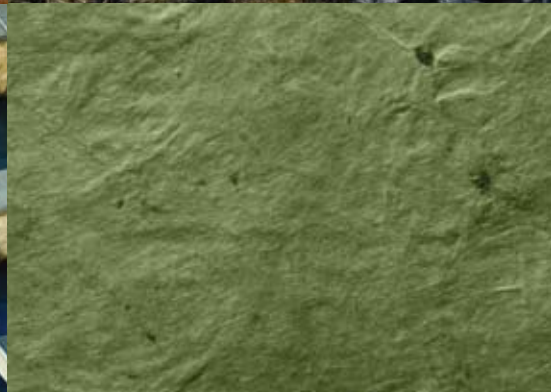


COMHAIRLE NA TUAITHE

National Countryside Recreation Strategy



**An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe
agus Gaeltachta**

Department of Community, Rural
and Gaeltacht Affairs



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background to the strategy

Comhairle na Tuaithe was established by Éamon Ó Cuív, TD, Minister for Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs in February 2004. It comprises representatives of the farming organisations, recreational users of the countryside and state bodies with an interest in the countryside. Its terms of reference included, inter alia, the development of a National Countryside Recreation Strategy. While the organisations represented on Comhairle na Tuaithe have individual views on many of the issues discussed in its contents, the strategy reflects the consensus view and is presented to the Minister for his consideration.

Comhairle na Tuaithe agreed the following definition of countryside recreation:

‘Countryside recreation applies to those sporting, recreational and holiday pursuits based on use of the resources of the countryside and which contribute to healthy active lifestyles. The term countryside includes land, water and air. The term recreation in this context applies to sporting and recreational activities, which operate in the countryside as defined above. It does not refer to sporting activities, which take place in the countryside on confined courses or pitches specifically designed and constructed for those sports e.g. golf, football, show jumping etc.’

A call for submissions, which closed in December 2005, was placed in the national and provincial newspapers, and Comhairle na Tuaithe wrote to groups representing recreational interests, state agencies and relevant Government departments seeking their views on the development of countryside recreation. Of the submissions received, 68 per cent related to land-based activities, 19 per cent to water and air-based activities accounted for 13 per cent. The opinions expressed and policy and development suggestions in the responses received were particularly helpful to Comhairle na Tuaithe in the formulation of this draft National Countryside Recreation Strategy.

Comhairle na Tuaithe’s vision for countryside recreation is a countryside, which welcomes all visitors who practise responsible use of the resource, and where the rights and responsibilities of both landowners and recreational users are respected and the necessary funding and structures are in place to deliver a recreation service.

The Strategic Objectives set out in the Strategy are:-

1. To achieve sustainable and responsible recreation in the countryside.
2. To promote caring recreational use of the countryside.
3. To develop a national framework that promotes the rights and responsibilities of both owners and users.
4. To develop a suitable structure to deliver a national countryside recreation service in a strategic and co-ordinated way.
5. To secure a package of funding mechanisms to deliver on the objectives of the strategy.

The principles underpinning the strategic objectives of the National Countryside Recreation Strategy are as follows:-

- Recognition of the value of countryside recreation in terms of improving quality of life, and delivering economic, social and health benefits.
- Protection of the natural, cultural and built heritage of our countryside and of the natural environment, including wildlife habitats.
- Full cognisance of the legal rights and concerns of land owners, who are predominantly the farming community and state agencies.
- Acceptance of the need of recreational users to have reasonable access to the countryside and uplands.
- Provision of education and awareness programmes to promote the responsible use of the countryside for recreational purposes.
- Encouragement of farmers and other landowners to provide for outdoor recreation and to develop rural enterprises based on outdoor recreation, thereby providing them with the opportunity to benefit financially.
- Development and maintenance of infrastructure both general and specific to the activities themselves, to provide for countryside recreation.
- Centrality of quality to the provision of outdoor recreation, whereby outdoor

recreational areas and related facilities are planned, designed and managed according to best international practices, including those relating to 'access for all' principles.

Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs would be the body with overall responsibility for overseeing the implementation of these actions.

Comhairle na Tuaithe recommends that the following tasks be undertaken to achieve the strategic objectives:-

- Development of infrastructure for countryside recreation.
- Provision of information on countryside recreation opportunities and how to participate.
- Design of education programmes, in and out of school, for the promotion of:-
 - training
 - awareness
 - respectful enjoyment of the countryside, and
 - understanding of the impact of recreation on the environment.
- Development and promotion of agreements on access as a priority (see recommendations re legislative and indemnity issues on pages 13/14 and 22).
- Support of landowners/managers.
- Development of a representative national structure.
- Development of representative local structures.
- Implementation and monitoring of the National Countryside Recreation Strategy.
- Maximising the potential of the rural development programme to support the implementation of the National Countryside Recreation Strategy.
- Engagement of other Government Departments and agencies to support the National Countryside Recreation Strategy.

The Strategy sets out in detail the actions which are required to be undertaken and by whom to ensure that these tasks are carried out in order to achieve the various objectives. While a range of bodies, including other Government Departments and Agencies, would be involved in this regard, it is anticipated that the Department of Community,



Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

When establishing Comhairle na Tuaithe in February 2004, Éamon Ó Cuív, TD, Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs requested that, as part of its terms of reference, Comhairle na Tuaithe should develop a National Countryside Recreation Strategy. While the organisations represented on Comhairle na Tuaithe have individual views on many of the issues discussed in this strategy, this strategy reflects the consensus view and is presented to the Minister for his consideration.

Purpose of the National Countryside Recreation Strategy

The purpose of this strategy is to define the scope, vision and a suggested framework for implementation for Countryside Recreation as agreed by Comhairle na Tuaithe. It sets out the broad principles under which sustainable countryside recreation should be managed over the coming five years. These principles include: mutual respect between users and landowners; respect for the countryside environment and an approach to access management which recognises the nature of land ownership in Ireland. It also seeks to define the roles that various organisations should play in the development and implementation of that strategy.

Comhairle na Tuaithe

Comhairle na Tuaithe was established by Éamon Ó Cuív, TD, Minister for Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs in February 2004. This decision followed a recommendation to the Minister from the Rural/Agri Tourism Advisory Group that a countryside council be established.

Comhairle na Tuaithe comprises representatives of the farming organisations, recreational users of the countryside and state bodies with an interest in the countryside. A full list of the membership of Comhairle na Tuaithe is contained in Appendix 1. Its terms of reference are listed in Appendix 2.

Since its inception, Comhairle na Tuaithe has focused on the three priority areas of:

- access to the countryside,
- developing a countryside code and
- developing a countryside recreation strategy.

Three working groups with a cross-section of stakeholders were established in order to address these issues. The members of these working groups are listed in Appendix 3. This approach has

resulted in Comhairle na Tuaithe identifying a set of access parameters in the countryside, which it believes will serve as a basis for agreed systems of access to private property and conflict prevention. The parameters agreed by the members of Comhairle na Tuaithe are contained in Appendix 4.

Comhairle na Tuaithe has also considered the key features necessary for countryside code development, with a focus on the potential application of the internationally recognised Leave No Trace Initiative. This code is detailed in Appendix 5.

Background to the Development of this Countryside Recreation Strategy

The Strategy Working Group of Comhairle na Tuaithe oversaw the drafting of this strategy. The permanent members of the Strategy Working Group are listed in Appendix 3.

A conference to promote the launching of Comhairle na Tuaithe, entitled Managing Countryside Recreation in Ireland, was held in Portlaoise on Friday 19th November 2004. This event was organised by the Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs in association with Comhairle na Tuaithe. The conference was attended by almost 200 people representing organisations and individuals involved in countryside recreation encompassing agriculture, forestry, tourism, conservation, rural development, recreation users, health, researchers from universities, local authorities and representatives from Government Departments.

Attendees were asked to reflect on the uniqueness of the Irish setting and the recent developments that led to the establishment of Comhairle na Tuaithe. It was noted that the All-Party Oireachtas Committee on the Constitution had reviewed the constitutional property rights, concluding that no constitutional amendment was necessary to ensure a balance through legislation between the rights of individual owners and the common good. The report of the Committee included a recommendation to establish a Countryside Recreation Council and recommended an approach along the lines of the Northern Ireland model, where the Countryside Access and Activities Network was established. The main purpose of the conference in Portlaoise was to provide an opportunity for all stakeholders attending to share ideas on the sustainable development and proper management of recreational activities in the countryside and that this would be a first step

towards the development of a national countryside recreation strategy.

This conference marked the beginning of Comhairle na Tuaithe's consultation with interested parties. The Strategy Working Group having considered the issues emanating from that conference decided to have a wide-ranging consultation process which would seek the views of Government Departments, State Agencies and representative bodies of the full range of countryside recreational activities encompassing land-based, water-based and air-based activities. The Group determined that a period of 9 months should be allowed to complete the development of the Strategy.

Definition of Countryside Recreation

It was felt that an agreed definition of countryside recreation would aid the consultation process and therefore Comhairle na Tuaithe agreed the following: -

'Countryside recreation applies to those sporting, recreational and holiday pursuits based on use of the resources of the countryside and which contribute to healthy active lifestyles. The term countryside includes land, water and air. The term recreation in this context applies to sporting and recreational activities, which operate in the countryside as defined above. It does not refer to sporting activities, which take place in the countryside on confined courses or pitches specifically designed and constructed for those sports e.g. golf, football, show jumping etc.'

Call for Submissions

In October 2005, Comhairle na Tuaithe invited submissions from interested individuals and groups as part of the development of a National Countryside Recreation Strategy, which would encompass land, air and water based activities. Chapter 3 and Appendices 6 - 8 provide further detail on the consultation process and the views contained in the submissions received.



Chapter 2

CONTEXT FOR THE STRATEGY

The number and variety of countryside recreation activities is increasing and the need for facilities and infrastructure is becoming greater. The use of the countryside for recreational activities is becoming more and more important as people become more aware of the need for physical activity to promote personal health and well being. As a recent report of the National Task Force on Obesity pointed out, 'clearly there is a public health imperative to ensure that relevant environmental policies maximise opportunities for active transport, recreational physical activity and total physical activity'.¹

We are also living in a time of great change for rural communities in Ireland. While it is still the case that the farming industry is strong we must acknowledge that the number of full time farmers is decreasing each year. We need to plan for the future by ensuring that there is a full spectrum of jobs available in rural areas. Indeed the Agri Vision 2015 Committee stated in its report that –

the objective of rural development policy is to provide the conditions for a fulfilling life for all those living in rural areas so that they can enjoy a standard of living and quality of life that make these communities attractive places in which to work and live. Today's concept of rural development must take account of the fact that, while farming and agri-food employment continue to be essential parts of the socio-economic structure, many rural dwellers are not linked to agriculture and their income and employment opportunities derive from the wider economy rather than from agriculture or from the agri-food sector. To maintain an efficient and diverse rural economy, and to safeguard its social infrastructure, non-agricultural employment and adequately funded physical infrastructure are in the Committee's opinion essential.²

Countryside recreation is an area that can help address both issues - that is the improvement of our health and wellbeing and the development of sustainable rural communities.

Leader

LEADER is the EU Community Initiative for Rural Development that provides approved Local Action Groups with public funding (EU and National) to implement multi-sectoral business plans for the development of their own areas. LEADER in the current period 2000 to 2006 is being delivered via two programmes:

Leader plus

The essential aim of the measure, which has a public contribution of some €73.7 million, is to encourage the emergence and testing of new approaches to integrated and sustainable development in rural communities. The Initiative is in place in 22 areas throughout the country.

The National Rural Development Programme.

The National Rural Development Programme, with a public contribution of some €75.6 million, forms part of the Regional Operational Programmes under the National Development Plan 2000-2006. The Programme complements the LEADER+ Programme and ensures the availability of funding in the 13 areas that were not appointed to deliver the LEADER+ Programme.

Funding for Rural/Agri Tourism is provided from this Programme on a nation-wide basis.

Under both these programmes substantial funds have been, and continue to be, committed by LEADER groups to a variety of innovative countryside recreation projects.

In addition much support is provided to these projects in the form of advice and training. In many cases the LEADER group itself is the promoter or lead partner in the project.

While many of these projects have a tourism focus they are also developed with local community needs in mind.

Community based initiatives

In many areas community based groups have

1 Obesity - The Policy Challenges, The Report of the National Taskforce on Obesity, 2005

2 Report of the Agri Vision 2015 Committee, presented to the Minister for Agriculture & Food, Ms Mary Coughlan, TD in December 2004

become actively involved in the management of recreational facilities in their locality. This is often done in conjunction with landowning agencies such as Coillte or the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). The following are four examples of such initiatives, (all of which are supported by their local LEADER groups) which have been taken from the submissions made to Comhairle na Tuaithe around this strategy. There are, however, many other examples, which could be cited including community work under other programmes and schemes.

Wicklow Uplands Council (WUC) is an independent grassroots organisation which brings together the various interests in the Wicklow Uplands including farming, landowning, recreational, environmental, community, economic and tourism. Many of its projects have been, jointly developed with and supported by Wicklow Rural Partnership Ltd. These projects aim to promote the sustainable use and enjoyment of the uplands in partnership with the people who live, work and recreate there. Current initiatives include 1) the coordination of the Wicklow Sustainable Trails Network Project, an ERDF funded project involving WUC, Coillte, NPWS³, Wicklow County Council and Mountain Meitheal in the management and promotion of the Wicklow Way, St Kevin's Way and other trails in the region; 2) research and development of 'agreed' access routes to areas of high amenity on private lands; 3) participation in trans-national exchange programmes dealing with local development issues including training in the provision of recreational facilities; 4) trail development in co-operation with local communities e.g. Old Railway Walk, Tinahely; 5) trail monitoring and user survey on the Wicklow Way; 6) participating in a project in conjunction with Coillte, NPWS, ESB and the Local Authorities to combat illegal dumping particularly in amenity parking areas.

Ballyhoura Development Ltd was formed to encourage and facilitate rural development in the Ballyhoura region. One of its main partners is Ballyhoura Failte whose function is to specifically promote and develop tourism opportunities in the

region. Ballyhoura Development and Ballyhoura Failte have made a substantial investment in countryside recreation opportunities in the region, directly through grants, and other incentives, and indirectly through advice, training, marketing assistance and promotional activities. Since creating the Ballyhoura Way Marked Way and Way Marked Loop Walks, the two companies have been concerned with the provision of a wide variety of high quality, sustainable recreation opportunities. The designation of the Ballyhoura Mountain Park, the development of fitness trails and orienteering trails and the planning and assisting Coillte with the development of a major Mountain Bike Park⁴ are just some of the achievements to date.

IRD Duhallow is a community-based rural development company. It has worked with Coillte, National Waymarked Ways Advisory Committee, Cork Kerry Tourism and local landowners to develop the Duhallow Way. The Duhallow Way is part of the Munster Way, a spectacular way, which runs from Killarney in Co. Kerry to Clogheen in Co. Tipperary. The stretch, which is almost 50km, offers a contrast of wild bog and mountain, forest roadways, glens, lakes, rivers and vast areas of spectacular isolation. IRD Duhallow has also promoted the development of looped walks along the route. Millstreet Country park is one of IRD Duhallow's flagship projects. The 200 hectare park is a showcase of how the delicate balance between nature and economic development can be achieved. The park, which is privately owned, provides employment for up to forty people at the height of the tourist season. It is a mix of open bogland, upland and lowland arboretum, mixed woodlands, wildflower meadows, groves, gardens, tumbling rivers and lakes.

Under South West Mayo Development Company, 5 neighbouring communities are working together to produce a joint walking & tourism initiative. The four communities of Newport, Derrada, Tiernaur & Mulranny are on the north side of Clew Bay. The fifth community is Aughagower, which lies to the south of Westport. All of the groups aim to 'hang' their loops from a longer linear route. To the north of Clew Bay the linear route is the Achill Spur that

³ On the ground work for this project has been undertaken and co resourced by Coillte, NPWS and Mountain Meitheal

⁴ Coillte is developing this park, in a number of areas across the country under the Forest Recreation Infrastructure Programme and supported by Failte Ireland under the National Development Plan.



heads west to Achill, from the Western Way (WMW) north of Newport. The Aughagower loops will attach themselves to the Tóchar Way that starts in Balla in the east and travels 38 miles to Murrisk in the west.

The Company and community representatives are currently working with Mayo County Council to ensure the Council's development and insurance of the linear routes. South West Mayo Development Company administers the Rural Social Scheme in SW Mayo and the scheme is currently supporting Mayo County Council in the development & maintenance of the Way Marked Ways in Mayo. The RSS will also support communities in the development & maintenance of the community loop walks.

Rural Social Scheme

The aim of the Rural Social Scheme is to provide directly improved rural services at a reasonable cost to the Exchequer and, at the same time, to ensure an income and employment support for certain small farmers and their families who can no longer make a viable living on the land. The scheme is implemented by LEADER groups and in the Gaeltacht by Údarás na Gaeltachta and LEADER groups. Over €40 million has been provided in the Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs estimates for the Rural Social Scheme in 2006. In addition a further €3 million has been provided for capital spending under the scheme.

Groups throughout the country have used the Rural Social Scheme to maintain walks and trails. Further schemes should be encouraged and funded in the future to carry out the physical work on the infrastructure projects described in the following chapter. From the point of view of Comhairle na Tuaithe and the Countryside Recreation Strategy, it is important that the use of the scheme in this way will complement and support the rural development measure in the draft strategy.

Rural Development Strategy 2007 to 2013

The Rural Development Strategy 2007 to 2013, which is currently in preparation, provides an opportunity to capitalise on the synergies described in the preceding paragraph. While agriculture and forestry remain the main land uses and still have a valuable contribution to make to socio-economic development, the rural development strategy will place agriculture in a broader context that also takes into account the protection of the rural environment and the attractiveness of rural areas to residents and visitors.

In July 2005, the EU Agriculture Council adopted a Regulation, on rural development support through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, for the next programming period (2007-2013). The Rural Development policy focuses on three key objectives i.e.:

- 1) Increasing the competitiveness of the agricultural sector through support for restructuring.
- 2) Enhancing the environment and countryside through support for land management.
- 3) Strengthening the quality of life in rural areas and promoting diversification of economic activities.

These areas are covered in four axes:

Axis 1: Improving competitiveness of farming and forestry

Axis 2: Improving the environment and the countryside

Axis 3: Improving quality of life and diversification of the rural economy

Axis 4: the LEADER approach

Axis 3 will be based around measures linked to diversifying the rural economy and improving the quality of life in rural areas. It will include encouraging the development of tourism and diversification to non-agricultural activities. The implementation method for this axis will be through local action groups realizing local development strategies and using the LEADER approach.

The National Rural Development Strategy 2007 to 2013, being developed, is structured around the EU Strategic Guidelines. There will be significant additional resources made available through the European Union for wider rural economy measures. In this context, axis 3 will provide the greatest opportunity to develop countryside recreation via the local action groups and the Rural and Agri Tourism measures to be drawn up. This axis will provide opportunities for partnerships between local action groups and state, local authority and voluntary bodies. Implementation of its measures will be through these partnerships with local action groups. This will enable the development of the infrastructure necessary to improve participation in countryside recreation activities a by-product of which will be an improvement in the socio-economic climate of rural areas.

Account should be taken within these measures of complementary measures within other national

policies such as the tourism and sports policies so that duplication can be avoided and co-ordination of strategies encouraged. It is recommended that the new institutional framework of understanding between Government departments, state agencies/semi-state companies (e.g. Fáilte Ireland, Coillte, Waterways Ireland, Forest Service and National Parks and Wildlife Service) and local action groups to work together to deliver on these measures be put in place as a matter of urgency.

Water Based Recreation

Inland water-based recreation and leisure is directly managed, developed and promoted under statute by Inland Fisheries Service, Waterways Ireland and the Office of Public Works. It is centred mainly on angling and cruising on lakes, rivers and canals.

Waterways Ireland

Waterways Ireland is the North/South Implementation Body responsible for the management, maintenance, development and restoration of the inland navigable waterway systems throughout the island, principally for recreational purposes.

Waterways Ireland's mission is to strive to provide a high quality recreational environment centred on the inland waterways of Ireland in its care, for the use and benefit of everyone.

The waterways under the remit of Waterways Ireland are the Lower Bann Navigation, the Erne System, the Shannon-Erne Waterway, the Barrow Navigation, the Grand Canal, the Royal Canal and the Shannon Navigation. This network provides a waterway link from Belleek to Waterford, Limerick to Dublin and many places in between. The inland waterways are a wonderful resource which can be enjoyed and experienced by all in many different ways.

The waterways contribute to countryside recreation through the wide range of activities on offer along the 1,000km waterway system. The development of the waterways also brings increased economic activity and benefits to the local waterway economies. The waterway network is home to a substantial cruise hire fleet of boats and a large private fleet. The network also supports sailing, canoeing, kayaking, rowing, waterskiing, wakeboarding and numerous other water sports. Coarse angling is also popular with both domestic and foreign anglers; while the way-marked ways and cycle routes along the

towpaths and banks provide a tranquil and oft times spectacular journey. The fringes, banks and hedgerows along the waterways provide a habitat for all types of flora and fauna.

Waterways Ireland works to continually enhance the facilities and services offered on the waterways to meet the needs of increasingly demanding and sophisticated local and visiting recreational users.

Fisheries Board

The general function of the Central Fisheries Board is to, inter alia promote, support, facilitate and co-ordinate where necessary the conservation, protection, management, development and improvement of inland fisheries. In this regard, the Regional Fisheries Boards encourage, promote, market and develop angling for salmon, trout, coarse and sea fish. They encourage, promote, organise and co-ordinate the voluntary development of inland fisheries catchment management plans in their regions. They co-operate and co-ordinate with the Central Fisheries Board and other Regional Fisheries Boards where necessary to ensure the effective and efficient deployment of resources and other matter having regard to the need for the sustainable development of the inland fisheries resource (including the conservation of fish and other species of fauna and flora and the biodiversity of inland water ecosystems) and as far as possible ensure that their activities are carried out in a manner which protects the natural heritage within the meaning of the Heritage Act, 1995. A key objective of the Boards is to increase involvement in angling activities especially at youth level. The Boards are actively involved in supporting initiatives in this regard.

The Marine Institute

The development of the water-based tourism and leisure sector forms a core element of the strategic objectives of the Marine Institute, which aims to maximise the development potential of the sector in a sustainable manner. In July 2006, the Institute published a Strategy for Marine Tourism & Leisure 2007 – 2013. This strategy aims to maximise the contribution of marine tourism and leisure to the achievement of national objectives for tourism, rural and local development, countryside recreation and the management of natural environment via co-ordinated action at national and local level. Its objectives in the area of recreation are to ensure that marine and coastal resources are fully developed



for the wellbeing of local communities and that safe and responsible use of coastal and marine resources for leisure and recreation is achieved.

Use of Forests for Recreational Purposes

A central tenet of Government forest policy, as promoted by the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture and Food, is sustainable forest management, whereby forests are managed in a way that maximise the economic, social and environmental benefits, now and into the future. The Forest Service recognises the role of woodlands and forests in outdoor recreation, and the value of this service in terms of public health and well being, and environmental awareness and education, and as the basis for local enterprises, development and tourism. Recreation is enshrined in the Irish National Forest Standard as a significant socio-economic and cultural function of Irish forestry. The Forest Service has also recently produced a 48-page guide for developing woodlands and forests for recreation, entitled *Forest Recreation in Ireland – A Guide for Forest Owners and Managers*.

NeighbourWood Scheme and other Forest Service funding

A major focus of the Forest Service's promotion of forest recreation is on the provision, under the NeighbourWood Scheme, of 'close-to-home' woodland amenities for local communities to use on a daily basis, in strategic, easily accessible locations within the urban, peri urban and rural setting. Within individual projects under the scheme, a high level of partnership is required between the local authority, local community, specific user groups, and, where relevant, non-local authority landowners.

There is a great diversity of projects under the NeighbourWood Scheme, reflecting the local character and heritage, and local needs and preferences. Projects also vary greatly in size. Typically, however, the focus is on daily use for a range of informal activities, such as leisurely strolls, family visits, daily exercise, dog walking, etc., with additional activities surrounding the use of the woodland as an 'outdoor classroom' by local schools. There are approximately 40 projects

approved to date under the NeighbourWood Scheme. The Forest Service is currently assessing measures to widen the scheme to non-local authority landowners, (e.g. other public bodies, organisations, institutes, religious orders, schools, private landowners), thereby expanding its potential application. However, the emphasis will continue to be on quality, easily assessable woodland amenity, public access, and a partnership approach to design and management.

The Forest Service also provides funding and support for a wide range of initiatives relating to forest recreation. Recent and ongoing examples include: the People's Millennium Forests Project, Leave No Trace Ireland, The Tree Council of Ireland's Tree Day and Project Forest educational projects, Designing for Woodland Recreation professional training courses, and the Society of Irish Foresters' Annual Forest Walks programme.

Coillte

Coillte is the largest single landowner in the state with over 440,000 ha. (1.1 million acres, circa 6% of total land area) of forest and open land and the single biggest provider of outdoor recreation. Much of Coillte's estate is located in areas of high scenic value and this, along with the fact that forests are ideal recreation landscapes⁵, means that Coillte's estate attracts a high level of usage for recreation. It is estimated that there are 18 – 30 million visits to Coillte forests annually with an estimated value to users of over €97 million⁶.

Coillte forests provide an extremely important resource for delivering recreation with 11 forest parks and over 150 recreation areas offering facilities at varying levels from car parking with access to the countryside to major recreation developments. Coillte also supports the work of many other organisations, from community bodies to national agencies (such as the NWWAC of the Sports Council), by working in partnership to provide a wide range of access arrangements and facilities. Coillte, for example, has over 8,000 km of forest roads and tracks and currently provides over 52% of all off road national waymarked trails.

Coillte's forests are managed as working forests, producing timber, delivering nature conservation and biodiversity and of course recreation. While the company is a commercial state company, whose

⁵ Forests by their nature are robust landscapes for recreation. They screen users and recreation facilities and absorb noise. In an Irish context they are well served with tracks and trails which allow easy access.

⁶ Economic Value of Trails and Forest Recreation in the Republic of Ireland, Fitzpatrick Associates, Economic Consultants for the Irish Sports Council and Coillte, September 2005

primary function is to manage the estate to deliver commercial objectives, it recognises that given its significant land ownership and its tradition of involvement in outdoor recreation it does have a very important part to play in any National Countryside Recreation Strategy. Coillte (and its predecessor the Forest and Wildlife Service) was the first large organisation to recognise the value of outdoor recreation when it opened the first forest park in the state at Gougane Barra, County Cork in 1966.

In the last number of years Coillte has been very active in developing the recreation management and potential of the estate and has initiated or completed a number of important recreation initiatives.

- Coillte published its *Recreation Policy – Healthy Forests, Healthy Nation* in 2005 where it set out its general company position, philosophy and issues relating to the provision of recreation on its estate.
- In 2004, Coillte commissioned a joint study with the Irish Sports Council on the value of forests and trails for recreational use which was published in late 2005. This report demonstrated that recreation in Coillte forests delivered many benefits to society and generated over €270 million in economic activity in local communities.
- The company is currently working on a major recreation initiative, the **Forest Recreation Infrastructure Programme** (€5.3 million), which is supported by Fáilte Ireland under the National Development Plan 2000 -2006. This programme will deliver a number of important outdoor recreation facilities across the country including:
 - the upgrading of hiking and walking trails with ancillary services such as car parks, way marking and trail head signage, picnic areas etc.;
 - the development of new mountain bike and other off road cycling facilities at five locations across the country;

- a new “Coillte outdoors” website that will provide a broad range of information for outdoor users in Ireland;
- and a *Walkers / Cyclists Welcome* initiative which will promote increased access to the countryside.
- Coillte was the first land owning organisation to adopt the Leave No Trace principles⁷ and has been very active in establishing Leave No Trace Ireland as an independent organisation promoting responsible use of the countryside.
- Coillte has played a lead role in developing a forest recreation research programme in conjunction with Coford – the forest research agency and has actively supported the work of the National Waymarked Ways Advisory Committee in developing its national trails strategy.
- Other initiatives currently being pursued by Coillte include the involvement of recreation users – in this case the mountain bike community – in a stewardship programme to develop and manage their sport in Coillte forests. Coillte is also leading a pilot initiative to develop a *recreation management strategy* for the South Dublin Hills. This will bring together the local authorities, National Park and Wildlife Service, representatives of recreation users and Coillte to develop an overall recreation strategy for this nationally important area.

The Council for Forest Research and Development (COFORD).

COFORD has produced a major review of forest recreation research needs in Ireland. This project brought together experts and practitioners from across the forestry industry and related sectors to look at a range of recreation topics including the value of recreation, managing the resource, recreation and landscape, health and wellbeing, tourism and forest recreation, farm forest recreation and the role of forest recreation in education.

⁷ These are adopted in the company’s recreation policy.



Heritage and Countryside Recreation

Enjoyment of the countryside through various recreational activities is an effective way of engaging public interest in many aspects of heritage e.g. our upland areas, coastlines, midland plains, inland waterways, archaeological sites, villages and towns. Trails, land or water-based in particular offer a space which can be used as an outdoor class room for both adults and children and can also make a significant contribution to a balanced healthy lifestyle.

Under the Heritage Act, 1995, the Heritage Council is charged to “promote interest, education, knowledge and pride in, and facilitate the appreciation and enjoyment of the national heritage”. The Heritage Council has been working in the sphere of walking routes and greenways since 1997. The Council promotes the sustainable recreational use and enjoyment of the countryside, and marine and coastal areas. The Council’s principal projects, at time of writing, are the Pilgrim Paths Millennium Project, and the Beara Breifne Way. Other projects supported by the Council include the Wicklow Sustainable Trails Network, and Leave No Trace. It has taken part in local authority initiatives such as the Waterford walking strategy, and Kildare walking routes study. It is a member of the NWWAC.

National Waymarked Ways and the Irish Trails Strategy

The National Waymarked Ways Advisory Committee (NWWAC) of the Irish Sports Council has three main functions: overseeing the maintenance and development of the National Network of Waymarked Ways; promoting and advising on the creation of other waymarked trails of all lengths; and promoting the increase of walking for its recreational, social and health benefits.

NWWAC inspects all registered waymarked trails annually to ensure they are properly maintained, and for insurance purposes. In the creation and maintenance of trails, it works closely with Trail Development Committees, Local Authorities, Government Agencies, and Local Sports Partnerships around the country.

NWWAC has just completed the development of The Irish Trails Strategy. This Strategy explores all available possibilities for the creation of a world-class trails network that will provide excellent recreational opportunities for Irish people, as well as establishing Ireland as a sought after international destination for activity breaks and holidays. The Irish Trails Strategy seeks to complement and contribute

to the National Countryside Recreation Strategy.

NWWAC is currently co-operating with Failte Ireland in the creation of high-standard loop-walks.

The Irish Sports Council’s new strategy ‘ Building Sport for Life’, which has a major focus on promoting participation in non-competitive sporting activities, was approved by government in July 2006. The Irish Sports Council’s role in the implementation of the Countryside Recreation Strategy may therefore extend beyond the development of waymarked trails and walking.

Fáilte Ireland’s Strategic Development of Walking Routes

Fáilte Ireland sees countryside recreation as a key component in promoting regional spread and growing tourism to rural areas. Under the next NDP, priority will be given to a number of activities that can develop Ireland’s product offering. The range of products that can be bundled or offered individually include:

- Angling – Game, Coarse and Sea
- Cycling – Strategy for the development of a route network nearing completion
- Equestrian – Including Trail Rides
- Outdoor Adventure
- Inland Cruising
- Food Tourism – visit to local food producers
- Health and Wellness
- Heritage Trails
- Ireland Naturally – Nature and wildlife

For example, to maximize the potential of walking holidays in the shortest possible time frame, Fáilte Ireland is at an advanced stage in planning the next phase of the marketing of walking holidays in the core overseas international markets and the domestic market. This project has seen the publication of details of the first 14 walks suitable for immediate promotion. These walks are geographically spread across the country and feature a number of different themes and grades. A brochure was produced in July 2006 and information on these walks is also available via the web on www.Ireland.ie or www.walking.Ireland.ie.

