

Keeping it Simple!

Ireland's approach to payments by results

James Moran

james.moran@gmit.ie



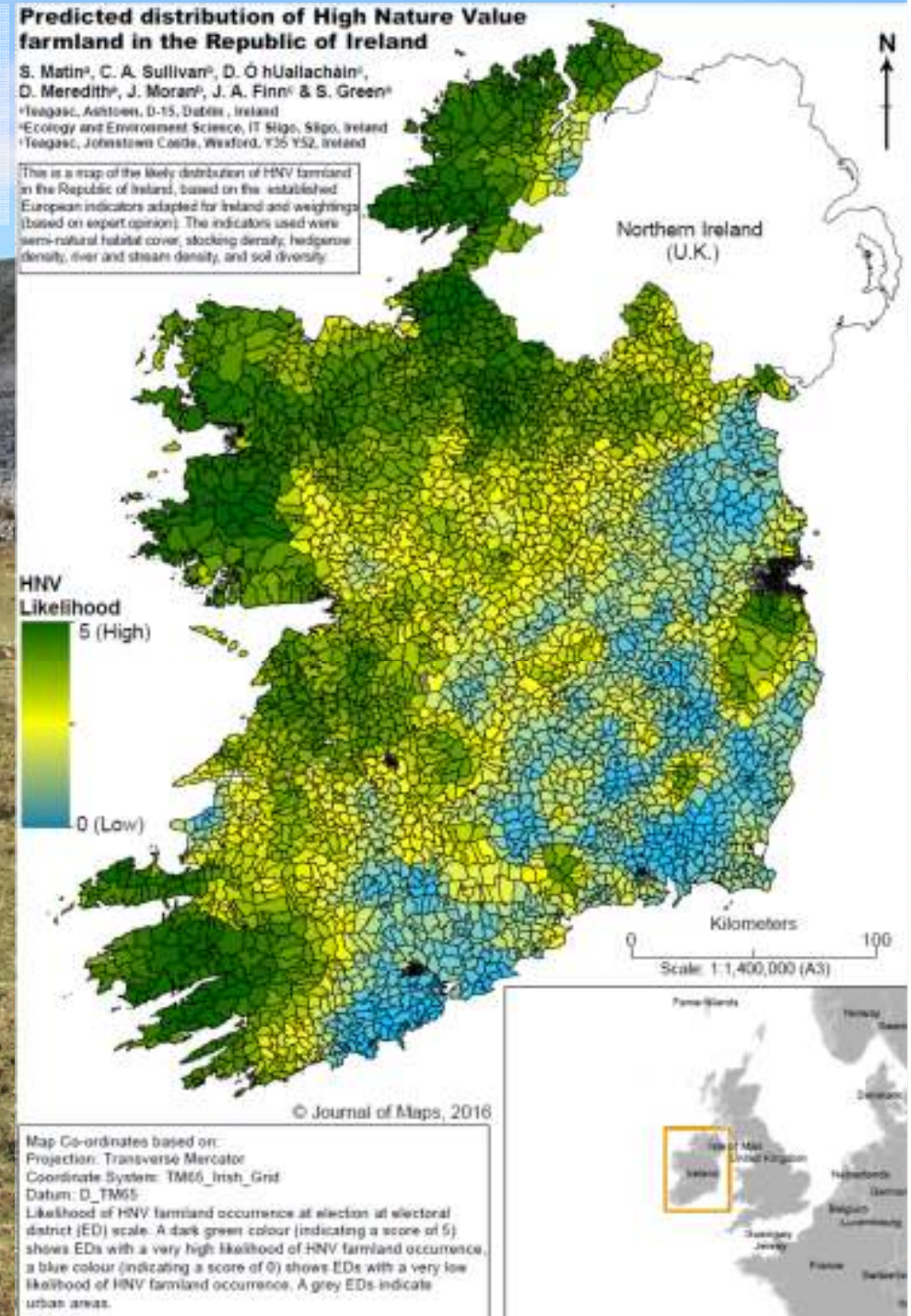
Outline

- **Ireland Green Architecture Overview**
- **Results based payments Ireland**
 - Burren beginnings to EIP-AGRI Pilots
 - Design of Results Based AE Payment Schemes
 - Lessons learned to date
- **Simplification-Well designed car is simple to drive and has low running costs!**

