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**Request for Research on**  
*Understanding the constraints of, and  
developing pathways for improving the  
management of Invasive Alien Species in  
the Republic of Ireland*

**Closing Date: Monday 9 November 2020**

**Queries to be addressed to:**

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## Table of Contents

<b>1. INTRODUCTION TO AN FÓRAM UISCE</b> .....	3
<b>2. PROJECT OVERVIEW</b> .....	3
<b>3. PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b> .....	5
<b>4. BUDGET</b> .....	5
<b>5. TIMELINES</b> .....	5
<b>6. MARKING SCHEME</b> .....	6
<b>7. SUBMISSION OF TENDERS</b> .....	6
<b>8. AWARD OF TENDERS</b> .....	6
<b>9. TERMS AND CONDITIONS</b> .....	6

## 1. INTRODUCTION TO AN FÓRAM UISCE

An FÓram Uisce (The Water Forum) was established in June 2018 in accordance with the provisions of Part 5 of the Water Services Act 2017. An FÓram is the only statutory body representative of all stakeholders with an interest in the quality of Ireland's water bodies. The Water Forum consists of 26 members including representatives from a wide range of organisations with direct connection to issues relating to water quality and also public water consumers. Approximately 50 different organisations were involved in the nomination of members.

The Water Services Act 2017 provides the statutory basis for The Water Forum. The Water Forum has advisory roles in relation to the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Irish Water, the Commission for Regulation of Utilities and also the Water Policy Advisory Committee. The Act also provided for the dissolution of the Public Water Forum and the National Rural Water Services Committee with their functions being incorporated into The Water Forum.

The Water Forum provides an opportunity for stakeholders to debate and analyse a range of issues with regard to water quality, rural water concerns, issues affecting customers of Irish Water and the implementation of the Water Framework Directive and the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021. The Water Forum is an independent entity and has discretion to determine its own work programme and means of communicating its views and analysis. To this end, it has adopted its [Strategic Objectives](#) for 2018-2021.

Dr Tom Collins, who had been the chair of the Public Water Forum and a former Chair of the National Rural Water Monitoring Committee, is the Chairperson and Mr Donal Purcell is Senior Executive Officer. The Water Forum is headquartered in Nenagh, County Tipperary.

## 2. PROJECT OVERVIEW

For the purpose of this Request for Research, the term Invasive Alien Species (IAS) is used to represent invasive alien and non-native species, with the **focus on IAS associated with aquatic (including freshwater, near-shore marine and estuarine habitats<sup>1</sup>) or riparian habitats.**

IAS have been highlighted as a significant threat to Ireland's native biodiversity and aquatic and riparian habitats<sup>2</sup>, and aquatic (freshwater and marine) species dominate the top ten species most likely to arrive in Ireland over the next decade (representing eight of the top ten)<sup>3</sup>. The annual cost of invasive species in the Republic of Ireland is estimated to be €202,894,406 with the cost across the entire island of Ireland estimated to be €261,517,445<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Part of the remit of An FÓram Uisce is to provide guidance on river basin management planning. Ireland's River Basin Management Plan includes all elements of the catchment, including transitional and coastal waters to within one nautical mile of the coast.

<sup>2</sup> DHPLG (2020). Significant Water Management Issues in Ireland. Public consultation document for the 3<sup>rd</sup> River Basin Management Plan. <https://www.housing.gov.ie/water/water-quality/water-framework-directive/public-consultation-significant-water-management>

<sup>3</sup> Lucy, F. *et al.* (2020). Horizon scan of invasive alien species for the island of Ireland. *Management of Biological Invasions* 11: 155-177. <https://doi.org/10.3391/mbi.2020.11.2.01>

<sup>4</sup> Kelly, J. *et al.* (2014). The economic cost of invasive and non-native species in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Report to the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and the National Parks and Wildlife Service. [http://invasivespeciesireland.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/Economic\\_Impact\\_Assessment\\_FINAL\\_280313.pdf](http://invasivespeciesireland.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/Economic_Impact_Assessment_FINAL_280313.pdf)

For many IAS, the most cost-effective approach to minimising their environmental and socio-economic impact is the prevention of initial establishment in the first place; once established, eradication becomes increasingly difficult and often impossible<sup>5</sup>.