Fáilte Ireland also works at regional level to promote countryside recreation as a key component in growing tourism to rural areas. For example, the establishment of long distance waymarked ways

in the south west e.g. Beara, Sheep's Head, Dingle and Kerry ways, have proved highly successful. Fáilte Ireland in this region (formerly Cork Kerry Tourism) has worked in partnership with all local groups involved in the development of walks such as the LEADER companies in the region, to develop and promote walking as an amenity and tourist attraction in the region. They are also working closely with various groups on a number of islands off the West Cork coast to promote walking/recreational activities on those islands.

Irish Sports Council/Local Sports Partnerships (LSP)

The LSPs were set up to create a national structure to coordinate and promote the development of sport at local level. The key aims of the LSPs are to increase participation in sport and to ensure that local resources are used to best effect.

Local Authorities

Local authorities are involved in the development and maintenance of countryside recreational facilities, and in particular walking routes. For example, Waterford Co. Council has drawn up a walking strategy for the county, several counties employ officers to co-ordinate walks (including Cork-Kerry, Wicklow and Donegal) and other counties (including Clare and Offaly) have received funding to upgrade and develop routes from the Tourism Product Development Scheme.

The indemnity insurance of most National Network Trails (including their loops) is provided by Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance Co. through the relevant Local Authority, who are also responsible for maintenance. Local Authorities are a key element in the development of the infrastructure of countryside recreation and in the provision of ancillary facilities such as car parks, public toilet facilities etc.

Many of the countryside recreational facilities, other than walking routes, provided by local authorities include access and this is usually provided formally by the acquisition of formal public rights or sometimes as extensions to the public roads networks. Under the Roads Act, 1993 (S 73(11)) local authorities are required to protect the right of the public to use public rights of way. They are occasionally asked to intervene where alleged public rights of way are being interfered with.

Leave No Trace Ireland

Leave No Trace Ireland is a network of organisations established to develop and promote the Leave

No Trace message on an all Ireland basis. The organisation represents the major public landowners and recreational users and recently employed a development officer funded by the constituent organisations. Leave No Trace Ireland has run a total of five courses including a master educators - the first in Europe - and several awareness days at organisation and national level. Organisations currently members of the Leave No Trace initiative include National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Mountaineering Council of Ireland, Coillte, the Heritage Council, Duke of Edinburgh Award, Scouting Ireland, Forest Service, CAAN-Northern Ireland, Mountain Meitheal and Mountain Biking Ireland. Other organisations are currently considering joining.

Access to the Countryside

The consensus view reached by Comhairle na Tuaithe on Access to the Countryside is reflected in Appendix 4 – Parameters for Comhairle na Tuaithe's Position on Access to the Countryside. The Access Working Group of Comhairle na Tuaithe met on a number of occasions to discuss and agree what should be included in the National Countryside Recreation Strategy in relation to its views on access to the countryside.

Following consideration of all the points made, the Access Working Group concluded that there is no single universally applicable solution to the access issues which arise from countryside recreation. Different levels of pressure are brought to bear and different levels of access are required depending on the recreational activity being pursued or the area of the country in which access is being sought. The issues have to be addressed by a range of solutions which must be tailored to specific circumstances. In relation to walking, for example, solutions will differ depending on whether the issues relate to access to busy tourist trails, to national waymarked ways or subsidiary routes or to upland areas.

The group recommended that on managed infrastructure e.g. waymarked ways and walks managed by local action groups that landowners should be given the opportunity to benefit financially from participation in providing countryside recreation.

The issue of insurance for landowners to cover occupiers' liability was discussed by the Access Working Group. The Group consulted with the Irish Insurance Federation who stated that 'within the farm policy package a relatively small portion of the overall premium goes towards provision for the occupiers' liability risk.' The group felt that



landowners should be indemnified against the risk of claims from recreational users of their land. For a large proportion of national waymarked ways, the landowner indemnity scheme operated by Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance Ltd (IPBMI) already provides indemnity against risk of claims from recreational users of land. The Working Group recommended that the extension of such an indemnity to include other private landowners against the risk of claims from recreational users of their land should be investigated.

The group recommended that the countryside recreation strategy should include the application of funding of pilot solutions to the access to the countryside issue that can be implemented in the short-term with a view to putting in place a nationally applicable solution in the medium term.

Comhairle na Tuaithe recognises that farming organisations will continue to pursue direct compensation for access to land by recreational users of the countryside.

Comhairle na Tuaithe recommends that the Attorney General be requested to examine restating and/or reflecting in legislation the current common law position in relation to the protection of landowners' property rights where recreational access is allowed on their land.

Comhairle na Tuaithe further recommends that the Law Reform Commission be requested to make recommendations on the broader issues of access to the countryside for recreational users focussing on the constitutional and legal position pertaining in Ireland.

Comhairle na Tuaithe considers that no cost burden or liability, within the meaning of the Occupiers' Liability Act, 1995, should attach to farmers/landowners as a result of allowing recreational users on their land and that Government should take appropriate steps, as a matter of urgency, to ensure that this is so. Comhairle na Tuaithe believes that the resolution of this issue is essential to the development of countryside recreation.

Chapter 3

SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED

Call for Submissions

In October 2005 an invitation was placed in the national and provincial newspapers, and in addition, Comhairle na Tuaithe wrote to groups representing recreational interests, state agencies and relevant Government departments seeking their views on the development of countryside recreation. The closing date for receipt of submissions was 7 December 2005 and 190 submissions were received. Further information on the call for submissions is contained in Appendices 6 to 8.

The submissions were examined by the type of

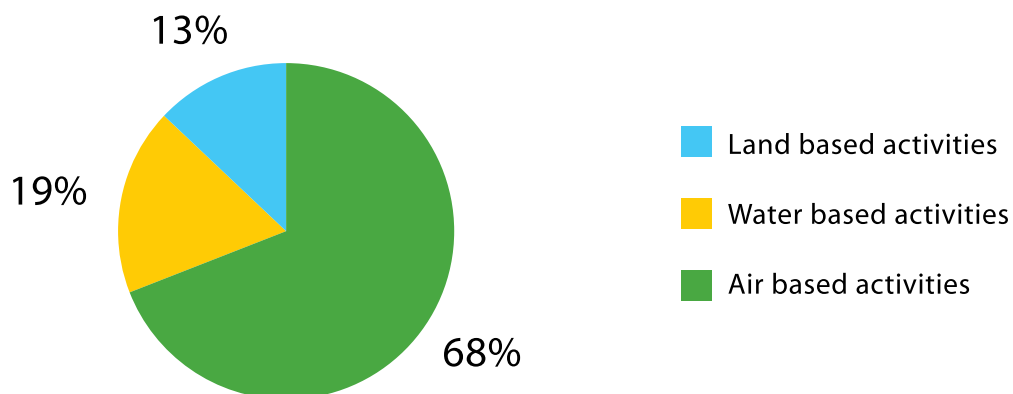
activity that was covered, be it a land, air or water based activity. These results are demonstrated in the table below.

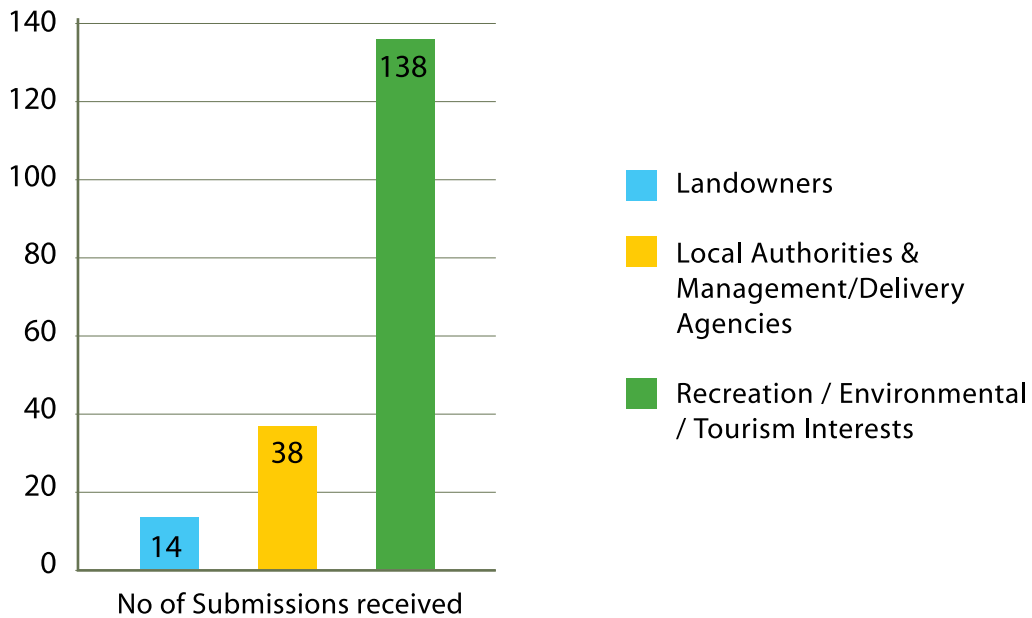
The submissions were also examined and categorised under the following three headings:

- Landowners
- Local Authorities & Management/Delivery Agents
- Recreational/Environmental/Tourism Interests

(see chart below)

Breakdown by activity





Finally, a more detailed list of activities covered in the submissions was compiled. These activities were covered either directly by a dedicated organisation or in general as part of an overall view.

Land Based Activities

- Bird Watching
- Caving
- Coursing
- Cycling
- Equestrian
- Hill walking
- Hunting/Shooting
- Jogging
- Mountain Biking
- Mountaineering
- Off Roding
- Orienteering
- Quad biking
- Rock Climbing
- Scrambling
- Walking

Water Based Activities

- Angling
- Canoeing
- Jet Skiing
- Kayaking
- Rowing
- Sailing
- Surfing
- Swimming

Air Based Activities

- Aeronautics
- Aircraft Construction
- Aviation
- Ballooning
- Gliding and Soaring
- Hang gliding/para gliding
- Micro lighting
- Parachuting

Chapter 4

The National Countryside Recreation Strategy as proposed by

Comhairle na Tuaithe

Having regard to the purposes of the National Countryside Recreation Strategy, the various views of the membership organisations and the individuals and organisations that participated in the consultation phase the following chapter represents Comhairle na Tuaithe's consensus proposal for the Minister on the National Countryside Recreation Strategy.

Definition of Countryside Recreation

Countryside recreation applies to those sporting, recreational and holiday pursuits based on use of the resources of the countryside and which contribute to healthy active lifestyles. The term countryside includes land, water and air. The term recreation in this context applies to sporting and recreational activities, which operate in the countryside as defined above. It does not refer to sporting activities, which take place in the countryside on confined courses or pitches specifically designed and constructed for those sports e.g. golf, football, show jumping etc.

Vision

Comhairle na Tuaithe's vision for countryside recreation is a countryside, which welcomes all visitors who practise responsible use of the resource, and where the rights and responsibilities of both landowners and recreational users are respected and the necessary funding and structures are in place to deliver a recreation service.

Strategic Objectives

The following are the strategic objectives identified by Comhairle na Tuaithe for the National Countryside Recreation Strategy.

1. To achieve sustainable and responsible recreation in the countryside.
2. To promote caring recreational use of the countryside.
3. To develop a national framework that promotes the rights and responsibilities of both owners and users.

4. To develop a suitable structure to deliver a national countryside recreation service in a strategic and co-ordinated way.
5. To secure a package of funding mechanisms to deliver on the objectives of the strategy.

Principles underpinning the Strategic Objectives

The principles underpinning the strategic objectives of the National Countryside Recreation Strategy are as follows:-

- Recognition of the value of countryside recreation in terms of improving quality of life, and delivering economic, social and health benefits.
- Protection of the natural, cultural and built heritage of our countryside and of the natural environment, including wildlife habitats.
- Full cognisance of the legal rights and concerns of land owners, who are predominantly the farming community and state agencies.
- Acceptance of the need of recreational users to have reasonable access to the countryside and uplands.
- Provision of education and awareness programmes to promote the responsible use of the countryside for recreational purposes.
- Encouragement of farmers and other landowners to provide for outdoor recreation and to develop rural enterprises based on outdoor recreation, thereby providing them with the opportunity to benefit financially.
- Development and maintenance of infrastructure both general and specific to the activities themselves, to provide for countryside recreation.
- Centrality of quality to the provision of outdoor recreation, whereby outdoor recreational areas and related facilities are planned, designed and managed according to best international practices, including those relating to 'access for all' principles.



Actions to implement the Strategy

The list of actions outlined below is an indicative list of those actions which Comhairle na Tuaithe considers should be undertaken to implement these principles over the coming five years. While a range of bodies would be involved in this regard, it is anticipated that the Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs would be the body with overall responsibility for overseeing the implementation of these actions. It is envisaged that these actions would be supported by a range of sources, including the funding made available through the Rural Development Strategy to be drawn up to implement the EU Rural Development Regulation 2007-13, the Rural Social Scheme, CLÁR, the Community Services Programme and relevant schemes of other Departments and Agencies (e.g. the Forest Service NeighbourWood Scheme). It is recommended that these actions be reviewed on an annual basis.

OBJECTIVE 1

To achieve sustainable and responsible recreation in the countryside.

TASK	SPECIFICATIONS	PARTNERS
Development of infrastructure for countryside recreation	<p>Ensure the implementation of the agreed National Trails Strategy.</p> <p>Encourage the management and maintenance of strategically located car parks and other types of infrastructure to facilitate countryside recreation.</p> <p>Encourage the management and maintenance of infrastructure for use by those involved in countryside recreation. The type of infrastructure envisaged would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paths/trails for walking, rambling, pony/horse trekking, cycling, etc. - River/canal routes - Tracks and designated areas for mountain biking - Rock climbing/caving areas - Facilities for bird watching - Onshore facilities for water sports - Areas for water sports such as angling, kayaking, sailing, surfing, windsurfing - Bases for air sports, such as hang-gliding etc <p>Develop specific areas for recreational motorised activities and strengthen measures to discourage them elsewhere.</p> <p>Encourage the maintenance, upkeep or restoration of infrastructure already in place to enable unimpeded public use. This action should ensure that improvements and maintenance carried out does not damage the natural, cultural or built heritage of the area involved.</p> <p>Encourage the use of former infrastructural facilities - in a way that protects the heritage of the facility - such as disused railway lines, canal towpaths, bog roads etc. as trails for walking, equestrian pursuits, cycling etc.</p> <p>Encourage the use of forests for countryside recreation and involve the landowners in this development.</p> <p>Encourage the provision of transport for recreational users of the countryside to recreational facilities/areas e.g. community based bus services to areas of countryside recreational activity, natural habitats, archaeological sites etc.</p>	<p>Comhairle na Tuaithe Department of Community Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs Department of Arts, Sports & Tourism Local Action Groups⁸ Local Authorities Farmers Coillte Forest Service National Parks and Wildlife Service Heritage Council Fáilte Ireland Irish Sports Council Waterways Ireland Recreation Organisations</p>

⁸ In the context of this strategy Local Action Groups work with a bottom-up, partnership approach to foster the development of rural areas through the implementation of innovative locally based development strategies and are made up of local actors both non-statutory and statutory.



OBJECTIVE 1 (continued)

To achieve sustainable and responsible recreation in the countryside.

TASK	SPECIFICATIONS	PARTNERS
Provision of information on countryside recreation opportunities and how to participate	<p>Encourage the adaptation of the facilities listed in the actions above for use by people with disabilities, the elderly and young children.</p> <p>Encourage the provision of accommodation based on countryside recreational markets such as trails tourism, ecotourism etc.</p> <p>Encourage niche tourism such as arts and crafts, speciality food provision, ecotourism, genealogy, archaeology, history etc. to ensure that recreational users of the countryside have a full range of other activities available to them when visiting rural areas.</p> <p>Encourage the use of the internet for the provision of booking services to recreational users of the countryside who wish to book recreation facilities and ancillary amenities.</p> <p>Encourage the establishment of information systems to inform users of location of countryside recreation facilities using the internet and local information points.</p> <p>Encourage the provision of training and information packs for tourist office personnel meeting visitors to the countryside.</p> <p>Ensure the co-ordination of the audits of walking routes, and other available research which has been carried out.</p> <p>Collect information on facilities and services that are in place for recreational activities other than walking.</p>	<p>Comhairle na Tuaithe Department of Arts, Sports & Tourism Irish Sports Council Local Authorities Regional Tourism Authorities Fáilte Ireland Coillte National Parks & Wildlife Service Tree Council of Ireland</p>

OBJECTIVE 2

To promote caring recreational use of the countryside.

TASK

Design of education programmes, for schools and elsewhere, for the promotion of: -

- training,
- awareness,
- respectful enjoyment of the countryside, and
- understanding of the impact of recreation on the environment.

SPECIFICATIONS

Implement Leave No Trace.

Encourage the promotion of activities such as networking, training, seminars and conferences to encourage understanding and help achieve an equitable balance between the many different recreational interests.

Encourage the provision of training in environmental management for those involved in the provision of services for countryside recreation.

Encourage that instructors, leaders and schoolteachers involved in countryside recreation activities (especially risk activities) are qualified to the national standards of the relevant activity.

Encourage the continuance and review of countryside and outdoor recreation module in the new Physical Education curriculum for primary schools.

Encourage the continuance of promotion of the health enhancing activities of countryside recreation such as walking.

PARTNERS

Comhairle na Tuaithe
Leave No Trace Ireland
Department of Education & Science
Health Service Executive
Leave no Trace Ireland
Birdwatch Ireland
Irish Peatland
Conservation Council
Irish Sports Council
Adventure Activity Standards Authority
Tree Council of Ireland
Health Promotion Unit
Irish Heart Foundation



OBJECTIVE 3

To develop a national policy that promotes the rights and responsibilities of both owners and users.

The consensus view reached by Comhairle na Tuaithe on Access to the Countryside is reflected in Appendix 4 – Parameters for Comhairle na Tuaithe’s Position on Access to the Countryside. The Access Working Group of Comhairle na Tuaithe met on a number of occasions to discuss and agree what should be included in the National Countryside Recreation Strategy in relation to its views on access to the countryside.

Following consideration of all the points made, the Access Working Group concluded that there is no single universally applicable solution to the access issues which arise from countryside recreation. Different levels of pressure are brought to bear and different levels of access are required depending on the recreational activity being pursued or the area of the country in which access is being sought. The issues have to be addressed by a range of solutions which must be tailored to specific circumstances. In relation to walking, for example, solutions will differ depending on whether the issues relate to access to busy tourist trails, to national waymarked ways or subsidiary routes or to upland areas.

The group recommended that on managed infrastructure e.g. waymarked ways and walks managed by local action groups that landowners should be given the opportunity to benefit financially from participation in providing countryside recreation.

The issue of insurance for landowners to cover occupiers’ liability was discussed by the Access Working Group. The Group consulted with the Insurance Federation of Ireland who stated that ‘within the farm policy package a relatively small portion of the overall premium goes towards provision for the occupiers’ liability risk.’ The group felt that landowners should be indemnified against the risk of claims from recreational users of their land. For a large proportion of national waymarked ways, the landowner indemnity scheme operated

by Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance Ltd (IPBMI) already provides indemnity against risk of claims from recreational users of land. The Working Group recommended that the extension of such an indemnity to include other private landowners against the risk of claims from recreational users of their land should be investigated.

The group recommended that the countryside recreation strategy should include the application of funding of pilot solutions to the access to the countryside issue that can be implemented in the short-term with a view to putting in place a nationally applicable solution in the medium term.

Comhairle na Tuaithe recognises that farming organisations will continue to pursue direct compensation for access to land by recreational users of the countryside.

Comhairle na Tuaithe recommends that the Attorney General be requested to examine restating and/or reflecting in legislation the current common law position in relation to the protection of landowners’ property rights where recreational access is allowed on their land.

Comhairle na Tuaithe further recommends that the Law Reform Commission be requested to make recommendations on the broader issues of access to the countryside for recreational users focussing on the constitutional and legal position pertaining in Ireland.

Comhairle na Tuaithe considers that no cost burden or liability, within the meaning of the Occupiers Liability Act, 1995, should attach to farmers/landowners as a result of allowing recreational users on their land and that Government should take appropriate steps, as a matter of urgency, to ensure that this is so. Comhairle na Tuaithe believes that the resolution of this issue is essential to the development of countryside recreation.

TASK

Development and promotion of agreement on access as a priority (see recommendations above re legislative and indemnity issues).

Support of landowners/managers

SPECIFICATIONS

Based on Comhairle na Tuaithe's agreed access parameters and the recommendations above, encourage the development of access agreements to underpin permissive access to the countryside for recreational purposes.

Through local action groups consult with landowners and recreational groups in developing agreements.

Support pilot schemes to test out access arrangements in different situations and use the findings to inform national and local policy ensuring that the pilots are evaluated in terms of social, environmental and economic impacts and their capacity to solve local problems and issues.

Consider the extension of the indemnity insurance on recognised waymarked ways against the risk of claims from recreational users of the land to other private landowners who allow access to their lands.

Comhairle na Tuaithe to continue examining the legalities surrounding the implementation of the National Countryside Recreation Strategy

Support local action groups in the provision of a channel for landowners involved in managed schemes to report and resolve any difficulties or damage arising from recreational use of their land.

PARTNERS

Comhairle na Tuaithe
Farming Organisations
Coillte
Forest Service
National Parks and Wildlife Service
Other State Agencies with land holdings
Recreational users organisations
Local Action Groups
Local Authorities

Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs
Fáilte Ireland

Comhairle na Tuaithe
Local Action Groups



OBJECTIVE 4

To develop a suitable structure to deliver a national countryside recreation service in a strategic and co-ordinated way.

Many of the respondents to the call for submissions and many of the members of Comhairle na Tuaithe would favour the establishment of a separate body to oversee countryside recreation. At the same time, the realities in relation to public service recruitment must be recognised and in this context it is essential that resources are put in place immediately to implement this objective of the strategy even if the achievement of a separate body for countryside recreation will take some time.

To achieve this objective the following tasks and actions are recommended.

TASK	SPECIFICATIONS	PARTNERS
Development of a representative national structure	<p>Agree and put in place a national structure, that is representative of all those with a role in countryside recreation, to encourage and oversee the implementation of the National Countryside Recreation Strategy and to inform national policy development in relevant areas.</p> <p>Ensure the provision of appropriate administrative and technical staff and resources to ensure the co-ordination of the National Countryside Recreation Strategy.</p>	<p>Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs Comhairle na Tuaithe Forest Service Relevant governing bodies of countryside recreation</p>
Development of representative local structures	<p>Ensure that local action groups include inter alia representatives of landowners, local authorities and recreational interests.</p> <p>Ensure that local action groups have access to practical support when planning and developing local initiatives in the area of countryside recreation.</p> <p>Ensure the provision of appropriate staff and resources at local action group level and local authority level to develop countryside recreation.</p>	<p>Local Action Groups Local Authorities Local Sports Partnerships Coillte State Agencies in the countryside arena such as the National Parks and Wildlife Service Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture & Food Fáilte Ireland Regional Bodies</p>
Implementation and monitoring of the National Countryside Recreation Strategy.	<p>Agree and monitor specific indicators to measure success of strategy.</p> <p>Assign responsibility for implementing and reporting on the strategy both nationally and locally at an appropriate level. Those reporting should be accountable to the representative national structure.</p>	<p>Comhairle na Tuaithe Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs</p>

OBJECTIVE 5

To secure a package of funding mechanisms to deliver on the objectives of the strategy.

TASK	SPECIFICATIONS	PARTNERS
Maximising the potential of the Rural Development Programme to support the implementation of the National Countryside Recreation Strategy	Develop a suite of practical measures, which is compatible with overall aims of the programme and could be delivered through existing and proposed structures.	Comhairle na Tuaithe Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs
Engagement of other government departments and agencies to support the National Countryside Recreation Strategy	Request relevant departments and agencies to indicate their contribution to the delivery and funding of the National Countryside Recreation Strategy in the context of their current responsibilities and strategic plans. Explore the potential of local authorities to have greater involvement in countryside recreation.	Comhairle na Tuaithe Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs Relevant Departments and Agencies Local Authorities



Appendix 1

Membership of Comhairle na Tuaithe

Coillte

Comhar LEADER na hÉireann

Cork Kerry Tourism

County and City Managers' Association

Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs

Fáilte Ireland

The Forest Service, Department of Agriculture and Food

The Heritage Council

The Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers' Association

The Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers' Association

The Irish Countrywomens' Association

The Irish Farmers' Association

The Irish Sports Council

The Irish Uplands Forum

Irish Ways/Walking Cycling Ireland

Keep Ireland Open

The Mountaineering Council of Ireland

National Parks and Wildlife Service

Walking Routes Ireland

Appendix 2

Terms of Reference of Comhairle na Tuaithe

- To ensure that all those with an interest and concern in the sustainable development and proper management of the recreational amenities of the countryside are fully consulted on their future management.
- To develop and update, as necessary, a National Countryside Recreation Strategy.
- To ensure that all means necessary are used to resolve conflicts that arise in relation to access issues and responsible enjoyment of the countryside.
- To raise awareness of the benefits to and responsibilities of recreational use of the countryside and to carry out research and training on related issues.
- To examine the benefits and management of increased leisure use.



Appendix 3

Membership of Comhairle na Tuaithe's Working Groups

STRATEGY WORKING GROUP⁹

Mr Maurice Harvey, Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers' Association

Mr Brian Kehoe, Comhar LEADER na h Éireann

Ms Beatrice Kelly, The Heritage Council

Mr Cormac Mac Donnell, The Irish Sports Council

Mr Bill Murphy, Coillte

ACCESS WORKING GROUP

Mr Michael Comiskey/Mr Neilie O Leary, Irish Farmers Association

Mr Roger Garland, Keep Ireland Open

Mr Brian Kehoe, Comhar LEADER na h Éireann

Mr Joss Lynam, Mountaineering Council of Ireland

Mr Paddy O' Mahony, Fáilte Ireland

Mr Malcolm Thompson, The Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers' Association

COUNTRYSIDE CODES WORKING GROUP

Mr Kevin Collins, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture and Food

Mr Michael Manning, Cork Kerry Tourism

Mr Jim McDonald, Irish Ways/Walking Cycling Ireland

Dr Mary Tubridy, The Irish Uplands Forum

These Working Groups are chaired by the Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs.

⁹ However, all members of Comhairle na Tuaithe were invited to attend the meetings of the Strategy Working Group and the majority of the members availed of this opportunity at some point over the period of its work.

Appendix 4

Parameters for Comhairle na Tuaithe's position on Access to the Countryside

Access to the countryside must be based on mutual respect and:

- Acceptance of the rights of farmers and landowners over access to their land;
- Acceptance of the need of recreational users to have reasonable access to the countryside and uplands;
- Acceptance of the aspirations of recreational users to lobby for legislative change;
- Acknowledgement of the concerns of farmers and landowners in relation to insurance and liability;
- Opposition to the use of any form of violent or threatening behaviour in relation to conflicts over access and where a conflict arises, rapid, positive efforts should be made to resolve it by all parties involved;
- Recognition of the value that recreational activity brings to the rural economy;
- Acceptance that recreational users in the countryside must be responsible for their own safety.



Appendix 5

Countryside Code agreed by Comhairle na Tuaithe

Based on the Leave No Trace - Principles Of Outdoor Ethics

For all users of our countryside, to encourage respectful enjoyment of this valuable resource.

1. PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE

Before you go check, where possible, if access is allowed and your activity is permitted in the area you wish to visit e.g. is your dog welcome too? Is there parking available?

Respect any signs, regulations, policies and special concerns for the area that you wish to visit. Permits may sometimes be needed for activities on public lands.

Where possible travel by public transport and share cars.

Ensure you have the skills and equipment needed for your activity.

Check the weather forecast. Prepare for changeable weather and the possibility of something going wrong.

For environmental, safety and social reasons, keep group numbers small.

2. BE RESPECTFUL OF OTHERS

Park appropriately – avoid blocking gateways, forest entrances or narrow roads. Remember that farm machinery, local residents and the emergency services may need access at all times.

Respect landowners, land managers and their property – avoid damaging walls and fences, do not disturb farm animals.

Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.

Avoid making loud and excessive noise. Let nature's sounds prevail.

Support local communities e.g. make a point of spending money in the areas you visit.

3. RESPECT FARM ANIMALS AND WILDLIFE

Dogs should be kept under close control and should not be brought onto hills or farmland without the landowners' permission.

Observe wild animals and birds from a distance. Avoid disturbing them at sensitive times: mating, nesting and raising young (mostly between spring and early summer).

Never feed wildlife or farm animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health and alters natural behaviours.

4. KEEP TO DURABLE GROUND

Durable ground includes established tracks and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses or snow.

To avoid further erosion, keep to the centre of tracks at all times.

IF CAMPING:

- Protect water quality by camping at least 30m from lakes and streams.
- Aim to leave your campsite as you found it, or better.

IN POPULAR AREAS:

- Concentrate use on existing tracks and campsites.
- Walk single file in the middle of the track even when wet or muddy.
- Keep campsites small and discreet.

IN MORE REMOTE AREAS:

- Disperse use to prevent the creation of new tracks and campsites.
- Avoid places where impacts are just beginning to show.

5. LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND

Respect property. For example, farming or forestry machinery, fences, stone walls etc. Leave gates as you find them (open or closed).

Preserve the past: examine- but do not damage archaeological structures, old walls and heritage artefacts e.g. holy wells, mine workings, monuments.

Conserve the present: leave rocks, flowers, plants, animals and other natural habitats as you find them. Fallen trees are a valuable wildlife habitat - do not remove or use for firewood.

Avoid introducing non-native plants and animals e.g. zebra mussels in rivers and lakes.

Do not build rock cairns, structures or shelters.

6. DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY

"If You Bring It In, Take It Out" - take home all litter and leftover food (including Teabags, fruit peels and other biodegradable foods).

To dispose of solid human waste, dig a hole 10-12cms deep and at least 30m from water, campsites and tracks. Cover and disguise the hole when finished.

Bring home toilet paper and hygiene products.

To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 30m away from small streams or lakes and if necessary use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Bring home any solids and scatter strained dishwater.

For more information on sanitation in the outdoors read the "Where to go in the outdoors" leaflet (www.countrysiderecreation.com).

7. MINIMISE THE EFFECTS OF FIRE

Where possible avoid open fires in the countryside.

Fires can cause lasting impacts and can be devastating to forests, natural habitats and farmland.

When camping use a lightweight stove for cooking.

WHERE FIRES ARE PERMITTED:

Use established fire rings, barbecues or create a mound fire.

Keep fires small. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand. Do not cut growing vegetation for use as firewood.

Avoid burning plastics or other substances, which emit toxic fumes.

Burn all fires to ash, put out fires completely, and then scatter cool ashes.

Dead and dry vegetation is highly flammable - do not light fires in these conditions.

Winds can spread fires - exercise extreme caution in such conditions.