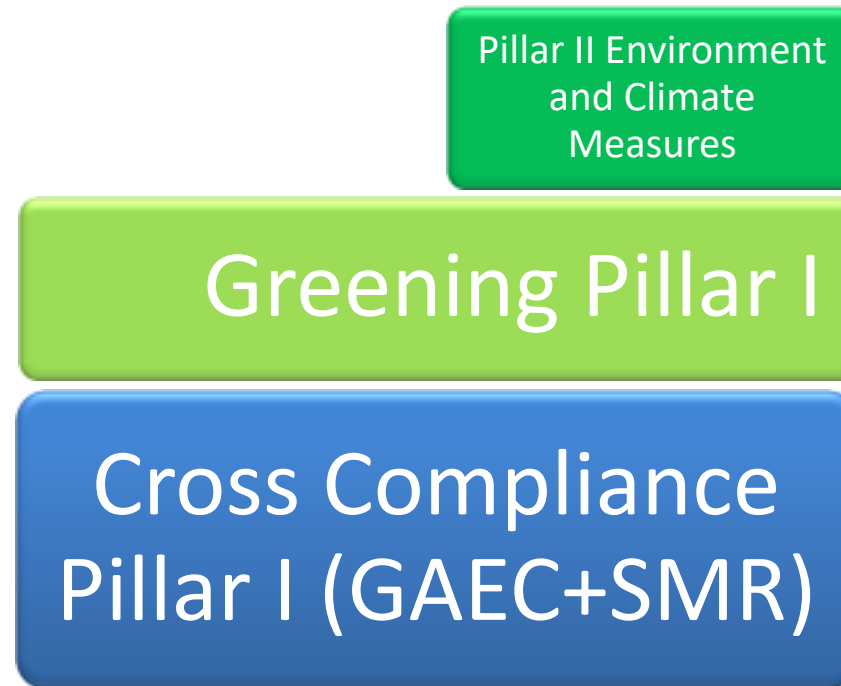


Ireland-Landscape diversity

- E/SE fertile soils, relatively intensive
- W/NW constraints for food - soils, topography, climate and remoteness
- Advantaged - High biodiversity, landscape and socio-cultural values
- Legal nature designations (Natura 2000), common land
- 1/3 High Nature Value; 1/3 Intensive

