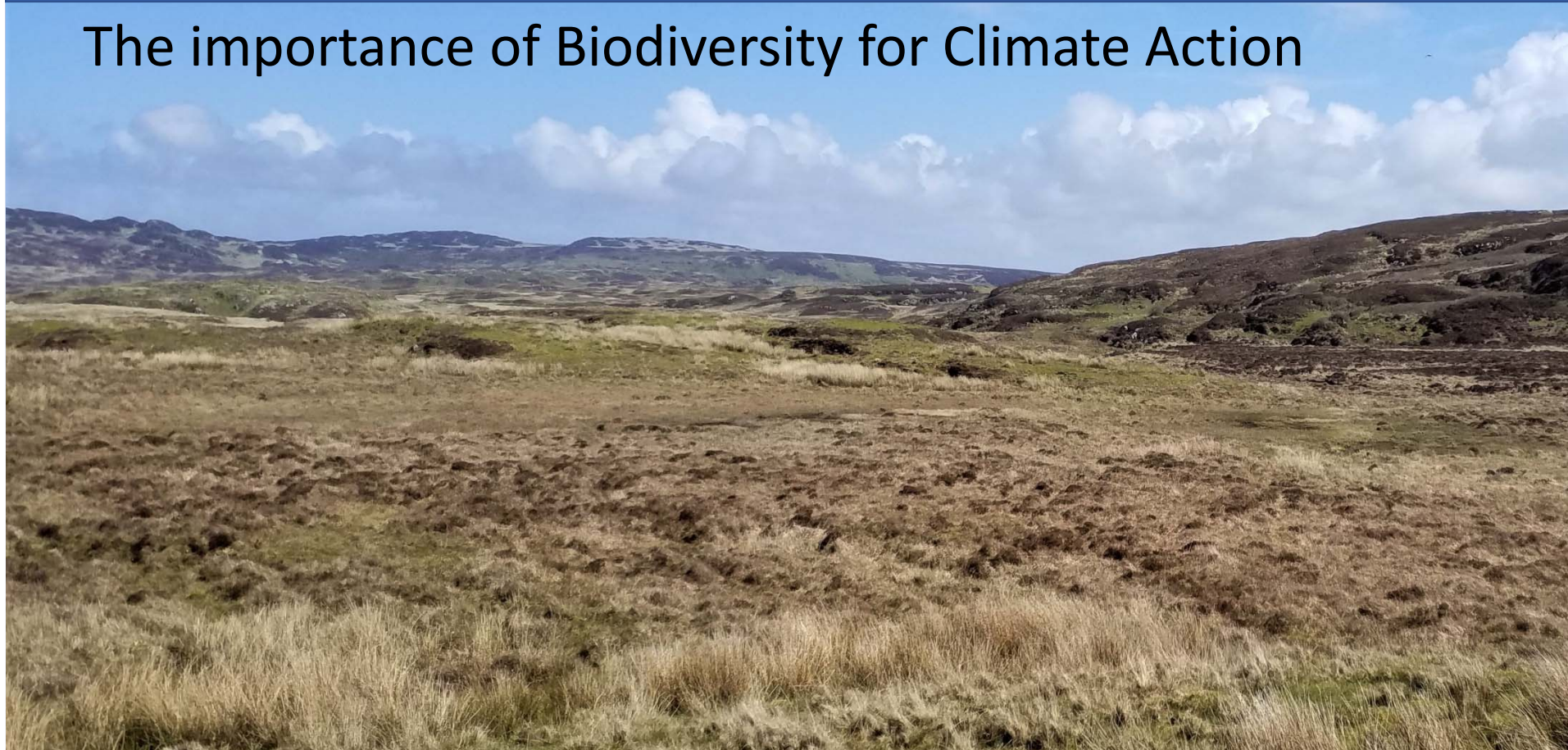


# The CANN Project : An Overview



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## The importance of Biodiversity for Climate Action



# Project Background



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## Quick Facts

- ❑ Total project budget is €9.4 million funded under Priority Axis 2 (Environment) of the INTERREG VA Programme
- ❑ Largest cross-jurisdictional partnership focused on environmental improvement & conservation works
- ❑ Main aim is to promote cross-border co-operation to facilitate the recovery of selected protected habitats and priority species
- ❑ Delivery of direct conservation actions across 3,650ha of Special Areas of Conservation
- ❑ 35 staff employed across all 11 Project Partners
- ❑ NMDDC is Lead Partner - responsible for overall project development, monitoring & management

# Project Overview



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## Partner Organisations

- ❑ Partnership provides a consortium of skills
- ❑ Made up of public bodies, third-level institutions, charities & local government authorities
- ❑ 11 partners from across the 3 jurisdictions of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland.