Appendix 6

Submissions received on the Countryside Recreation Strategy

1. Adam D'Arcy
2. AgriAware
3. Alastair and Gr-inne Cunningham
4. An Óige
5. An Taisce
6. Angling Council of Ireland
7. Atlantic Challenge Ireland
8. Atlantic Challenge South East
9. Aughadowan ICA
10. Bailieborough Development Association
11. Ballyhoura Development Company
12. Barry Murphy
13. Beara Way Walking Route
14. BirdWatch Ireland
15. Blackwater Resource Development
16. Border Regional Authority
17. Brendan and Niamh Kelly
18. Capanalea OEC
19. Carrignabhfean Community Council
20. Catherine McMullin
21. Cavan County Council
22. Cheekpoint Fishing Heritage Project
23. Clare Thornley
24. COFORD
25. Coillte
26. Comeragh Mountaineering Club
27. Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo
28. Comhar LEADER na hÉireann
29. Comharchumann Dhúiche Sheoigheach Teo
30. Cork County Council Planning Policy Unit
31. Cork County Development Board
32. Country Side Tours
33. Countryside Alliance Ireland
34. County Leitrim Partnership
35. County Wexford Partnership
36. Darina Tully
37. David and Mairin Herman
38. David Perry
39. Denis Treacy
40. Department of Communications Marine & Natural Resources
41. "Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government"
42. Donegal County Council
43. Dr Con Bushe
44. Dublin City Development Board
45. Dublin Tourism
46. Duhallow Angling and Leisure Group
47. East West Mapping
48. Eoin Ó Tuairisg
49. EPIC MTB & Mountain Bike Club
50. ESB
51. Farmers Against Foxhunting & Trespass
52. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture and Food
53. Forestry Assessment Companies
54. Gael Saoire, Údaras na Gaeltachta
55. Galway County Council
56. Galway Mayo Institute of Technology
57. Great Southern Trail
58. Greater Enniskerry Residents' Association
59. Grúpa as Gaeltacht Mhaigh Eó
60. Grúpa as Gaeltacht na Gaillimhe
61. Health Services Executive
62. Heritage Council
63. Hugh Lee
64. ICMSA
65. ICSA
66. IFA
67. IRD Duhallow
68. Irish Council Against Bloodsports
69. Irish Cycling Safaris
70. Irish Deer Society
71. Irish Farm Forestry Section IFA
72. Irish Farmhouse Holidays
73. Irish Hang Gliding and Para Gliding Association

74. Irish Heart Foundation
75. Irish Masters of Foxhounds Association
76. Irish Orienteering Association
77. Irish Peatland Conservation Council
78. Irish Ramblers Club
79. Irish Rural Link
80. Irish Sailing Association
81. Irish Sports Council
82. Irish Surfing Association
83. Irish Timber Growers Association
84. Irish Uplands Forum
85. Jack Bergin
86. Jamie Young Killary Lodge
87. Jim O'Brien
88. Joe Hogan
89. Joe Power
90. John Nash
91. John S Holmes
92. John Walsh
93. Keep Ireland Open
94. Ken Boyle
95. Kerry Association of An Taisce
96. Kerry Local Sports Partnership
97. Kerry Way Committee
98. Kildare Sports Partnership
99. Kilfinane Outdoor Education Centre
100. Landscape Alliance Ireland
101. Leave No Trace Ireland
102. Lough Owel Trout Preservation Association
103. Máire Uí Ghiobúin
104. Marine Institute
105. Marion Rueter
106. Martin Scoular
107. Martin Smyth
108. Mary Rose Bogan
109. Matthew Tubridy
110. Maureen Madigan
111. Mayo County Development Board Walking Subcommittee
112. Meath Community Partnership
113. Meitheal Mara
114. Michael Gunn
115. Michael McCormick
116. Mícheál Ó Conchúir
117. Mícheál S Ó Cléirigh
118. Mieke Muylleert
119. Mike Belford
120. Motorcycling Ireland
121. Motorsport Ireland
122. Mountain Bike Commission of Cycling Ireland
123. Mountain Biking Ireland
124. Mountain Meitheal
125. Mountain Views
126. Mountaineering Council of Ireland
127. National Aeroclub of Ireland
128. National Association of Regional Games Councils
129. National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland
130. Niall McManus
131. North Kerry Walks Co. Ltd
132. North Sligo North Leitrim Uplands Group
133. North Tipperary County Council
134. Nuala and Aidan Shelly
135. Offaly County Council
136. Oideas Gael
137. P McGorrin
138. Patrick Fortune
139. Patrick Fox
140. Patrick Patterson
141. Patrick Sinnott
142. Paul Money
143. Pauline Beglin
144. Peaks Mountaineering Club
145. Peter & Aileen Kavanagh
146. Peter Jordan



147. Pukane Development Association
148. Richard O'Sullivan
149. Richard Power
150. Robert M Foley
151. Robert P Garrett
152. Rory O'Grady
153. Roscommon County Development Board
154. Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland
155. Scouting Ireland
156. Sé O'Hanlon
157. Sean Browne
158. Seán Ó Cuinn
159. Seán Ó Farrell
160. Sheepshead Way
161. Simon Warren
162. Sligo County Council
163. Sligo Mountaineering Club
164. Society of Irish Foresters
165. Sophie Price
166. Sorrento Cycling Club
167. South Dublin County Council
168. South East Regional Authority
169. South East Tourism
170. South Kerry and West Cork Hill Walking Partnership
171. South Tipperary County Development Board
172. Speleological Union of Ireland
173. Teagasc
174. Terence P Cunningham
175. The Kerry Way Committee
176. Thomas Roche
177. Tir na Mona Community Council
178. Tom Swindles
179. Val Jones
180. Vanessa Behal
181. Vincent Carragher
182. Vincent Healy
183. Walking Routes Ireland
184. Waterford County Council
185. Waterways Ireland
186. Western Development Tourism Programme
187. "Wicklow County Council, Planning Section"
188. Wicklow Uplands Council
189. Wildspace Open Canoeing
190. Willie O'Donoghue
191. Workmans Boat Club

Appendix 7

Issues Raised in the Submissions

The call for submissions on the development of a National Countryside Recreation Strategy invited respondents to answer five questions i.e.

1. What is your vision of Countryside Recreation over the next 10-year period?
2. What obstacles do you see to achieving that vision and how can they be overcome?
3. What part if any do you, or your organisation, feel you can play in surmounting these obstacles?
4. Can you give examples of best practice in Ireland and/or elsewhere which could inform the recreational strategy?
5. Should the current structure and membership of Comhairle na Tuaithe be changed or added to and how?

As the majority of respondents used these five questions to structure their submissions the chapter that follows addresses the issues raised in the submissions in the context of these questions.

Vision of Countryside Recreation

The opinions expressed in answer to this question were wide and varied depending on the role and perspective of the organisation expressing them. However, there were a number of issues that were common to the majority of respondents. They wished to see a countryside recreation strategy that encouraged good relations between recreational users and landowners and where the rights and responsibilities of both groups were recognised. They also wanted the strategy to encourage the responsible and sustainable use of the countryside. Many expressed the view that the involvement of local communities and users groups in planning and management would be central to their vision for countryside recreation in the future, as would the wider integration with local and regional networks.

Opinions were expressed that the recreation strategy should encompass as wide a range of activities as possible – air, water and land-based, non-motorised and motorised. The current countryside recreation debate is seen to be dominated by walking issues to the exclusion of other activities.

Many respondents felt that there are significant public health benefits to be gained from enabling more people to avail of recreation in the countryside. Indeed it was pointed out that it is estimated that something less than 40% of the adult population in Ireland meet the minimum recommended activity levels to confer a health benefit¹⁰. The promotion of countryside recreation among the adult population, with the proper planned support and assistance, is therefore seen as having the potential to contribute to a more physically active population.

Many of the respondents are conscious of the current changes in agricultural practices and the challenges and opportunities that these changes will present for the rural economy and the use of the countryside. The development of countryside recreation is seen as an opportunity for landowners and farmers to diversify and become involved in ventures as part of farm diversification. The need for farmers to be supported and encouraged to exploit potential economic opportunities arising from countryside recreation was expressed.

Obstacles to achieving that vision

Access to the countryside

The majority of the respondents to the call for submissions addressed the issue of access to the countryside at some point in their submission. However, the opinions raised in relation to this issue, more so than any other, were very much dependent on the perspective and role of the organisation or individual expressing them. Access to both privately and publicly owned land was addressed in the submissions.

Recreational users of the countryside expressed their need to access land owned by others in order to carry out their activities. It was highlighted that there is an absence of clarity as to whether and where

10 Meeting Minimum Standards, Sports Participation and Health Among Adults in Ireland, ISC, ESRI 2003



people may enter land, which creates difficulties for recreational users, particularly for those from outside the local area. It was acknowledged that permissive access¹¹ is allowed to most public land e.g. land owned by Coillte, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Waterways Ireland property and that this provides opportunities for a wide scope of recreation. However, users expressed the view that in some cases, but by no means all cases, access to privately owned land is a difficulty. The need for rights of ways to be mapped, listed and made available to the public was expressed by many such respondents. Local Authorities responsibilities in this area were also highlighted. A group of respondents expressed the view that there should be a right to roam throughout Ireland and that this should be given legislative back up. Some respondents were in favour of farmers and landowners being financially compensated for allowing access to their lands while others were very much opposed to this concept.

Individual landowners and organisations in general were supportive of the recreational user but felt that the role of landowners and land managers in countryside recreation was not being properly recognised and that there is a need to ensure that their concerns are addressed. They felt that landowners and farmers should be involved with all decision-making in this area. Permissive access is clearly the access method of choice by landowners. However, they expressed concern that attempts to impose rights of way on their property can sometimes be perceived as resulting from allowing permissive access. Some expressed the view that while the land was a resource, which they as farmers owned, others were benefiting economically from using that land to provide recreational activities and that farmers and landowners should be supported to be actively involved with the development and management of countryside recreation projects and initiatives. Others alluded to the REPS 1 supplementary public access measure and argued that landowners have shown a willingness to open their lands where positive incentives are put in place. Some felt that recreational use of land can result in damage to land or fixtures and that a scheme to compensate landowners for this potential damage should be put in place.

Public Liability/Insurance

Many of the respondents expressed concern about the cost of insurance for countryside recreation activities and public liability issues. This was a concern for both landowners who felt a concern about the danger of litigation by recreational users who are injured in the course of their activity and for group's managing/providing recreational activities. The Occupiers' Liability Act 1995 and recent court cases around it were welcomed as protecting the rights of landowners against trespassers and uninvited guests. However, the view was expressed that the issue of occupier liability with respect to countryside recreation needs to be clarified and communicated effectively to all.

Following the Supreme Court ruling in the *Weir-Rodgers - v - SF Trust* case, it would appear that the insurance risk in relation to recreational users is modest. The Minister for Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs has indicated that he intends entering into discussion with farming organisations and the insurance industry to ensure that no significant burden is placed on landowners in this regard.

Infrastructure

The need for the provision of infrastructure (e.g. car parks, signage, public toilets etc.) to support general countryside recreation was highlighted in many submissions. In addition, the lack of public transport to areas of recreational amenity was highlighted as being a particular obstacle for people from urban and inner city areas, people with disabilities and the elderly. Some of the submissions pointed to the need for specially adapted signage and infrastructure for people with certain disabilities e.g. braille signs for the visually impaired.

In addition a number of submissions outlined the need for specific infrastructure for certain activities and sports for example appropriate trails/designated areas for walking, cycling, mountain biking, pony trekking, motor-sports, water sports etc.

¹¹ Permissive access is where the landowner allows access as opposed to access as of right. Coillte has many rights of way, which it maintains within the legislation governing such rights.

Respect for the countryside and for other recreational users of the countryside

Respondents expressed the view that the development of an agreed vision for countryside recreation was a promising component in underpinning the future vitality of rural communities, notably in the more remote rural areas where there is a potential for recreational activities to provide local employment and supplement incomes. However, it was stressed that such activities must have careful regard to the protection of the natural environment and that the strategy should include the identification and active encouragement of sustainable countryside recreational uses which have the potential to contribute significantly towards socio-economic development in rural areas.

While the potential for conflict between landowners and recreational users of the countryside around the issue of access was addressed in many submissions, so also was the issue of potential conflict between different recreational users of the countryside. This was attributed to a lack of awareness shown by recreational user groups to the difficulties encountered by each other in the pursuance of their chosen recreational activity. Members of some recreational user groups look on the activities of other groups as constituting a danger to them when engaging in their chosen pursuit.

Another area of potential conflict, which was described in a number of the submissions, is the issue of unruly behaviour by some users of the countryside that causes problems for both landowners and other recreational users of the countryside. In addition litter was cited as an obstacle to the enjoyment of the countryside, both litter left behind by recreational users such as ashes from fires, bottles, paper etc. and furniture and other household waste that is dumped in rural areas of high recreational and scenic value. The role of local authorities in managing the problem of dumping was mentioned in a number of the submissions.

The final area of potential conflict highlighted was that of excessive numbers in certain recreational groups availing of the countryside. This can lead to damage and erosion and is a potential area of conflict between recreational users and landowners and between different recreational user groups.

Need for Funding

The need for funding to help surmount these obstacles was expressed in many of the submissions. Indeed some of the submissions outlined projects, which they would like to see funded.

Surmounting these obstacles

Access to the Countryside

As mentioned earlier the issue of access to the countryside was a common theme throughout the majority of the submissions although the solutions proposed to the problem were varied. Submissions from some landowners and their organisations and from some tourism interests suggested that a payment for access should be made available either from the exchequer or from EU sources. However, other submissions were strongly opposed to this proposition. Many of the respondents expressed the view that landowners need to be further supported to exploit potential economic opportunities arising from countryside recreation e.g. funding for: -

- Maintenance/Construction of walkways
- Provision of accommodation near walking routes
- Guiding walks
- Provision of food & beverages
- Bus hire service

It was considered that if landowners are supported in this way then the issue of access will no longer be an obstacle to the development of countryside recreation.

A group of submissions received addressed the issue of 'the right to roam'. These submissions proposed that recreational users should have the right of access to any part of the country and that this right should be enshrined in legislation. Others, while agreeing that there is a need for legislation felt it should permit recreational access to private land within agreed guidelines and with indemnity for landowners. Some of the groups supporting the call for legislation recognised that this can be a long process. They suggested that negotiated solutions should be found in the short to medium term but that in the long term the common good of landowners and recreational users would be served by legal access measures satisfactory to both. They contended that access legislation should provide for reasonable public access, which respects the privacy and property of rural dwellers and is compatible with agriculture and other land uses. Other respondents were fundamentally opposed to legislation on access.

An example quoted in some submissions is REPS3 where one of the optional undertakings is management of a publicly accessible archaeological site on a farm. In this context management includes keeping the site litter-free and maintaining public access points to the site. It was proposed that with



some adjustment (freeing landowners from public liability and perhaps making this a supplementary measure) this could provide a model for dealing with agreed access routes through private land.

The Minister for Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs is generally supportive of any measure in REPS to encourage diversification and maintenance of farms to the highest environmental standards to make them available for recreational tourism including walking. However, the Minister has indicated that any proposal for direct exchequer payment for access to the countryside would not be acceptable. He considers that a local community-based approach is the way forward where issues of access to the countryside arise rather than legislation or payment. Where it is not possible to reach agreement, in a particular location, alternative routes should be explored and developed so that landowners' rights over access to their lands are not interfered with.

Many of the submissions proposed that Local Authorities should register and maintain public rights of way (as provided for by Section 14 of the Planning and Development Act 2000) and that rights of ways should be enforced.

Infrastructure

There was a variety of solutions mooted in the submissions to the provision of infrastructure

for countryside recreational purposes. Some respondents saw a role for local authorities in the provision of facilities such as car parks, toilets etc. Many of the submissions suggested that local community and development groups such as LEADER could also play a role in infrastructure and trail development. The continuation of the use of schemes such as the Rural Social Scheme to maintain infrastructure was recommended. The table below lists the infrastructural facilities called for by respondents to the call for submissions.

Central to many of the suggestions on this issue was the need to ensure local community involvement in the provision of infrastructure to ensure community buy-in and maintenance of that infrastructure. On the issue of trail development it was suggested by some of the respondents that infrastructure that was developed for other purposes, provided opportunities for redevelopment for countryside recreation purposes examples are: -

- Disused railway tracks
- Canal towpaths
- Old bog roads

Some respondents suggested that the use of state owned land for recreational purposes should be increased. For example, a joint study carried out for Coillte and the Irish Sports Council¹² shows that recreational use of Coillte forests contributes

GENERAL	FOR LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES	FOR WATER-BASED ACTIVITIES
Car-Parks	Walking Trails	Shore Infrastructure
Public Transport	Pony/Horse Trails	Kayaking Trails
Public Toilets	Cycle Routes	Protection from Coastal Erosion
Picnic Areas	Mountain Bike Trails	Areas for Jet Skis
Outdoor Adventure Centres	Fitness Trails	
Accommodation	Greenways	
	Rock Climbing Areas	
	Areas for Quads	
	Areas for Scramblers	
	Orienteering Facilities	
	Access Routes from public roads to open hillside	

¹² Economic Value of Trails and Forest Recreation in the Republic of Ireland, Fitzpatrick Associates, Economic Consultants for the Irish Sports Council and Coillte, September 2005

€97 million in non-market benefits each year and generates a further €268 million of economic activity in local communities. Coillte allows permissive access to its estate for activities on foot and permits other activities under permit and licence¹³. Coillte also has many rights of way, which it maintains within the legislation governing such rights. Coillte also has a responsibility under safety legislation to ensure that those visiting the forests whether to work or recreate can do so in a safe environment. Coillte points out in its submission that, at present it spends close to €2 million annually managing recreation resources, which are predominantly free of charge. This includes facilities at 11 forest parks, over 150 designated recreation areas and many miles of walking routes and trails. Coillte receives no reimbursement from the central exchequer for the provision of these services. While respondents praise Coillte and the National Parks and Wildlife Service for their willingness to allow recreational users access to the lands they control it is suggested that other bodies such as Bord na Móna should also allow access to their lands.

Joined up thinking

The submissions demonstrated that countryside recreation can deliver different benefits to different sectors and that it touches on the objectives of a number of different Government Departments. Regular and proper communication between stakeholders and the provision of accurate, up to date information is seen as a key necessity of the Strategy. It was felt that greater levels of communication would facilitate joined-up thinking and integrate countryside recreation with land use management, the promotion of healthy lifestyles and tourism development through representation and active involvement of relevant Government Departments and agencies within such communication structures.

Education and Awareness

Education was seen as having a major role in enabling people to value the countryside. Many of the submissions expressed the desire to see education and awareness programmes initiated and extended to those involved in the management and use of the countryside (land owners, local authorities, harbour authorities, Government Departments, schools, community groups etc.) to ensure the countryside continues to remain an amenity accessible to responsible participants. Countryside and outdoor

recreation is 1 of 4 modules in the new Physical Education curriculum for Ireland's primary schools. They felt that the countryside recreation strategy should support and promote this module further.

As some recreational activities share the same resources, they will at times conflict with each other; for example angling and canoeing, or hill walking and mountain biking. Respondents suggested that activities such as networking, training, seminars and conferences should be provided to promote understanding and help achieve an equitable balance between the many different recreational interests.

Marketing and Promotion

A number of submissions called for a central office/facility where information on all types of activities in all areas of the country could be accessed at one time and in one location. They pointed out that there is a lot of information out there in the form of brochures, websites, booklets etc. but that they are not accessible from one place and this hinders the potential user in accessing them.

Research

Many of the submissions felt that there is a general lack of research into outdoor recreation within the Irish context, and a lack of a coherent framework to ensure that there is a targeted approach to research, which is being carried out. Others pointed out that a lot of research is being carried out in this area by different organisations and that there is a need for a central or coordination point for this research.

Best practice in Ireland and/or elsewhere

The submissions provided a wealth of examples of best practice in answer to this question. The examples from within Ireland range from community based undertakings such as the development of walking trails and mountain bike trails, to voluntary work such as voluntary maintenance of walkways to the Leave no Trace Country Code. With regards examples from outside of Ireland, New Zealand in particular and Wales are cited because of their overall recreation policies. England, Scotland and Sweden are used as examples of countries with legislation, which supports countryside recreational users. Austria is given as an example of a country with excellent marked routes and extensive walk and cycle paths. However, there are many other



examples given in the submissions with detail on their operation and advantages. Appendix 8 lists the areas of best practice submitted by respondents to the call for submissions for consideration by Comhairle na Tuaithe.

Structure and membership of Comhairle na Tuaithe

A substantial number of the submissions called for a body with staff and funding to advise on, and oversee the development of all forms of recreational activity in the Irish countryside. The structure of the Countryside Access and Activities Network (CAAN) in Northern Ireland was cited by many as a model where a broad gamut of activities is represented and one that could be replicated or modified for use in Ireland. Comhairle na Tuaithe was proposed as this body but with modifications. Many respondents envisaged the role of Comhairle na Tuaithe to include the development of strategy, negotiation of national funding sources and support structures for developing countryside recreation.

However, it should be noted that the Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs has expressed the view that the establishment of another publicly funded body is not necessary in this instance. The

expertise and knowledge necessary to carry out the functions being described in the paragraph above is already present in established organisations and the preference is to use that expertise and encourage Government bodies involved in the area to work more closely together. There is a need for a well-developed infrastructure involving agencies such as Fáilte Ireland, Coillte, the Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs and the Department of Arts, Sports & Tourism. In the context of the Rural Development Strategy 2007 – 2013 a framework to build on the valuable work of Comhairle na Tuaithe will need to be developed. This aspect of the countryside recreation strategy will be kept under review in light of the work on the Rural Development Strategy and the institutional framework that will apply.

The vast majority of respondents felt that the membership of Comhairle na Tuaithe should be expanded to include representatives of governing bodies, state agencies and community development groups from all aspects of countryside recreation i.e. air, land and water. Respondents felt that Comhairle na Tuaithe's current membership is skewed towards landowners and walkers. Many of the submissions proposed that their organisation should become members of Comhairle na Tuaithe.

Appendix 8

Examples of Best Practice in the Management of Countryside Recreation

Submitted by respondents to the call for submissions

CYCLING

www.adfc.de (German cycling org)
www.radfahren.at (Austrian cycling org)
www.efc.com (European cyclists federation)
www.ffe.es/viasverdes (Spanish railways-greenways)
www.viaplata.org (Spanish walking and cycling route site)
www.sustrans.co.uk (British and Northern Ireland cycling org)
The Ballyhoura Forest Mountain Bike Project
www.imba.org (International Mountain Bike Association)
Austria
Slovenia
Wales www.mbwales.com
Scotland www.7stanes.gov.uk
Danube cycling trail in <http://cms1.austria.info>

WALKING

Down District Council, www.downdc.gov.uk
Sustrans Northern Ireland (cycling and pedestrian route network) www.sustrans.org.uk
North Kerry Walks Ltd
Mountain Meitheal www.pathsavers.org
British Trust for Conservation Volunteers www.BTCV.org
Appalachian Trail Conservancy www.appalachiantrail.org
British Upland Footpath Trust
Austria
Slovenia
Randonne in France
Scotland/UK (Right to Roam)
England/Wales Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW)
Camel Trail, Cornwall www.cameltrail.com
Minerals Tramways Project www.cornwall.gov.uk
www.southerntrail.pro.ie
RAVel greenways network, Belgium
Vias Verdes, Spain
Moravian Wine Trails, Czech Republic



Boyne Walk on Dalgan Park Farmland

Walking policy in Western Australia <http://www.dsr.wa.gov.au/programs/walking/walking.asp>

ACCESS

<http://cms.countrysideaccess.gov.uk>

Britanny

Catalonia

www.scotways.com

<http://csaw.ccw.gov.uk/index.html>

www.ramblers.org.uk/walescrowcash.html

<http://www.openaccess.gov.uk/>

www.angus.gov.uk/ac/documents/anguscountrysideaccessstrategy.pdf

www.falkirk.gov.ukdevservices/PlanEnv/CountrysideAccessStrategy.htm

www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/agriculture/capref/lmc/lmcms

GENERAL COUNTRYSIDE RECREATION

Tollymore Mountain Centre

North Lanarkshire Scramble and Quad bike Club

Craigavon Borough Council

Forestry Commission UK

Wales, Scotland and New Zealand countryside activities promotion

Mountain Meitheal www.pathsavers.org

Meelmore Lodge, Mourne Mountains, Co. Down www.meelmorelodge.co.uk

Countryside Recreation Network www.countrysiderecreation.org.uk

Aldo Leopold Institute www.leopold.institute.net

Council for Forest Research and Development www.coford.ie

Cornish Mining World Heritage Site bid www.cornish-mining.org.uk

European Geoparks Network www.europeangeoparks.org

European Mining Heritage Network www.europamines.com

www.snowdonia-active.com

www.lakedistrictoutdoors.co.uk

www.leadingmountainresorts.com

www.edenproject.com

Glendalough National Park

Woodland Trail Archery at Ballinlough

www.royal-canal-ventures.com

Royal Meath Equestrian Centre www.rmec.ie

Cronin's Yard, Kerry <http://www.croninsyard.com>

Mountaineering Council of Ireland – <http://mountaineering.ie>

John Muir Trust www.jmt.org

Scottish Natural Heritage www.snh.org.uk

Countryside Commission for Wales www.ccw.gov.uk

The Countryside Agency www.countryside.gov.uk

The establishment of Natural England - <http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/ruraldelivery/natural-england.htm>

Office for Recreation and Sport - South Australia - <http://www.recsport.sa.gov.au/recreation-sport-fac/recreational-trails.html>

Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 - <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/acts2003/20030002.htm>

Scottish Outdoor Access Code - <http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/access/ApprovedCode050604.pdf>

Scottish Natural Heritage Review No 110 – Access to the Countryside in Selected European Countries: a Review of Access Rights, Legislation and Associated Arrangements in Denmark, Germany, Norway and Sweden (report available from Scottish Natural Heritage)

Sheffield Hallam University runs degree and post-grad Countryside Recreation Management courses – contact l.crowe@shu.ac.uk

Kathmandu Declaration on Mountain Activities, 1982

<http://www.uiaa.ch/web.test/visual/ExpCom/kathmdec.doc>

UIAA Summit Charter 2002 (International Year of Mountains) <http://www.uiaa.ch/article.aspx?c=37&a=16>

Tyrol Declaration on Best Practice in Mountain Sports, 2002

<http://www.uiaa.ch/article.aspx?c=37&a=14>

Mountain Partnership (voluntary alliance dedicated to improving the lives of mountain people and protecting mountain environments)

<http://www.mountainpartnership.org/default.asp>

Leave No Trace Centre for Outdoor Ethics - <http://www.lnt.org>

BTCV – one of Britain's leading environmental charities

<http://www.btcv.org/stratplan/index.html>

Adventure Wales – an initiative to promote Wales as the destination for adventure activities - <http://www.adventure.visitwales.com>

Mountain-biking in Wales - <http://www.mbwales.com/>

The Kerry Way

The Shannon Way

Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham

Ashby Would, Leicestershire

Dorney Lake at Eton

U.K. National Parks such as the Yorkshire Dales

Peak District National Park

River Danube, Upper Austria

US Forestry Website www.fs.fed.us

www.scout.org

www.scouting.org

<http://worcestershire.shub.org.uk/home/wccindex/wcc-countryside.htm>

www.thedca.org.uk/



www.caveinfo.org.uknca/index.htm

www.caveinfo.org.uk/nca/paying.htm

Countryside Council for Wales

EUROPARC Federation

EUROPARC Consultancy

EUROPARC Sustainable Tourism Strategy

Countryside Access and Activities Network

www.doc.govt.nz/explore

www.nicanoeing.com

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

British Columbia Forest Service Canada www.forestry.gov.uk

Metsähallitus (Finnish Forest Service) www.Metsahallitus.fi

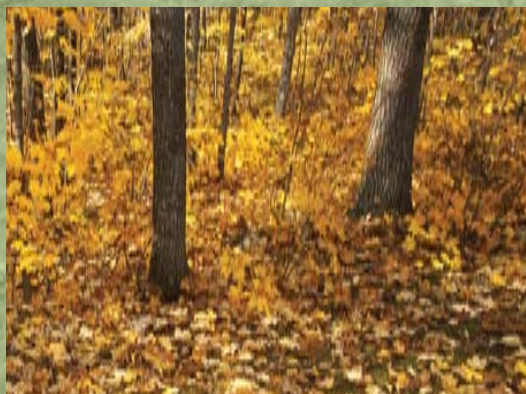
EDUCATION

Leave no trace www.Int.org

International Mountain Bike Association www.imba.org

COMHAIRLE NA TUAITHE

An Straitéis Náisiúnta um Áineas Tuaithe





ACHOIMRE FHEIDHMEACH

Cúlra na straitéise

Bhunaigh An tAire Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe & Gaeltachta, Éamon Ó Cuív, TD, **Comhairle na Tuaithe** i bhFeabhra na bliana 2004. Tá ionadaithe ó eagraíochtaí feirmeoireachta, úsáideoirí áineasa na tuaithe agus comhlachtaí stáit gur spéis leo an tuath ar an gComhairle. Áiríodh ina téarmaí tagartha, inter alia, Straitéis Náisiúnta um Áineas Tuaithe a fhorbairt. Cé go mbíonn dearcadh aonair ag na heagraíochtaí atá mar ionadaithe ar Chomhairle na Tuaithe ar go leor de na saincheisteanna a pléadh in ábhar na straitéise, léiríonn an straitéis comhdharcadh na coitiantachta agus cuirtear faoi bhráid an Aire í lena breithniú.

D'aontaigh Comhairle na Tuaithe ar an sainmhíniú seo a leanas maidir le háineas tuaithe:

'Baineann áineas tuaithe le gníomhaíochtaí spóirt, áineasa agus saoire atá bunaithe ar úsáid a bhaint as acmhainní na tuaithe agus a chuidíonn le saol folláin gníomhach a chaitheamh. Tá talamh, uisce agus aer áirithe leis an téarma, tuath. Baineann an téarma áineas sa chomhthéasc seo le gníomhaíochtaí spóirt agus áineasa a fheidhmítear faoin tuath mar atá sainithe thuas. Ní bhaineann sé le gníomhaíochtaí spóirt a eagraítear faoin tuath ar chúrsaí ná ar pháirceanna imeartha teoranta atá deartha agus tógtha go speisialta don spórt sin, m.sh. galf, peil, seóiléimneach, srl.

Fógraíodh glao ar aighneachtaí, a dúnadh i mí na Nollag 2005, sna páipéir náisiúnta agus áitiúla, agus scríobh Comhairle na Tuaithe chuig grúpaí a bhaineann le gníomhaíochtaí áineasa, gníomhaireachtaí stáit agus Ranna Rialtais ábhartha chun a ndearcadh a fháil maidir le háineas tuaithe a fhorbairt. Bhain 68 faoin gcéad, de na haighneachtaí a bhí faighte, le gníomhaíochtaí ar talamh, 19 faoin gcéad le gníomhaíochtaí ar uisce agus ba 13 faoin gcéad a bhain le gníomhaíochtaí san aer. Chuidigh na tuairimí a léiríodh agus na moltaí ar pholasaí agus ar fhorbairt a rinneadh sna freagraí go mór le Comhairle na Tuaithe chun an dréachtchóip seo den Straitéis Náisiúnta um Áineas Tuaithe a leagtha amach.

Is é fíis Chomhairle na Tuaithe maidir le háineas tuaithe ná tuath ina gcuirtear fáilte roimh gach cuairteoir a bhaineann úsáid fhreagrach as an acmhainn, áit ina dtaispeántar meas ar chearta agus ar fhreagrachtaí na n-úinéirí talún agus na n-úsáideoirí áineasa araon agus áit ina mbíonn an maoiniú agus na struchtúir riachtanacha i bhfeidhm chun seirbhís áineasa a chur ar fáil.

Is iad seo a leanas na Cuspóirí Straitéiseacha atá leagtha amach sa Straitéis:-

1. Áineas inbhuanaithe agus freagrach a bheith faoin tuath.
2. Úsáid chúramach áineasa na tuaithe a chur chun cinn.
3. Frámaíocht náisiúnta a chuireann cearta agus freagrachtaí na n-úinéirí agus na n-úsáideoirí araon chun cinn a fhorbairt.
4. Struchtúr oiriúnach a fhorbairt chun seirbhís náisiúnta áineasa tuaithe a chur ar fáil ar bhealach straitéiseach comhordaithe.
5. Pacáiste meicníochtaí maoinithe a dhaingniú chun cuspóirí na straitéise a bhaint amach.

Is iad seo a leanas na prionsabail atá mar bhonn agus mar thaca ag cuspóirí straitéiseacha na Straitéise Náisiúnta um Áineas Tuaithe:-

- Aitheantas a thabhairt don fhiúntas a bhaineann le háineas tuaithe maidir le caighdeán saoil a fheabhsú agus maidir le tairbhí eacnamaíocha, sóisialta agus sláinte a chur ar fáil.
- Cosaint a thabhairt don oidhreacht nádúrtha, chultúrtha agus thógtha atá le fáil faoin tuath agus don chomhshaol nádúrtha, gnáthóga fiadhúlra san áireamh.
- Cearta dlíthiúla agus údar imní na n-úinéirí talún, ar feirmeoirí nó gníomhaireachtaí stáit a bhformhór a aithint go hiomlán.
- Glacadh leis go bhfuil sé riachtanach go mbeadh rochtain réasúnach ag úsáideoirí áineasa ar an tuath agus ar thailte arda.
- Cláir oideachais agus feasachta a chur ar fáil chun úsáid fhreagrach na tuaithe maidir le gníomhaíochtaí áineasa a chur chun cinn.
- Feirmeoirí agus úinéirí talún eile a spreagadh chun foráil a dhéanamh d'áineas allamuigh agus chun fiontair a bheadh bunaithe ar áineas allamuigh a fhorbairt faoin tuath. Thabharfadh sé sin an deis dóibh tairbhe airgeadais a bhaint as.
- Infreastruchtúr ginearálta agus infreastruchtúr a bhaineann go sonrach leis na gníomhaíochtaí araon a fhorbairt agus a chothabháil chun

áineas tuaithe a sholáthar.