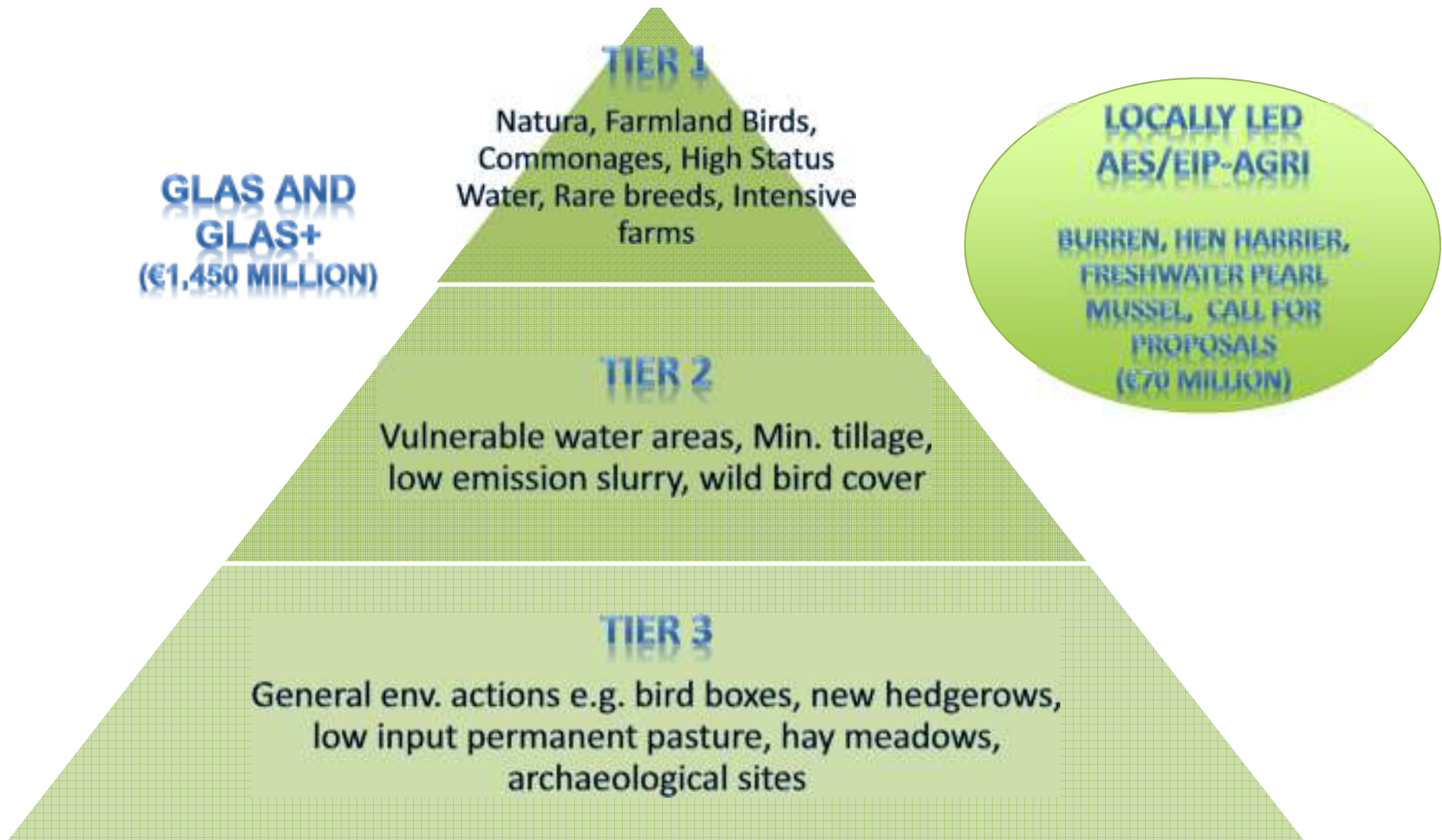


Ireland's CAP Green Architecture



2014-2020

Overall Structure of AES in RDP



20 years a growing ... and learning

Problems with Designations and REPS measures
1995

Research PhD:
The Impact of Farming on the Burren
Teagasc & UCD
1998-2001

burrenbéotrust
connecting people and place

BurrenLIFE Project
NPWS, Teagasc,
Burren IFA
2005-2010

Burren Farming for Conservation Programme
DAFM & NPWS
2010-2015

A Vision for Sustainable Farming in the Burren

The Burren will be an increasingly attractive place to live and farm, a place where farm families enjoy the support and respect of society to produce quality food and deliver valued services, thereby sustaining the Burren's rich heritage for the benefit of all.

Process: Trust building;
co-creation;
partnership;
participation.

Burren
PROGRAMME

CHALLENGES FACING HNV FARMING IN THE BURREN

Poor economic outlook

Poor social structure

Land abandonment and intensification

Lack of integrated land use strategy

Over-regulation/
Bureaucracy

Apathy and Antipathy



Our solution? A Community Stewardship Model

Providing Burren farmers with targeted Financial, Technical and Social/Cultural support (*'pocket, head and heart'*) to lead in the care of their own place

Ireland's Flagship Local Results Based Agri-Env. Programme Burren LIFE www.burrenlife.com

Burren Life
PROGRAMME

The Burren The Programme Impact Resources News Contact Q

Impact Home / Impact

The Burren Life ('Burren Farming for Conservation') Programme divides its annual farmer payments roughly equally between payments for actions and payments for outputs. Here we look at the cumulative impact of 5 years of funding for farm-level actions – a total investment of €1.5 million.

Actions

The actions supported by Burren Life vary from farm to farm and from year to year, allowing the farmer the flexibility to tailor these actions to the needs of his/her farm at that point in time...

Outputs

The Burren Life ('Burren Farming for Conservation') Programme divides its annual farmer payments roughly equally between payments for actions and payments for outputs...

Socioeconomic

The Burren is best known for its bare limestone landscape, rare flowers and iconic archaeological sites. But many people forget that the Burren is a living landscape...

Reaching Out

The concept of high nature value farming developed from a growing recognition that the conservation of biodiversity in Europe depends on the continuation of low-intensity...

[READ MORE](#) [READ MORE](#) [READ MORE](#) [READ MORE](#)

Payments for Ecosystem Services:
Nature, Landscape and Water

The environment is the new product,
we can provide it and there is a
market



RBAPS 2015-2018 Expansion of Burren Model

- Testing and developing results based AES
- €1.4 million budget
- 70% EU funded
- 30% from partners, & support from Heritage Council, DAFM & Teagasc
- 3.5 year project

www.rbaps.eu



European Forum on
Nature Conservation
and Pastoralism



Gestión
Ambiental de
Navarra, S.A.