Comhairle Ceantair  
an Iúir, Mhúrn  
agus an Dúin

Newry, Mourne  
and Down

District Council



# Key Project Outputs



- ❑ Production of 27 Conservation Action Plans - outcome indicator for the CANN project and also a statutory requirement under EU Directives for designated sites
- ❑ Will be produced in a standardised plan format and used to assess progress of sites towards favourable conservation status and bring about positive environmental change
- ❑ Stakeholder consultation and engagement is key - actions on the ground delivered in partnership with local communities
- ❑ Our project outputs will be used to strategic planning processes across all 3 of our jurisdictions

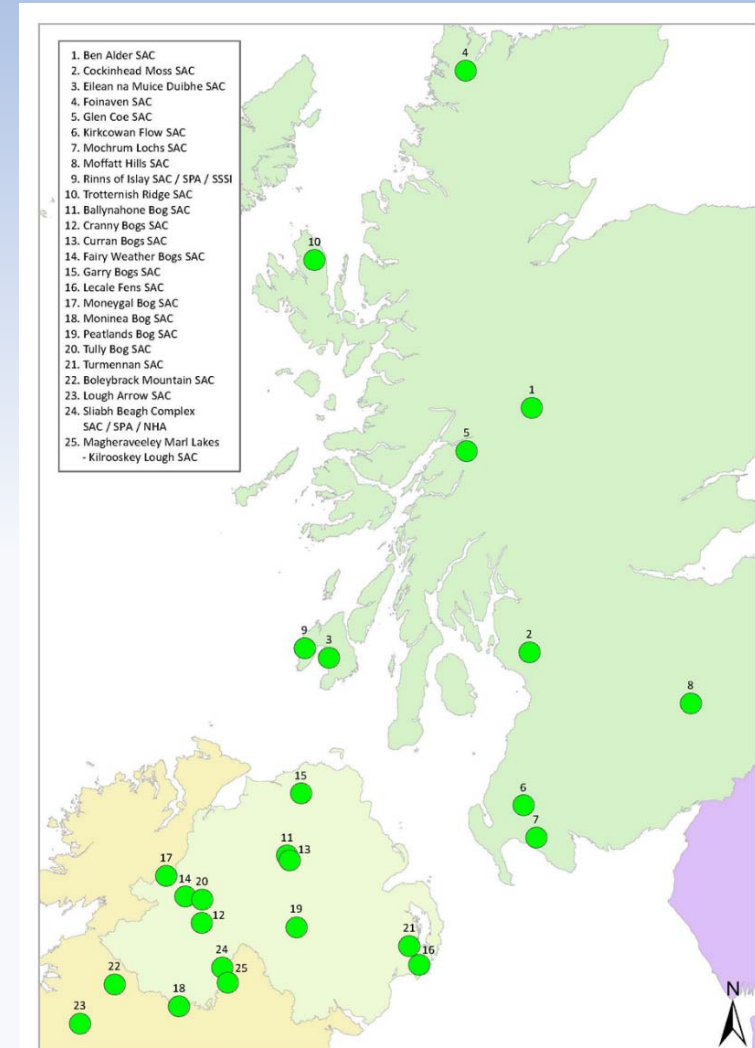


# Partnership working



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- ❑ First cross-border network dedicated to conservation issues
- ❑ Collaborative approach to common issues across jurisdictions
- ❑ Building of new and sustainable working relationships
- ❑ Knowledge exchange & promotion of best practice



# Project Deliverables



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## Habitats

- 7 Priority Habitats:

- Alkaline Fens
- Blanket Bog
- Active Raised Bog
- Marl Lakes
- Calcareous Fens
- Transition Mires / Quaking Bogs



# Project Deliverables



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## Species

- 7 Priority Species:

- White-Clawed Crayfish
- Hen Harrier
- Curlew
- Redshank
- Snipe
- Golden Plover
- Red Grouse