- Soláthar áineasa allamuigh a bheith ar an gcaighdeán céanna ionas go mbeadh áiteanna áineasa allamuigh agus saoráidí lena mbaineann, pleanáilte, deartha agus bainistithe de réir scothchleachtais idirnáisiúnta, lena n-áirítear iad siúd a bhaineann leis na prionsabail 'rochtain do chách'.

Molann Comhairle na Tuaithe go ndéanfaí na tascanna seo a leanas chun na cuspóirí straitéiseacha a bhaint amach.

- Infreastruchtúr a fhorbairt d'áineas tuaithe.
- Eolas a chur ar fáil faoi dheiseanna áineasa tuaithe agus conas páirt a ghlacadh iontu.
- Cláir oideachais a dhearadh, sa scoil agus taobh amuigh den scoil, chun na nithe seo a leanas a chur chun cinn:-
 - oiliúint
 - feasacht
 - taitneamh a bhaint as an tuath ach meas a bheith uirthi ag an am céanna, agus
 - an tionchar a bhíonn ag áineas ar an gcomhshaol a thuiscint
- Tús áite a thabhairt d'fhorbairt agus do chur chun cinn na gcomhaontuithe ar rochtain.
- Tacaíocht a fháil ó úinéirí talún/bainisteoirí.
- Struchtúr náisiúnta ionadaíoch a fhorbairt.
- Struchtúir áitiúla ionadaíocha a fhorbairt.
- Forfheidhmiú agus monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar an Straitéis Náisiúnta um Áineas Tuaithe.
- An méid is mó a bhaint as poitéinseal chlár forbartha na tuaithe chun tacú le forfheidhmiú na Straitéise Náisiúnta um Áineas Tuaithe.
- Páirtíocht na ranna agus na ngníomhaireachtaí eile rialtais a fháil chun tacú leis an Straitéis Náisiúnta um Áineas Tuaithe.

Leagann an Straitéis amach go mion na gníomhartha atá riachtanach agus cé hiad sin ar cheart dóibh na gníomhartha sin a chur i bhfeidhm chun a chinntiú go gcuirfear na tascanna seo i gcrích agus

go mbainfear amach na cuspóirí éagsúla. Meastar gurb í an Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe & Gaeltachta a bheadh freagrach go foriomlán as maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar fhorfheidhmiú na ngníomhartha seo cé go mbeidh páirt ag raon comhlachtaí lena n-áirítear Ranna agus Gníomhaireachtaí Rialtais ann.



Caibidil 1

RÉAMHRÁ

Nuair a bhunaigh an tAire Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta, Éamon Ó Cuív, TD, Comhairle na Tuaithe i bhFeabhra na bliana 2004, d'iarr sé go mbeadh forbairt na Straitéise Náisiúnta um Áineas Tuaithe san áireamh mar chuid de théarmaí tagartha Chomhairle na Tuaithe. Cé go mbíonn dearcadh aonair ag na heagraíochtaí atá mar ionadaithe ar Chomhairle na Tuaithe ar go leor de na saincheisteanna a phléitear sa straitéis seo, léirítear comhdhearadh na coitiantachta sa straitéis seo agus cuirtear faoi bhráid an Aire í lena breithniú.

Cuspóir na Straitéise Náisiúnta um Áineas Tuaithe

Is é cuspóir na straitéise seo sainmhíniú a thabhairt ar an scóp, ar an bhfís agus ar an bhfrámaíocht atá molta chun Áineas Tuaithe a fhorfheidhmiú mar atá aontaithe ag Comhairle na Tuaithe. Leagann sí amach na prionsabail leathana trínar cheart bainistiú a dhéanamh ar áineas tuaithe inbhuanaithe sna cúig bliana seo amach romhainn. Áirítear leis na prionsabail: meas a bheith ag úsáideoirí agus ag úinéirí talún ar a chéile; meas a bheith ar chomhshaol na tuaithe agus cur chuige maidir le bainistiú rochtana a aithníonn cúlra na húinéireachta talún in Éirinn. Tá sé i gceist aici chomh maith sainmhíniú a thabhairt ar an ról ba chóir a bheith ag eagraíochtaí éagsúla i bhforbairt agus i bhforfheidhmiú na straitéise sin.

Comhairle na Tuaithe

Bhunaigh An tAire Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe & Gaeltachta, Éamon Ó Cuív, TD, Comhairle na Tuaithe i bhFeabhra na bliana 2004. D'éascair an cinneadh seo as moladh a chuir an Grúpa Comhairleach um Thurasóireacht na Tuaithe/na Talmhaíochta faoi bhráid an Aire gur cheart comhairle tuaithe a bhunú.

Tá ionadaithe ó eagraíochtaí feirmeoireachta, úsáideoirí áineasa na tuaithe agus comhlachtaí stáit gur spéis leo an tuath ar Chomhairle na Tuaithe. Tá liosta iomlán de bhallraíocht Chomhairle na Tuaithe le fáil in Aguisín 1. Tá liosta de na téarmaí tagartha le fáil in Aguisín 2.

Dhírigh Comhairle na Tuaithe ar na trí réimse tosaíochta seo a leanas, ó bunaíodh í:

- rochtain na tuaithe
- cód tuaithe a fhorbairt agus
- straitéis áineasa tuaithe a fhorbairt.

Bunaíodh trí ghrúpa oibre ar a bhfuil tras-ionadaíoch de pháirtithe leasmhara chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar na saincheisteanna seo. Tá liosta de bhallraíocht na ngrúpaí oibre seo in Aguisín 3. Tá sraith paraiméadar rochtana aitheanta ag Comhairle na Tuaithe faoin tuath mar thoradh ar an gcur chuige seo agus creideann sí go mbeidh siad mar bhonn ag córais chomhaontaithe rochtana ar mhaoin faoi úinéireacht phríobháideach agus go mbeidh siad mar bhonn, chomh maith, chun coimhlintí a sheachaint. Tá liosta iomlán de na paraiméadair atá aontaithe ag ballraíocht Chomhairle na Tuaithe le fáil in Aguisín 4.

Mheas Comhairle na Tuaithe chomh maith na príomhghnéithe atá riachtanach chun an cód tuaithe a fhorbairt agus leagadh béim ar an bhféidearthacht a bheadh ann an tionscnamh 'Ná Fág Do Lorg', atá aitheanta go hidirnáisiúnta, a chur i bhfeidhm. Déantar cur síos sonrath ar an gcód sin in Aguisín 5.

Cúlra maidir le Forbairt na Straitéise seo um Áineas Tuaithe

Ba é Grúpa Oibre Straitéise Chomhairle na Tuaithe a rinne maoirsiú ar dhréachtú na straitéise seo. Tá liosta de bhallraíocht bhuan Ghrúpa Oibre na Straitéise in Aguisín 3.

Tionóladh comhdháil, dar teideal Bainistiú an Áineasa Tuaithe in Éirinn, i bPort Laoise ar an Aoine an 19 Samhain 2004 chun seoladh Chomhairle na Tuaithe a chur chun cinn. Ba í an Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe & Gaeltachta i gcomhar le Comhairle na Tuaithe a d'eagraigh an ócáid seo. D'fhreastail geall le 200 duine ar an gcomhdháil ar a raibh ionadaithe ó eagraíochtaí agus daoine aonair a bhíonn páirteach in áineas tuaithe. Ina measc bhí lucht talmhaíochta, foraoiseachta, turasóireachta, lucht caomhnaithe, lucht forbartha tuaithe, úsáideoirí áineasa, sláinte, lucht taighde ó ollscoileanna, údaráis áitiúla agus ionadaithe ó Ranna Rialtais.

Iarradh ar na daoine a bhí i láthair féachaint ar chomh huathúil is atá cás na hÉireann agus ar na forbairtí a rinneadh le déanaí a bhí mar bhonn do bhunú Chomhairle na Tuaithe. Tugadh le fios go ndearna Coiste Uilepháirtí an Oireachtais ar an mBunrecht athbhreithniú ar na cearta maoin faoin mbunrecht agus bhí siad den tuairim ar deireadh nach mbeadh aon leasú bunrechtúil

riachtanach chun cothromaíocht trí reachtaíocht a chinntiú idir cearta na n-úinéirí aonair agus leas an phobail. Mhol tuarascáil an Choiste gur cheart Comhairle Áineasa na Tuaithe a bhunú agus moladh cur chuige den samhail atá in úsáid i dTuaisceart Éireann áit ar bunaíodh an Countryside Access and Activities Network, a úsáid. Ba é an príomhchuspóir a bhain leis an gcomhdháil i bPort Laoise deis a chur ar fáil do gach páirtí leasmhar a bhí i láthair a smaointe a roinnt maidir le forbairt inbhuanaithe agus bainistiú ceart na ngníomhaíochtaí áineasa faoin tuath agus gurbh í seo an chéad chéim chun tosaigh chun straitéis náisiúnta áineasa tuaithe a fhorbairt.

Ba í an chomhdháil seo tús chomhairliúchán Chomhairle na Tuaithe le páirtithe leasmhara. Chinn Grúpa Oibre na Straitéise, tar éis dó na saincheisteanna a d'éascair as an gcomhdháil sin a mheas, ar phróiseas leathan comhairliúcháin a bhainfeadh le réimsí éagsúla a chur ar bun trína lorgófaí dearcadh na Ranna Rialtais, na nGníomhaireachtaí Stáit agus na gcomhlachtaí ionadaíocha ar an réimse iomlán de ghníomhaíochtaí áineasa tuaithe lena mbaineann gníomhaíochtaí ar talamh, ar uisce agus san aer. Chinn an Grúpa gur cheart 9 mí a cheadú chun forbairt na Straitéise a chríochnú.

Sainmhíniú ar Áineas Tuaithe

Creideadh go mbeadh sainmhíniú comhaontaithe d'áineas tuaithe ina chabhair don phróiseas comhairliúcháin agus dá bharr sin d'aontaigh Comhairle na Tuaithe ar an sainmhíniú seo a leanas: -

'Baineann áineas tuaithe le gníomhaíochtaí spóirt, áineasa agus saoire atá bunaithe ar úsáid a bhaint as acmhainní na tuaithe agus a chuidíonn le saol folláin gníomhach a chaitheamh. Tá talamh, uisce agus aer áirithe leis an téarma, tuath. Baineann an téarma áineas, sa chomhthéacs seo, le gníomhaíochtaí spóirt agus áineasa a fheidhmítear faoin tuath mar atá sainithe thuas. Ní bhaineann sé le gníomhaíochtaí spóirt a eagraítear faoin tuath ar chúrsaí ná ar pháirceanna imeartha teoranta atá deartha agus tógtha go speisialta don spóirt sin, m.sh. galf, peil, seólímneach, srl.

Glaó ar Aighneachtaí

Lorg Comhairle na Tuaithe aighneachtaí i nDeireadh Fómhair na bliana 2005 ó pháirtithe agus ó ghrúpaí leasmhara mar chuid den fhorbairt ar an Straitéis Náisiúnta um Áineas Tuaithe, a bhainfeadh le gníomhaíochtaí ar talamh, ar uisce agus san aer. Cuirtear a thuilleadh sonraí faoin bpróiseas comhairliúcháin agus faoin dearcadh a nochtadh sna haighneachtaí a fuarthas ar fáil i gCaibidil 3 agus in Aguisíní 6 – 8.



Caibidil 2

COMHTHÉASC NA STRAITÉISE

Tá méadú ag teacht ar líon agus ar éagsúlacht na gníomhaíochtaí áineasa tuaithe agus tá méadú ag teacht ar an ngá atá le saoráidí agus le hinfreastruchtúr. De réir mar a thuigeann daoine a thábhachtaí is atá gníomhaíocht fhisiceach do shláinte phearsanta agus d'fholláine an duine is é is mó agus is tábhachtaí í úsáid na tuaithe do ghníomhaíochtaí áineasa. Dar le tuarascáil a chuir an Tascfhórsa Náisiúnta ar Mhurtall¹ i dtoll a chéile le gairid gur léir go raibh sé riachtanach don tsláinte phoiblí a chinntiú go mbainfeadh na polasaithe ábhartha ar an gcomhshaol an úsáid is fearr as deiseanna maidir le hiompar gníomhach, gníomhaíocht fhisiceach áineasa agus gníomhaíocht fhisiceach iomlán.

Tá athrú mór ag tarlú i bpobail tuaithe na hÉireann san am i láthair chomh maith. Cé go bhfuil tionscal na feirmeoireachta láidir fós ní mór a admháil go bhfuil an líon feirmeoirí lánaimseartha ag titim in aghaidh na bliana. Ní mór dúinn aghaidh a thabhairt ar an todhchaí agus a chinntiú go mbeidh réimse iomlán post le fáil i gceantair thuaithe. Luaigh an Coiste Agrai-Físe 2015² ina thuarascáil

gurb é cuspóir an pholasaí forbartha tuaithe na coinníollacha a cheanglaítear le saol seamhrach a chur ar fáil dóibh siúd uile a chónaíonn i gceantair thuaithe ionas go mbeadh caighdeán maireachtála agus caighdeán saoil sna ceantair sin a bheadh tarraingteach do dhaoine le bheith ag obair agus ina gcónaí iontu. Ní mór é a thabhairt san áireamh i gcoincheap forbartha tuaithe an lae inniu nach bhfuil aon bhaint ag go leor de na daoine a bhíonn ina gcónaí faoin tuath leis an talmhaíocht agus go dtagann a n-ioncam agus a ndeiseanna fostaíochta as an ngeilleagar níos leithne seachas as an earnáil talmhaíochta ná earnáil an agri-bhia, cé gur codanna riachtanacha den struchtúr socheacnamaíoch iad an fheirmeoireacht agus an t-agri-bhia. Is é tuairim an Choiste go bhfuil fostaíocht, nach mbaineann le talmhaíocht, agus infreastruchtúr fhisiceach a bheadh maoinithe go cuí ríthábhachtach chun an geilleagar éifeachtach éagsúil tuaithe a chothabháil agus chun a infreastruchtúr sóisialta a chosaint.

Is féidir le háineas tuaithe aghaidh a thabhairt ar an dá shaincheist sin; sé sin ár sláinte agus ár

bhfolláine a fheabhsú agus pobail inbhuanaithe tuaithe a fhorbairt.

LEADER

Is Tionscnamh Chomhphobal an AE um Fhorbairt Tuaithe é LEADER a chuireann maoiniú poiblí (AE agus Náisiúnta) ar fáil do Ghrúpaí Áitiúla Gnímh faofa chun pleananna ilearnálacha gnó a chur i bhfeidhm chun a limistéir féin a fhorbairt. Sa tréimhse reatha 2000 go 2006, tá an clár LEADER á chur ar fáil i dhá chlár:

LEADER Plus

Is é aidhm ríthábhachtach an bhirt, a dtugtar ranníocaíocht phoiblí de €73.7 milliún dó, spreagadh a thabhairt chun teacht ar chur chuig nua a bhaineann le forbairt chomhtháite agus inbhuanaithe i bpobail tuaithe agus tástálacha a dhéanamh orthu. Tá an Tionscnamh i bhfeidhm i 22 limistéar ar fud na tíre.

An Clár Náisiúnta um Fhorbairt na Tuaithe.

Is cuid de Chláir Réigiúnacha Feidhme faoin bPlean Forbartha Náisiúnta 2000 – 2006 é an Clár Náisiúnta um Fhorbairt na Tuaithe, a bhfuil ranníocaíocht phoiblí geall le €75.6 milliún aige. Cuireann an Clár leis an gClár LEADER+ agus cinntíonn sé go gcuirtear maoiniú ar fáil do na 13 limistéar nár ceapadh chun an Clár LEADER+ a chur ar fáil iontu. Cuirtear maoiniú don Agri-Thurasóireacht/Turasóireacht Tuaithe ar fáil faoin gClár seo go náisiúnta.

Chuir grúpaí LEADER cistí substaintiúla ar fáil faoi na cláir seo do thionscadail éagsúla nuálacha áineasa tuaithe agus táthar ag leanúint ag cur na gcistí ar fáil.

Ina theannta sin cuirtear go leor tacaíochta i bhfoirm comhairle agus oiliúna ar fáil do na tionscadail sin. In go leor cásanna is é an grúpa LEADER féin tionscnóir nó ceannpháirtí an tionscadail. Cé go ndíríonn go leor de na tionscadail sin ar an turasóireacht forbraítear iad chomh maith agus riachtanais an phobail áitiúil ar intinn acu.

1 Obesity - The Policy Challenges, Tuarascáil an Tascfhórsa Náisiúnta ar Mhurtall, 2005

2 Tuarascáil Choiste Agrai-Físe 2015, a cuireadh faoi bhráid an Aire Talmhaíochta agus Bia, Mary Coughlan, Uasal, TD i Nollaig 2004.

Tionscnaimh atá bunaithe ar an bPobal

Tá grúpaí atá bunaithe ar an bpobal in go leor limistéar tar éis páirt ghníomhach a ghlacadh i mbainistiú saoráidí áineasa a gceantair. Déantar é sin go minic i gcomhar le gníomhaireachtaí a bhfuil talamh faoina n-úinéireacht mar Coillte nó an tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Páirceanna. Is ceithre shampla atá iontu seo a leanas de thionscnaimh dá leithéid, (faigheann gach tionscnamh tacaíocht óna ghrúpa áitiúil LEADER) a tógadh ó na haighneachtaí a cuireadh chuig Comhairle na Tuaithe faoin straitéis seo. Tá go leor samplaí eile, áfach, a d'fhéadfaí a lua lena n-áirítear obair phobail faoi chlár agus scéimeanna eile.

Is eagraíocht neamhspleách chosmhuintire í Comhairle Thailte Arda Chill Mhantáin a cheanglaíonn ábhair spéise éagsúla i dTailte Arda Chill Mhantáin le chéile, lena n-áirítear ábhair spéise a bhaineann le feirmeoireacht, úinéireacht talún, áineas, an comhshaol, an pobal, an geilleagar agus turasóireacht. Chomhfhorbair agus chomhthacaigh Comhpháirtíocht Tuaithe Chill Mhantáin Teo. le go leor dá thionscadail. Tá sé mar aidhm ag na tionscadail seo úsáid inbhuanaithe agus só na dtailte arda a chur chun cinn i gcomhar leis na daoine a chónaíonn, a oibríonn agus a bhíonn páirteach i ngníomhaíochtaí áineasa ann. Áirítear iad seo a leanas le tionscnaimh reatha 1) comhordú Thionscadal Líonra Chosáin Inbhuanaithe Chill Mhantáin, tionscadal maoinithe ag Ciste Forbraíochta Réigiúnaí na hEorpa ina raibh páirt ag Comhairle Thailte Arda Chill Mhantáin, Coillte, An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Páirceanna agus Fiadhúlra³, Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin agus Meitheal Sléibhe i gCosán Chill Mhantáin, Cosán Chaoimhín agus cosáin eile sa réigiún a bhainistiú agus a chur chun cinn; 2) taighde agus forbairt a dhéanamh ar bhealaí rochtana 'comhaontaithe' chuig limistéir ardtaitneamhachta ar thailte príobháideacha; 3) páirt a ghlacadh i gclár mhalartaithe trasnáisiúnacha a bhaineann le saincheisteanna maidir le forbairt áitiúil lena n-áirítear oiliúint chun saoráidí áineasa a chur ar fáil; 4) cosáin a fhorbairt i gcomhar le pobail áitiúla m.sh. Seanchosán an Iarnróid, Tigh na hÉille; 5) monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar chosáin agus suirbhé a dhéanamh ar úsáideoirí Bhealach Chill

Mhantáin; 6) a bheith rannpháirteach i dtionscadal i gcomhar le Coillte, an tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Páirceanna agus Fiadhúlra, BSL agus na hÚdaráis Áitiúla chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar dhumpáil mhídhleathach go háirithe i limistéir pháirceála ardtaitneamhachta.

Bunaíodh Ballyhoura Development Ltd chun forbairt tuaithe a spreagadh agus a éascú i réigiún Bhealach Abhradh. Is é Fáilte Ballyhoura ceann dá phríomh-chomhpháirtneirí ag a bhfuil sé mar fheidhm shonrach deiseanna turasóireachta a chur chun cinn agus a fhorbairt sa réigiún. Tá infheistíocht shuntasach déanta ag Ballyhoura Development agus ag Fáilte Ballyhoura i ndeiseanna áineasa tuaithe sa réigiún, trí dheontais agus dreasachtaí eile a thabhairt, go díreach agus go hindíreach trí chomhairle, oiliúint, cabhair mhargaíochta agus gníomhaíochtaí tionscnaimh a chur ar fáil. Ó cruthaíodh Slí Slímharcáilte Bhealach Abhradh agus Siúlóidí Lúbchosáin Slímharcáilte, bhí an dá chuideachta gníomhach i raon leathan de dheiseanna áineasa inbhuanaithe d'ardchaighdeán a chur ar fáil. Áirítear iad seo a leanas ar chuid de na gnóthachtálacha go dáta, ainmniú Pháirc an tSléibhe Riabhaigh, forbairt de chosáin chorpacmhainne agus cosáin treodóireachta agus an phleanáil agus an chabhair a tugadh do Choillte maidir le Páirc mhór Rothair Sléibhe⁴ a fhorbairt.

Is cuideachta forbartha tuaithe bunaithe sa phobal é IRD Dhúiche Ealla. D'oibrigh sé le Coillte, Coiste Náisiúnta Comhairleach na Slite Slímharcáilte, Turasóireacht Chorcaí Chiarraí agus le húinéirí talún áitiúla chun Slí Dhúiche Ealla a fhorbairt. Is cuid de Shlí na Mumhan í Slí Dhúiche Ealla, slí mhórthaibhseach, a shíneann ó Chill Airne i gCo. Chiarraí go dtí An Chloichín i gCo. Thiobraid Árann. Tá an tslí seo geall le 50 ciliméadar ar fad agus tá codarsnacht radharc inti ó fhásra fiáin portaigh agus sléibhe, cosáin choille, gleannta, locha, aibhneacha agus ceantair fhairsinge mhórthaibhseacha iargúlta. Chuir IRD Dhúiche Ealla forbairt na slite lúbchosáin ar an tslí chun cinn chomh maith. Ceann de phríomhthionscadail IRD Dhúiche Ealla is ea páirc Tuaithe Shráid an Mhuilinn. Léiríonn an pháirc 200 heicteár cé mar is féidir leis an gcothromaíocht idir an nádúr agus an fhorbairt eacnamaíoch a bheith. Cuireann an pháirc, atá

³ Táthar tar éis tosú ar an obair ar an talamh ar an tionscadal seo agus chómhaoinigh Coillte, An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Páirceanna agus Fiadhúlra agus Meitheal Sléibhe an tionscadal.

⁴ Tá forbairt á déanamh ag Coillte ar an bpáirc seo, ceann de líon áirithe limistéar sa tír faoi Chlár Infreastructúir an Áineasa Foraoise agus a dtugann Fáilte Ireland tacaíocht dó faoin bPlean Forbartha Náisiúnta.



faoi úinéireacht phríobháideach, fostaíocht ar fáil do geall le ceathracha duine le linn ardséasúr na turasoíreachta. Is meascán de phortach oscailte, crannlann tailte arda agus tailte ísle, coillearnach measctha, móinéir lusanna fiáine, garráin, gairdíní, aibhneacha onfaise agus locha is ea í.

Tá 5 phobal comharsanachta faoi Chuideachta Forbartha Mhaigh Eo Thiar Theas ag oibriú i gcomhar chun comhthionscnamh siúlóide agus turasoíreachta a chur ar fáil. Tá na ceithre phobal de Bhaile Uí Fhiacháin, Doire Fhada, Tiernaur agus An Mhala Raithní ar an taobh ó thuaidh de Chuan Mó. Is é Achadh Ghobhair an cúigiú pobal agus tá sé suite ó dheas de Chathair na Mart. Tá sé i gceist ag na grúpaí uile a lúbchosáin a cheangal leis an mbealach líneach fada. Is é Spoir Acla an bealach líneach ó thuaidh de Chuan Mó agus síneann sé siar chuig Acaill, ó Shlí an Iarthair taobh ó thuaidh de Bhaile Uí Fhiacháin. Ceanglófar lúbchosán Achadh Ghobhair le Slí an Tóchair a thosaíonn i mBalla san oirthear agus a shíneann 38 míle chomh fada le Muraisc san iarthar.

Tá an Chuideachta agus na hionadaithe pobail ag obair faoi láthair le Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo chun forbairt agus árachas na Comhairle maidir leis na bealaí líneacha a chinntiú. Is í Cuideachta Forbartha Mhaigh Eo Thiar Theas a riarann an Scéim Shóisialta Tuaithe i Maigh Eo Thiar Theas agus tá an scéim ag cuidiú le Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo faoi láthair chun Slite Slímharcáilte a fhorbairt agus a chothabháil i Maigh Eo. Cuirfidh an Scéim Shóisialta Tuaithe tacaíocht ar fáil do phobail maidir leis na siúlóidí lúbchosáin pobail a fhorbairt agus a chothabháil.

An Scéim Shóisialta Tuaithe

Is é aidhm na Scéime Sóisialta Tuaithe seirbhísí tuaithe feabhsaithe a chur ar fáil ar chostas réasúnach ar an Státchiste agus, ag an am céanna, tacaíocht ioncaim agus fostaíochta a chinntiú d'fheirmeoirí beaga áirithe agus dá dteaghlaigh nach bhfuil ábalta slí mhaireachtála inmharthana a bhaint amach ar an talamh níos mó. Is grúpaí LEADER a chuireann an scéim i bhfeidhm agus is é Údarás na Gaeltachta agus grúpaí LEADER a chuireann an scéim ar fáil sa Ghaeltacht. Cuireadh breis is €40 milliún ar fáil i meastacháin na Roinne Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe & Gaeltachta don bhliain 2006 don Scéim Shóisialta Tuaithe. Ina theannta sin cuireadh €3 mhilliún sa bhreis ar fáil don chaiteachas caipitil faoin scéim.

D'úsáid grúpaí ar fud na tíre an Scéim Shóisialta Tuaithe chun bealaí agus cosáin a chothabháil. Ba chóir a thuilleadh scéimeanna a spreagadh agus maoiniú a thabhairt dóibh sa todhchaí chun

an obair fhisiceach a dhéanamh ar thionscadail infreastruchtúir ar a gcuirtear síos sa chéad chaibidil eile. Ó thaobh Chomhairle na Tuaithe agus na Straitéise um Áineas Tuaithe de, tá sé tábhachtach go ndéanfaí comhlánú agus go dtabharfaí tacaíocht don bheart forbartha tuaithe sa dréachtstraitéis trí úsáid a bhaint as an scéim ar an mbealach seo.

An Straitéis um Fhorbairt Tuaithe 2007 go 2013

Cuireann an Straitéis um Fhorbairt Tuaithe 2007 go 2013, atá á hullmhú faoi láthair, an deis ar fáil tairbhe a bhaint as na comharghníomhaíochtaí a gcuirtear síos orthu san alt deiridh. Cé gurb iad an earnáil talmhaíochta agus foraoiseachta a bhaineann an úsáid is mó as an talamh agus cé go bhfuil páirt lárnach acu fós san fhorbairt shocheacnamaíoch, cuirfear síos ar an talmhaíocht i gcomhthéacs níos leithne sa straitéis um fhorbairt tuaithe chun go mbeidh cosaint an chomhshaoil tuaithe agus tarraingteacht na limistéar tuaithe d'áitritheoirí agus do chuirteoirí san áireamh léi.

I mí Iúil 2005 ghlac Comhairle Talmhaíochta an AE Rialachán chuici féin, a bhain le tacaíocht forbartha tríd an gCiste Eorpach um Thalmhaíocht d'Fhorbairt Tuaithe, maidir leis an gcéad tréimhse eile den chlár (2007-2013). Dírionn an polasaí forbartha tuaithe ar thrí phríomhchuspóir .i.

- 1) Cumas iomaíochta na hearnála talmhaíochta a mhéadú trí thacaíocht a chur ar fáil don athstruchtúrú.
- 2) An comhshaoil agus an tuath a fheabhsú trí thacaíocht a chur ar fáil don bhainistiú talún.
- 3) An caighdeán saoil i gceantair thuaithe a neartú agus éagsúlú sna gníomhaíochtaí eacnamaíocha a chur chun cinn.

Clúdaítear ceithre ais sna réimsí sin:

Ais 1: Cumas iomaíochta na feirmeoireachta agus na foraoiseachta a fheabhsú

Ais 2: An comhshaoil agus an tuath a fheabhsú

Ais 3: Caighdeán saoil agus éagsúlú an gheilleagair thuaithe a fheabhsú

Ais 4: cur chuige LEADER

Bunófar ais 3 ar bhearta a bhainfidh le héagsúlú a thabhairt isteach sa gheilleagar tuaithe agus leis an gcaighdeán saoil i gceantair thuaithe a fheabhsú. Beidh spreagadh a chur faoi fhorbairt na turasoíreachta agus tiontú i dtreo gníomhaíochtaí nach mbaineann le talmhaíocht san áireamh leis. Is

iad na grúpaí áitiúla gnímh a fhorfheidhmeoidh an ais trí straitéisí forbartha áitiúla a chur i ngníomh agus trí úsáid a bhaint as cur chuige LEADER.

Tá an Straitéis Náisiúnta um Fhorbairt Tuaithe 2007 go 2013, atá i mbéal forbartha, á leagan amach de réir Threoirlínte Straitéiseacha an AE. Beidh acmhainní suntasacha sa bhreis á gcur ar fáil tríd an Aontas Eorpach i gcomhair bearta eacnamaíocha tuaithe níos leithne. Cuirfidh ais 3, sa chomhthéacs seo, an deis is fearr ar fáil chun áineas tuaithe a fhorbairt trí na grúpaí áitiúla gnímh agus trí na bearta Tuaithe agus Agri-Thurasóireachta atá le hullmhú. Cuirfidh an ais seo deiseanna ar fáil i gcomhair comhpháirtíochtaí idir grúpaí áitiúla gnímh agus an stát, an t-údarás áitiúil agus comhlachtaí deonacha. Is trí na comhpháirtíochtaí seo leis na grúpaí áitiúla gnímh a chuirfear na bearta i bhfeidhm. Ceadóidh sé seo an t-infreastruchtúr a fhorbairt, infreastruchtúr atá riachtanach chun rannpháirtíocht i ngníomhaíochtaí áineasa tuaithe a fheabhsú. Toradh eile a bheidh leis seo is ea go dtiocfaidh feabhas ar chúinsí socheacnamaíocha na gceantar tuaithe.

Ní mór a bheith aireach sna bearta seo faoi bhearta comhlántacha i bpolasaithe náisiúnta eile mar shampla polasaithe turasóireachta agus spóirt chun macasamhail beart a sheachaint agus ní mór comhordú na straitéisí a spreagadh. Moltar go bhforfheidhmeofaí go práinneach an fhrámaíocht nua forais a bhaineann leis an gcomhthuisicint atá idir na ranna Rialtais, na gníomhaireachtaí stáit/comhlachtaí fo-stáit (.i. Fáilte Ireland, Coillte, Uiscebhealaí Éireann, An tSeirbhís Foraoiseachta agus an tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Páirceanna agus Fiadhúlra) agus na grúpaí áitiúla gnímh maidir le bheith ag comhoibriú chun na bearta sin a chur ar fáil.

Áineas ar Uisce

Is iad an tSeirbhís Iascaigh Intíre, Uiscebhealaí Éireann agus Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí go díreach a bhainistíonn, a fhorbraíonn agus a chuireann áineas agus fóillíocht intíre ar uisce chun cinn faoi reacht. Tá sé dírithe den chuid is mó ar shlatiascaireacht agus ar chúrsáil ar locha, aibhneacha agus canálacha.