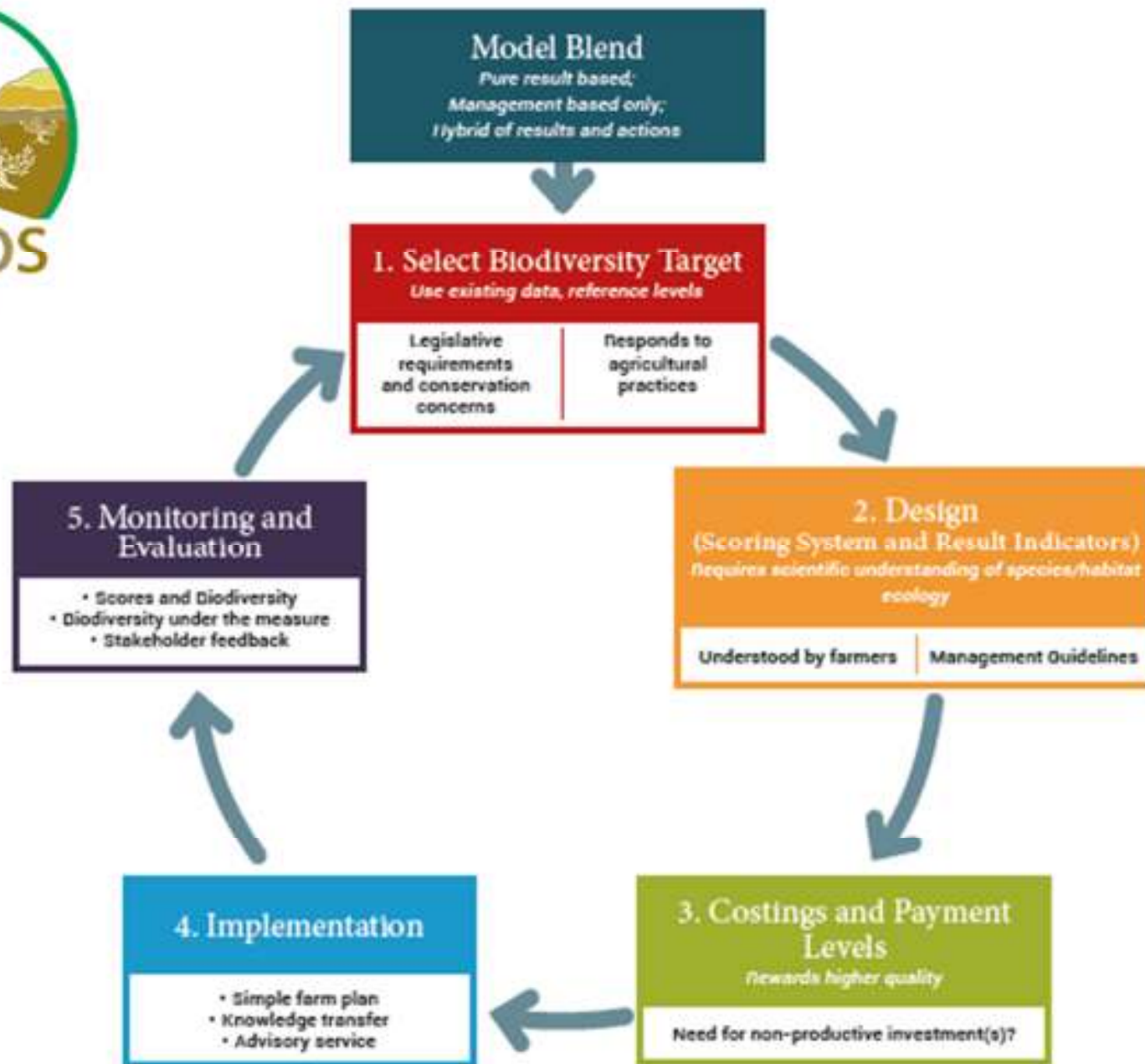
An Roinn
Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta
Department of
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht



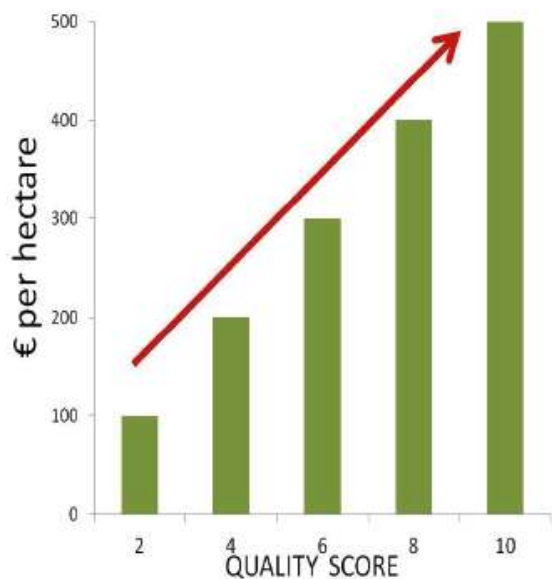
Overarching Design Principles

- Common design approach in 3 pilot areas
- Locally adapted, practical and results focused
- Balance incentivising higher quality output and overall scheme complexity
- Facilitate flexible and adaptive management on farm
- Build local trust and capacity
- Enable co-creation and innovation
- Accounts for factors outside the farmers control





