



WILD ATLANTIC
NATURE LIFE

Integrating nature, people and place

Teagasc Signpost Series

August 2022



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



Project overview

Long-term project (2021-2029) funded under EU LIFE programme

Total budget €20.6m (€12.3m EU)

Aimed at our Natura 2000 network

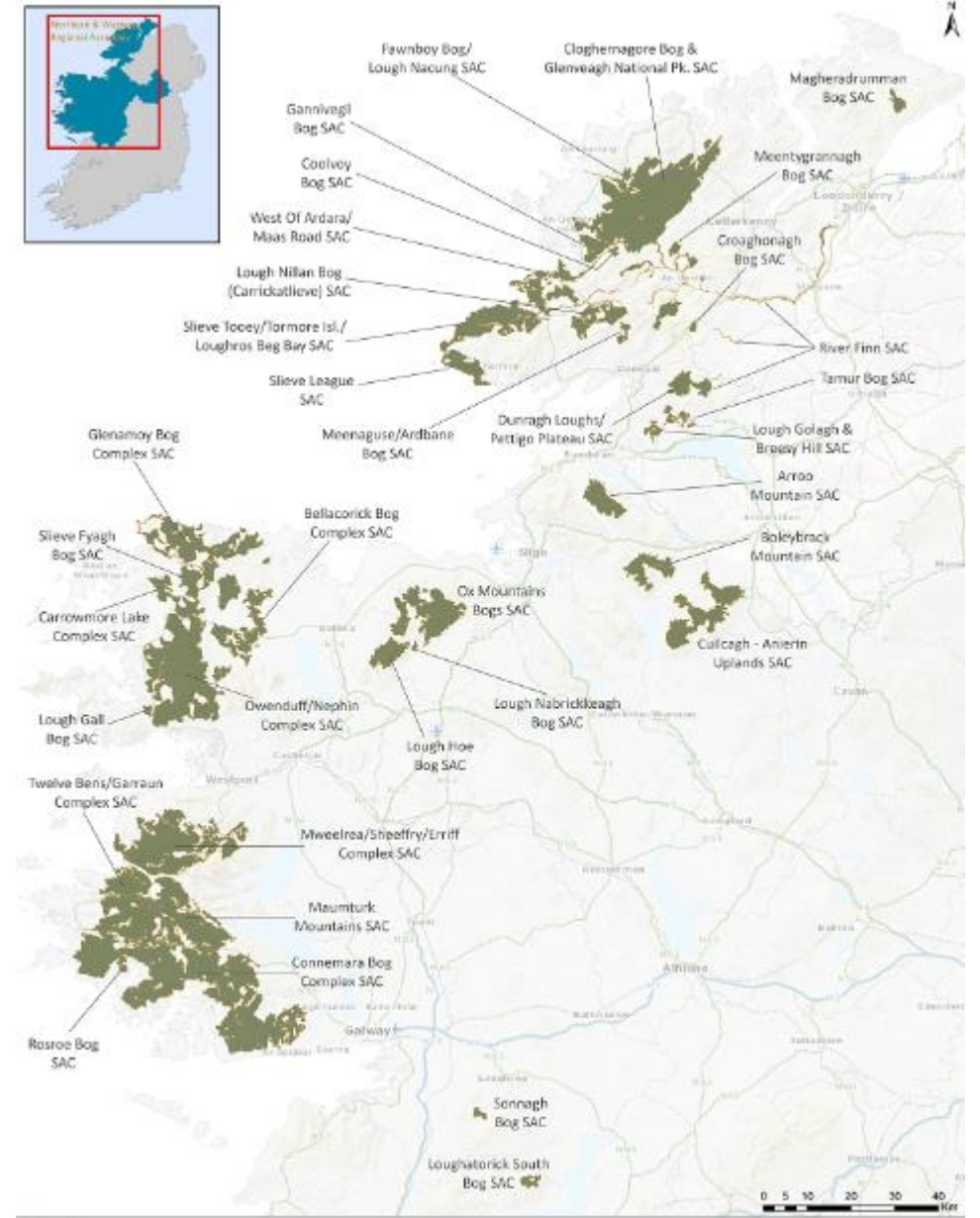
Farmer and community focused supported by Government departments & agencies



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



Wild Atlantic Nature project sites



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



Blanket bogs



- Peatlands cover only 3% of the world land surface but store more carbon than all other vegetation types combined.
- A 15cm layer of contains more carbon per hectare than a tropical rainforest
- Blanket bogs are under threat from afforestation, peat-cutting, burning, over-grazing, invasive species and wind-farms

