

In the heart of the bog and with bogs in our hearts

Peatland challenges, change and the future of Ireland's wetlands – an NGO perspective

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Irish Peatland Conservation Council (IPCC)?

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council are a charity (CHY6829, RCN 20013547), founded in 1982, who's mission is to conserve a representative sample of Irish peatlands for people today and future generations to enjoy.

We are based at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre, Lullymore, Rathangan, Co. Kildare

We own and manage (& in partnership) six peatland nature reserves nationally, Lodge Bog and Lullymore West in Co. Kildare, Fenor Bog, Co. Waterford, 8.5 Ha of Girley Bog, Co. Meath, Ketts Lough, Co. Clare & Coad Bog Co. Kerry

Our work includes peatland site conservation, species monitoring, peatland policy, research and education and awareness. The Save the Bogs campaign is guided by Peatland Conservation Actions plans. The charity have developed seven since its foundation in 1982 and the latest Conservation Action Plan is called Peatlands and Climate Change Action Plan 2030 which should be read in conjunction with the Peatland and Conservation Action Plan 2020 Halting the Loss of Peatland Biodiversity. Learn more visit www.ipcc.ie

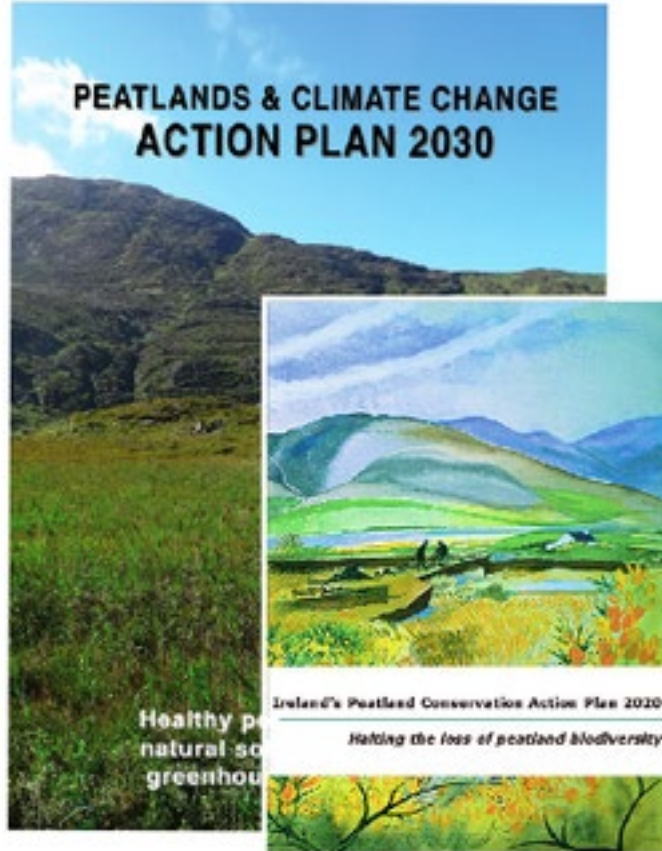





Griston Bog
Conservation Management Plan
2023-2028



Irish Peatland Conservation Council an advocate for peatlands....



To support policy makers, for members of the public to gain a greater understanding of the links between peatlands and climate and to guide the work of the Irish Peatland Conservation Council's 'Save the Bogs' Campaign in this new decade declared by the United Nations as the Decade for Ecosystem Restoration the Irish Peatland Conservation Council have published our 7th Action Plan - Climate Change Action Plan 2030 which should be read in conjunction with our 6th Action Plan – Halting the Loss of Peatland Biodiversity

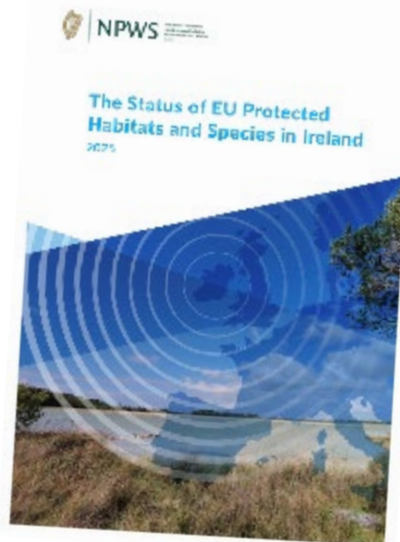


Viviparous Lizard,
© C. Breathnach

Challenges....

