

Connecting Communities with Peatlands



Community
Wetlands
Forum



Irish Rural Link
Nasc Tuaithe na hÉireann

Overview

- **Project Priority: Community Transition Supports**
- **Intensify and broaden the current activities of the Community Wetlands Forum (CWF), a special interest group of Irish Rural Link (IRL)**
- **Provide a networking platform for community-led conservation groups through sharing knowledge, ideas, research and best practice**
- **Empower communities to manage their own resources**
- **Build capacity based on local leadership & through supports provided by agencies and institutions**
- **Support the protection, management, and wise use of peatlands and other wetland types for sustainable communities**
- **Focus on counties Kildare, Laois, Offaly, Roscommon, Westmeath, Longford, North Tipperary, and East Galway.**
- **2.5 years, from July 2021 to December 2023.**

Objectives

- **Promote** peatlands and wetland areas as **important places of biodiversity and conservation**
- **Facilitate** the sharing of knowledge, ideas, experience and organisational methods
- **Share the latest research and best practice** in peatland conservation and management
- **Facilitate access to national and international expertise**, similar networks, and funding opportunities
- **Grow the network**
- **Facilitate regular meetings, workshops, events** and other networking opportunities
- **Target** voluntary community groups and individuals in all 8 counties of the wider Midlands area



Map of CWF Community Groups

Impact and Outcomes

- **Foster** better understanding of ecological benefits of peatlands in terms of biodiversity and carbon stores
- **Assist** communities to **explore** and find more efficient and sustainable alternative sources of domestic heating
- **Be respectful** and **empathetic** to the strong socio-cultural connection with peatlands
- **Capture** a sense of place, belonging and dependency through stories, visual, performing and creative arts.
- **Encourage** new community groups to **engage** with their peatlands to **establish** innovative and beneficial projects.

Impact and Outcomes

- **Build capacity** in community-led organisations to enable communities capitalising on the ecotourism, micro-business and social enterprise potential of peatlands
- **Create** clusters of collaborating community groups across the Wider Midlands region
- Provide **support** and **mentoring** from existing established community group members and other stakeholders
- **Share** the latest research and best practice in peatland conservation and management
- **Facilitate** access to National and International expertise, parallel networks, funding opportunities

Year One, Q3-Q4

Action	Schedule	Indicators
Recruitment of Community Engagement Officer	Recruitment process (Q2)	-Hired early Q3 -Work plan 2021
General Meeting of CWF Members and Stakeholders	Mid-August (date TBC)	Site chosen for launch
JT Project launch event	September (date TBC)	-Launch event -Media attention -Public awareness
Regional Information events/workshops to establish needs	September, end early Q4	8 regional events/workshops
Print Community Engagement Handbook	Q4	-Accessible on CWF website -Share with Stakeholders
Evaluation of information and data from workshops	Q4	Report/summary on engaged communities and needs
Finalise action plan 1 st Semester 2022	Q4	Project action plan – Dec 2021
Finalise topics for capacity-building and training	End Q4	Capacity building and training plan

Year Two, Q1-Q2

Actions	Schedule	Indicators
Regional/Cluster or individual community workshops based on needs	Completed 31 May 2022	8 regional/cluster or individual community workshops
Training/capacity-building workshops in selected regions based on needs	Completed 31 May 2022	3 training/capacity building workshops
Matching established CWF members to new member groups or clusters	Completed 31 May 2022	2-3 clusters of community groups
General Meeting of CWF Members and Stakeholders	Q2	Engaged feedback from members and stakeholders
Review of project progress with management and CWF Steering Group	End Q2	JT project review report
Finalise action plan 2 nd Semester 2022	End Q2	Action plan for 2 nd semester

Year Two, Q3-Q4

Actions	Schedule	Indicators
Regional/Cluster or individual community workshops based on needs	Completed 31 December 2022	4 regional/cluster or individual community workshops
Training/capacity-building workshops in selected regions based on needs	Completed 31 December 2022	-4 training/capacity building workshops -4 Feasibility Studies and/or Conservation Management Plans by clusters/individual group
Matching established CWF members to new member groups or clusters	Completed 31 December 2022	2 new clusters of community groups
Mid-term Think-in Event, CWF members, stakeholders and public	Completed 31 December 2022	-Report on agreed actions/ideas
Review of project progress with management and CWF Steering Group	Completed 31 December 2022	Project Progress Report 2 nd semester
Finalise action plan for 1 st semester 2023	Completed 31 December	Action plan 1 st semester 2023
Finalise topics for capacity-building and training in respect of 2023	Completed 30 June 2023	Capacity-building and training plan for 2023

Year Three, Q1-Q2

Actions	Schedule	Indicators
Regional/Cluster or individual community workshops based on needs	Completed 31 May 2023	5 regional/cluster or individual community workshops
Training/capacity-building workshops in selected regions based on needs	Completed 31 May 2023	5 training/capacity building workshops
Matching established CWF members to new member groups or clusters	Completed 31 May 2023	2-3 new clusters of community groups
General Meeting of CWF members and stakeholders	Completed 31 May 2023	Engaged feedback from members and stakeholders
Review of project progress with management and CWF Steering Group	Completed 30 June 2023	Project Review Report 2022
Finalise action plan 2nd Semester 2023	Completed 30 June 2023	Action plan 2nd semester

Year Three, Q3-Q4

Actions	Schedule	Indicators
Regional/Cluster or individual community workshops based on needs	Completed 30 November 2023	4 regional/cluster or individual community workshops
Training/capacity-building workshops in selected regions based on needs	Completed 30 November 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 training/capacity building workshops - 10 Feasibility Studies and/or Conservation Management Plans by clusters/individual group
Matching established CWF members to new member groups or clusters	Completed 30 November 2023	2 new clusters of community groups
Review of project progress with management and CWF Steering Group	Completed 31 December 2023	Project Progress Report 2 nd semester 2023
Finalise action plan 1 st Semester 2024	Completed 31 December 2023	Action plan 1 st semester 2024

Year Four, Q1-Q2

Actions	Schedule	Indicators
Regional/Cluster or individual community workshops based on needs	Completed 31 May 2024	4 regional/cluster or individual community workshops
Training/capacity-building workshops in selected regions based on needs	Completed 31 May 2024	- 4 training/capacity building workshops
Final Showcase Event for CWF members, stakeholders and public	June/July 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Publicity/media attention -Public awareness/education -Findings presented to Minister and Department
Review of project progress with management and CWF Steering Group	Completed 31 May 2024	Project Review Report 2023
Regionals meeting CWF members and stakeholders	Completed 31 May 2024	Engaged feedback from members and stakeholders
Project evaluation and feedback survey	Completed 31 May 2024 Completed 30 June 2024	Project feedback survey report Final Report 2021-2024

Thank you

Direct questions to:
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