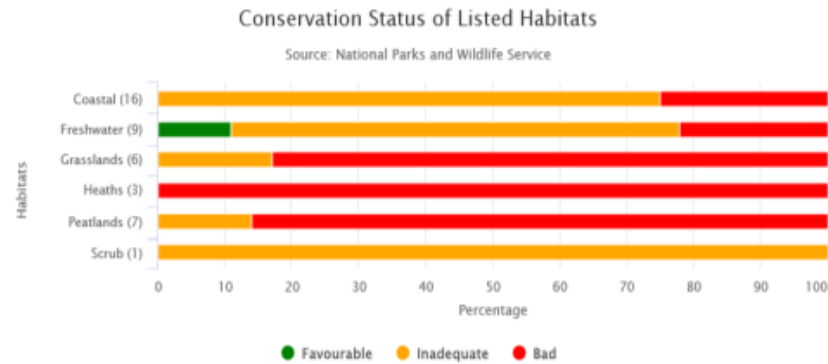


An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



Organizational and institutional barriers to environmental improvement

Often, our land use policies don't align!



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



Land use policies often have a narrow focus



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



What have we learned in the past 30 years?

- Successful (agri-environment) programmes should
 - Be locally adapted, practical and results focused
 - Be developed with local people (farmers, communities)
 - Be properly and fairly funded
 - Facilitate flexible and adaptive management
 - Build local trust and capacity
 - Facilitate improvements
 - Account for factors outside farmers/communities control



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

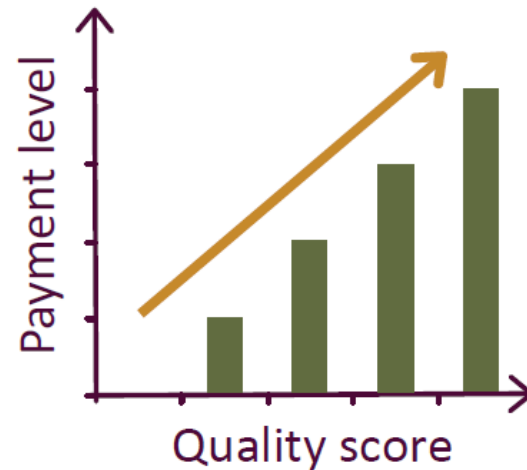


Results-based payments

Results-based approach

Payments are linked to nature quality of your farm.

Higher nature quality = Higher Payment level



Each plot is scored out of 10 using a scorecard that captures high and low quality habitat which reflect past and current management.



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



Delivery for water quality, biodiversity, climate & communities

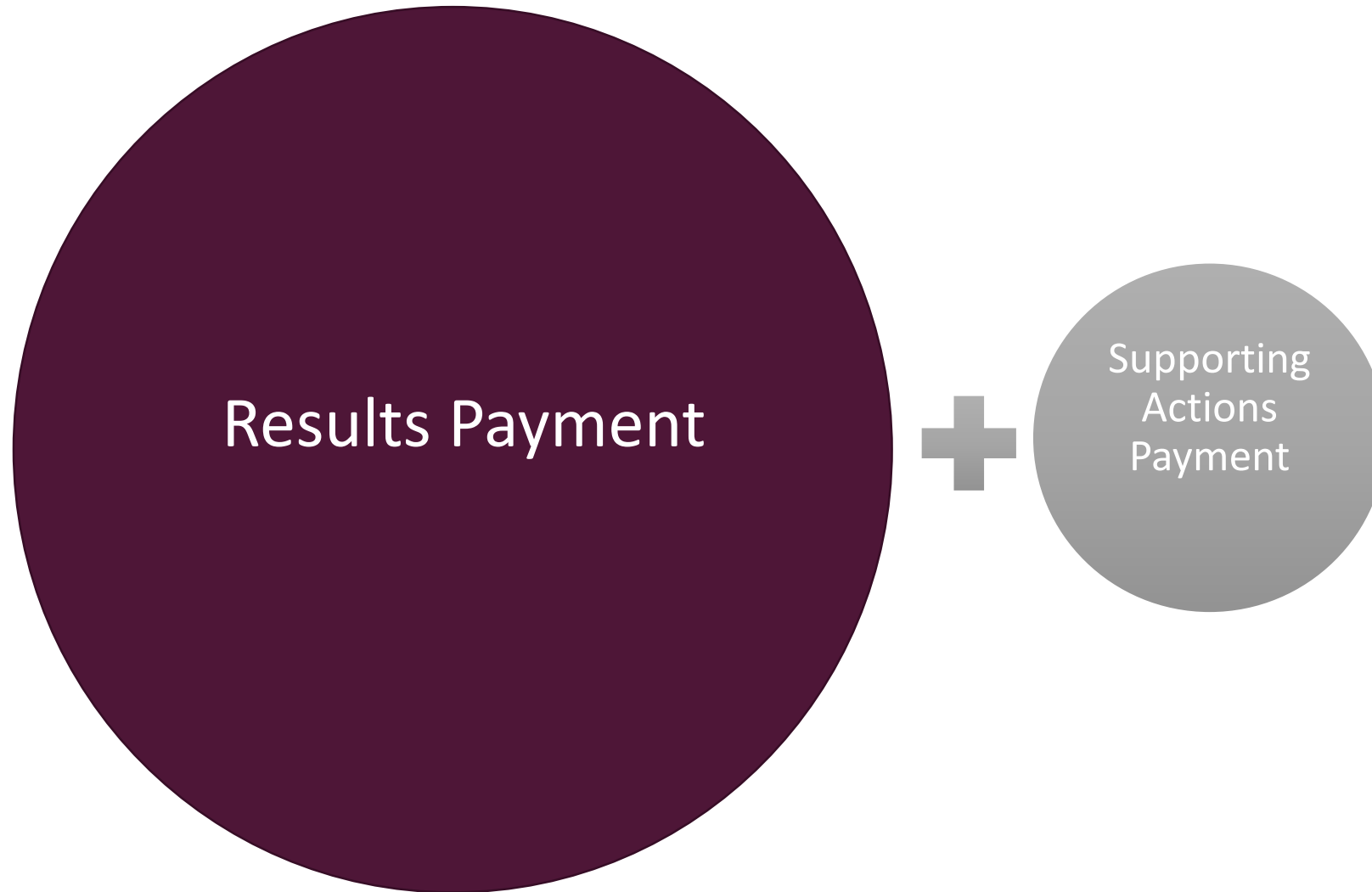
- Need to **reward** high quality but also **incentivise** improvement of poor quality