Uiscebhealaí Éireann

Is é Uiscebhealaí Éireann an Comhlacht Forfheidhmithe Thuaidh Theas atá freagrach as bainistíocht, cothabháil, forbairt agus deisiú na gcóras uiscebhealaí intíre inseolta ar an oileán agus déantar é seo go príomha ar mhaithe le háineas.

Is é misean Uiscebhealaí Éireann comhshaol áineasa d'ardchaighdeán a chur ar fáil a bheadh bunaithe

ar uiscebhealaí intíre na hÉireann atá faoina chúram ionas go mbeadh gach duine ábalta iad a úsáid agus tairbhe a bhaint astu.

Is iad seo a leanas na huiscebhealaí faoi chúram Uiscebhealaí Éireann Loingseoireacht na Bearú Íochtaraí, Córas na hÉirne, Uiscebhealach na Sionainne- na hÉirne, Loingseoireacht na Bearú, An Chanáil Mhór, An Chanáil Ríoga agus Loingseoireacht na Sionainne. Is ceangal uiscebhealaigh é an líonra seo ó Bhéal Leice go Port Láirge, ó Luimneach go Baile Átha Cliath agus idir go leor áiteanna eile atá eatarthu. Is acmhainn shaibhir iad na huiscebhealaí intíre ar féidir le gach duine taitneamh agus tairbhí a fháil astu ar go leor bealaí difriúla.

Cuireann na huiscebhealaí go mór le háineas tuaithe tríd an raon leathan gníomhaíochtaí atá á gcur ar fáil ar an 1,000 ciliméadar de chóras uiscebhealaí. Tá méadú tagtha chomh maith ar an ngníomhaíocht agus ar na tairbhí eacnamaíocha atá á bhfáil i ngeilleagair na bpobal áitiúil uiscebhealaigh de bharr fhorbairt na n-uiscebhealaí. Bíonn cabhlach mór príobháideach ar snámh ar an líonra uiscebhealaigh. Bíonn gníomhaíochtaí seoltóireachta, curachóireachta, cadhcála, rámháochta, uisce-sciála, clársheoltóireachta iarthoinne agus go leor spóirt uisce eile ar siúl ar an líonra uiscebhealaigh. Bíonn garbhiascaireacht coitianta chomh maith i measc slatiascairí ag baile agus slatiascairí ó thar lear araon; agus baintear an-taitneamh as an turas mórthaibhseach síochánta a dhéantar ar na slite slímharcáilte agus ar na bealaí rothaíochta atá ar na cosáin tarraingthe agus ar na bruacha. Tá gnáthóg de gach cineál flora agus fauna le fáil ar imill, ar bhruacha agus ar fhálta sceach na n-uiscebhealaí.

Oibríonn Uiscebhealaí Éireann chun na saoráidí agus na seirbhísí atá le fáil ar na huiscebhealaí a fheabhsú chun freastal ar riachtanais na n-úsáideoirí áineasa áitiúla agus na n-úsáideoirí atá ar cuairt, úsáideoirí atá ag éirí níos éilithí agus níos sofaisticiúla.

An Bord Iascaigh

Is é feidhm ghinearálta an Phríomh-Bhoird Iascaigh caomhnú, cosaint, bainistiú, forbairt agus feabhas an iascaigh intíre a chur chun cinn, a thacú, a éascú agus a chomhordú, inter alia. Dá bhrí sin, spreagann na Boird Iascaigh Réigiúnacha, cuireann siad chun cinn, déanann siad margáíocht ar agus forbraíonn siad slatiascaireacht bradán, slatiascaireacht breac, garbhiascaireacht agus iascaireacht mhara. Spreagann, cuireann siad chun cinn, eagraíonn agus comhordaíonn siad forbairt dheonach na bpleananna bainistíochta maidir le hiascaigh intíre



ina réigiún. Oibríonn siad agus comhordaíonn siad i gcomhar leis an bPríomh-Bhord Iascaigh agus le Boird Iascaigh Réigiúnacha eile nuair is gá chun scaipeadh éifeachtach feidhmiúil na n-acmhainní a chinntiú agus chun nithe eile a bhaineann leis an ngá atá ann an acmhainn iascaigh intíre a fhorbairt go hinbhuanaitheach (lena n-áirítear caomhnú na n-iasc agus speiceas eile d'fhauna agus flora agus bithéagsúlacht na n-éiceachóras uisce intíre) agus chomh fada is is féidir é chun a chinntiú go gcuirfead na gníomhaíochtaí ar siúl ar bhealach a chosnaíonn an oidhreacht nádúrtha de réir bhrí an Achta Oidhreachta, 1995. Ceann de phríomhchuspóirí na mBord rannpháirtíochta a mhéadú i ngníomhaíochtaí slatiascaireachta go háirithe i measc na n-óg. Tacaíonn na Boird go gníomhach le tionscnaimh maidir leis seo.

Foras na Mara

Gné lárnach i gculpóirí straitéiseacha Fhoras na Mara is ea an earnáil turasóireachta agus fóillíochta ar uisce a fhorbairt agus tá sé mar aidhm aige poitéinseal forbartha na hearnála a uasmhéadú ar bhealach inbhuanaithe. I mí Iúil 2006, d'fhoilsigh an Foras an Straitéis um Thurasóireacht agus Fóillíocht Mhara 2007 – 2013. Tá sé mar aidhm ag an straitéis seo an méid a chabhraíonn an turasóireacht agus an fhóillíocht mhara chun na cuspóirí náisiúnta maidir leis an turasóireacht, forbairt tuaithe agus áitiúil, áineas tuaithe agus bainistíocht an chomhshaoil nádúrtha a bhaint amach, a uasmhéadú trí ghníomh comhordaithe go náisiúnta agus go háitiúil. Baineann a chuspóirí maidir le réimse an áineasa lena chinntiú go mbíonn na hacmhainní mara agus cósta forbartha ina n-iomláine ar mhaithe le folláine na bpobal áitiúil agus lena chinntiú go n-éireofar leis úsáid shábháilte fhreagrach na n-acmhainní cósta agus mara a bhaint amach maidir le fóillíocht agus áineas.

Úsáid na bhForaoisí i gcomhair Áineasa

Ceann de dhearbphrionsabail pholasaí foraoise an Rialtais, arna chothú ag Seirbhís Foraoiseachta na Roinne Talmhaíochta agus Bia, is ea bainistíocht inbhuanaithe foraoise ionas go ndéanfar na foraoisí a bhainistiú ar bhealach go mbainfead an t-uasmhéid faoi láthair agus sa toadhcháil, as na tairbhí eacnamaíocha, sóisialta agus comhshaoil. Aithníonn an tSeirbhís Foraoiseachta an ról atá ag coillearnacha agus ag foraoisí in áineas allamuigh, agus chomh luachmhar is atá an 'tseirbhís' do shláinte agus d'fholláine an phobail, d'fheasacht ar an gcomhshaoil agus d'oidreachas, agus mar bhonn ag fiontair áitiúla, ag forbairt agus ag

turasóireacht. Tá áineas luaite i gCaighdeán Náisiúnta Foraoise na hÉireann mar fheidhm shuntasach shocheacnamaíoch agus chultúrtha i bhforaoiseacht na hÉireann. Chuir an tSeirbhís Foraoiseachta leabhrán 48 leathanach, dar teideal Forest Recreation in Ireland – A Guide for Forest Owners and Managers, le chéile le déanaí mar threoir maidir le coillearnacha agus foraoisí a fhorbairt ar mhaithe le háineas.

Scéim na Coille Cóngaraí agus maoiniú eile ón tSeirbhís Foraoiseachta

Tá béim láidir ag an tSeirbhís Foraoiseachta, agus í ag cur áineas foraoise chun cinn, ar áiseanna coillearnaí 'gar do bhaile' a chur ar fáil, faoi Scéim na Coille Cóngaraí, i láithreacha straitéiseacha a bhíonn éasca teacht orthu i gceantair uirbeacha, pheirea-uirbeacha agus i gceantair thuaithe, do phobail áitiúla le húsáid laethúil a bhaint astu. Tá leibhéal ard comhpháirtíochta ag teastáil idir an t-údarás áitiúil, grúpaí áitiúla, pobail, agus sainghrúpaí úsáidte, agus, nuair is cuí, úinéirí talún nach mbaineann le húdarais áitiúla, sna tionscadail aonair faoin scéim.

Tá éagsúlacht mhór tionscadal faoi Scéim na Coille Cóngaraí, a léiríonn an meon agus an oidhreacht áitiúil, agus na riachtanais agus tosaíochtaí áitiúla. Tá éagsúlacht mhór ó thaobh mhéid na dtionscadal chomh maith. Leagtar an bhéim, go ginearálta, áfach, ar úsáid laethúil raon de ghníomhaíochtaí neamhfhoirmiúla, siúlóidí ar bhogshodar, cuairteanna ó theaghlach, aclaíocht laethúil, an madra a thabhairt amach, srl., agus d'fhéadfaí gníomhaíochtaí breise a chur ar fáil tríd an gcoillearnach a úsáid mar 'rang taobh amuigh' do scoileanna áitiúla. Tá faomhadh faighte ag geall le 40 tionscadal faoi Scéim na Coille Cóngaraí go dáta.

Tá an tSeirbhís Foraoiseachta ag déanamh measúnú faoi láthair chun na bearta a leathnú amach chun úinéirí talún nach mbaineann le húdarais áitiúla a thabhairt san áireamh (comhlachtaí poiblí eile, eagraíochtaí, forais, oird rialta, scoileanna, úinéirí talún príobháidí), ionas go leathnófaí amach an scéim. Leanfar, áfach, leis an mbéim a leagan ar áis choillearnaí chaighdeánach a mbeifí ábalta teacht uirthi go héasca, ar rochtain don phobal agus ar chur chuige comhpháirtíochta maidir le dearadh agus bainistíocht. Cuireann an tSeirbhís Foraoiseachta maoiniú agus tacaíocht ar fáil do raon leathan tionscnamh a bhaineann le háineas foraoise. Áirítear iad seo a leanas ar na samplaí is déanaí agus atá fós ar bun: Tionscadal Mílaoise

Foraoisí an Phobail, Ná Fág do Lorg na hÉireann, tionscadail oideachais Lá na gCrann agus Tionscadal na Foraoise Chomhairle Crann na hÉireann, cúrsaí gairmiúla oiliúna Dearadh i gcomhair Áineas Coillearnaí, agus clár Shiúlóidí Bliantúla Foraoise Chumann Foraoiseoirí na hÉireann.

Coillte

Is é Coillte an t-úinéir talún is mó atá sa stát mar go bhfuil breis is 440,000 heicteár (1.1 milliún acra, circa 6% den limistéar iomlán talún) d'fhoraois agus de thalamh oscailte faoina úinéireacht aige agus is é an soláthróir áineasa allamuigh is mó atá sa stát é chomh maith. Tá an chuid is mó d'eastát Choillte suite i limistéir mhórluacha agus mar gheall air sin, agus mar go mbíonn foraoisí an-fheiliúnach mar thírdhreach áineasa⁵, baintear an-úsáid áineasa sa eastát Choillte. Meastar go dtugann idir 18 – 30 milliún duine cuairt ar fhoraoisí Choillte gach bliain agus gur €97 milliún⁶ an luach measta d'úsáideoirí.

Is acmhainn an-tábhachtach chun áineas a chur ar fáil iad foraoisí Choillte. Cuireann an 11 páirc foraoise agus breis is 150 limistéar áineasa áiseanna ar leibhéal éagsúla ar fáil lena n-áirítear carrchlóis le bealach isteach chuig an tuath agus forbairtí móra áineasa. Tugann Coillte tacaíocht chomh maith do go leor eagraíochtaí eile, ó chomhlachtaí pobail go gníomhaireachtaí náisiúnta (cosúil le Coiste Náisiúnta Comhairleach na Slite Slímharcaílte de chuid na Comhairle Spóirt), trína bheith ag obair i gcomhar chun raon leathan de shocruithe rochtana agus saoráidí a chur ar fáil. Tá breis is 8,000 ciliméadar de bhóithre agus de chosáin foraoise ag Coillte mar shampla, agus is é a chuireann 52% de na cosáin náisiúnta slímharcaílte easbhóthair uile ar fáil faoi láthair.

Bainistítear foraoisí Choillte mar fhoraoisí oibre, táirgeann sé adhmaid, déanann sé cúram de chaomhnú an nádúir agus den bhithéagsúlacht agus ar ndóigh den áineasa. Aithníonn Coillte, cé gur cuideachta tráchtála stáit atá ann a bhfuil sé mar phríomhfheidhm aige an t-eastát a bhainistiú ar mhaithe le cuspóirí tráchtála, go bhfuil páirt an-tábhachtach aige, de bharr fairsing shuntasach talún a bheith faoina úinéireacht agus de bharr a thraidisiúin rannpháirtíochta in áineas allamuigh, i Straitéis Náisiúnta um Áineas Tuaithe ar bith. Ba é Coillte (agus an eagraíocht a chuaigh roimhe

An tSeirbhís Foraoise agus Fiadhúlra) an chéad mhóreagraíocht a d'aithin an fiúntas a bhain le háineas allamuigh nuair a d'oscail sé an chéad pháirc foraoise a bhí sa stát i nGúgán Barra, Co. Chorcaí sa bhliain 1966.

Bhí Coillte an-ghníomhach le blianta beaga anuas chun an bhainistiú áineasa agus an poitéinseal a bhí ag an eastát a fhorbairt agus tá tús curtha aige nó tá críoch curtha aige le líon áirithe tionscnamh tábhachtach áineasa.

- D'fhoilsigh Coillte an Polasaí fóillíochta – foraoisí Sláintiúla, Náisiún Sláintiúil sa bhliain 2005 inar leag sé amach seasamh, fealsúnacht agus saincheisteanna ginearálta na cuideachta a bhaineann le háineas a chur ar fáil ar an eastát.
- Rinne Coillte, sa bhliain 2004, coimisiúnú ar chomhstaidéar i gcomhar leis an gComhairle Spóirt ar chomh luachmhar is atá foraoisí agus cosáin d'úsáid áineasa agus foilsíodh deireanach sa bhliain 2005 é. Léirigh an tuarascáil seo go ndeachaigh áineas i bhforaoisí Choillte go mór chun tairbhe na sochaí agus go ndearnadh breis is €270 milliún ó ghníomhaíocht eacnamaíoch i bpobail áitiúla.
- Tá an cuideachta ag obair faoi láthair ar mhórhionscnamh áineasa, Clár Infreastruchtúir Áineasa na Foraoise (€5.3 milliún), atá ag fáil tacaíocht ó Fáilte Ireland faoin bPlean Forbartha Náisiúnta 2000 -2006. Cuirfidh an Clár seo líon áirithe saoráidí tábhachtacha áineasa allamuigh ar fáil trasna na tíre lena n-áirítear:
 - uasghrádú na gcosán fánaíochta agus siúlóide ag a mbeadh fosheirbhísí cosúil le carrchlóis, comharthaí slímharcaílte agus ceannchosáin, ionaid phicnicí srl.;
 - saoráidí nua rothaíochta sléibhe agus saoráidí eile rothaíochta easbhóthair a fhorbairt ag cúig ionad trasna na tíre;

5 Is áiteanna breátha áineasa iad na foraoisí iontu féin. Déanann siad scagadh ar úsáideoirí agus ar shaoráidí áineasa agus súnn siad an torann. Tá foraoisí na hÉireann lán le rianta agus cosáin ar féidir teacht go héasca orthu.

6 Economic Value of Trails and Forest Recreation in the Republic of Ireland, Fitzpatrick Associates, Comhairleoirí Eacnamaíocha don Chomhairle Spóirt agus do Choillte, Meán Fómhair 2005



- suíomh gréasáin nua “Coillte allamuigh” a chuirfidh raon leathan eolais ar fáil d’úsáideoirí allamuigh in Éirinn;
 - agus tionscnamh Fáilte roimh Shiúlóirí/Rothaithe a chuirfidh rochtain mhéadaithe na tuaithe chun cinn.
- Ba é Coillte an chéad eagraíocht a raibh talamh faoina úinéireacht aige a ghlac na prionsabail⁷ Ná Fág do Lorg chuige féin agus bhí sé an-ghníomhach chun Ná Fág do Lorg na hÉireann a bhunú mar eagraíocht neamhspleách a chuireann úsáid fhreagrach na tuaithe chun cinn.
 - Bhí ról ceannasach ag Coillte chun clár taighde ar áineas foraoise a fhorbairt i gcomhar le Coford – an ghníomhaireacht taighde foraoise agus bhí sé gníomhach maidir le tacaíocht a thabhairt d’obair Choiste Náisiúnta Comhairleach na Slite Slímharcáilte maidir le straitéis náisiúnta cosán a fhorbairt.
 - I measc na dtionscnamh eile atá ar bun ag Coillte faoi láthair áirítear rannpháirtíocht na n-úsáideoirí áineasa – sa chás seo lucht úsáidte rothair sléibhe – i gclár maoirseachta chun a spórt a fhorbairt agus a bhainistiú i bhforaoisí Choillte. Tá Coillte i gceannas ar thionscnamh píolótach chomh maith chun straitéis bainistíochta áineasa a fhorbairt i Sléibhte Átha Cliath Theas. Tabharfaidh sé na húdaráis áitiúla, an tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Páirceanna, ionadaithe na n-úsáideoirí áineasa agus Coillte le chéile chun straitéis fhoriomlán áineasa a fhorbairt don réimse thábhachtach náisiúnta seo.

An Chomhairle Náisiúnta um Thaighde agus Forbairt Foraoise

Rinne COFORD athbhreithniú mór ar riachtanais taighde an áineasa foraoise in Éirinn. Thug an tionscadal saineolaithe agus cleachtóirí ón tionscal foraoiseachta agus ó earnálacha ábhartha le chéile chun breathnú ar raon ábhar áineasa lena n-áirítear fiúntas an áineasa, an acmhainn a bhainistiú, áineas agus tírdhreach, sláinte agus folláine, áineas turasoíreachta agus foraoise, áineas foraoise feirme agus an ról atá ag áineas foraoise san oideachas.

Oidhreacht agus Áineas Tuaithe

Bealach éifeachtach chun spéis an phobail a fhuascailt in go leor gnéithe oidhreachta is ea só a bhaint as an tuath trí ghníomhaíochtaí áineasa éagsúla mar shampla na limistéir thailte arda atá againn, na cóstaí, machairí lár na tíre, na huiscebhealaí intíre, na suímh sheandálaíochta, na bailte beaga agus móra. Is féidir cosáin nó cúrsaí, go háirithe, a úsáid le haghaidh rang allamuigh i gcomhair óg agus aosta araon agus is féidir leo cuidiú le daoine saol folláin a chaitheamh chomh maith.

Tá an Chomhairle Oidhreachta freagrach, faoin Acht Oidhreachta, 1995, as suim, oideachas, eolas agus bród san oidhreacht náisiúnta a chur chun cinn agus tuiscint agus só na hoidhreachta náisiúnta a éascú. Tá an Chomhairle Oidhreachta ag obair i réimse na mbealaí siúlóide agus na bhféarbhealaí ón mbliain 1997. Cuireann an Chomhairle úsáid inbhuanaithe áineasa agus só na tuaithe, agus na gceantar mara agus cósta chun cinn. Is iad Tionscadal Mílaoise na gCosán Oilithreachta, agus Bealach Bhéara Bhreifne príomhthionscadail na Comhairle, agus an méid seo á scríobh. Áirítear Líonra Cosán Inbhuanaithe Cill Mhantáin agus Ná Fág Do Lorg i measc na dtionscadal a dtugann an Chomhairle tacaíocht dóibh. Ghlac an Chomhairle páirt i dtionscnaimh an údaráis áitiúil cosúil le straitéis siúlóide Phort Láirge agus staidéar bhealaí siúlóide Chill Dara. Is ball í den Choiste Náisiúnta Comhairleach na Slite Slímharcáilte.

Slite Náisiúnta Slímharcáilte agus Straitéis Cosán na hÉireann

Tá trí phríomhfheidhm ag Coiste Náisiúnta Comhairleach na Slite Slímharcáilte (NWWAC) de chuid na Comhairle Spóirt: maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar chothabháil agus ar fhorbairt Líonra Náisiúnta na Slite Slímharcáilte; cothú agus comhairle a thabhairt chun cosáin slímharcáilte eile de gach cineál fad a chruthú; agus siúlóid a chur chun cinn ar mhaithe le tairbhe áineasa, shóisialta agus shláintiúil a bhaint aisti.

Déanann Coiste Náisiúnta Comhairleach na Slite Slímharcáilte scrúdú bliantúil ar gach cosán slímharcáilte atá cláraithe chun a chinntiú go bhfuiltear á gcothú mar ba chóir agus ar mhaithe le cúrsaí árachais. Oibríonn an Coiste i gcomhar leis na Coistí Forbartha Cosán, le hÚdaráis Áitiúla, le

⁷ Ghlac an chuideachta iad seo chuici féin ina polasaí áineasa.

Gníomhaireachtaí Rialtais, agus le Comhpháirtíochtaí Áitiúla Spóirt sa tír chun cosáin a chruthú agus a chothú.

Tá forbairt Straitéis Cosán na hÉireann díreach críochnaithe ag Coiste Náisiúnta Comhairleach na Slite Slímharcáilte. Cíorann an Straitéis seo na féidearthachtaí uile atá ann chun líonra cosán den scoth a chruthú a chuirfeadh deiseanna iontacha áineasa ar fáil do mhuintir na hÉireann agus a chuirfeadh Éire ar an mapa, chomh maith, mar cheann scríbe idirnáisiúnta a mbeadh an-tóir air maidir le bristeacha gníomhaíochta agus saoirí. Tá sé i gceist ag Straitéis Cosán na hÉireann comhlánú a dhéanamh ar agus cuidiú a thabhairt don Straitéis Náisiúnta um Áineas Tuaithe.

Tá Coiste Náisiúnta Comhairleach na Slite Slímharcáilte ag comhoibriú faoi láthair le Fáilte Ireland chun siúlóidí lúbchosáin d'ardchaighdeán a chruthú. D'fhaomh an rialtas straitéis nua na Comhairle Spóirt 'Spóirt ar feadh an tSaoil' i mí Iúil atá dírithe go mór ar rannpháirtíocht i ngníomhaíochtaí spóirt neamhiomaíocha a chur chun cinn. Dá bhrí sin b'fhéidir go leathnófaí ról na Comhairle Spóirt maidir le forfheidhmiú na Straitéise um Áineas Tuaithe chun go mbeadh níos mó ná forbairt na gcosán agus na siúlóidí slímharcáilte san áireamh lena ról.

Forbairt Straitéiseach Chosáin Siúlóide Fáilte Ireland

Creideann Fáilte Ireland go bhfuil páirt thábhachtach ag áineas tuaithe maidir le scaipeadh réigiúnach a chur chun cinn agus le turasóireacht a mhealladh chuig ceantair thuaithe. Tabharfar tús áite sa chéad Phlean Forbartha Náisiúnta eile do líon áirithe gníomhaíochtaí a mbeidh ar a gcumas dán táirgí na hÉireann a fhorbairt. Áirítear an réimse táirgí seo a leanas ar na táirgí a mbeifear ábalta a thairiscint le chéile nó astu féin:

- Slatiascaireacht – Géimiascaireacht, Garbhiascaireacht agus lascaireacht mhara
- Rothaíocht – Tá straitéis chun líonra bealaí a fhorbairt ar tí a bheith críochnaithe
- Eachaíocht – Lena n-áirítear Imrim Each ar Chosáin
- Gníomhaíochtaí Eachtraíochta Allamuigh
- Cúrsáil Intíre
- Turasóireacht an Bhia - cuairteanna ar tháirgeoirí áitiúla bia
- Sláinte agus Folláine
- Cosáin Oidhreachta

- Dúlra Nádúrtha na hÉireann – An nádúr agus an fiadhúlra

Tá dul chun cinn déanta ag Fáilte Ireland san achar ama is giorra, mar shampla, sa phleanáil den chéad chéim eile maidir le margáíocht a dhéanamh ar shaoirí siúlóide sna príomh-mhargáí idirnáisiúnta thar lear agus sna margáí ag baile chun an poitéinseal is mó a bhaint as saoirí siúlóide. Tá sonraí faoi na chéad 14 siúlóid, atá feiliúnach chun iad a chur chun cinn ar an toirt, foilsithe ag an tionscadal seo. Tá na siúlóidí seo scaipeadh go geografach ar fud na tíre agus tá líon áirithe téarmaí agus gráid éagsúla ag baint leo. Cuireadh bróisiúr i dtoll a chéile i mí Iúil 2006 agus tá eolas faoi na siúlóidí sin ar fáil ar an suíomh gréasáin ag www.Ireland.ie nó ag www.walking.Ireland.ie chomh maith.

Oibríonn Fáilte Ireland sna réigiúin chomh maith chun áineas tuaithe a chur chun cinn mar chuid mhór dá pholasaí maidir le borradh a chur faoin turasóireacht sna ceantair thuaithe. Mar shampla, tá ag éirí go han-mhaith le bealaí Bhéara, Rinn Mhuintir Bháire, an Daingin agus Chiarraí ó bunaíodh na slite fada slímharcáilte san iardheisceart. D'oibrigh Fáilte Ireland sa réigiún seo (ar a nglaoití Turasóireacht Chiarraí Chorcaí) i gcomhpháirtíocht leis na grúpaí áitiúla uile a raibh baint acu le siúlóidí a fhorbairt mar shampla cuideachtaí LEADER an réigiúin, chun siúlóidí a fhorbairt agus a chur chun cinn mar áis agus mar díol spéise do thurasóirí sa réigiún. Tá siad ag obair i gcomhar le grúpaí éagsúla ar líon áirithe de na hoileáin amach ó Chósta Iarthar Chorcaí chomh maith chun gníomhaíochtaí siúlóide/áineasa a chur chun cinn ar na hoileáin sin.

An Chomhairle Spóirt/ Comhpháirtíochtaí Áitiúla Spóirt

Bunaíodh na Comhpháirtíochtaí Áitiúla Spóirt chun struchtúr nua a chruthú a chomhordódh agus a chuirfeadh forbairt áitiúil an spóirt chun cinn. Is iad príomhaidhmeanna na gComhpháirtíochtaí Áitiúla Spóirt rannpháirtíocht an spóirt a mhéadú agus a chinntiú go mbainfí an úsáid ab fhéidir ab fhéidir as na hacmhainní áitiúla.

Údaráis Áitiúla

Tá údaráis áitiúla páirteach i bhforbairt agus i gcothabháil saoráidí áineasa tuaithe agus na mbealaí siúlóide ach go háirithe. Mar shampla, tá straitéis siúlóide curtha le chéile ag Comhairle Co. Phort Láirge don chontae, fostaíonn roinnt contaetha oifigigh chun siúlóidí a chomhordú (lena n-áirítear Corcaigh-Ciarraí, Cill Mhantáin agus Dún na nGall) agus tá maoiniú faighte ag Contaetha eile ón Scéim Forbartha um Tháirge Turasóireachta



(lena n-áirítear Co. an Chláir agus Uíbh Fhailí) chun bealaí a uasghrádú agus a fhorbairt.

Is iad Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance Co tríd an Údarás Áitiúil, atá freagrach chomh maith as cothabháil, a chuireann an t-árachas slánaíochta ar fáil den chuid is mó de Chosáin an Líonra Náisiúnta (lena n-áirítear na lúbchosáin). Tá páirt lárnach ag na hÚdaráis Áitiúla i bhforbairt infreastruchtúr an áineasa tuaithe agus i bhfoshaoiridí cosúil le carrclóis, leithris phoiblí srl. a chur ar fáil.

Bíonn rochtain i gceist le go leor de na saoráidí áineasa tuaithe, seachas bealaí siúlóide, a chuireann na húdaráis áitiúla ar fáil agus cuirtear an rochtain ar fáil trí na cearta foirmiúla poiblí a cheannach nó uaireanta trí líonraí na mbóithre poiblí a leathnú. Éilítear ar údaráis áitiúla, faoi Acht na mBóithre, 1993, (A 73(11)) cosaint a thabhairt do cheart an phobail úsáid a bhaint as cearta poiblí slí. Iarrtar orthu anois is arís idirghabháil a dhéanamh nuair a chuirtear isteach ar chearta poiblí slí líomhnaithe.

Ná Fág do Lorg na hÉireann

Is líonra eagraíochtaí é Ná Fág do Lorg na hÉireann a bunaíodh chun an teachtaireacht atá i gceist le Ná Fág do Lorg a fhorbairt agus a chur chun cinn ar fud na hÉireann. Déanann an eagraíocht ionadaíocht ar úinéirí móra talún poiblí agus úsáideoirí áineasa agus d'fhostaigh siad oifigeach forbartha le déanaí arna maoiniú ag na comheagraíochtaí. Tá Ná Fág do Lorg na hÉireann tar éis cúig chúrsa san iomlán a reáchtáil lena n-áirítear cúrsaí príomhtheagascóirí – an chéad cheann san Eoraip – agus roinnt mhaith laethanta feachtasaneagraíocht agus gnáisiúnta. Áirítear iad seo a leanas ar na heagraíochtaí atá mar bhaill den tionscnamh Ná Fág do Lorg faoi láthair, an tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Páirceanna agus Fíadúlra, Comhairle Sléibhteoireachta na hÉireann, Coillte, an Chomhairle Oidhreacht, Duke of Edinburgh Award, Gasóga na hÉireann, an tSeirbhís Foraoiseachta, CAAN-Northern Ireland, Meitheal Sléibhe, agus Rothaíocht Sléibhe na hÉireann. Tá eagraíochtaí eile faoi láthair ag cuimhneamh ballraíocht a ghlacadh.

Rochtain na Tuaithe

Léirítear in Aguisín 4 – Paraiméadair Sheasamh Chomhairle na Tuaithe ar Rochtain na Tuaithe comhdhearcadh na coitiantachta a dtáinig Comhairle na Tuaithe air. Bhuail Grúpa Oibre Rochtana Chomhairle na Tuaithe le chéile roinnt uaireanta chun plé a dhéanamh agus chun aontú a fháil ar na nithe ar cheart a thabhairt san áireamh sa Straitéis Náisiúnta um Áineas Tuaithe maidir lena

dhearcadh ar rochtain na tuaithe.

Tar éis machnamh a dhéanamh ar na pointí uile a nochtadh, chinn an Grúpa Oibre Rochtana nach bhfuil aon réiteach iomlán amháin le fáil ar an tsaincheist rochtana, a eascraíonn as an áineas tuaithe. Tá leibhéil éagsúla brúnna ag teacht i gcion agus tá leibhéil éagsúla rochtana ag teastáil ag brath ar an ngníomhaíocht áineasa a bhfuiltear ag tabhairt fúithi nó an ceantar ina bhfuil an rochtain á lorg ann. Ní mór raon réiteach, a bheidh curtha i dtoll a chéile go sonrach do chúinsí sainiúla, a fháil ar na saincheisteanna. Tóg na siúlóidí mar shampla, beidh na réitigh brath ar cé acu an mbaineann nó nach mbaineann na saincheisteanna le rochtain ar chosáin ghnóthacha turasoírí, ar shlite náisiúnta slímharcáilte nó ar fhobhealaí nó ar limistéir thailte arda.

Mhol an grúpa chomh fada agus a bhain sé le hinfreastruchtúr bainistithe .i. slithe slímharcáilte agus siúlóidí faoi bhainistíocht ghrúpaí áitiúla gnímh, gur cheart deis a thabhairt d'úinéirí talún tairbhe airgeadais a bhaint as iad a bheith páirteach i soláthar an áineasa tuaithe.

