE

The firm to whom the contract is awarded must have adequate professional indemnity insurance with a reputable insurance company. It is a condition of the award for this contract that the firm/individual selected must produce evidence of such cover prior to the award.

10. OWNERSHIP OF DOCUMENTS AND COPYRIGHT

All documents produced by the consultant in connection with this appointment and submitted to South Kerry Development Partnership CLG will be considered the property of South Kerry



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Development Partnership CLG and may be used by South Kerry Development Partnership CLG at any time, including for other projects, without the prior approval of the consultant.

11. INELIGIBILITY UNDER EU RULES

Tenderers, to whom any of the circumstances listed in paragraph 1 of Article 20 of EU Council Directive 93/36/EEC (co-ordinating procedures for the award of public supply contracts) apply, will be excluded from this competition (Broadly, these circumstances are bankruptcy, professional misconduct and failure to pay taxes or social security contributions).

12. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

South Kerry Development Partnership CLG will endeavor to hold confidential any information provided in this tender, subject to its obligations under law, including the Freedom of Information Act. Should the tenderer wish that any of the information supplied in this tender not be disclosed because of its sensitivity, the tenderer should, when providing the information, identify the sensitive information and specify the reason for its sensitivity. South Kerry Development Partnership CLG will consult with the tenderer about this sensitive information before making a decision on any Freedom of Information request received. If third parties request information pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, unless this information has been identified as being sensitive, with supporting reasons, then it is likely to be released in response to a Freedom of Information request.

13. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Any conflicts-of-interest involving a tenderer must be fully disclosed to South Kerry Development Partnership CLG. Failure to disclose a conflict-of-interest may disqualify a bidder or invalidate an award of contract, depending on when the conflict-of-interest comes to light.

14. QUERIES AND INFORMATION

Every effort has been made to ensure that this notice contains all the necessary information for completion of tenders. However, in the interest of equity for all tenderers, all requests for additional information, clarification on the contents of this notice and all other queries of substance (other than those relating to purely factual or procedural matters) shall be made via e-mail, and will be made available to all interested parties.





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Final date for submission of queries is Wednesday the 22nd of July 2020

15. SUBMISSION OF FINAL REPORT

One copy of the completed report will be submitted to SKDP on completion of the contract.

16. COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SUBMISSION OF A TENDER

All costs associated with the submission of a tender for this project or attendance at a post tender interview process shall be borne in full by the tenderer. SKDP will accept no responsibility for any of the costs incurred by the tenderer in relation to this tender request, regardless of the nature of these costs or how they were incurred.

17. CLOSING DATE FOR TENDERS

The closing date for submission of tenders is close of business Monday the 3rd of August 2020.

Please send completed tenders to: pdeane@skdp.net

Note: Tenders are responsible for ensuring tenders have been received.

Please note:

SKDP may withdraw this tender process at any time prior to a written contact being entered into.