



## NI Protected Areas Development Manager

### Northern Ireland Environment Link

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Equivalent to NICS Staff Officer</b>
<b>Salary Range</b>	<b>£30,149 - £31,760</b>
<b>Period of Appointment</b>	<b>3 Years</b>
<b>Hours of Work</b>	<b>37.5 per week</b>
<b>Responsible to</b>	<b>NIEL Development Manager</b>
<b>Place of Work</b>	<b>NIEL Office, 89 Loopland Drive, Belfast and Homeworking.</b> Travel around the various member areas will be expected and desk space expected to be available in one or more of the NIPAN member organisations.

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### Organisation Background

Northern Ireland Environment Link (NIEL) is the networking and forum body for organisations interested in the environment of Northern Ireland. NIEL helps members understand complex issues and presents a unified voice by bringing together a wide range of knowledge, experience and expertise which can be used to help develop policy, practice, and implementation across a range of environmental fields.

Staff at NIEL must work within the mission, vision and values of the organisation and have a professional attitude to confidentiality. They should be enthusiastic towards their work; be committed to high quality work in a co-operative working environment and be supportive to other staff. Staff are required to work both independently and as part of a team.

This position is funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, with match funding from Action Renewables.

## Background to the Project

The NI Protected Areas Network is made up of:

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| • <b>Belfast Hills Partnership Trust</b>         | • <b>Northern Ireland Environment Link</b>       |
| • <b>Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust</b> | • <b>Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland</b>     |
| • <b>Lagan Valley Regional Park</b>              | • <b>Ring of Gullion AONB Management Group</b>   |
| • <b>Lough Neagh Partnership</b>                 | • <b>Sperrins AONB</b>                           |
| • <b>Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark</b>        | • <b>Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership</b> |
| • <b>Mourne Heritage Trust</b>                   |  |

These groups have worked together in various ways, but lack of a dedicated secretariat/resource has limited activity. Recently, with the benefit of additional resource from DAERA, a process of re-engagement with the NIPAN members and other stakeholders has taken place resulting in:

- **A reaffirmation by the NIPAN members to participation, collaboration, and collective realisation of the benefits of the Network**
- **The development of an agreed outcomes framework for NIPAN**
- **Endorsement and support from other eNGOs in NI and DAERA of NIPAN and our plans for development**

NIEL strongly feels that NIPAN is an important element of the wider environment/heritage landscape and has built on this foundation by leading a successful joint bid to Esmée Fairbairn for funding a 3-year programme to help to re-invigorate the group and develop a targeted work programme.

The overall aim of this 3-year project is to support the development and programme delivery of the NIPAN network so that there is: **a more collaborative network speaking with a coherent, consistent, and visible single voice to the public and other stakeholder groups, and more effective and efficient use of time and resources of the members.**

This will make a key contribution to longer-term outcomes where:

### **Our special and protected landscapes in Northern Ireland are better protected and are places...**

- Where nature is recovering, and which have improved biodiversity
- That make more of a contribution to mitigating and adapting to climate change
- That engage and make a greater contribution to peoples' and communities' health and wellbeing
- That contribute to a strong and sustainable economy

Developing and delivering the actions and realising the outcomes requires specific dedicated resources, and in particular the appointment of a Development Manager.

## **Main Job Purposes:**

- **Lead the NIPAN project, providing proactive support to the NIPAN members, identifying areas for enhanced collaboration and joint working.**
- **Develop links to best practice networks and disseminate relevant learning across the NIPAN network, including through events and training.**
- **Communicate the importance of NI's most prized landscapes and value of the NIPAN members' work to a range of audiences.**
- **Work with the NIPAN members and NIEL staff, Board and membership to develop landscape-related policy positions.**
- **Assist, and where appropriate lead, liaison between NIPAN and various policy makers including government departments and other stakeholders.**
- **Manage all reporting aspects of the programme with Esmée Fairbairn and Action Renewables.**

## **Main Responsibilities:**

### **1. NIPAN group**

- To have primary responsibility for development and support of the NIPAN group
- To organise meetings and provide secretariat
- To organise appropriate events and activities for members and other stakeholders
- To horizon scan for emerging best practice and policy issues

### **2. Policy development related to landscapes**

- To undertake policy analysis, briefings, and consultations as appropriate
- To have primary responsibility for the development and production of policy papers for a variety of audiences
- To develop responses to relevant consultation documents
- To meet with relevant policy makers, elected officials etc as required
- To track progress on Programme for Government and other relevant environmental targets

### **3. Networking and representation**

- To represent NIPAN and NIEL on relevant groups and committees, in best practice networks and at conferences
- To develop and maintain links with relevant government departments and agencies across the UK and Ireland, NIEL members, other Link organisations, landscape management related networks (e.g. National Association of AONBs)
- To horizon scan for opportunities to develop new links around landscape policy and action

#### **4. Communications and Promotion**

- To scope and develop a communications strategy for NIPAN
- To increase public awareness, understanding and support for the conservation, protection, management and enjoyment of Northern Ireland's valued landscapes
- To implement a range of communication tools/initiatives to raise awareness of NIPAN and its related issues to a range of audiences

#### **5. Programme management**

- To have primary responsibility for managing the NIPAN project
- To monitor progress of the programme
- To produce reports for the funders
- To engage and manage any consultants employed on the project
- To organise and oversee all events and meetings, including training and best practice exchange

#### **6. Other**

- Generally contribute to strategic direction of NIPAN and NIEL
- Assist the NIEL Development Manager and NIPAN Chair as required
- Support NIEL staff and Board as necessary
- Undertake all other reasonable duties as may be required

## **PERSON SPECIFICATION**

**Please note that these competencies must be clearly demonstrated within the Application Form**

### **Essential**

- Educated to degree level
- At least 2 years' experience of the environmental sector and a demonstrable understanding of the key issues within the sector
- At least 2 years' experience of project management
- Experience in the preparation of publications/briefings/reports and/or interpreting/influencing policy issues
- Experience of event/training management
- Demonstrate excellent communication skills in English, both written and oral, including presentation, networking, and influencing skills
- Proven ability to meet deadlines under pressure
- Computer literate with experience of MS Office, internet, and e-mail
- Access to a form of transport which ensures duties are completed

### **Desirable**

- Degree and/or post graduate degree in a relevant discipline
- A sound understanding of the strategic context, political institutions and the process of government in NI, particularly in relation to the environment
- Marketing and/or communications experience
- Experience of writing formal consultation responses
- Experience of facilitating and/or moderating meetings and/or consultation exercises

**Application is made via an application form provided by NIEL. Closing date for receipt of applications is Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**Interviews are likely to be held week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023**

**Please email your completed application form to: [iona@nienvironmentlink.org](mailto:iona@nienvironmentlink.org)**

***Northern Ireland Environment Link is an Equal Opportunities Employer***

**Job offers are subject to references and that all information in the application is accurate and not misleading.**