Phléigh an Grúpa Oibre Rochtana saincheist árachais na n-úinéirí talún maidir le dliteanas áititheoirí a chlúdach. Chuaigh an Grúpa i gcomhairle le Cónaidhm Árachais na hÉireann a luadh go dtéann cuid bheag den táille árachais, faoin bpacáiste polasaí feirme, i dtreo na forála maidir le riosca dliteanais na n-áititheoirí.' Mheas an grúpa gur cheart na húnéirí talún a bheith slán ó éilimh úsáideoirí áineasa a dtalún. Soláthraíonn scéim slánaíochta na n-úinéirí talún a fheidhmíonn an Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance Ltd (IPBMI) slánaíocht do líon mór de na bealaí náisiúnta slímharcáilte in aghaidh éilimh ó úsáideoirí áineasa na talún cheana. Mhol an Grúpa Oibre nár mhór scrúdú a dhéanamh ar leathnú slánaíochta dá leithéid chun talamh eile faoi úinéireacht phríobháideach a thabhairt san áireamh maidir le héilimh ó úsáideoirí áineasa a dtalún.

Mhol an grúpa gur cheart iarratas ar mhaoiniú do na réitigh fíolótacha ar shaincheist na rochtana tuaithe a thabhairt san áireamh sa straitéis um áineas tuaithe ar féidir é a chur i bhfeidhm sa ghearrthéarma agus go mbeadh sé mar aidhm réiteach cuí náisiúnta a chur i bhfeidhm sa mheántéarma.

Aithníonn Comhairle na Tuaithe go leanfaidh eagraíochtaí feirmeoireachta orthu ag iarraidh cúiteamh díreach de bharr rochtain a bheith ag

úsáideoirí áineasa na tuaithe ar an talamh.

Mhol Comhairle na Tuaithe go n-iarrfaí ar an Ard-Aighne scrúdú a dhéanamh ag athlua agus/nó athléiriú an seasamh dlí choitinn reatha sa reachtaíocht maidir le cosaint chearta maoine na n-úinéirí talún nuair a chéadaítear rochtain áineasa ar a dtalamh.

Molann Comhairle na Tuaithe chomh maith go n-iarrfaí ar an gCoimisiún um Athchóiriú Dlí a thuilleadh moltaí a dhéanamh ar na saincheisteanna níos leithne a bhaineann le rochtain na tuaithe

i gcomhair úsáideoirí áineasa agus go ndíreodh siad ar an seasamh bunreachtúil agus dlíthiúil a bhaineann le hÉirinn.

Measann Comhairle na Tuaithe nach gcuirfí aon ualach costais ná dlisteanais, de réir an Occupiers' Liability Act 1995, ar fheirmeoirí/úinéirí talún a bheadh mar thoradh ar úsáideoirí áineasa a ligean ar a dtalamh agus gur chóir don Rialtas céimeanna cuí a ghlacadh, ar bhonn práinne, chun é sin a chinntiú. Creideann Comhairle na Tuaithe go bhfuil réiteach na saincheiste seo fíorthábhachtach chun áineas tuaithe a fhorbairt.



Caibidil 3

AIGHNEACHTAÍ FAIGHTE

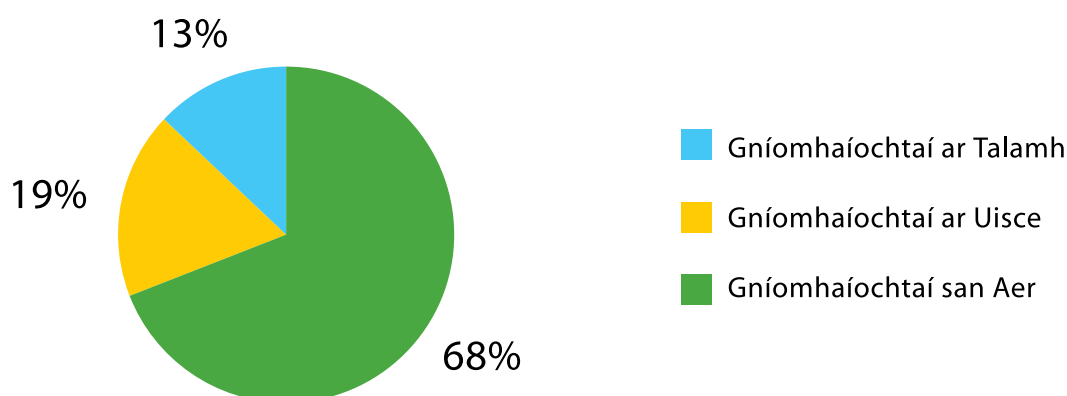
Glao ar Aighneachtaí

Cuireadh fógra sna páipéir náisiúnta agus áitiúla i nDeireadh Fómhair 2005, agus scríobh Comhairle na Tuaithe chuig grúpaí a bhaineann le gníomhaíochtaí áineasa, gníomhaireachtaí stáit agus Ranna Rialtais ábhartha chun a ndearcadh a fháil maidir le háineas tuaithe a fhorbairt. Ba é an 7 Nollaig 2005 an dáta deiridh d'aighneachtaí a bheith faighte agus

fuarthas 190 aighneacht. Tá a thuilleadh eolais faoin nglao ar aighneachtaí le fáil in Aguisín 6 go 8.

Scrúdaíodh na haighneachtaí de réir na gcineálacha gníomhaíochtaí a clúdaíodh, cibé cé acu ar ghníomhaíochtaí ar talamh, san aer nó ar uisce iad. Taispeántar na torthaí sa tábla thíos.

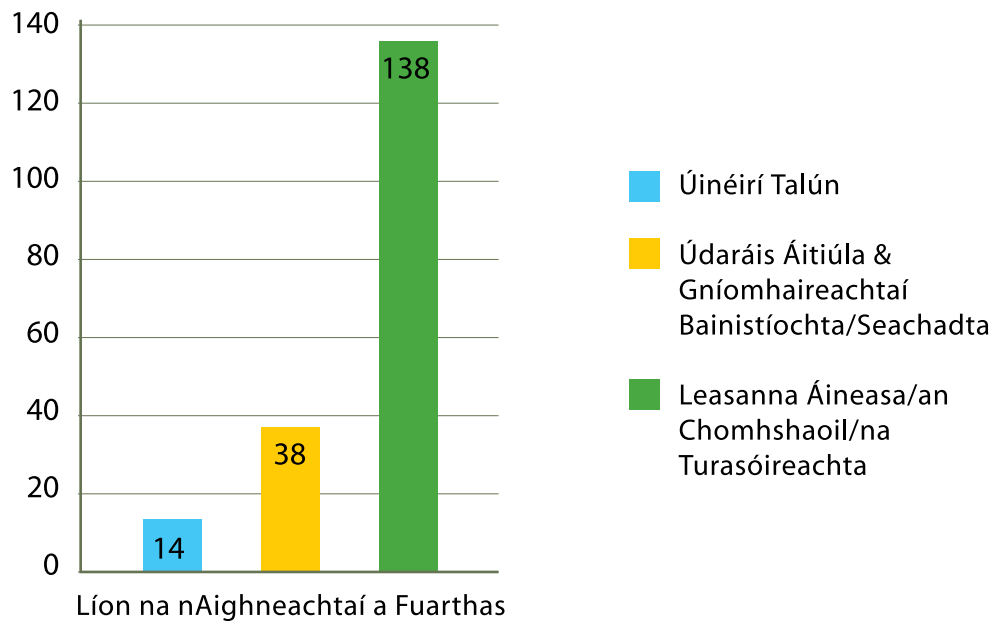
Briseadh Síos de réir Gníomhaíochta



Scrúdaíodh na haighneachtaí chomh maith agus cuireadh i gcatagóirí iad faoi na trí cheannteideal seo a leanas:

- Úinéirí Talún
- Údaráis Áitiúla & Gníomhaireachtaí Bainistíochta/Seachadta
- Leasanna Áineasa/an Chomhshaoil/na Turasóireachta

(féach an chairt ar an gcéad leathanach eile)



Gníomhaíochtaí ar Talamh

Fairtheoireacht Éan
Uaimheadóireacht
Cúrsáil
Rothaíocht
Eachaíocht
Siúl na gCnoc
Fiach/Foghlaoireoireacht
Bogshodar
Róthaíocht Sléibhe
Sléibhteoireacht
Treadóireacht
Cuadrothaíocht
Dreapadóireacht
Streachailteoireacht
Siúlóid

Gníomhaíochtaí ar Uisce

Slatiascaireacht
Curachóireach
Scairdsciáil
Cadhcáil
Rámhaíocht
Seoltóireacht
Tonnadóireacht
Snámh

Gníomhaíochtaí san Aer

Aerloingseoireacht
Tógáil Aerárthaí
Eitlíocht
Balúnóireacht
Foluain agus Faoileoireacht
Faoileoireacht chrochta/
parafaoilseoireacht
Micreashoilsíú
Paraisiútáil

Sa deireadh thiar cuireadh liosta níos sonraithe de na gníomhaíochtaí a clúdaíodh sna haighneachtaí i dtoll a chéile. Chlúdaigh eagraíocht tiomanta na gníomhaíochtaí seo go díreach nó go ginearálta mar chuid den bhreithniú foriomlán.



Caibidil 4

AN STRAITÉIS NÁISIÚNTA UM ÁINEAS TUAITHE ARNA MOLADH AG COMHAIRLE NA TUAITHE

Ag féachaint do chuspóirí na Straitéise Náisiúnta um Áineas Tuaithe, don dearcadh éagsúil a bhí ag na balleagraíochtaí agus na daoine aonair agus na heagraíochtaí a ghlac páirt sa chéim chomhairliúcháin, léiríonn an caibidil seo a leanas cómhóladh na coitiantachta Chomhairle na Tuaithe don Aire maidir leis an Straitéis Náisiúnta um Áineas Tuaithe.

Sainmhíniú ar Áineas Tuaithe

Baineann áineas tuaithe le gníomhaíochtaí spóirt, áineasa agus saoire atá bunaithe ar úsáid a bhaint as acmhainní na tuaithe agus a chuidíonn le saol folláin gníomhach a chaitheamh. Tá talamh, uisce agus aer áirithe leis an téarma, tuath. Baineann an téarma áineas sa chomhthéacs seo le gníomhaíochtaí spóirt agus áineasa a fheidhmítear faoin tuath mar atá sainithe thuas. Ní bhaineann sé le gníomhaíochtaí spóirt a eagraítear faoin tuath ar chúrsaí ná ar pháirceanna imeartha teoranta atá deartha agus tógtha go speisialta don spórt sin, m.sh. galf, peil, seólímneach, srl.

Fís

Is é fís Chomhairle na Tuaithe maidir le háineas tuaithe ná tuath ina gcuirtear fáilte roimh gach cuairteoir a bhaineann úsáid fhreagrach as an acmhainn, áit ina dtaispeántar meas ar chearta agus ar fhreagrachtaí na n-úinéirí talún agus na n-úsáideoirí áineasa araon agus áit ina mbíonn an maoiniú agus na struchtúir riachtanacha i bhfeidhm chun seirbhís áineasa a chur ar fáil.

Cuspóirí Straitéiseacha

Is iad seo a leanas cuspóirí straitéiseacha atá aitheanta ag Comhairle na Tuaithe don Straitéis Náisiúnta um Áineas Tuaithe.

1. Áineas inbhuanaithe agus freagrach a bheith faoin tuath.
2. Úsáid chúramach áineasa na tuaithe a chur chun cinn.
3. Frámaíocht náisiúnta a chuireann cearta agus freagrachtaí na n-úinéirí agus na n-úsáideoirí araon chun cinn a fhorbairt.
4. Struchtúr oiriúnach a fhorbairt chun seirbhís

náisiúnta áineasa tuaithe a chur ar fáil ar bhealach straitéiseach comhordaithe.

5. Pacáiste meicníochtaí maoinithe a dhaingniú chun cuspóirí na straitéise a bhaint amach.

Na Prionsabail atá mar bhonn agus mar thaca ag na Cuspóirí Straitéiseacha

Is iad seo a leanas na prionsabail atá mar bhonn agus mar thaca ag cuspóirí straitéiseacha na Straitéise Náisiúnta um Áineas Tuaithe:-

- Aitheantas a thabhairt don fhiúntas a bhaineann le háineas tuaithe maidir le caighdeán saoil a fheabhsú agus maidir le tairbhí eacnamaíocha, sóisialta agus sláinte a chur ar fáil.
- Cosaint a thabhairt don oidhreacht nádúrtha, chultúrtha agus thógtha atá le fáil faoin tuath agus don chomhshaol nádúrtha, agus gnáthóga fiadhúlra san áireamh.
- Cearta dlíthiúla agus údar imní na n-úinéirí talún, ar feirmeoirí nó gníomhaireachtaí stáit a bhformhór a aithint go hiomlán.
- Glacadh leis go bhfuil sé riachtanach go mbeadh rochtain réasúnach ag úsáideoirí áineasa ar an tuath agus ar thailte arda.
- Cláir oideachais agus feasachta a chur ar fáil chun úsáid fhreagrach na tuaithe maidir le gníomhaíochtaí áineasa a chur chun cinn.
- Feirmeoirí agus úinéirí talún eile a spreagadh chun foráil a dhéanamh d'áineas allamuigh agus chun fiontair a bheadh bunaithe ar áineas allamuigh a fhorbairt faoin tuath. Thabharfadh sé sin an deis dóibh tairbhe airgeadais a bhaint as.
- Infreastruchtúr ginearálta agus infreastruchtúr a bhaineann go sonrach leis na gníomhaíochtaí araon a fhorbairt agus a chothabháil chun áineas tuaithe a sholáthar.

- Soláthar áineasa allamuigh a bheith ar an gcaighdeán céanna ionas go mbeidh áiteanna áineasa allamuigh agus saoráidí lena mbaineann, pleanáilte, deartha agus bainistithe de réir scothchleachtais idirnáisiúnta, lena n-áirítear iad siúd a bhaineann leis na prionsabail ‘rochtain do chách’.

Gníomhartha chun an Straitéis a chur i bhfeidhm

Is liosta táscach atá sa liosta gníomhartha a dtugtar cuntas air thíos de na gníomhartha a mheasann Comhairle na Tuaithe ar cheart iad a dhéanamh chun na prionsabail sin a chur i bhfeidhm sna cúig bliana seo romhainn. Meastar gurb í an Roinn Gnóthaí

Pobail, Tuaithe & Gaeltachta a bheidh freagrach go foriomlán as maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar fhorfheidhmiú na ngníomhartha seo cé go mbeidh páirt ag raon comhlachtaí ann. Bheifí ag súil go bhfaigheadh na gníomhartha sin tacaíocht ó raon foinsí, lena n-áirítear maoiniú a chuirtear ar fáil tríd an Straitéis um Fhorbairt Tuaithe atá le leagan amach chun Rialachán Forbartha Tuaithe an AE 2007-13 a chur i bhfeidhm, an Scéim Shóisialta Tuaithe, CLÁR, Clár na Seirbhísí Pobail agus scéimeanna ábhartha Ranna agus Gníomhaireachtaí eile (mar shampla Scéim na Coille Cóngaraí na Seirbhíse Foraoiseachta). Moltar go ndéanfaí athbhreithniú ar na gníomhartha sin in aghaidh na bliana.



CUSPÓIR 1

Áineas inbhuanaithe agus freagrach a bheith faoin tuath.

TASC

Infreastruchtúr a fhorbairt d'áineas tuaithe

GNÍOMHARTHA SAINIÚLA

Forfheidhmiú Straitéis Náisiúnta na gCosán atá aontaithe a chinntiú.

Bainistíocht agus cothabháil na gcarrchlós agus cineálacha eile infreastruchtúir atá lonnaithe sna háiteanna sin go straitéiseach a spreagadh chun áineas tuaithe a éascú.

Bainistíocht agus cothabháil an infreastruchtúir a spreagadh ionas go mbeidh na daoine sin a ghlacann páirt in áineas tuaithe ábalta é a úsáid. Áirítear é seo a leanas ar an gcineál infreastruchtúir a mheastar a bheadh i gceist: –

- Conairí/cosáin do shiúlóidí, fánadóireacht, fálróid ar chapailíní, rothaíocht, srl. –
- Bealaí na habhann/na canála
- Raonta agus limistéir shainithe do rothaíocht sléibhe
- Limistéir dreapadóireachta/uaimheadóireachta
- Áiseanna d'fhairtheoireacht éan
- Áiseanna ar an gcladach do spórt uisce.
- Limistéir do spórt uisce cosúil le slatiascaireacht, cadhcáil, seoltóireacht, tonnadóireacht, clársheoltóireacht.
- Bunáit do spórt aeir, cosúil le faoileoireacht chrochta srl.

Sainlimistéir a fhorbairt do mhótarghníomhaíochtaí áineasa agus bearta a láidriú chun iallach a chur orthu gan dul in áiteanna neamshainithe.

Cothabháil, cúram agus athchóiriú infreastruchtúir atá i bhfeidhm cheana a spreagadh ionas go mbeidh an pobal ábalta úsáid a bhaint astu gan aon bhac a bheith orthu. Ba chóir den ghníomh sin a chinntiú nach ndéanfaidh na feabhsúcháin ná an chothabháil a dhéantaí damáiste ar bith d'oidhreacht nádúrtha, chultúrtha ná thógtha na gceantar lena mbaineann.

Úsáid iarshaoráidí infreastruchtúir a spreagadh – ar bhealach a thabharfaidh cosaint d'oidhreacht na saoráide – mar shampla línte iarnróid nach bhfuil in úsáid a thuilleadh, cosáin tarraingthe cois canála, bóithre portaigh, srl. a úsáid mar chosáin do shiúlóidí,

COMHPHÁIRTITHE

Comhairle na Tuaithe,
An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe & Gaeltachta,
An Roinn Ealaíon, Spóirt agus Turasóireachta,
Grúpaí Áitiúla Gnímh⁸,
Údarás Áitiúla,
Feirmeoirí,
Coillte,
An tSeirbhís Foraoiseachta,
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Páirceanna agus Fiadhúlra,
an Chomhairle Oidhreachta,
Fáilte Ireland,
An Chomhairle Spóirt, Uiscebhealaí Éireann agus Eagraíochtaí Áineasa

⁸ Oibríonn Grúpaí Áitiúla Gnímh, i gcomhthéasc na straitéise seo, ar chur chuige comhpháirtíochta ón mbun aníos chun forbairt na limistéar tuaithe a chothú trí straitéisí nuálacha forbartha bunaithe go háitiúil a chur i bhfeidhm agus is gníomhairí áitiúla neamhreachtúla agus reachtúla araon a bhíonn iontu.

TASC

GNÍOMHARTHA SAINIÚLA

COMHPHÁIRTITHE

gníomhaíochtaí eachaíochta, rothaíocht srl.

Úsáid na bhforaoisí i gcomhair áineas tuaithe a spreagadh agus na húinéirí talún a tharraingt isteach san fhorbairt sin.

Foráil iompair d'úsáideoirí áineasa na tuaithe chuig saoráidí/limistéir áineasa a spreagadh mar shampla seirbhísí bus bunaithe sa phobal chuig limistéir ina mbíonn gníomhaíochtaí áineasa tuaithe, gnáthóga nádúrtha, suímh sheandálaíochta srl.

Oiriúnú na saoráidí a liostáladh sna gníomhartha thuas a spreagadh ionas go bhféadfadh daoine faoi mhíchumas, daoine breacaosta agus leanaí óga úsáid a bhaint astu.

Cóiríocht a chur ar fáil a bheadh bunaithe ar mhargaí an áineasa tuaithe mar thurasóireacht chosán, éiceathurasóireacht srl. agus í a spreagadh.

Turasóireacht nideoige a spreagadh mar shampla na healaíona agus an cheardaíocht, bia speisialtachta a chur ar fáil, éiceathurasóireacht, ginealas, seandálaíocht, stair, srl. chun a chinntiú go mbeadh réimse iomlán de ghníomhaíochtaí eile ar fáil d'úsáideoirí áineasa na tuaithe agus iad ag tabhairt cuairte ar cheantair thuaithe.

Úsáid an idirlín a spreagadh chun seirbhísí d'úsáideoirí áineasa na tuaithe a chur in áirithe, úsáideoirí ar mian leo saoráidí áineasa agus fo-áiseanna a chur in áirithe.

Eolas a bhailiú ar shaoráidí agus ar sheirbhísí atá i bhfeidhm do ghníomhaíochtaí áineasa seachas siúlóidí.

Eolas a chur ar fáil faoi dheiseanna áineasa tuaithe agus conas páirt a ghlacadh iontu.

Bunú córas eolais a spreagadh chun úsáideoirí a chur ar an eolas faoi shuíomh na saoráidí áineasa tuaithe ag baint úsáid as an idirlíon agus as pointí áitiúla eolais.

Pacáiste oiliúna agus eolais a chur ar fáil do bhaill foirne na n-oifigí turasóireachta a chasann ar chuirteoirí a thugann cuairt ar cheantair thuaithe agus é sin a spreagadh.

Comhordú na n-iniúchtaí ar na bealaí siúlóide, agus comhordú taighde eile a rinneadh agus atá ar fáil, a chinntiú.

Comhairle na Tuaithe,
An Roinn Ealaíon, Spóirt
agus Turasóireachta,
An Chomhairle Spóirt,
Údarás Áitiúla,
Údarás Réigiúnacha
Turasóireachta,
Fáilte Ireland,
Coillte,
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta
Páirceanna agus
Fiadhúlra,
Comhairle Crann na
hÉireann



CUSPÓIR 2

Úsáid chúramach áineasa na tuaithe a chur chun cinn.

TASC

Cláir oideachais a dhearadh, do scoileanna agus d'eagraíochtaí eile, chun na nithe seo a leanas a chur chun cinn:-

- oiliúint,
- feasacht
- taitneamh a bhaint as an tuath ach meas a bheith uirthi ag am céanna, agus
- an tionchar a bhíonn ag áineas ar an gcomhshaol a thuiscint.

GNÍOMHARTHA SAINIÚLA

Ná Fág do Lorg a chur i bhfeidhm.

Cur chun cinn gníomhaíochtaí cosúil le líonrú, oiliúint, seimineáir agus comhdhálacha a spreagadh ionas go spreagfaí tuiscint agus go gcabhrófaí chun an chothromaíocht idir an t-iliomad spéiseanna éagsúla áineasa a bhaint amach.

Oiliúint a chur ar fáil i mbainistíocht an chaomhshaoil dóibh siúd a bhíonn páirteach i seirbhísí áineasa tuaithe a chur ar fáil agus an soláthar oiliúna sin a spreagadh.

Spreagadh go mbeadh teagascóirí, na ceannairí agus na múinteoirí a bhíonn páirteach i gníomhaíochtaí áineasa tuaithe cáilithe de réir na gcaighdeán náisiúnta den ghníomhaíocht ábhartha.

Leanúint agus athbhreithniú ar mhodúl an áineasa allamuigh agus tuaithe a spreagadh sa churaclam Corpoideachais do bhunscoileanna.

Leanúint de ghníomhaíochtaí áineasa tuaithe cosúil le siúlóidí a chuirfeadh le folláine an duine agus iad a spreagadh.

COMHPHÁIRTITHE

Comhairle na Tuaithe Ná Fág do Lorg na hÉireann
An Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta,
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí Sláinte,
Ná Fág do Lorg na hÉireann,
Cairde Éanlaith Éireann,
Comhairle Chaomhnaithe Phortaigh na hÉireann,
An Chomhairle Spóirt, An tÚdarás um Chaighdeán do Ghníomhaíochtaí Eachtraíochta,
Comhairle Crann na hÉireann,
An tAonad um Chothú Sláinte,
CROÍ,

CUSPÓIR 3

Frámaíocht náisiúnta a chuireann cearta agus freagrachtaí na n-úinéirí agus na n-úsáideoirí araon chun cinn a fhorbairt.

Léirítear in Aguisín 4 – Paraiméadair Sheasamh Chomhairle na Tuaithe ar Rochtain na Tuaithe comhdhearcadh na coitiantachta a dtáinig Comhairle na Tuaithe air. Bhuail Grúpa Oibre Rochtana Chomhairle na Tuaithe le chéile roinnt uaireanta chun plé a dhéanamh agus chun aontú a fháil ar na nithe ar cheart a thabhairt san áireamh sa Straitéis Náisiúnta um Áineas Tuaithe maidir lena dhearcadh ar rochtain na tuaithe.

Tar éis machnamh a dhéanamh ar na pointí uile a nochtadh, chinn an Grúpa Oibre Rochtana nach bhfuil aon réiteach iomlán amháin le fáil ar an tsaincheist rochtana, a eascraíonn as an áineas tuaithe. Tá leibhéil éagsúla brúnna ag teacht i gcion agus tá leibhéil éagsúla rochtana ag teastáil ag brath ar an ngníomhaíocht áineasa a bhfuiltear ag tabhairt fúithi nó an ceantar ina bhfuil an rochtain á lorg ann. Ní mór raon réiteach, a bheidh curtha i dtoll a chéile go sonrach do chúinsí sainiúla, a fháil ar na saincheisteanna. Tóg na siúlóidí mar shampla, beidh na réitigh ag brath ar cé acu an mbaineann nó nach mbaineann na saincheisteanna le rochtain ar chosáin ghnóthacha turasóirí, ar shlite náisiúnta slímharcáilte nó ar fhobhealaí nó ar cheantair thailte arda.

Mhol an grúpa chomh fada is a bhain sé le hinfreastruchtúr bainistithe .i. slithe slímharcáilte agus siúlóidí faoi bhainistíocht ghrúpaí áitiúla gnímh, gur cheart deis a thabhairt d'úinéirí talún tairbhe airgeadais a bhaint as iad a bheith páirteach i soláthar an áineasa tuaithe.

Phléigh an Grúpa Oibre Rochtana saincheist árachais na n-úinéirí talún maidir le dlíteanas áititheoirí a chlúdach. Chuaigh an Grúpa i gcomhairle le Cónaidhm Árachais na hÉireann a luadh go dtéann cuid bheag den táille árachais, faoin bpacáiste polasaí feirme, i dtreo na forála maidir le riosca dlíteanais na n-áititheoirí. Mheas an grúpa gur cheart na húnéirí talún a bheith slán ó éilimh úsáideoirí áineasa a dtalún. Soláthraíonn scéim slánaíochta na n-úinéirí talún a fheidhmíonn an Irish Public Bodies Mutual

Insurance Ltd (IPBMI) slánaíocht do líon mór de na bealaí náisiúnta slímharcáilte in aghaidh éilimh ó úsáideoirí áineasa na talún cheana. Mhol an Grúpa Oibre nár mhór scrúdú a dhéanamh ar leathnú slánaíochta dá leithéid chun talamh faoi úinéireacht phríobháideach eile a thabhairt san áireamh maidir le héilimh ó úsáideoirí áineasa a dtalún.

Mhol an grúpa gur cheart iarratas ar mhaoiniú do na réitigh phíolótacha ar shaincheist na rochtana tuaithe a thabhairt san áireamh sa straitéis um áineas tuaithe ar féidir é a chur i bhfeidhm sa ghearrthearma agus go mbeadh sé mar aidhm réiteach cuí náisiúnta a chur i bhfeidhm sa mheántearma.

Aithníonn Comhairle na Tuaithe go leanfaidh eagraíochtaí feirmeoireachta orthu ag iarraidh cúiteamh díreach de bharr rochtain a bheith ag úsáideoirí áineasa na tuaithe ar an talamh.

Mhol Comhairle na Tuaithe go n-iarrfaí ar an Ard-Aighne scrúdú a dhéanamh ag athlua agus/nó athléiriú an seasamh dlí choitinn reatha sa reachtaíocht maidir le cosaint chearta maoinne na n-úinéirí talún nuair a chéadaítear rochtain áineasa ar a dtalamh.

Molann Comhairle na Tuaithe chomh maith go n-iarrfaí ar an gCoimisiún um Athchóiriú Dlí a thuilleadh moltaí a dhéanamh ar na saincheisteanna níos leithne a bhaineann le rochtain na tuaithe i gcomhair úsáideoirí áineasa agus go ndíreodh siad ar an seasamh bunreachtúil agus dlíthiúil a bhaineann le hÉirinn.

Measann Comhairle na Tuaithe nach gcuirfí aon ualach costais ná dlíteanais, de réir an Occupiers' Liability Act 1995, ar fheirmeoirí/úinéirí talún a bheadh mar thoradh ar úsáideoirí áineasa a ligean ar a dtalamh agus gur chóir don Rialtas céimeanna cuí a ghlacadh, ar bhonn práinne, chun é sin a chinntiú. Creideann Comhairle na Tuaithe go bhfuil réiteach na saincheiste seo fíorthábhachtach chun áineas tuaithe a fhorbairt.



CUSPÓIR 3

Frámaíocht náisiúnta a chuireann cearta agus freagrachtaí na n-úinéirí agus na n-úsáideoirí araon chun cinn a fhorbairt.

TASC

Tús áite a thabhairt d'fhorbairt agus do chur chun cinn na gcomhaontuithe ar an rochtain. (féach na móltaí thuas maidir le reachtaíocht agus slánaíocht)

GNÍOMHARTHA SAINIÚLA

Spreagadh a thabhairt d'fhorbairt na gcomhaontuithe rochtana a bheadh mar bhonn ag rochtain cheadaitheach ar an tuath i gcomhair áineasa, bunaithe ar pharaiméadair chomhaontaithe rochtana Chomhairle na Tuaithe agus ar na moltaí thuas.

Dul i mbun comhairliúcháin le húinéirí talún agus le grúpaí áineasa, trí na grúpaí áitiúla gnímh chun comhaontuithe a fhorbairt.

Tacaíocht a thabhairt do scéimeanna píolótacha ionas go mbeidís ábalta socruithe rochtana a thriail amach ar chásanna éagsúla agus na torthaí a bheadh orthu a úsáid sa pholasaí náisiúnta agus áitiúil ach ag an am céanna ag cinntiú go ndéanfaí measúnú ar na scéimeanna píolótacha maidir leis an tionchar sóisialta, comhshaoil agus eacnamaíoch agus an cumas a bheadh acu réiteach a fháil ar fhadhbanna agus ar shaincheisteanna áitiúla.

Machnamh a dhéanamh faoin árachas slánaíochta ar shlite slímharcáilte aitheanta in aghaidh an riosca d'éilimh ó úsáideoirí áineasa na talún a leathnú amach chun talamh faoi úinéireacht phríobháideach a gceadaíonn a úinéirí rochtain air a thabhairt san áireamh leis.

Go leanfadh Comhairle na Tuaithe ar aghaidh ag déanamh scrúdú ar na cúinsí dlí a bhaineann le forfheidhmiú na Straitéise Náisiúnta um Áineas Tuaithe.

Tacaíocht a fháil ó úinéirí talún/bainisteoirí.

Tacaíocht a thabhairt do ghrúpaí áitiúla gnímh chun slí a chur ar fáil d'úinéirí talún a bhíonn páirteach i scéimeanna bainistithe aon deacracht nó aon damáiste a tharlódh de bharr úsáid áineasa ar a dtalamh a thuairisciú agus réiteach a fháil orthu.

COMHPHÁIRTITHE

Comhairle na Tuaithe, Eagraíochtaí Feirmeoireachta, Coillte, An tSeirbhís Foraoiseachta, An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Páirceanna agus Fiadhúlra, Gníomhaireachtaí eile Stáit ag a bhfuil gabháltas talún, Eagraíochtaí na n-úsáideoirí áineasa, Grúpaí Áitiúla Gnímh, Údaráis Áitiúla, Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe & Gaeltachta, Fáilte Ireland
Comhairle na Tuaithe, Grúpaí Áitiúla Gnímh

CUSPÓIR 4

Struchtúr oiriúnach a fhorbairt chun seirbhís náisiúnta áineasa tuaithe a chur ar fáil ar bhealach straitéiseach comhordaithe.

Bheadh go leor de na daoine a chuir isteach freagraí ar an nglao ar aighneachtaí agus go leor de bhallraíocht Chomhairle na Tuaithe i bhfabhar comhlacht ar leithligh a bhunú chun maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar áineas tuaithe. Ag an am céanna, ní mór an réaltacht maidir le hearcaíocht ón tseirbhís phoiblí a aithint agus sa chomhthéacs seo tá sé rithábhachtach go gcuirfí acmhainní i bhfeidhm ar an bpointe chun an cuspóir seo den straitéis a chur i bhfeidhm fiú dá dtógadh sé tamall an comhlacht ar leithligh a bhunú.

Moltar na tascanna agus na gníomhartha seo a leanas chun an cuspóir seo a bhaint amach.

