



## JOB DESCRIPTION

### Biodiversity Wellbeing Officer

#### Full/part-time/contract roles in Biodiversity related work

(Including community biodiversity planning, training, health and well-being, outdoor classroom)

SECAD Partnership CLG (SECAD) is a Local Development Company with two main development objectives; promoting and enabling (i) Rural Development and (ii) Social Inclusion within the communities of South, East and West Cork, where our main operations are based. SECAD delivers a range of local and community development programmes including LEADER 2014-2020, the Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme 2018-23, the Rural Social Scheme, Tus, PEIL 2014-2020 and others.

SECAD actively contributed to the development of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (managed by the National Biodiversity Data Centre) and is named as one of the delivery partners across a range of biodiversity actions. In 2015, on the launch of the plan, Ireland joined a small number of countries in Europe who have developed a strategy to address pollinator decline and protect pollination services. Sixty-eight governmental and non-governmental organisations (of which SECAD is one) agreed a shared Plan that identifies actions to make Ireland pollinator friendly. In response, SECAD developed a Biodiversity Services Team which has piloted a number of pollinator projects in various settings. Many of the actions linked to that plan are being implemented by qualified SECAD staff, Tus participants and Rural Social Scheme workers.

#### Wild Work

During 2017, SECAD launched 'Wild Work', a unique initiative with biodiversity at its heart. We support people who are committed to helping nature and our particular focus is to connect business, biodiversity and local communities. We also support the work of both local and national organisations involved in the conservation and protection of our natural environment. With our practical expertise, we create and care for meadows, woodlands, beaches, rivers and other natural habitats, both in urban and rural settings. We strive to work in line with best practice, with nature and not against and value research as a key component of our work. We always aim to understand the bigger picture so that we can do the right thing.

Wild Work has three main aims;

- To **Support Employment Activation** - we provide quality work experience opportunities for people and aim to contribute to the creation of fulfilling jobs, particularly in the biodiversity sector
- To **Educate and Raise Awareness** - we follow a place-based approach, working with nature and the environment in a positive way to have a real and practical impact on environmental issues; because increasing people's awareness, respect and understanding, helps them care more effectively for our natural world
- To **Benefit Society and Nature** - we want to foster people's good will to ensure that our local flora, fauna and habitats are protected, valued and enhanced.

We want people who connect with the Wild Work movement to have a feel-good factor and enjoy the social aspect and benefit from better health and well-being. We are currently working with a number of industries and smaller businesses to help them support nature and biodiversity. Through our Social Inclusion

Programme (SICAP), we are working on therapeutic pathways using the outdoors, nature and positive occupational space as a means of engaging with people and to encourage them to think about their own personal development and inspire them to actively help themselves, help nature and help their local community.

Throughout the SICAP delivery since 2018 to date, SECAD has been a champion in combining nature and biodiversity as an innovative community development, social inclusion & integration tool.

We have applied a biodiversity **place-based approach** to encourage people to plan, plant and work together – taking key steps in building a caring and proud community. This can take the form of developing a community garden, a green space, strip of land in local housing estate, growing wild flower strips in corporate grounds.

This work, the process becomes the access channel for rolling out and running in parallel the supports of the SECAD SICAP Team (including employment, education & wellbeing supports) and other collaborative supports. The end result being to encourage people (who are often not engaged/hardly reached) to care about their environment and get directly involved in actions to improve biodiversity in their areas, gardens and greens.

This all feeds into the aim of Wild Work – to build Europe's Largest Man-Made Pollinator Corridor, all the while addressing serious social issues such as social isolation, anti-social behaviour, respect for older people and others and introducing a new form of knowledge, skills – and perhaps a newfound appreciation for education.

SECAD would now like to expand the services we provide to a range of different interest and target groups. If you think you have the skills to support our work, we would like to hear from you to explore further how we could potentially work together.

