



## **SUAS Tranche 3 Guidelines**

The SUAS project is designed to assist both commonages and individual farmers across the Wicklow and Dublin uplands. The key objective of the project is to develop practical and innovative solutions that will address the complex agricultural, environmental and socio-economic challenges associated with the land management of commonages and hill farms in the Wicklow/Dublin uplands.

The project represents a significant opportunity to make a positive and lasting change to secure the sustainable future management of the Wicklow and Dublin uplands.

The SUAS Pilot Project is now seeking interested participants to join in the third round of the project and invites interested parties to submit an Expression of Interest form before the July 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline. Forms can be downloaded from this website or contact the project office on (01) 2818406 or email [info@wicklowuplands.ie](mailto:info@wicklowuplands.ie) for copies to be sent out. We are looking for both commonages and non-commonage upland areas.

The focus for these new participants is as follows;

- We can't just assume that farmers know all about habitat management. There are differences between what farmers generally think of as hills in good condition as opposed to what the ecologists think are in good habitat condition. While they are not poles apart, nobody has ever actually taken the time to explain out to farmers what habitats are on their hills, what they should look like and how to get them into that condition. SUAS is developing a training programme to equip these farmers with the required knowledge to be able to draw up appropriate management plans for whatever schemes comes under the new CAP in 2023
- We will support new participants to complete a number of simple, habitat improvement measures on their sites, to encourage collective working among commonage farmers and to actually deliver habitat improvement on all sites. These will be agreed with the participants and be appropriate for each individual site.
- Shareholders on a commonage must form a commonage group to join the project. We plan to build on our learnings from the first two tranches to streamline the formation process, ups while retaining the essential elements of fostering a group ethos and sense of working together (it is not as simple as just signing a piece of paper and off you go).

- We are encouraging participants to come forward with their own ideas/projects, as they are the ones actually farming and have an insight into the issues on their own hills. Where plans are appropriate, we will obtain the relevant permissions and support the farmers in the delivery of these actions. As SUAS finishes at the end of 2022, the projects will need to be completed in one year but can be a part of a longer term plan for the site.

Participants will be paid for their time input for any meetings and training attended, for any work they do as part of the project and SUAS will support any successful projects, details to be agreed before work commences.

If you require further information or to discuss submitting an expression of interest, you can contact the project manager, Declan Byrne at (087)7839872 or email [Declan.suas@wicklowuplands.ie](mailto:Declan.suas@wicklowuplands.ie).