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



Payment streams



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



WILD ATLANTIC
NATURE LIFE



Example
from Pearl
Mussel
Project EIP



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



Supporting actions

- Assists with better farm management & improved ecological quality



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

Example
from Pearl
Mussel
Project EIP



Supporting actions



Photos: Pearl Mussel
Project EIP



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



Creating a market

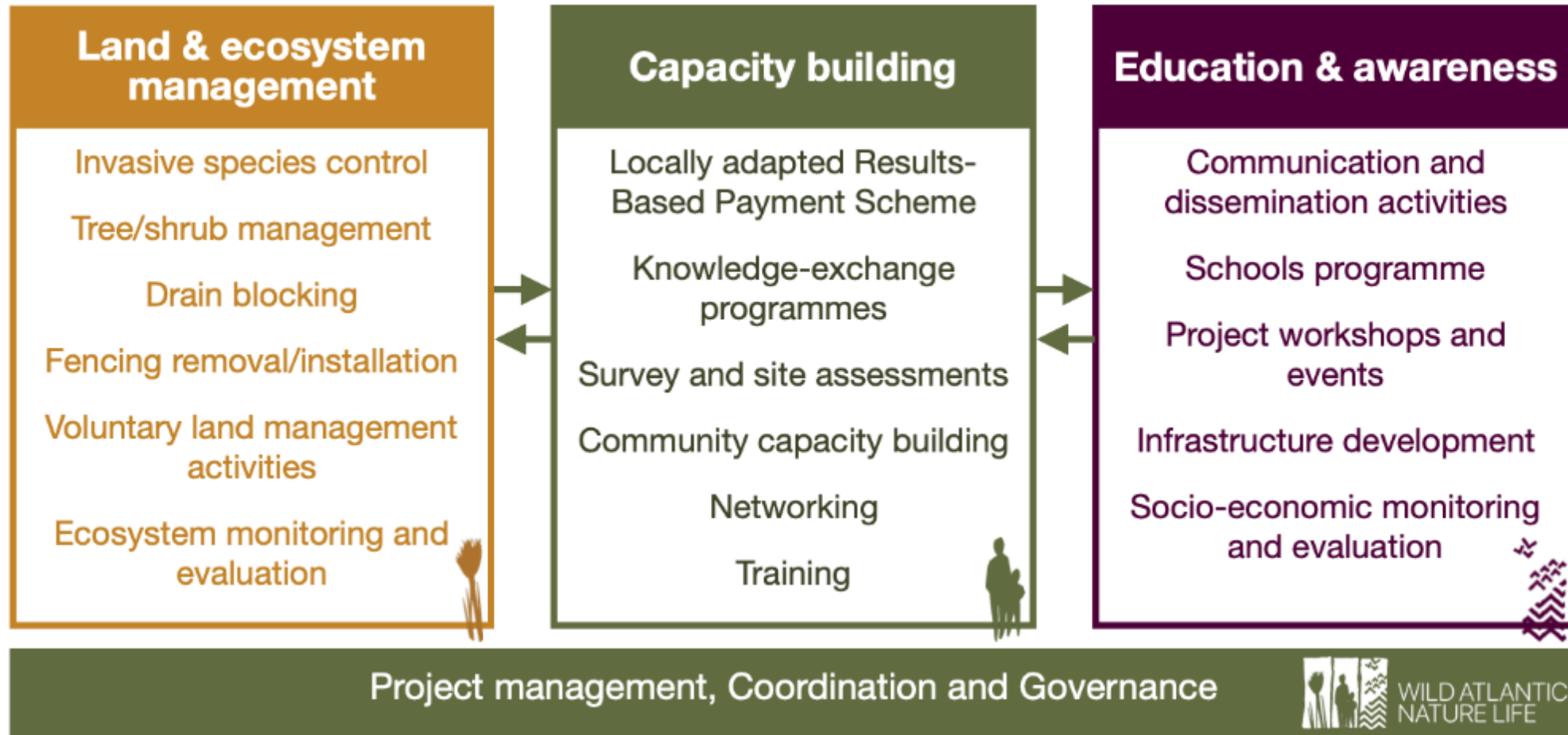
- Putting market value on the services provided by High Nature Value farmland