# Threats to our habitats



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Drainage



Invasive species



Wildfire



Nutrient enrichment



Overgrazing



Commercial extraction





# Threats to our habitats



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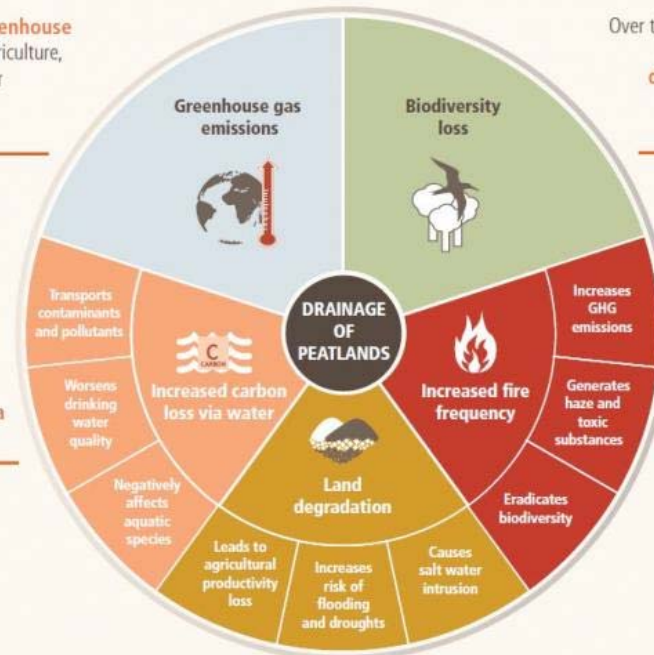
## Draining peatlands harms the environment

~10% of the global greenhouse gas emissions from the agriculture, forestry and land use sector are caused by the draining of peatlands.

Over the last 75 years, the number of Sumatran Orangutans has declined by 80%. Today there are only 400 Sumatran tigers living in the wild.

When intact peatlands are drained carbon losses via water increase by 50%

Smouldering peatland fires can persist for months and continue to burn even after days of rain and under a cover of snow.



The surface of the land can decrease in height up to 2.5 metres after 25 years of drainage.

© IUCN

# CANN and our Climate



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## WHY ARE PEATLANDS IMPORTANT?

Peatlands contain about 1/3 of the worlds soil carbon

A 'healthy' bog will act as carbon sink

Globally- peatlands are being viewed as one of the main allies in our fight against climate change

Degraded bogs – with unblocked drains- act as carbon sources



**One of our main tasks in CANN is blocking drains to allow those bogs to actively form peat and lock up carbon in the long-term**

# CANN and our Climate



## Invasive Species Removal

Rhododendron and self-seeding conifers are two species which threaten native peatlands: rhododendron blocks the light and excludes native bog vegetation through competing for space, whilst self-seeding conifers dry out the bog surface and change the soil conditions to favour woodland succession.

Invasive species are one of the leading threats to native wildlife and ecosystems in the UK and Ireland, and peatlands and freshwater lakes are not immune to their effects.



**The project will target Rhododendron and Conifers across the CANN sites.**



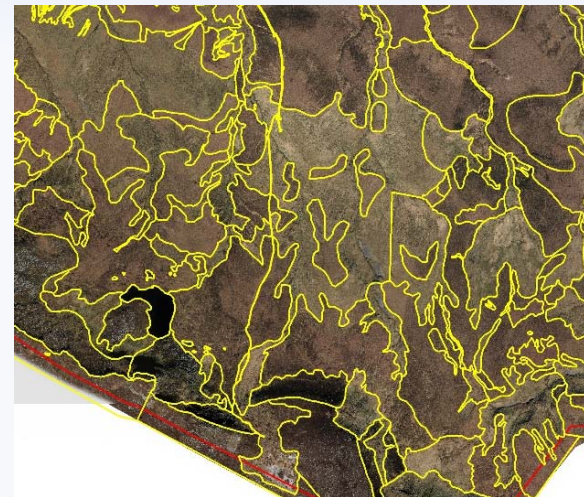
# CANN Project Actions



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## Mapping, Monitoring and Evaluation

- ❑ Working towards standardising mapping and monitoring methodologies across the 3 jurisdictions
- ❑ Methods include: Habitat mapping; vegetation condition assessments; bird species monitoring; LiDAR (hydrological mapping of catchments); bathymetric surveys; lake nutrient status; and crayfish trapping/tagging/sizing
- ❑ All data collected will be used to assess the impact of restoration and conservation actions
- ❑ Will be used to inform best practice guides





# CANN Project Actions



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## Conservation Action Plans

- 27 Conservation Action Plans
- Outcome indicator for the CANN project; also a statutory requirement under EU Directives for designated sites
- Standardised plan format
- Stakeholder engagement and consultation
- Used to assess progress of sites towards favourable conservation status
- Used to inform jurisdictional plans and strategies