The Water Forum wishes to offer a research tender for a **scoping study to provide strategic guidance** for the Forum’s consideration to 1) Understand the current constraints regarding IAS management in the Republic of Ireland; 2) Identify mechanisms for improvements in restricting IAS spread *into* the Republic of Ireland; and 3) Identify pathways for improving the management of IAS *already established* in the Republic of Ireland. It is envisioned that the available national and international literature will be synthesised to address each of the components and associated items shown in Table 1:

**Table 1: Components to be addressed in this study**

Component	Items to be addressed in this study
1. Current constraints regarding the management of IAS in the Republic of Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of IAS in the Republic of Ireland, including a focus on               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) current national IAS governance (including a summary of agencies and stakeholders and their current roles in IAS management)</li> <li>b) The economic cost of current and future IAS management, both with and without management intervention</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Overarching summary of pathways for the introduction of IAS to the Republic of Ireland (internationally and via the border with Northern Ireland)</li> <li>• Identification and summary of legislative and policy gaps regarding the introduction of IAS into the Republic of Ireland</li> <li>• Summary of emergency response procedures in place to address newly discovered IAS or to manage IAS outbreaks in previously unimpacted locations.</li> <li>• Perceived current barriers to successfully:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Restricting the introduction of IAS to the Republic of Ireland</li> <li>b) Managing IAS already established in the Republic of Ireland</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
2. Mechanisms for improvements in restricting IAS spread into the Republic of Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examination of international case studies highlighting both successful and unsuccessful biosecurity actions to restrict entry of IAS.</li> <li>• Using the findings from Component 1 and the examination of case studies, above, provide recommendations regarding future biosecurity management for restricting the entry and spread of IAS into the Republic of Ireland.</li> </ul>
3. Pathways for improving the management of IAS already established in the Republic of Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examination of international case studies of both successful and unsuccessful communication and awareness programmes regarding IAS.</li> <li>• Recommendations for improving communication of IAS issues and awareness raising among stakeholders and the general public in the Republic of Ireland</li> </ul>

<sup>5</sup> Smith, E.R.C. *et al.* (2020). Recreational angling as a pathway for invasive non-native species spread: awareness of biosecurity and the risk of long distance movement into Great Britain. *Biological Invasions*  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-019-02169-5>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendations for improving national governance regarding IAS management in the Republic of Ireland.</li> <li>• Recommendations regarding changes to policy and legislation to reduce the spread of IAS already established in the Republic of Ireland.</li> </ul>
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Applications are welcome from individuals or from consortia. See Section 9: Terms and Conditions for further information.

### 3. PROJECT DELIVERABLES

The following deliverables are required for the awarded tender:

- Final report, encompassing all requirements listed under Section 2.
- A Policy Brief document identifying the key policy recommendations for IAS management in the Republic of Ireland.

### 4. BUDGET

The currency and invoices in which all prices and rates shall be quoted, and which payments under the contract will be paid, shall be Euros (€).

The **maximum budget is €25,000**, inclusive of VAT and overheads where applicable.

#### 4.1 Payment Schedules

An upfront payment of 80% of the total agreed budget will be made upon receipt of invoice from the contracted service provider or institution following the initiation of the project and the signing of the funding agreement for the project.

Further payments for the remaining 20% of the total agreed budget will be made as per the agreed timeframes stated in the funding agreement for the project.

### 5. TIMELINES

The proposed timeframes for project delivery are outlined in Table 2, however, these are subject to confirmation at the project initiation meeting and finalisation in the executed funding agreement between parties.

**Table 2:** *Timeframe for project delivery*

Publication of tender	14 October 2020
Deadline for tender submissions	9 November 2020
Award of tender and start of project	23 November 2020
Project initiation meeting	On or before 4 December 2020
Draft deliverables submitted	31 March 2021

Following review of the draft deliverables by The Water Forum, finalised deliverables are to be submitted which take into account any proposed amendments to the draft deliverables.