TASC	GNÍOMHARTHA SAINIÚLA	COMHPHÁIRTITHE
Struchtúr náisiúnta ionadaíoch a fhorbairt.	<p>Aontú a fháil ar struchtúr náisiúnta a bheadh ionadaíoch orthu siúd go léir a bhfuil ról acu in áineas tuaithe agus é a chur i bhfeidhm, chun spreagadh a thabhairt agus chun maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar fhorfheidhmiú na Straitéise Náisiúnta um Áineas Tuaithe agus chun eolas a chur ar fáil don fhorbairt pholasaí náisiúnta i réimsí ábhartha.</p>	<p>An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe & Gaeltachta, Comhairle na Tuaithe, An tSeirbhís</p>
Struchtúir áitiúla ionadaíocha a fhorbairt.	<p>A chinntiú go gcuirfí foireann chuí riaracháin agus theicniúil agus acmhainní ar fáil chun comhordú na Straitéise Náisiúnta um Áineas Tuaithe a chinntiú.</p> <p>A chinntiú go mbíonn ionadaithe ó na húnéirí talún, údaráis áitiúla, agus ionadaithe ar dhaoine ar spéis leo an áineas san áireamh, inter alia, ar ghrúpaí áitiúla gnímh.</p> <p>A chinntiú go mbíonn teacht ag grúpaí áitiúla gnímh ar thacaíocht phraiticiúil agus tionscnaimh áitiúla á bpleanáil agus á bhforbairt i réimse an áineasa tuaithe.</p> <p>A chinntiú go mbeidh foireann chuí agus acmhainní cuí ar fáil do na grúpaí áitiúla gnímh agus do na húdaráis áitiúla chun áineas tuaithe a fhorbairt.</p> <p>Forfheidhmiú agus monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar an Straitéis Náisiúnta um Áineas Tuaithe.</p>	<p>Grúpaí Áitiúla Gnímh, Údaráis Áitiúla, Comhpháirtíochtaí Áitiúla Spóirt, Coillte, Gníomhaireachtaí Stáit a mbíonn baint acu le gníomhaíochtaí tuaithe cosúil leis an tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Páirceanna agus Fiadhúlra, An Roinn Comhshaoil, Oidhreacht agus Rialtais Áitiúil, An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe & Gaeltachta, An tSeirbhís Foraoiseachta de chuid na Roinne Talmhaíochta agus Bia, comhlachtaí réigiúnacha Fáilte Ireland.</p>
Foraoiseachta, comhlachtaí ábhartha rialaithe ar áineas tuaithe.	<p>Aontú a fháil ar agus monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar tháscairí sonracha chun rathúlacht na straitéise a thomhas.</p> <p>Freagracht a chur maidir le forfheidhmiú agus tuairisciú a dhéanamh ar an straitéis ar bhonn náisiúnta agus go háitiúil araon ag an leibhéal cuí. Ní mór dóibh siúd a bheidh ag tuairisciú a bheith freagrach don struchtúr náisiúnta ionadaíoch.</p>	<p>Comhairle na Tuaithe, An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe & Gaeltachta</p>



CUSPÓIR 5

Pacáiste meicníochtaí maoinithe a dhaingniú chun cuspóirí na straitéise a bhaint amach.

TASC

An méid is mó a bhaint as poitéinseal chlár forbartha na tuaithe chun tacú le forfheidhmiú na Straitéise Náisiúnta um Áineas Tuaithe.

Páirtíocht na ranna agus na ngníomhaireachtaí Rialtais eile a fháil chun tacú leis an Straitéis Náisiúnta um Áineas Tuaithe.

GNÍOMHARTHA SAINIÚLA

Sraith beart praiticiúil a fhorbairt a bheadh oiriúnach d'aidhmeanna foriomlána an chláir agus a d'fhéadfaí a chur ar fáil trí na struchtúir reatha agus mholta.

Iarraidh ar ranna agus ar ghníomhaireachtaí ábhartha léargas a thabhairt ar an gcuidiú a thabharfadh siad chun an Straitéis Náisiúnta um Áineas Tuaithe a chur i bhfeidhm agus a mhaoiniú i gcomhthéacs a bhfreagraíochtaí reatha agus a bpleananna straitéiseacha.

Cíoradh a dhéanamh ar phoitéinseal na n-údarás áitiúil a bheith níos rannpháirtí in áineas tuaithe.

COMHPHÁIRTITHE

Comhairle na Tuaithe, An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe & Gaeltachta

Comhairle na Tuaithe, An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe & Gaeltachta, Ranna agus Gníomhaireachtaí ábhartha, Údarás Áitiúla

Aguisín 1

Baill Chomhairle na Tuaithe

Coillte

Comhar LEADER na hÉireann

Turasóireacht Chorcaí Ciarraí

An Roinn Gnothaí, Pobail, Tuaithe & Gaeltachta

Fáilte Ireland

An tSeirbhís Foraoiseachta, An Roinn Talmhaíochta agus Bia

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta

Cumann Soláthraithe Baine Uachtarlainne

Cumann Feirmeoirí Caorach agus Beithíoch na hÉireann

Bantracht na Tuaithe

Feirmeoirí Aontaithe na hÉireann

Comhairle Spóirt na hÉireann

Forám Cnoc na hÉireann

Slite na hÉireann/Siúlóid-Rothaíocht Éireann

Keep Ireland Open

Comhairle Sléibhteoireachta na hÉireann

Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra

Slí na gCós



Aguisín 2

Tearmaí Tagartha Chomhairle na Tuaithe

- A chinntiú go rachfar i mbun comhairliúcháin leo siúd uile ar spéis leo agus ar údar imní dóibh forbairt inbhuanaithe agus bainistíocht cheart áiseanna áineasa na tuaithe maidir lena mbainistíocht sa todhcháí
- An Straitéis Náisiúnta um Áineas Tuaithe a fhorbairt agus a thabhairt cothrom le dáta de réir mar is cuí
- A chinntiú go n-úsáidtear gach modh de réir mar is cuí chun aighneas, a eascraíonn as saincheisteanna rochtana agus as a bheith freagrach maidir leis an só a bhaintear as an tuath, a réiteach
- Daoine a chur ar an eolas maidir leis na tairbhí a bhaineann le húsáid áineasa na tuaithe agus maidir leis na freagrachtaí a ghabhann léi agus taighde a dhéanamh agus oiliúint a chur ar dhaoine maidir le saincheisteanna ábhartha.
- Iniúchadh a dhéanamh ar na tairbhí a bhaineann leis an úsáid mhéadaithe fóillíochta agus ar a bainistíocht agus grinnstaidéar a dhéanamh ar an úsáid mhéadaithe sin.

Aguisín 3

GRÚPA OIBRE STRAITÉISE⁹

Mr Maurice Harvey, Cumann Soláthraithe Bainne Uachtarlainne

Mr Brian Kehoe, Comhar LEADER na hÉireann

Ms Beatrice Kelly, An Chomhairle Oidhreachta

Mr Cormac Mac Donnell, Comhairle Spóirt na hÉireann

Mr Bill Murphy, Coillte

GRÚPA OIBRE ROCHTANA

Mr Michael Comiskey/Mr Neilie O Leary, Feirmeoirí Aontaithe na hÉireann

Mr Roger Garland, Keep Ireland Open

Mr Brian Kehoe, Comhar LEADER na hÉireann

Mr Joss Lynam, Comhairle Sléibhteoireachta na hÉireann

Mr Paddy O Mahony, Fáilte Ireland

Mr Malcolm Thompson, Cumann Feirmeoirí Caorach agus Beithíoch na hÉireann

GRÚPA OIBRE AN CÓD TUAITHE

Mr Kevin Collins, An tSeirbhís Foraoiseachta, An Roinn Talmhaíochta agus Bia

Mr Michael Manning, Turasóireacht Chorcaí Chiarraí

Mr Jim McDonald, Slite na hÉireann/Siúlóid-Rothaíocht Éireann

Dr Mary Tubridy, Forám Cnoc na hÉireann

Is é an Roinn Gnóthaí, Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta a fheidhmíonn mar chathaoirleach ar na grúpaí oibre seo.

⁹ Tugadh cuireadh do na baill ar fad ó Chomhairle na Tuaithe freastal ar chruinniuithe Grúpa Oibre Straitéis agus glac formhór acu an deis seo ag pointe éigin thar tréimhse na hoibre.



Aguisín 4

Rochtain ar an Tuath

Caithfidh rochtain ar an tuath a bheith bunaithe ar mheas ar an dá thaobh agus:

- Glacadh le cearta na bhfeirmeoirí agus na n-úinéirí talún maidir le rochtain ar a gcuid talún
- Glacadh le riachtanas na ndaoine a bhaineann úsáid as an tuath mar chaitheamh aimsire rochtain réasúnach a bheith acu ar an tuath agus ar chnoc
- Glacadh le mianta na ndaoine a bhaineann úsáid as an tuath mar chaitheamh aimsire brústocaireacht a dhéanamh le haghaidh athruithe reachtúla
- Glacadh gur ábhair imní do fheirmeoirí agus d'úinéirí talún iad árachas agus dliteanas.
- Cur in aghaidh aon chineál iompair fhoréignigh agus bagrach i ndáil le heasaontais faoi rochtain agus ba chóir do na páirtithe ar fad a mbíonn baint acu le heasaontas a thagann chun cinn iarracht thapa dhearfach a dhéanamh é a réiteach
- Aitheantas a thabhairt don luach a bhronnann na caitheamh aimsire seo ar eacnamaíocht na tuaithe
- Glacadh go gcaithfidh daoine a bhaineann úsáid as an tuath mar chaitheamh aimsire a bheith freagrach as a sábháilteacht féin.

Aguisín 5

Cód Tuaithe Bunaithe ar - ná fág do lorg – Prionsabail Eitice agus tú amuigh faoin aer

Chun gach duine a bhaineann úsáid as an tuath a spreagadh le taitneamh a bhaint as an acmhainn luachmhar seo agus meas a bheith againn uirthi.

1. PLEANÁIL AGUS ULLMHAIGH

Seiceáil sula n-imíonn tú, nuair is féidir, an bhfuil cead agat dul san áit ar mian leat cuairt a thabhairt uirthí agus an féidir leat dul i mbun na gníomhaíochta atá uait m.sh. an bhfuil fáilte roimh do mhadra freisin? An féidir páirceáil san áit?

Tabhair aird ar chomharthaí, rialacháin, ar pholasaithe agus ar aon ábhar imní faoi leith faoin áit ar mian leat cuairt a thabhairt uirthí. Bíonn ceadúnas ag teastáil uaireanta do ghníomhaíochtaí ar thalamh poiblí.

Bain úsáid as córas iompair phoiblí agus roinn carranna nuair is féidir.

Déan cinnte go bhfuil na scileanna agus an trealamh a theastaíonn le haghaidh do ghníomhaíochta agat.

Seiceáil tuar na haimsire. Bí ullmhaithe ar fhaitíos na bhfuitíos go mbeadh aon fhadhb agat agus an dtiocfadh drochaimsir.

Bíodh líon beag daoine i ngrúpaí ar chúinsí timpeallachta, sábháilteachta agus sóisialta.

2. BÍODH MEAS AGAT AR DHAOINE EILE

Páirceáil i gceart – ná bí sa bhealach i mbóithre cúnga, ar gheataí, nó bealaí isteach chuig coillte. Cuimhnigh go mb'fhéidir go mbeadh slí isteach nó amach ag teastáil i gcónaí le haghaidh innealra feirme, lucht cónaithe áitiúil agus na seirbhísí éigeandála

Bíodh meas agat ar úinéirí na talún, bainisteoirí na talún agus a gcuid maoine

- ná déan damáiste do bhallaí agus sconsaí, ná bí ag cur isteach ar ainmhithe feirme.

Bíodh meas agat ar chuariteoirí eile agus tabhair aird ar chaighdeán a gcuairteanna.

Ná bí ag gleo agus ag déanamh an iomarca torainn. Ná bíodh ach glór an nádúir le

cloisteáil.

Tabhair tacaíocht do phobail áitiúla m.sh. déan do dhícheall airgead a chaitheamh sna ceantair a dtugann tú cuairt orthu.

3. BÍODH MEAS AGAT AR AINMHITHE FEIRME AGUS AR AN BHFIAHDHÚLRA

Ba chóir madraí a choinneáil faoi smacht ghéar agus níor chóir go dtabharfaí ar chnoic nó ar thalamh feirme iad gan cead úinéirí na talún.

Ná bí i ngar d'ainmhithe agus éin fhiáine agus tú ag breathnú orthu. Ná bí ag cur isteach orthu ag amanna coracha: an séasúr cúplála, neadaithe agus nuair a bhíonn ainmhithe/éin óga ann (idir an tEarrach agus go luath sa Samhradh den chuid is mó).

Ná tabhair bia d'ainmhithe fiáine nó d'ainmhithe feirme. Má thugann tú bia d'ainmhithe beidh tú ag déanamh damáiste dá sláinte agus athróidh a niompar nádúrtha.

4. FAN AR THALAMH CRUA

Áirítear cosáin seanbhunaithe agus láithreáin champála, carraigeacha, gairbhéal, féar tirim nó sneachta ar thalamh cruu.

Fan i lár na gcosán i gcónaí chun níos mó creimeadh a sheachaint.

MÁ BHÍONN TÚ AG CAMPÁIL:

- Bíodh an campa 30m ar a laghad ó lochanna agus aibhneacha chun cáilíocht an uisce a chosaint.
- Bíodh sé mar aidhm agat do láithreán campála a fhágáil mar a bhí sé nuair a tháinig tú air nó níos fearr.

I gCEANTAIR A BHFUIL TÓIR ORTHU:

- Díriú d'intinn ar úsáid a bhaint as cosáin agus as láithreáin champála atá ann cheana féin.
- Siúil í líne singil i lár an chosáin fiú má bhíonn an cosán fliuch nó lábánach.
- Bíodh na láithreáin champála beag agus ar an gcúlraid.



I gCEANTAIR NÍOS CIÚINE:

- Scaip thart faoin gceantar chun leagan síos cosáin agus láithreáin champála nua a chosc.
- Seachain áiteanna a bhfuil tionchair ag teacht chun cinn.

5. FÁG MAR A BHÍONN ROMHAT

Bíodh meas agat ar mhaoin, mar shampla innealra feirme nó foraoiseachta, sconsaí, ballaí cloiche srl. Fág geataí mar a bhíonn siad romhat (oscailte nó dúnta).

Caomhnaigh an stair: scrúdaigh ach ná déan aon damáiste do struchtúir sheandálaíochta, sean bhallaí agus déantáin oidhreachta e.g. toibreacha beannaithe, oibreacha mianadóireachta, leachtanna.

Caomhnaigh gach a bhfuil ann faoi láthair: fág carraigeacha, bláthanna, plandaí, ainmhithe agus gnáthóga eile an nádúir mar a fhaigheann tú iad. Is gnáthóg luachmhar don dúlra iad crainn a bhíonn tite – fág iad agus ná bain úsáid astu mar bhrosna.

Ná tabhair isteach plandaí agus ainmhithe nach as an áit iad e.g. diúilicíní séabra in aibhneacha agus i lochanna.

Ná tóg cairn, struchtúir nó scáthláin chloiche.

6. DÉAN DRAMHAÍL A DHIÚSCAIRT I gCEART

“Má Thugann tú Isteach é, Croch leat Arís é” – tabhair leat abhaile bruscar agus fuíollach bia (lena n-áirítear málaí tae, craiceann torthaí agus bia eile inbhithdhíghrádaithe).

Chun dramhaíl sholadach daonna a dhiúscairt - tochail poll sa talamh thart ar 10-12 cm ar doimhne agus 30m ar a laghad ó uisce, láithreáin champála agus ó chosáin. Clúdaigh agus cur faoi cheilt an poll nuair a bhíonn tú críochnaithe.

Tabhair táirgí sláinteachais agus páipear leithris abhaile leat.

Iompar uisce chun tú féin nó do chuid soithí a ní 30m ó shrutháin bheaga agus lochanna agus úsáid méid bheag de ghallúnach inbhithdhíghrádaithe más gá. Tabhair aon ábhar soladach leat abhaile agus scaip sobal síothlaidhe.

Le haghaidh tuilleadh eolais ar shláintíocht amuigh faoin aer léigh an bhileog eolais “Where to go in the outdoors” (www.countysiderecreation.com).

7. ÍOSLAGHDAIGH ÉIFEACHTAÍ TINE

Ná déan tine faoin tuath más féidir.

Is féidir le tinte éifeachtaí buana a bheith leo agus is féidir leo coillte, talamh feirme agus gnáthóga an nádúir a mhilleadh.

Bain úsáid as sorn éadrom le haghaidh cócaireachta agus tú ag campáil.

I gCÁSANNA A gCEADAÍTEAR TINTE:

- Bain úsáid as fáinní tine seanbhunaithe, barbaiciú nó déan tine mhullóige.
- Coinnigh beag na tinte. Úsáid maidí ar féidir iad a bhriseadh le lámh amhaín. Ná bain ní ar bith a bhíonn ag fás le h-úsáid mar bhrosna.
- Ná bí ag dó plaisteach nó substaintí eile a dhéanann deatach nimhiúil.
- Fág na tinte ag dó go dtí nach bhfuil fanta ach luaithe, much iad go hiomlán agus ansin scaip an luaithe fuaraithe.
- Bíonn fásra tirim agus cailte éasca a lasadh – ná déan tinte agus cúrsaí amhlaidh.

Is féidir le gaoth tine a leathadh amach – bí an-chúramach agus cúrsaí amhlaidh.

Aguisín 6

Aighneachtaí a fuarthas maidir leis an Straitéis um Áineas Tuaithe

1. Adam D’Arcy
2. AgriAware
3. Alastair and Gr-inne Cunningham
4. An Óige
5. An Taisce
6. Angling Council of Ireland
7. Atlantic Challenge Ireland
8. Atlantic Challenge South East
9. Aughadowan ICA
10. Bailieborough Development Association
11. Ballyhoura Development Company
12. Barry Murphy
13. Beara Way Walking Route
14. BirdWatch Ireland
15. Blackwater Resource Development
16. Border Regional Authority
17. Brendan and Niamh Kelly
18. Cappanalea OEC
19. Carrignabhfean Community Council
20. Catherine McMullin
21. Cavan County Council
22. Cheekpoint Fishing Heritage Project
23. Clare Thornley
24. COFORD
25. Coillte
26. Comeragh Mountaineering Club
27. Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo
28. Comhar LEADER na hÉireann
29. Comharchumann Dhúiche Sheoigheach Teo
30. Cork County Council Planning Policy Unit
31. Cork County Development Board
32. Country Side Tours
33. Countryside Alliance Ireland
34. County Leitrim Partnership
35. County Wexford Partnership
36. Darina Tully
37. David and Mairin Herman
38. David Perry
39. Denis Treacy
40. Department of Communications Marine & Natural Resources
41. “Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government”
42. Donegal County Council
43. Dr Con Bushe
44. Dublin City Development Board
45. Dublin Tourism
46. Duhallow Angling and Leisure Group
47. East West Mapping
48. Eoin Ó Tuairisg
49. EPIC MTB & Mountain Bike Club
50. ESB
51. Farmers Against Foxhunting & Trespass
52. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture and Food
53. Forestry Assessment Companies
54. Gael Saoire, Údaras na Gaeltachta
55. Galway County Council
56. Galway Mayo Institute of Technology
57. Great Southern Trail
58. Greater Enniskerry Residents’ Association
59. Grúpa as Gaeltacht Mhaigh Eó
60. Grúpa as Gaeltacht na Gaillimhe
61. Health Services Executive
62. Heritage Council
63. Hugh Lee
64. ICMSA
65. ICSA
66. IFA
67. IRD Duhallow
68. Irish Council Against Bloodsports
69. Irish Cycling Safaris
70. Irish Deer Society
71. Irish Farm Forestry Section IFA
72. Irish Farmhouse Holidays
73. Irish Hang Gliding and Para Gliding Association
74. Irish Heart Foundation
75. Irish Masters of Foxhounds Association
76. Irish Orienteering Association
77. Irish Peatland Conservation Council
78. Irish Ramblers Club
79. Irish Rural Link
80. Irish Sailing Association
81. Irish Sports Council
82. Irish Surfing Association
83. Irish Timber Growers Association



84. Irish Uplands Forum
85. Jack Bergin
86. Jamie Young Killary Lodge
87. Jim O'Brien
88. Joe Hogan
89. Joe Power
90. John Nash
91. John S Holmes
92. John Walsh
93. Keep Ireland Open
94. Ken Boyle
95. Kerry Association of An Taisce
96. Kerry Local Sports Partnership
97. Kerry Way Committee
98. Kildare Sports Partnership
99. Kilfinane Outdoor Education Centre
100. Landscape Alliance Ireland
101. Leave No Trace Ireland
102. Lough Owel Trout Preservation Association
103. Máire Uí Ghiobúin
104. Marine Institute
105. Marion Rueter
106. Martin Scoular
107. Martin Smyth
108. Mary Rose Bogan
109. Matthew Tubridy
110. Maureen Madigan
111. Mayo County Development Board Walking Subcommittee
112. Meath Community Partnership
113. Meitheal Mara
114. Michael Gunn
115. Michael McCormick
116. Mícheál Ó Conchúir
117. Mícheál S Ó Cléirigh
118. Mieke Muyllaert
119. Mike Belford
120. Motorcycling Ireland
121. Motorsport Ireland
122. Mountain Bike Commission of Cycling Ireland
123. Mountain Biking Ireland
124. Mountain Meitheal
125. Mountain Views
126. Mountaineering Council of Ireland
127. National Aeroclub of Ireland
128. National Association of Regional Games Councils
129. National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland
130. Niall McManus
131. North Kerry Walks Co. Ltd
132. North Sligo North Leitrim Uplands Group
133. North Tipperary County Council
134. Nuala and Aidan Shelly
135. Offaly County Council
136. Oideas Gael
137. P McGorin
138. Patrick Fortune
139. Patrick Fox
140. Patrick Patterson
141. Patrick Sinnott
142. Paul Money
143. Pauline Beglin
144. Peaks Mountaineering Club
145. Peter & Aileen Kavanagh
146. Peter Jordan
147. Pukane Development Association
148. Richard O'Sullivan
149. Richard Power
150. Robert M Foley
151. Robert P Garrett
152. Rory O'Grady
153. Roscommon County Development Board
154. Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland
155. Scouting Ireland
156. Sé O'Hanlon
157. Sean Browne
158. Seán Ó Cuinn
159. Seán Ó Farrell
160. Sheepshead Way
161. Simon Warren
162. Sligo County Council
163. Sligo Mountaineering Club
164. Society of Irish Foresters
165. Sophie Price
166. Sorrento Cycling Club
167. South Dublin County Council
168. South East Regional Authority
169. South East Tourism
170. South Kerry and West Cork Hill Walking Partnership
171. South Tipperary County Development Board

172. Speleological Union of Ireland
173. Teagasc
174. Terence P Cunningham
175. The Kerry Way Committee
176. Thomas Roche
177. Tir na Mona Community Council
178. Tom Swindles
179. Val Jones
180. Vanessa Behal
181. Vincent Carragher
182. Vincent Healy
183. Walking Routes Ireland
184. Waterford County Council
185. Waterways Ireland
186. Western Development Tourism Programme
187. "Wicklow County Council, Planning Section"
188. Wicklow Uplands Council
189. Wildspace Open Canoeing
190. Willie O'Donoghue
191. Workmans Boat Club



Aguisín 7

Saincheisteanna a Ardaíodh sna hAighneachtaí

Bhí cuireadh faighte ag freagróirí cúig cheist a fhreagairt sa ghlaó ar aighneachtaí maidir le forbairt na Straitéise Náisiúnta um Áineas Tuaithe.

Ó tharla gur bhunaigh formhór na bhfreagróirí leagan amach a n-aighneachtaí ar na cúig cheist seo tugtar aghaidh sa chaibidil a leanas ar na saincheisteanna a tháinig chun cinn sna haighneachtaí i gcomhthéacs na gceisteanna sin.

An Fhís d'Áineas na Tuaithe

Ba iomadúil agus ba éagsúil iad na tuairimí a cuireadh in iúl mar fhreagra ar an gceist seo agus bhraith siad ar ról agus ar dhearcadh na heagraíochta a chuir in iúl iad. Bhí roinnt saincheisteanna coitianta ag formhór na bhfreagróirí, áfach. Ba mhian leo straitéis um áineas tuaithe a bheith ann a spreagadh dea-chaidreamh idir úsáideoirí áineasa tuaithe agus úinéirí talún agus straitéis ina dtabharfaí aitheantas do chearta agus d'fhreagreachtaí an dá ghrúpa. Theastaigh uathu chomh maith go spreagfaí úsáid fhreagrach inbhuanaithe na tuaithe sa straitéis. Bhí roinnt mhaith den tuairim gur mhian leosan go mór go mbeadh pobail áitiúla agus grúpaí úsáideoirí rannpháirteach sa phleanáil agus sa bhainistíocht a bhainfeadh le háineas tuaithe sa todhchaí agus gur mhian leo chomh maith comhtháthú níos fairsinge a bheith idir líonraí áitiúla agus réigiúnacha.

Cuireadh in iúl gur cheart go mbeadh raon chomh leathan is ab fhéidir é de ghníomhaíochtaí sa straitéis áineasa – gníomhaíochtaí san aer, ar uisce agus ar talamh, agus mótarghníomhaíochtaí agus gníomhaíochtaí gan mhótar. Tá sé le tabhairt faoi deara gurb iad saincheisteanna na siúlóidí an t-ábhar díospóireachta is mó a bhaineann le háineas tuaithe i láthair na huairé agus go bhfuil gníomhaíochtaí eile á ligean i ndearmad.

Bhraith go leor de na freagróirí go bhfuil an-leas ó thaobh sláinte poiblí de as é a bheith ar chumas a thuilleadh daoine áineas a bheith acu faoin tuath. Dúradh fiú go meastar go bhfuil díreach níos lú ná 40% de dhaonra aosach na hÉireann ar an bpointe is lú gníomhaíochtaí atá molta ar mhaithe le leas sláinte⁹. Feictear mar sin go bhféadfadh sé dá gcuirfí áineas tuaithe chun cinn i measc an daonra aosach, ach an tacaíocht agus an chabhair chearta a bheith leis, go mba gníomhaí go mór a bheadh an daonra dá bharr.

Tá roinnt mhaith de na freagróirí ar an eolas faoi na hathruithe atá ag tarlú sna cleachtais talmhaíochta faoi láthair agus faoi na dúshláin agus na deiseanna a bheidh ann don gheilleagar tuaithe agus d'úsáid na tuaithe de bharr na n-athruithe seo. Feictear gur deis i gcomhair éagsúlú atá i bhforbairt an áineasa tuaithe d'úinéirí talún agus d'fheirmeoirí agus go bhféadfaidís amhantair a tharraingt orthu féin mar chuid den éagsúlú ar an bhfeirm. Cuireadh in iúl go raibh gá le tacaíocht agus spreagadh a thabhairt d'fheirmeoirí chun cuidiú leo chun teacht i dtír ar na deiseanna eacnamaíocha a d'fhéadfadh teacht as an áineas tuaithe.

Constaicí in aghaidh fhíorú na físe

Rochtain na Tuaithe

Dhéileáil formhór na bhfreagróirí a chuir isteach aighneacht le saincheist na rochtana tuaithe ag pointe éigin dá n-aighneacht. Bhraith na tuairimí a nochtadh i ndáil leis an tsaincheist seo áfach, seachas aon saincheist eile, go mór ar dhearcadh agus ar ról na heagraíochta nó an duine aonair a chuir in iúl iad. Déileáladh le rochtain ar thalamh atá in úinéireacht phríobháideach agus in úinéireacht phoiblí sna haighneachtaí.

Chuir úsáideoirí áineasa na tuaithe in iúl an gá a bhí acu rochtain a bheith acu ar thalamh dhaoine eile ar mhaithe lena ngníomhaíochtaí. Leagadh béim ar an easpa follasachta atá ann faoi cibé ar féidir le daoine dul isteach ar thalamh agus cén áit is féidir leo dul isteach ar thalamh. Cruthaíonn an easpa follasachta seo deacrachtaí d'úsáideoirí áineasa agus go háirithe dóibh siúd nach as an áit iad. Admhaíodh go gceadaítear rochtain cheadaitheach¹⁰ ar an gcuid is mó de thalamh poiblí mar shampla ar thalamh gur le Coillte é, gur leis Na Páirceanna Náisiúnta é nó maoin gur le hUiscebhealaí Éireann í agus go bhfuil deiseanna ag gabháil léi seo i gcomhair réimse leathan áineasa. Chuir na húsáideoirí in iúl mar sin féin go mbíonn sé deacair go minic, cé nach dtarlaíonn sé i ngach cás, rochtain a fháil ar thalamh faoi úinéireacht phríobháideach. Chuir freagróirí dá leithéid in iúl an gá atá le cearta slí a bheith marcáilte ar mhapaí, liosta díobh a bheith ar fáil agus iad a bheith curtha ar fáil don phobal. Leagadh béim freisin ar fhreagreachtaí na nÚdarás Áitiúil maidir leis an réimse seo. Bhí grúpa freagróirí den tuairim gur chóir go mbeadh cearta fánaíochta

¹⁰ Meeting Minimum Standards, Sports Participation and Health Among Adults in Ireland, ISC, ESRI 2003

¹¹ Ciallaíonn rochtain cheadaitheach go dtugann úinéir talún cead rochtana; ní ionann sin agus rochtain a bheith de cheart. Tá go leor cearta slí ag Coillte agus déanann sé cothabháil orthu sin faoi réir na reachtaíochta a dtagann na cearta sin fúithi.

ar fud na hÉireann ann agus gur chóir tacaíocht reachtúil a bheith leis seo. Bhí roinnt freagróirí i bhfabhar cúiteamh airgid a dhéanamh le feirmeoirí agus le húinéirí talún as cead a fháil dul isteach ar a gcuid talún ach bhí freagróirí eile a chuir go mór i gcoinne an choincheapa seo.

Tríd is tríd thacaigh úinéirí aonair talún agus eagraíochtaí leis an úsáideoir áineasa ach bhraith siad nach raibh aitheantas cóir á thabhairt do ról na n-úinéirí talún ná na mbainisteoirí talún san áineas tuaithe agus gur gá a chinntiú go rachfaí i ngleic leis an údar imní atá acu. Bhraith siad gur chóir go mbeadh na húinéirí talún agus na feirmeoirí páirteach i ngach cinnteoireacht a bhainfeadh leis an réimse seo. Is léir gurb í an rochtain cheadaitheach an modh rochtana is rogha le húinéirí. Dúradh mar sin féin go raibh imní orthu go bhféadfadh go mbeadh sé le tuiscint ó iarrachtaí chun cearta slí a chur i bhfeidhm ar a gcuid talún go raibh rochtain cheadaitheach ceadaithe acu. Bhí roinnt eile den tuairim gur cheart d'fheirmeoirí agus d'úsáideoirí talún tacaíocht a fháil ionas go mbeadh páirt ghníomhach acu i bhforbairt agus i mbainistíocht tionscadal agus tionscnamh áineasa tuaithe mar cé gur acmhainn í an talamh, agus gur ina n-úinéireacht siúd, feirmeoirí, atá sé, go raibh daoine eile ag baint tairbhe eacnamaíoch as a bheith ag úsáid na talún sin chun gníomhaíochtaí áineasa a sholáthar. Thagair daoine eile don bheart forlíontach maidir le rochtain phoiblí de chuid REPS 1 agus bhí an argóint á déanamh acu go raibh úinéirí talún toilteanach rochtain a bheith ar a gcuid talún ach dreasachtaí deimhneacha a bheith i bhfeidhm. Bhraith roinnt daoine go bhféadfaí damáiste a dhéanamh don talamh nó do dhaingneáin de bharr úsáid áineasa a bhaint as an talamh agus gur chóir scéim chúitimh a chur i bhfeidhm chun feirmeoirí a chúiteamh dá dtarlódh damáiste mar seo.