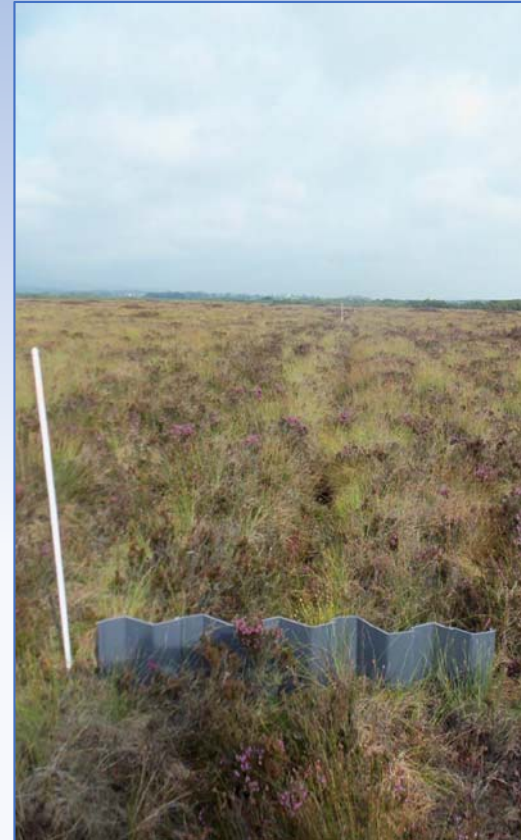
# CANN Project Actions



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## Uplands, Peatlands & Species

- ❑ Rely heavily upon engagement with local landowners and stakeholders
- ❑ Conservation actions include: controlled burning; grazing management; removal of invasive (native and non-native) species; drain blocking; targeted vegetation restoration; wildfire management; nest protection measures
- ❑ Production of farm plans (derived from CAPs)
- ❑ Landowner Incentive Scheme
- ❑ Sustainability with community buy-in



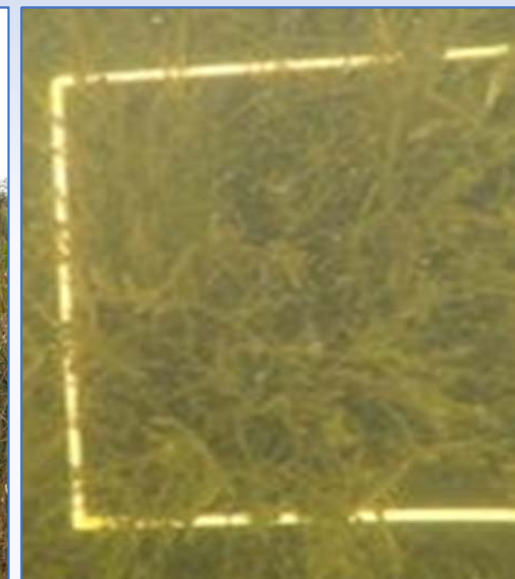
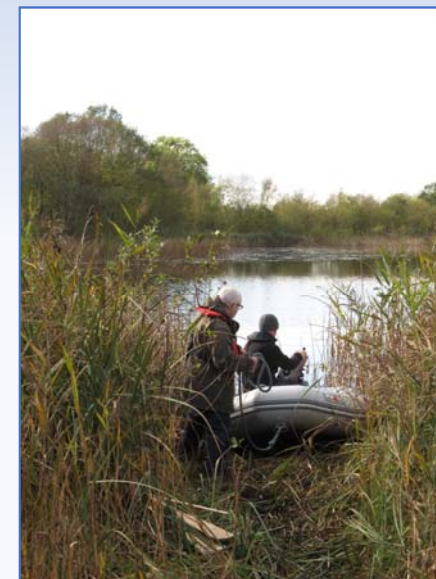
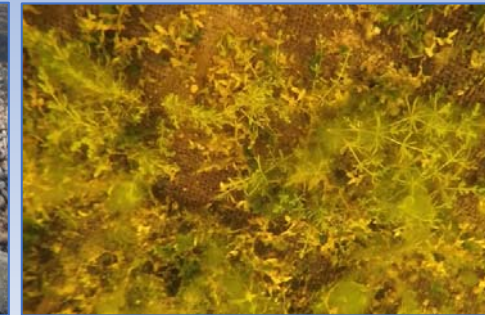
# CANN Project Actions



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## Freshwater and Lowland Wetlands

- Stakeholder engagement to target nutrient inputs
- Lake nutrient limitation trials
- Biosecurity and control measures to be implemented to prevent introduction and spread of invasive species
- Rhododendron removal and weed control measures
- Crayfish population restoration
- Hydrological management techniques e.g. drain blocking and grazing management





# Conclusions