## 6. MARKING SCHEME

All submissions will be assessed by a panel of suitably qualified persons.

Marks will be awarded (maximum 100 marks) based solely on the information provided in the submission, as follows:

- Demonstrate a clear understanding of the subject matter of the brief and the requirements of the project (40 marks).
- Project management arrangements (20 marks).
- Details of budget and timeline, including compliance within the stated budget and specified timelines (20 marks). A GANTT chart outlining the timeline for project actions and deliverables is mandatory.
- Demonstrated relevant research track record of team appropriate to the subject matter, including previous/ongoing projects delivered and scientific publications (20 marks).

## 7. SUBMISSION OF TENDERS

Applications must be submitted no later than **5pm 9 November 2020** via email to Dr Alec Rolston, Research Lead, An Fóram Uisce | The Water Forum: [alec@nationalwaterforum.ie](mailto:alec@nationalwaterforum.ie).

Submissions must include:

- A completed application form.
- A CV (max 4 pages) of the lead person to whom the tender will be awarded.

An acknowledgement of receipt of applications will be issued within 48 hours of the submission deadline.

## 8. AWARD OF TENDERS

**One** award will be made through this request for research tender.

Applicants will be notified of the success of their submissions no later than **23 November 2020**.

Bodies of work may be initiated immediately from the date of award, with an initial project meeting to take place on or before 4 December 2020.

## 9. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- All applications must be made using the official application form.
- Applications may be received from both single individuals and consortiums of individuals from different institutions. Consortium applications must identify the **lead person** to whom the tender may be awarded. All other members of the consortium will be sub-contracted by the lead person. The maximum total budget of €25,000 (inclusive of VAT and overheads) is applicable to individual applications and consortium applications respectively.
- The Water Forum will disqualify incomplete applications, applications not using the application form provided and any application received after closing time/date. Compliance with the word limitation contained on the Application Form is a requirement of the application process.

- It is a necessary requirement of the application process that the successful applicant must provide a copy of their Organisation/University/Institution's current Tax Clearance Certificate.
- Failure to address within the final report each of the items included under Section 3 will result in the withholding of final payment until all requirements are met.
- Upon awarding the project, a funding agreement will be drafted and executed between The Water Forum and the successful applicant's Organisation/University/Institution.
- The Water Forum will have copyright ownership of any material developed for use by The Water Forum under the terms of this research tender. The service provider may have a non-exclusive licence to use such material but only for its own purposes (to be agreed with the successful applicant).
- The principles of Ireland's National IP Protocol 2019 will be applied where there is any potential for commercial exploitation of project outputs resulting from this research tender.
- The Water Forum encourages an open access publication policy. Publications arising from research tender awards funded by The Water Forum should, as a minimum, ensure open access via Green methods (depositing the peer-reviewed manuscript in an online repository before, at the same time, or after publication). All reports will be uploaded to, and publicly accessible via, The Water Forum's website: [www.thewaterforum.ie](http://www.thewaterforum.ie).
- Any publications arising from research tender awards funded by The Water Forum must acknowledge An Fóram Uisce | The Water Forum as the source of funding.
- Projects funded by The Water Forum must uphold the highest standards of research integrity and The Water Forum expects all research tender awardees to abide by the guidelines outlined in the National Policy Statement on Ensuring Research Integrity in Ireland; and the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity.
- Data Protection and Freedom of Information – When an application is received by The Water Forum, a record is created in the name of the applicant. This information will be stored by the office of The Water Forum, where relevant, in paper/electronic form. Information that is collected by the Office, including information that you give us, is added to the record. You have the right, given by the Data Protection Act of 1988 and 2003, to a copy of your information at any time. The Office is also subject to the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act, 2014.

The information we record is used for the following purposes:

- Processing and assessing of applications;
- Payment arrangements;
- Auditing requirements;
- Informing and advising The Water Forum in relation to the Project and using same as a basis for further consideration by The Water Forum including research projects and policy analysis and recommendations;
- Publication of the Project Outcomes.

**End/**