Árachas/Dliteanas Poiblí

Bhí imní ar roinnt mhaith de na freagróirí faoin gcostas árachais a bhainfeadh le gníomhaíochtaí áineasa tuaithe agus faoi shaincheisteanna a bhainfeadh le dliteanas poiblí. B'údar imní é seo d'úinéirí talún a raibh imní orthu faoi bheith i gcontúirt dlíthíochta ó úsáideoirí áineasa a ghortófaí le linn a ngníomhaíochta agus do ghrúpaí a bheadh i mbun bainistíochta ar ghníomhaíochtaí áineasa /ag cur gníomhaíochtaí áineasa ar fáil. Fáiltíodh roimh an Occupiers' Liability Act, 1995

agus na cásanna cúirte a bhain leis a bhí ann le deireanas mar go bhfuil cosaint iontu do chearta úinéirí talún in aghaidh foghlaithe agus aíonna gan chuireadh. Cuireadh in iúl mar sin féin nach mór saincheist an dliteanas áititheora maidir le háineas tuaithe a shoiléiriú agus an t-eolas a chur ar fáil go héifeachtach do gach uile dhuine.

Tá an chosúlacht air ó rialú na hArd-Chúirte sa chás Weir-Rodgers – v – SF Trust, gur riosca measartha é an riosca árachais a ghabhann le húsáideoirí áineasa. Tá an tAire Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta tar éis a chur in iúl go bhfuil sé i gceist aige cainteanna a bheith aige le heagraíochtaí na bhfeirmeoirí agus le tionscal an árachais chun a chinntiú nach gcuirfí aon ualach suntasach ar úinéirí talún i ndáil leis seo.

Infreastruchtúr

Leagadh béim i roinnt mhaith de na haighneachtaí ar riachtanais infreastruchtúir (carrchlóis, comharthaí, leithris phoiblí srl) mar thaca don áineas coitianta tuaithe. Ina theannta sin dúradh gur bhac ar leith í an easpa iompair phoiblí chuig limistéir áineasa tuaithe chomh fada is a bhain sé le daoine as limistéir chathrach nó lár cathrach, le daoine atá faoi mhíchumas agus le daoine breacaosta. Tagraíodh i roinnt de na haighneachtaí don ghá atá le comharthaí a bheadh curtha in oiriúint go speisialta agus d'infreastruchtúr do dhaoine atá faoi shain-mhíchumas m.sh. comharthaí braille do dhaoine lagamhairc.

Ina theannta sin tagraíodh i líon áirithe de na haighneachtaí go dteastódh infreastruchtúr ar leith le haghaidh gníomhaíochtaí agus spórt áirithe mar shampla cosáin chuí/ limistéir ainmnithe i gcomhair siúlóidí, rothaíocht, rothaíocht sléibhe, fálróid ar chapailíní, mótaraspórt, spórt uisce srl.

Meas ar an tuath agus ar úsáideoirí áineasa eile na tuaithe

Chuir freagróirí in iúl gur gné a bhfuil gealladh fúithi maidir le bonn a chur faoi inmharthanacht na bpobal tuaithe sa todhchaí is ea go bhforbrófaí fíis chomhaontaithe don áineas tuaithe, go speisialta sna limistéir thuaithe is iargúlta mar a bhféadfadh gníomhaíochtaí áineasa fostaíocht a chur ar fáil go háitiúil agus mar a bhféadfadh siad cur le teacht isteach. Dúradh go láidir mar sin féin nár mhór do ghníomhaíochtaí dá leithéid féachaint mar is



cuí do chosaint an chomhshaoil nádúrtha. Dúradh gur cheart go n-aimseofaí úsáid inbhuanaithe an áineasa tuaithe a mbeadh sé d'fhéidearthacht aici cur go mór leis an bhforbairt shocheacnamaíoch sna limistéir thuaithe, go gcuirfí an úsáid sin san áireamh sa straitéis agus go mbeadh spreagadh le fáil aici sa straitéis.

Cé gur pléadh an choimhlint a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ann idir úinéirí talún agus úsáideoirí áineasa tuaithe ó thaobh shaincheist na rochtana de i roinnt mhaith de na haighneachtaí pléadh chomh maith an choimhlint a d'fhéadfadh a bheith idir úsáideoirí éagsúla áineasa na tuaithe. Tuigeadh gur easpa feasachta i measc grúpaí úsáideoirí áineasa na tuaithe maidir leis na deacrachtaí a dtáinig siad féin trasna orthu ina rogha gníomhaíochta áineasa féin ba chúis leis seo. Feictear do bhaill atá i roinnt de na grúpaí úsáideoirí áineasa gur contúirt dóibhsean na gníomhaíochtaí a bhíonn ar siúl ag grúpaí eile nuair a bhíonn siad féin ag gabháil dá rogha gníomhaíochta féin.

Réimse eile ina bhféadfadh coimhlint a bheith agus ar cuireadh síos uirthi i roinnt áirithe de na haighneachtaí is ea an chearmansaíocht a bhíonn faoi roinnt d'úsáideoirí na tuaithe agus go gcruthaíonn sí sin deacrachtaí do na húinéirí talún agus d'úsáideoirí áineasa eile na tuaithe araon. Luadh lena chois sin go gcuireann bruscar as do thaitneamh na tuaithe, bruscar a fhágann úsáideoirí áineasa ina ndiaidh mar shampla luaith na dtinte, buidéil, páipéir srl agus an troscán agus an dramhaíl eile tís a chaitear i limistéir thuaithe ardáineasa agus ardtaitneamhachta. Luadh na húdaráis áitiúla i roinnt de na haighneachtaí i ndáil leis an ról atá acu maidir le bainistíocht a dhéanamh ar fhadhb na dumpála.

Iomarca daoine a bheith i ngrúpaí áineasa a théann amach faoin tuath an réimse deiridh ar leagadh béim uirthi sa mhéid is go bhféadfadh coimhlint a bheith ann. D'fhéadfadh go dtarlódh damáiste agus creimeadh dá bharr seo agus is réimse é ina bhféadfadh coimhlint a bheith idir úsáideoirí áineasa agus úinéirí talún agus i measc grúpaí na n-úsáideoirí áineasa féin.

Gá le Maoiniú

Cuireadh an gá atá le maoiniú chun na bacainní seo a shárú trasna i roinnt mhaith de na haighneachtaí.

Tugadh cuntas ar thionscadail ar mhian le lucht aighneachta maoiniú a bheith ar fáil lena n-aghaidh, i roinnt de na haighneachtaí fiú.

Na bacainní seo a shárú

Rochtain na Tuaithe

Mar a luadh níos luaithe ba í rochtain na tuaithe an téama coitianta a bhí i bhformhór na n-aighneachtaí ach bhí éagsúlacht sna moltaí a bhain le fuascailt na ndeacrachtaí. Bhí roinnt úinéirí talún agus a n-eagraíochtaí agus roinnt páirtithe leasmhara turasóireachta a luaigh ina n-aighneachtaí gur chóir íocaíocht rochtana a sholáthar as an státchiste nó as foinsí AE. Cuireadh go mór ina aghaidh seo in aighneachtaí eile. Chuir go leor de na freagróirí in iúl go raibh gá le tacaíocht agus spreagadh a thabhairt d'fheirmeoirí chun cuidiú leo chun teacht i dtír ar na deiseanna eacnamaíocha a d'fhéadfadh teacht as an áineas tuaithe m.sh. maoiniú i gcomhair:-

- Tógáil/Cothabháil bealaí siúlóide
- Lóistín a bheith ar fáil in aice le bealaí siúlóide
- Treoraithe siúlóidí
- Soláthar bia & deochanna
- Seirbhís busanna ar cíós

Measadh dá mbeadh tacaíocht dá leithéid le fáil ag úinéirí talún nach mbeadh saincheist na rochtana ina bacainn feasta ar fhorbairt an áineasa tuaithe.

'Ceart fánaíochta' an cheist a bhí faoi chaibidil i mbaicle amháin de na haighneachtaí. Moladh sna haighneachtaí seo gur chóir go mbeadh sé de cheart ag úsáideoirí áineasa ceart rochtana a bheith acu in aon áit sa tír agus gur cheart go mbeadh bonn reachtúil faoin gceart seo. Bhí a thuilleadh ann a d'aontaigh go bhfuil gá le reachtaíocht ach a bhraith gur cheart go gceadófaí rochtain áineasa ar thalamh faoi úinéireacht phríobháideach faoin reachtaíocht sin agus go mbeadh treoirlínte comhaontaithe léi mar aon le slánaíocht d'úinéirí talún. Thuig roinnt de na grúpaí a bhí ag tacú leis an nglao seo ar reachtaíocht gurbh fhéidir gur phróiseas fadálach a bheadh ann. Bhí siad den tuairim gur cheart freagraí idirbheartaithe a lorg sa ghearr go meántearma ach gur trí bhearta dlíthiúla rochtana a mbeadh an dá thaobh sásta leo ab

fhearr a dhéanfaí leas choiteann na n-úinéirí talún agus na n-úsáideoirí áineasa araon san fhadtéarma. Ba í an argóint a bhí acu gur cheart go ndéanadh reachtaíocht rochtana foráil do rochtain phoiblí, le réasún, a mbeadh meas aici ar phríobháideacht agus ar mhaoin na ndaoine a chónaíonn faoin tuath agus go réiteodh sí le húsáid na talmhaíochta agus le húsáid eile na talún. Bhí freagróirí eile ann a chuir go huile agus go hiomlán i gcoinne reachtaíocht rochtana.

Sampla a luadh i roinnt aighneachtaí is ea REPS3 faoinar féidir dul i mbun bainistíochta, go roghnach, ar shuíomh seandálaíochta a bhfuil rochtain phoiblí chuige agus atá suite ar fheirm. Ciallaíonn bainistíocht sa chomhthéacs seo go gcoinneofaí an suíomh saor ó bhruscar agus go ndéanfaí cothabháil ar na pointí rochtana atá ann don phobal le dul isteach ar an suíomh. Moladh dá ndéanfaí roinnt coigeartuithe (úinéirí talún a shaoradh ó dhliteanas poiblí agus b'fhéidir beart forlíontach a dhéanamh de seo) gur mhúnla a bheadh anseo maidir le déileáil le bealaí rochtana comhaontaithe trí thalamh faoi úinéireacht phríobháideach.

Tríd is tríd tacaíonn an tAire Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta le beart ar bith i REPS a bhainfeadh le héagsúlú a spreagadh agus feirmeacha a chothabháil ar na caighdeáin chomhshaoil is airde chun iad a chur ar fáil i gcomhair turasóireacht áineasa lena n-áirítear siúlóidí. Ach chuir an

tAire in iúl mar sin féin nach mbeadh glacadh le moladh ar bith maidir le híocaíocht dhíreach as an státchiste i gcomhair rochtain tuaithe. Measann sé gur cur chuige bunaithe ar an bpobal áitiúil seachas reachtaíocht nó íocaíocht an cur chuige is fearr nuair a thagann saincheisteanna rochtana tuaithe chun cinn. Nuair nach féidir teacht ar chomhréiteach, i ndáil le hionad ar leith, ba chóir scrúdú a dhéanamh ar bhealaí eile agus iad a fhorbairt ionas nach gcuirfí isteach ar chearta na n-úinéirí talún maidir le bealach isteach ar a gcuid talún.

Moladh i roinnt mhaith de na haighneachtaí gur chóir go gcláródh Údarás Áitiúla na cearta slí poiblí agus go ndéanfaidís cothabháil orthu (mar a fhoráiltear in Alt 14 den Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt 2000) agus gur chóir cearta slí a chur i bhfeidhm.

Infreastruchtúr

Cuireadh moltaí éagsúla trasna sna haighneachtaí maidir le foráil infreastruchtúir don áineas tuaithe. B'fhacthas do roinnt freagróirí go raibh ról ag na húdaráis áitiúla maidir le saoráidí mar carrchlóis, leithris agus araile a chur ar fáil. Bhíothas den tuairim i roinnt de na haighneachtaí go bhféadfadh an pobal áitiúil agus grúpaí forbartha cosúil le LEADER páirt a ghlacadh i bhforbairt an infreastruchtúir agus na gcosán chomh maith. Moladh leanúint ar aghaidh ag úsáid scéimeanna mar an Scéim Shóisialta Tuaithe

GINEARÁLTA	I GCOMHAIR GNÍOMHAÍOCHTAÍ AR TALAMH	I GCOMHAIR GNÍOMHAÍOCHTAÍ AR UISCE
Carrchlóis	Cosáin Siúlóide	Infreastruchtúr cois cladaigh:
Córas Poiblí Iompair	Cosáin do Chapaillíní/do Chapaill	Cúrsaí Cadhcála
Leithris Phoiblí	Bealaí Rothaíochta	Cosaint ar Chreimeadh Cósta
Ionaid Phicnicí	Cosáin do Rothair Sléibhe	Limistéir i gcomhair báidíní scairdsciála
Ionaid Eachtraíochta Allamuigh	Cosáin Chorpacmhainne	
Lóistín	Féarbhealaí	
	Limistéir Dreapadóireachta ar Charraigeacha	
	Limistéir do na cuadrothair	
	Limistéir do na rothair streachailte	
	Cosáin Treodóireachta	
	Bealaí Rochtana ó bhóithre poiblí chuig cnoic oscailte	



chun an t-infreastruchtúr a chothabháil. Tá liosta sa tábla seo thíos de na saoráidí infreastruchtúir a bhí luaite ag freagróirí sa ghlaio ar aighneachtaí.

Ba é an rud ba mhó a bhí i gceist i roinnt mhaith de na tuairimí faoin tsaincheist seo an gá atá lena chinntiú go mbeadh an pobal áitiúil páirteach i soláthar an infreastruchtúir chun a chinntiú go gceannódh an pobal isteach san infreastruchtúr sin agus go ndéanfadh sé cothabháil air. Maidir le saincheist na gcosán bhí roinnt de na freagróirí den tuairim gur deis a bheadh san infreastruchtúr atá forbartha cheana féin i gcomhair cuspóirí eile mar go bhféadfaí athfhorbairt a dhéanamh air chun críche an áineasa tuaithe. Samplaí de sin is ea: -

- Rianta an iarnróid nach bhfuil in úsáid a thuilleadh
- Cosáin tarraingthe cois canála
- Seanbhóithre portaigh

Bhí roinnt freagróirí den tuairim gur chóir a thuilleadh úsáide a bhaint as talamh atá in úinéireacht stáit i gcomhair áineasa. Taispeántar mar shampla i gcomhstaidéar a rinneadh do Choillte agus don Chomhairle Spóirt¹² go mbíonn sochair neamh-mhargaidh de €97 milliún á bhaint gach bliain as an úsáid áineasa a bhaintear as foraoisí Choillte agus go gcruthaíonn sé sin €268 milliún eile de ghníomhaíocht eacnamaíoch sna pobail áitiúla. Ceadáíonn Coillte rochtain cheadaitheach ar a eastáit i gcomhair gníomhaíochtaí coise agus ceadáíonn sé gníomhaíochtaí eile faoi réir ceadá agus ceadúnais¹³. Is iomaí ceart slí ag Coillte chomh maith agus déanann sé cothabháil orthu seo faoi réir na reachtaíochta a dtagann na cearta sin fúithi. Tá sé d'fhreagracht ar Choillte chomh maith faoin reachtaíocht sábháilteachta a chinntiú gur féidir leo sin a thugann cuairt ar na foraoisí, cibé an ag obair nó ar chúinsí áineasa é an obair sin nó an t-áineas sin a chur díobh i gcomhshaol sábháilte. Deir Coillte ina aighneacht go gcaitheann sé ionann is €2 mhilliún in aghaidh na bliana faoi láthair ar bhainistíocht foinsí áineasa foinsí a bhfuil a bhformhór saor in aisce. Áirítear áiseanna in 11 páirc fhoraoise, breis is 150 limistéar ainmnithe áineasa agus na mílte de bhealaí agus de chosáin siúlóide leis sin. Ní fhaigheann Coillte aon aisíocaíocht ón státchiste as na seirbhísí seo a chur ar fáil. Cé go dtugann freagróirí moladh do Choillte agus don tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra as a bheith toilteanach rochtain a cheadú d'úsáideoirí áineasa ar na tailte atá faoina

rialú táthar den tuairim gur cheart do chomhlachtaí eile cosúil le Bord na Móna rochtain a cheadú ar a gcuid tailte chomh maith.

Smaointe i dToll a Chéile

Thaispeáin na haighneachtaí gur féidir le hearnálacha éagsúla buntáistí éagsúla a bhaint as áineas tuaithe agus go bhfuil baint ag na cuspóirí atá ag roinnt ranna Rialtais leis. Feictear gurb é príomhriachtanas na Straitéise go mbeadh caidreamh ceart rialta idir na páirtithe leasmhara agus go gcuirí eolas beacht, cothrom le dáta, ar fáil. Measadh go gcuideadh cumarsáid níos fearr le smaointe a chur i dtoll a chéile ionas go gcomhtháthófaí áineas tuaithe le bainistíocht úsáid na talún, cur chun cinn slite folláine maireachtála agus forbairt turasoíreachta trí ionadaíocht agus rannpháirtíocht ghníomhach na ranna agus na ngníomhaireachtaí ábhartha rialtais i struchtúir chumarsáide dá leithéid.

Oideachas agus Feasacht

Creidtear go bhfuil ról lárnach ag an oideachas chun cur ar chumas daoine tairbhe na tuaithe a aithint. Léiríodh sna haighneachtaí go raibh a bhformhór ag iarraidh go dtosófaí cláir oideachais agus feasachta agus go leathnófaí amach iad chun iad siúd atá páirteach i mbainistíocht agus in úsáid na tuaithe a thabhairt san áireamh (úinéirí talún, údaráis áitiúla, údaráis chalafoirt, ranna rialtais, scoileanna, grúpaí pobail srl.) chun a chinntiú gur conláiste rochtana do rannpháirtithe freagracha a bheadh sa tuath. Tá an tuath agus áineas allamuigh ar 1 de 4 mhodúl sa churaclam Corpoideachais nua do bhunscoileanna na hÉireann. Chreid siad gur cheart don straitéis um áineas tuaithe níos mó tacaíochta a thabhairt don mhodúl seo agus gur cheart di é a chur chun cinn.

Debharr go roinneann roinnt gníomhaíochtaí áineasa na hacmhainní céanna eatarthu, titfidh siad amach lena chéile uaireanta; mar shampla slatiascaireacht agus curachóireacht, nó cnocadóireacht agus rothaíocht sléibhe. Mhol freagróirí na n-aighneachtaí gur cheart gníomhaíochtaí cosúil le líonrú, oiliúint, seimineáir agus comhdhálacha a reáchtáil chun tuiscint a spreagadh agus chun cabhrú chun an chothromaíocht idir an t-iliomad gníomhaíochtaí éagsúla áineasa a bhaint amach.

Margaíocht agus Cur Chun Cinn

Mhol líon áirithe aighneachtaí gur cheart go mbeadh oifig/saoráid lárnach ann trína bhféadfaí teacht

¹² Economic Value of Trails and Forest Recreation in the Republic of Ireland, Fitzpatrick Associates, Comhairleoirí Eacnamaíochta don Chomhairle Spóirt agus do Choillte, Meán Fómhair 2005

¹³ Polasáí Fóillíochta Coillte – Foraoisí Sláintiúla Náisiúnta Sláintiúla

ar eolas faoi na cineálacha uile gníomhaíochtaí i ngach cearn den tír ag am amháin agus in áit amháin. Léirigh siad go bhfuil go leor eolais le fáil i mbróisiúir, ar shuímh ghréasáin, leabhráin srl. faoi gníomhaíochtaí áineasa ach nach féidir teacht orthu uile in áit amháin agus go gcuireann sé sin bac ar úsáideoirí poitéinsiúla teacht orthu.

Taighde

Léirigh go leor de na haighneachtaí chomh maith go bhfuil easpa ginearálta taighde ann maidir le háineas tuaithe in Éirinn agus go raibh frámaíocht chomhleanúnach in easnamh a chinnteodh cur chuige spriocdhírthe maidir le taighde a bhfuiltear á dhéanamh. Léirigh aighneachtaí eile go bhfuil go leor taighde á dhéanamh ag eagraíochtaí éagsúla sa réimse seo agus go bhfuil gá le pointe lárnach nó comhordaithe don taighde seo.

Scothchleachtas in Éirinn agus/nó i gcéin

Chuir na haighneachtaí stór samplaí scothchleachtas ar fáil ar an gceist seo. Bhí idir beartaíochtaí bunaithe sa phobal mar shampla forbairt na gcosán siúlóide agus na gcosán rothaíochta sléibhe, agus obair dheonach mar shampla cothabháil dheonach na slite siúlóide agus an Cód Tuaithe Ná Fág do Lorg i measc na samplaí a tháinig as Éirinn. Maidir leis na samplaí ó thaobh amuigh d'Éirinn, luadh an Nua-Shéalainn agus an Bhreatain Bheag mar gheall ar a bpolasaithe foriomlána áineasa. Úsáidtear Sasana, Alba agus an tSualainn mar shamplaí de thíortha ag a bhfuil reachtaíocht a chuireann tacaíocht ar fáil d'úsáideoirí an áineasa tuaithe. Tugadh an Ostair mar shampla do thír ina bhfuil slite marcáilte iontacha agus lear mór cosán siúlóide agus rothaíochta. Tá go leor samplaí eile, áfach, tugtha sna haighneachtaí ina gcuirtear sonraí ar fáil maidir lena n-oibríochtaí agus na tairbhí a bhaineann leo. Tá liosta de na réimsí scothchleachtas a chuir freagróirí an ghlaio ar aighneachtaí faoi bhráid Chomhairle na Tuaithe ar fáil in Aguisín 8.

Struchtúr agus ballraíocht Chomhairle na Tuaithe

Mhol líon mór aighneachtaí go mbunófaí comhlacht ag a mbeadh foireann agus maoiniú chun comhairle a thabhairt, agus chun maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar gach cineál gníomhaíochta áineasa tuaithe in Éirinn. Luaigh go leor de na haighneachtaí struchtúr an

Countryside Access and Activities Network (CAAN) i dTuaisceart Éireann mar mhodúl a dhéanann ionadaíocht ar réimse leathan gníomhaíochtaí. Ba í Comhairle na Tuaithe an comhlacht a moladh le haghaidh seo ach mionathruithe a bheith déanta uirthi. Shíl go leor de na freagróirí go mbeadh forbairt na straitéise, idirbheartaíocht maidir leis na foinsí maoinithe náisiúnta agus tacaíocht a thabhairt do na struchtúir a bhaineann le háineas tuaithe a fhorbairt san áireamh i ról Chomhairle na Tuaithe.

Ní mór é a thabhairt faoi deara, áfach, go bhfuil an tuairim léirithe ag an Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe & Gaeltachta nach mbeadh bunú de chomhlacht eile a bheadh maoinithe go poiblí riachtanach sa chás seo. Tá an saineolas agus an t-eolas atá riachtanach chun na feidhmeanna atá luaite san alt thuas a chur i bhfeidhm le fáil cheana féin in eagraíochtaí atá bunaithe agus is é rogha na coitiantachta go n-úsáidfidís an saineolas sin agus go spreagfaí na comhlachtaí rialtais atá páirteach sa réimse a bheith ag obair níos dlúithe lena chéile. Tá gá le hinfreastruchtúr dea-fhorbartha ina mbeadh gníomhaireachtaí cosúil le Fáilte Ireland, Coillte, an Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe & Gaeltachta agus an Roinn Ealaíon, Spóirt agus Turasóireachta páirteach. Beidh gá, i gcomhthéacs na Straitéise um Fhorbairt Tuaithe 2007-2013, frámaíocht a chuirfidh le hobair luachmhar Chomhairle na Tuaithe a fhorbairt. Beidh athbhreithniú á dhéanamh ar an ngné seo den straitéis um áineas tuaithe go rialta i bhfianaise obair na Straitéise um Fhorbairt Tuaithe agus an fhrámaíocht forais a bheidh i bhfeidhm.

Shíl formhór mór na bhfreagróirí gur cheart ballraíocht Chomhairle na Tuaithe a leathnú amach chun ionadaithe de na comhlachtaí rialtais, gníomhaireachtaí stáit agus na grúpaí forbartha pobail as gach gné den áineas tuaithe .i. aer, talamh agus uisce a thabhairt san áireamh. D'airigh na freagróirí go raibh ballraíocht reatha Chomhairle na Tuaithe dírithe ar úinéirí talún agus lucht siúlóidí. Mhol go leor de na haighneachtaí gur cheart dá n-eagraíochtaí a bheith ina mbaill de Chomhairle na Tuaithe.



Aguisín 8

Samplaí Scothchleachtais i mBainistíocht Áineasa Tuaithe Arna Moladh ag freagróirí an ghlaio ar aighneachtaí

ROTHAÍOCHT

www.adfc.de (eagraíocht rothaíochta sa Ghearmáin)

www.radfahren.at (eagraíocht rothaíochta san Ostair)

www.efc.com (cónaidhm rothaithe san Eoraip)

www.ffe.es/viasverdes (Féarbhealaí-iarnróid sa Spáinn)

www.viaplata.org (suíomh bealaí siúlóide agus rothaíochta sa Spáinn)

www.sustrans.co.uk (eagraíocht rothaíochta na Breataine agus Thuaisceart Éireann)

Tionscadal Rothar Sléibhe Fhóraois an tSléibhe Riabhaigh (Bealach Abhradh)

Cumann Idirnáisiúnta Rothar Sléibhe www.imba.org

An Ostair

An tSlóivéin

An Bhreatain Bheag www.mbwales.com Alba www.7stanes.gov.uk

Cosán rothaíochta na Danóibe ag <http://cms1.austria.info>

SIÚLÓID

Comhairle Ceantair an Dúin, www.downdc.gov.uk

Sustrans Thuaisceart Éireann (líonra bealaí rothaíochta agus coisíochta) www.sustrans.org.uk

North Kerry Walks Ltd

Meitheal Sléibhe www.pathsavers.org

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers www.BTCV.org

Appalachian Trail Conservancy www.appalachiantrail.org

British Upland Footpath Trust

An Ostair

An tSlóivéin

Randonne na Fraince

Alba/An Ríocht Aontaithe (Right to Roam)

Sasana/An Bhreatain Bheag (Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW))

Camel Trail, Cornwall www.cameltrail.com

Minerals Tramways Project www.cornwall.gov.uk

www.southerntrail.pro.ie

Líonra féarbhealaí RAVel, An Bheilg

Vias Verdes, An Spáinn

Moravian Wine Trails, Poblacht na Seice

Slí na Bóinne ar Thalamh Feirme Pháirc Dealgan

Polasaí siúlóide in Iarthar na hAstráile <http://www.dsr.wa.gov.au/programs/walking/walking.asp>

ROCHTAIN

<http://cms.countrysideaccess.gov.uk>

An Bhriotáin

An Chatalóin

www.scotways.com

<http://csaw.ccw.gov.uk/index.html>

www.ramblers.org.uk/walescrowcash.html

<http://www.openaccess.gov.uk/> www.angus.gov.uk/ac/documents/anguscountrysideaccessstrategy.pdf
www.falkirk.gov.uk/devservices/PlanEnv/CountrysideAccessStrategy.htm www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/agriculture/capref/lmc/lmcms

ÁINEAS GINEARÁLTA TUAITHE

Ionad Sléibhe Tollymore

North Lanarkshire Scramble and Quad bike Club

Craigavon Borough Council

Forestry Commission UK

Cur chun cinn gníomhaíochtaí tuaithe na Breataine Bige, na hAlban agus na Nua-Shéalainne

Meitheal Sléibhe www.pathsavers.org

Meelmore Lodge, Na Beanna Boirche, Co. an Dúin www.meelmorelodge.co.uk

Countryside Recreation Network www.countrysiderecreation.org.uk

Aldo Leopold Institute www.leopold.institute.net

An Chomhairle Náisiúnta um Thaighde agus Forbairt Foraoise www.coford.ie Suíomh Oidhreachta Domhanda Mhianadóireacht Chornach www.cornish-mining.org.uk

Líonra Geopháirceanna na hEorpa www.europeangeoparks.org

Líonra Oidhreachta Mhianadóireacht na hEorpa www.europamines.com www.snowdonia-active.com

www.lakedistrictoutdoors.co.uk

www.leadingmountainresorts.com

www.edenproject.com

Páirc Náisiúnta Ghleann Dá Loch

Boghdóireacht na gCosán Coillearnáí ag Baile an Locha www.royal-canal-ventures.com



Ionad Ríoga Eachaíochta na Mí www.rmec.ie

Cronin's Yard, Ciarraí <http://www.croninsyard.com>

Comhairle Sléibhteoireachta na hÉireann – <http://mountaineering.ie>

John Muir Trust www.jmt.org

Scottish Natural Heritage www.snh.org.uk

Countryside Commission for Wales www.ccw.gov.uk

The Countryside Agency www.countryside.gov.uk

The establishment of Natural England - <http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/ruraldelivery/natural-england.htm>

Office for Recreation and Sport – Deisceart na hAstráile - <http://www.recsport.sa.gov.au/recreation-sport-fac/recreational-trails.html>

Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 - <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/acts2003/20030002.htm>

Scottish Outdoor Access Code - <http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/access/ApprovedCode050604.pdf>

Scottish Natural Heritage Review No 110 – Access to the Countryside in Selected European Countries: a Review of Access Rights, Legislation and Associated Arrangements in Denmark, Germany, Norway and Sweden (tuarascáil le fáil ón Scottish Natural Heritage)

Reachtálann Sheffield Hallam University cúrsaí céime agus iarchéime ar Bhainistíocht Áineasa Tuaithe – téigh i dteagmháil le l.crowe@shu.ac.uk

Kathmandu Declaration on Mountain Activities, 1982 <http://www.uiaa.ch/web.test/visual/ExpCom/kathmdec.doc>

UIAA Summit Charter 2002 (International Year of Mountains) <http://www.uiaa.ch/article.aspx?c=37&a=16>

Tyrol Declaration on Best Practice in Mountain Sports, 2002 <http://www.uiaa.ch/article.aspx?c=37&a=14>

Mountain Partnership (comhaontas deonach atá tiomanta do shaol daoine a bhíonn ina gcónaí ar shléibhte a fheabhsú agus comhshaolta sléibhe a chaomhnú) <http://www.mountainpartnership.org/default.asp>

Leave No Trace Centre for Outdoor Ethics - <http://www.lnt.org>

BTCV – ceann de na heagraíochtaí carthanais is ceannasaí atá sa Bhreatain don chomhshaol <http://www.btcv.org/stratplan/index.html>

Adventure Wales – tionscnamh chun an Bhreatain Bheag a chur chun cinn mar cheann scríbe i gcomhair gníomhaíochtaí eachtraíochta - <http://www.adventure.visitwales.com>

Rothaíocht Sléibhe sa Bhreatain Bheag - <http://www.mbwales.com/>

Slí Chiarraí

Slí na Sionainne

Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham

Ashby Would, Leicestershire

Dorney Lake ag Eton

Páirceanna Náisiúnta na Ríochta Aontaithe cosúil leis na Yorkshire Dales

Peak District National Park

An Danóib, An Ostair Uachtarach

Suíomh Gréasáin Foraoiseacht na Stát Aontaithe www.fs.fed.uk

www.scout.org

www.scouting.org

<http://www.worcestershire.shub.org.uk/home/wccindex/wcc-countryside.htm> www.thedca.org.uk/

www.caveinfo.org.uknca/index.htm

www.caveinfo.org.uk/nca/paying.htm

Comhairle Tuaithe don Bhreatain Bheag

Cónaidhm EUROPARC

Comhairliúchán EUROPARC

Straitéis Inbhuanaithe Turasóireachta EUROPARC

Líonra Gníomhaíochtaí agus Rochtana na Tuaithe

www.doc.govt.nz/explore

www.nicanoeing.com

BAINISTIÚ ACMHAINNÍ

Seirbhís Foraoiseachta British Columbia Cheanada www.forestry.gov.uk

Metsahallitus (Seirbhís Foraoiseachta na Fionlainne) www.Metsahallitus.fi

Oideachas

Ná Fág do Lorg www.Int.org

Cumann Idirnáisiúnta Rothar Sléibhe www.imba.org

Comhairleoirí Eacnamaíocha don Chomhairle Spóirt agus do Choillte, Meán Fómhair 2005