1. Habitat and species condition

Peatland Habitat & Species	Code	2025		2019	
		Status	Trend	Status	Trend
Active Raised Bog	7110	Bad	Improving	Bad	Deteriorating
Degraded Raised Bog	7120	Bad	Improving	Bad	Deteriorating
Blanket Raised Bog	7130	Bad	Deteriorating	Bad	Deteriorating
Transition Mire	7140	Bad	Deteriorating	Bad	Stable
Rhynchosporion depressions	7150	Inadequate	Deteriorating	Bad	Deteriorating
Cladium Fens	7210	Bad	Deteriorating	Inadequate	Stable
Alkaline Fens	7230	Bad	Deteriorating	Bad	Deteriorating
Bog Woodland	91D0	Bad	Deteriorating	Favourable	Stable
<i>Sphagnum</i> moss	1409	Inadequate	Stable	Inadequate	Stable
Kerry Slug	1024	Favourable	Improving	Stable	Improving
Marsh Fritillary butterfly	1065	Favourable	Improving	Inadequate	Improving
Natterjack Toad	6284	Bad	Stable	Bad	Stable
Common Frog	1213	Favourable	Stable	Favourable	Stable
Mountain Hare	1334	Favourable	Stable	Favourable	Stable
Otter	1355	Favourable	Stable	Favourable	Improving
Geyer's Whorl Snail	1013	Bad	Deteriorating	Bad	Deteriorating
Narrow-Mouthed Whorl Snail	1014	Inadequate	Deteriorating	Bad	Deteriorating
Desmoulin's Whorl Snail	1016	Inadequate	Deteriorating	Inadequate	Deteriorating



Challenges.....

2. Ramsar sites are part of a landscape/catchment
Pollardstown Fen was designated in 1990 & is Ireland's largest spring fed fen – supported by water from the aquifer under the Curragh – a pNHA which lacks any strict environmental protection – recent monitoring is showing worrying results of ecological decline. Many Ramsar sites are coastal – the Fair Seas initiative is working for vital Marine Protected Area (MPA)

3. Surrounding developments – IPCC responded to 16 sites issues ranging from peat extraction, renewal energy developments, agriculture reclamation, drainage, transport, greenways, water supply.

4. 'Plant blindness' – need for education and training – threatening habitat and climate action



Decline in botanical education threatens response to climate action and food security

17 January 2025



Challenges.....



5. Funding – Ireland is benefitting from EU funding to support our peatland and wetland habitat restoration. At home an introduction of a carbon Tax supports climate action – changing priorities at home and throughout Europe are resulting in calls to move away from this taxation while EU funding is often short term rather long term in nature.

6. Policy at conflict e.g. wind farm construction included as a threat to blanket bog habitat in 2013 & 2019 reports of the Status of EU habitats and species in Ireland yet omitted from the 2025 – is it no longer considered a pressure/threat as Ireland moves to increase renewal energy production?

7. Ongoing monitoring – we need to have regular monitoring of Ramsar sites (hydrological and ecological) - review of sites that have had restoration works undertaken to assess the success or if more works need to be done – lessons learned.



Change.....

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council have seen positive change including:

- Growth in awareness – community engagement – citizen science through the National Biodiversity Data Centre and Community Wetlands Forum
- Funding – carbon taxes & EU funding Living Bog Project LIFE, Wild Atlantic Nature LIFE, Tóchar etc...



WILD ATLANTIC
NATURE LIFE



BREEDING WADERS
E I P



Tóchar
Atchobirú Bogach Lár na Tíre
Midlands Wetland Restoration

- Ireland's National Biodiversity Action and Climate Action plans
- Ireland's National Nature Restoration Plan
- Ireland's Ramsar committee



Future.....

- The protection of designated sites should be central to our action including to complete the formal **designation** of Ireland's peatland NHA's. Need to consider the surrounding landscape and the interaction between these protected sites.
- Thanks to research we know what we need to do: **restoration and rehabilitation**
- Carry out and **complete inventories** of peatland biodiversity and habitat - monitoring
- Encourage land owners to engage in the **active protection of peatland biodiversity** through an adequately funded national scheme
- **Raise awareness** and provide education materials of the services peatlands offer and their importance for halting the loss of biodiversity
- **Integrate peatland biodiversity** into all national and local government department policies and development plans



Thank You

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Keep up to date with the work of the Irish Peatland Conservation Council on social media