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



Wild Atlantic Nature programme approach



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



Wild Atlantic Nature RBPS participation

2021

- 167 farmers
- >20,000ha within the programme
- 26 advisors trained
- 150 farmers trained

2022

- c.750 farmers in 2022 to build CAP capacity
- Complementary training provided to stakeholders and related projects (LIFE, INTERREG, farmers and policy makers from other EU member states)

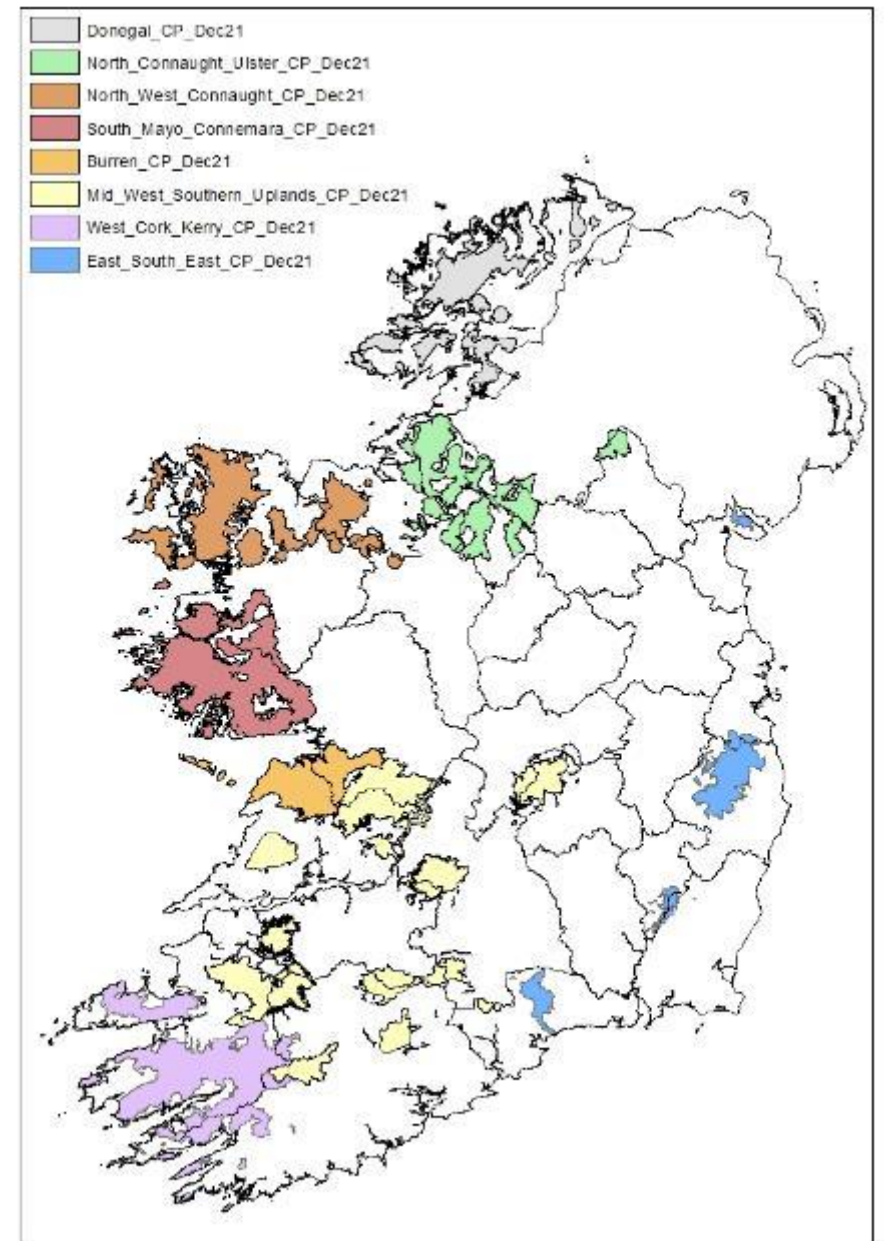


An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



ACRES & Cooperation approach

- Eight Cooperation Project teams
- Roll-out of results-based model
 - Supporting actions & landscape scale payments
- Final detail being prepared
- We now have an implementation mechanism for conservation measures & restoration actions



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



Upland farmers knowledge exchange group (Teagasc)



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



Complementary funding: Evidence >> Investment & funding



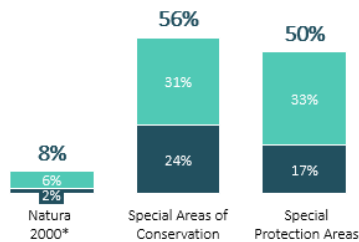
Low awareness of the Natura 2000 Network brand name, but at least half recognise SAC and SPA

Awareness of brand names: Natura 2000, SACs and SPAs

TOTAL AWARENESS

Heard of this, but don't know what it is

Heard of this and know what it is



Q1: Awareness of Natura 2000 brand, SPAs and SACs
Base - All adults aged 18+; n=1,538

Overall awareness of the Natura 2000 brand name is quite low – any comms activity needs to be cognisant of this. There is greater familiarity with the SACs and SPAs, although actual understanding of what they are is a good bit weaker.

* A Eurobarometer survey conducted in Dec 2018 using a face-to-face methodology found that 18% of the population claimed they had heard of Natura 2000. While some of the difference in the results may be accounted for by the different methodological approaches (online v face-to-face), it is also possible that awareness of Natura 2000 has also declined over the last three years.



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



Complementary funding

- WaterLANDS: Horizon 2020