**Duties may include;**

- training and awareness raising with a range of target and interest groups
- biodiversity planning for communities
- providing wellbeing interventions through the outdoor classroom for specific target communities including Migrants
- promoting biodiversity and positive climate action
- highlighting just transition among disadvantaged communities.

Varying levels of experience and newly qualified people in relevant disciplines may be considered.

**Desirable attributes, experience and skills:**

- Degree or higher-level qualification in ecology or another relevant discipline
- Strong ID skills in botany, birds and pollinator species groups
- Practical experience of nature friendly landscape management; gardening; food growing; farming
- Experience with delivery and design of outdoor education, recreation and place-based education programmes
- Direct experience of working on biodiversity / pollinators/ invasive species
- An excellent understanding of the values and challenges of our regions' 'nature' and 'biodiversity'
- Ability to communicate these values and challenges in a manner that will attract the involvement of a range of key stakeholders including landowners, businesses, communities and schools
- Ability to develop links, partnerships and collaborations with key stakeholders including Local Authorities, academic institutions, relevant regional/national bodies and the corporate/private sector
- Ability to provide excellent advice and guidance to any group of people that engage with SECAD as part of our work e.g. communities, disadvantaged young people, employers, employees, school children, farmers and other target groups
- An understanding and appreciation of the needs and issues of the unemployed and other target groups of SECAD along with related social inclusion issues
- Capacity to support and promote health and well-being among SECAD target groups including those experiencing disadvantage and social exclusion

- Strong project planning and budgeting, logistics planning and project management skills
- Relevant IT, GIS / mapping skills
- Strong report writing skills
- Ability to work as part of a team and own-initiative

### **Submitting an Application**

Please forward a CV and cover letter, highlighting in particular your relevant work experience and/or qualifications which relate to the job description detailed above.

**Closing date** for applications is **5pm on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2022**. Late applications will not be considered.

Short listing will be undertaken. Interviews provisionally to take place on 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> August 2022. A panel may be formed.

SECAD may recruit for full-time / part-time employees or contractors as part of this recruitment process.

**Please** email your application (CV & Letter of Application) to: [info@secad.ie](mailto:info@secad.ie)  
– subject box to be marked “**Biodiversity Wellbeing Officer 2022**”

### ***SECAD is an equal opportunities employer***

### **About SECAD Partnership**

SECAD Partnership CLG (SECAD) is a Local Development Company established in 1995. Our main office is located in Midleton, Co. Cork. SECAD’s main development objective is to promote and enable sustainable development through our Rural Development and Social Inclusion initiatives. SECAD has a voluntary Board of Directors and a staff team of c. 40 people.

SECAD works with individuals, community and voluntary groups, business, academia and other stakeholders to create a more vibrant, sustainable and inclusive society. SECAD manages a wide range of funds and services including social investment and employment support programmes, implemented on behalf of various Government Departments, State Bodies, the European Commission and the private sector. SECAD currently delivers a number of major programmes along with other smaller schemes and initiatives.

SECAD is an implementing partner for LEADER 2014-2020 on behalf of the South Cork and West Cork LCDC's. SECAD delivers the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) throughout South Cork. Through the Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL 2014-2020), SECAD delivers two ESF funded gender equality programmes focusing on female entrepreneurship and female employability. SECAD is also delivering an Ability successor project called STRVIE through the Dormant Accounts Fund. SECAD also delivers supported employment programmes, Tus and the Rural Social Scheme.

Wild Work is a SECAD initiative with a social ethos. Wild Work supports employment activation, educates and raises awareness of nature and biodiversity and benefits society as a whole. To read more about Wild Work see [www.wildwork.ie](http://www.wildwork.ie)

As a Grant Making Organisation (GMO), SECAD manages community benefit funds throughout Ireland on behalf of various sustainable energy developers and others. A key area of expertise is community engagement - developing positive, effective links with communities, supporting them to access and maximise funding and services.

For more information on SECAD see [www.secad.ie](http://www.secad.ie)



*The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2023 is funded by the Irish Government through the Department of Rural and Community Development and co-funded by the European Social Fund under the Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020*