 - €23m: 2021-2026 (DHLGH budget €2.1m)
 - Objective to improve the quality of wetlands across the EU
 - LIFE IP Wild Atlantic Nature site at Cuilcagh-Anierin SAC
 - Coordinated by UCD: 32 partners across 13 EU member states
- Several project we hope to see funded via Corporate, Private & Philanthropic sources
 - Community programmes
 - Women farming groups in Natura 2000 areas
 - Fuel poverty, retro-fitting & turfcutting
 - Various habitat restoration projects



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



We now provide quality-assured vital public goods

Goods & services:

- Biodiversity
- Stable climate
- Carbon sequestration
- Protection of soil
- Clean water
- Flood management
- Aesthetic value
- Food
- Recreation & well-being

Quality is our platform

- Basis for:
 - Farmer payments
 - Tourism
 - Land-use planning
 - Food labelling
 - Natura marketing

Summary

- Integrated land use framework – people, practice & policy
- Focus on quality
- Results-based model that invests in landowner skills
- Wild Atlantic Nature LIFE IP provides a strong opportunity to assist with local issues



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage





WILD ATLANTIC
NATURE LIFE



[HOME](#) [ABOUT](#) [FARMING](#) [PROJECT AREAS](#) [BLANKET BOG](#) [NEWS & EVENTS](#) [RESOURCES](#) [CONTACT](#)

LIFE IP Wild Atlantic Nature

www.wildatlanticnature.ie

Wild Atlantic Nature LIFE IP, a 9-year EU-funded LIFE Integrated Project, works with farmers, local communities and land owners to add value to the wide range of services provided from our Special Area of Conservation (SAC) network of blanket bogs and

RBPS programme 2021 has now launched for Owenduff/Nephin Complex SAC area in 2021.

This project has received funding from the EU's LIFE programme under Grant Agreement No. LIFE18 IPE/IE/000002



WILD ATLANTIC
NATURE LIFE



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



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



Thank you for your attention!

www.wildatlanticnature.ie

t: @WAN_LIFEIP f: @wildatlanticnature #wildatlanticnature

Gary.Goggins@housing.gov.ie



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