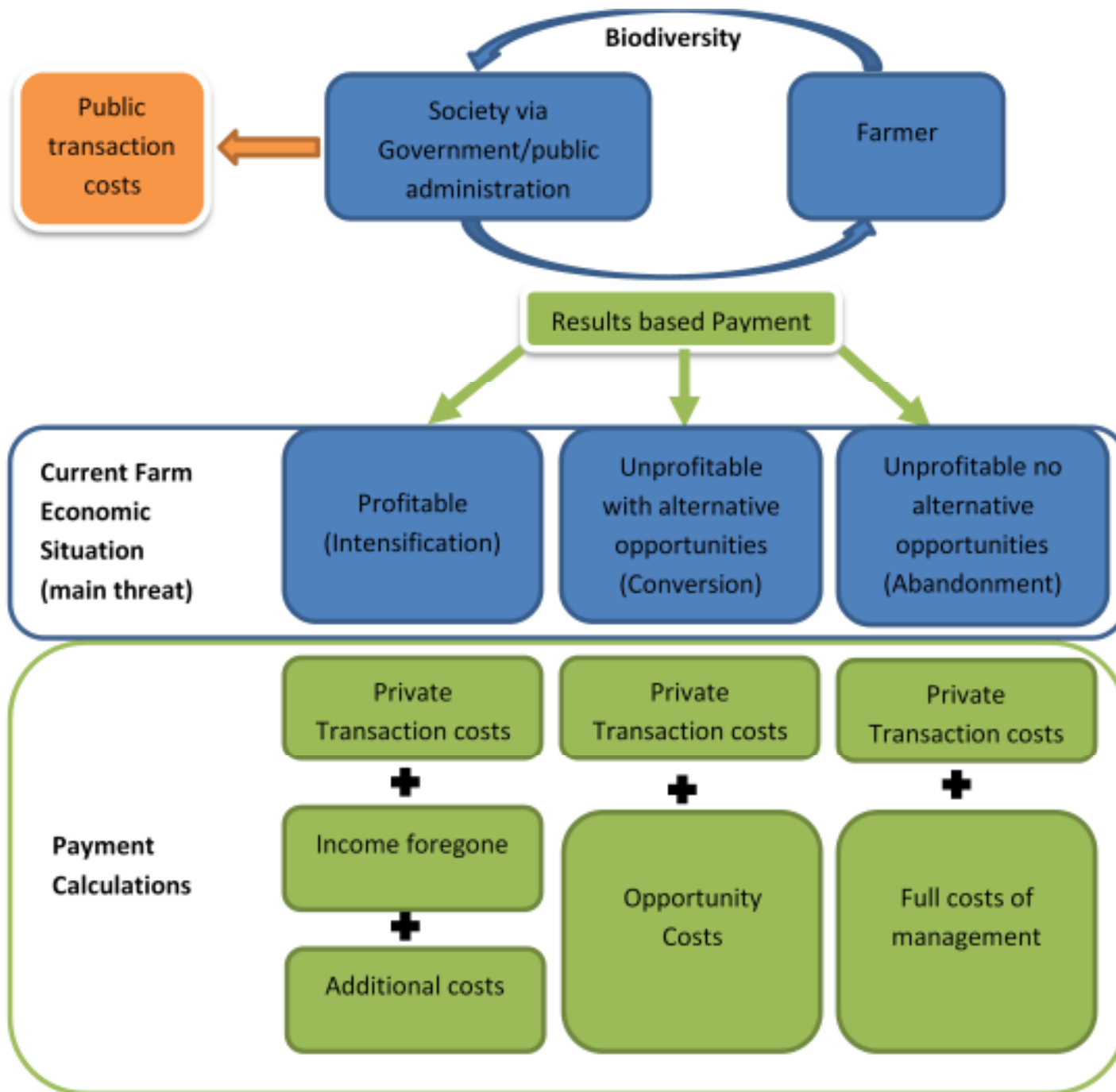
Scoring system



10 points based on results indicators




- Ecological quality (pos. and neg. species)
- Threats/condition and future prospects indicators-damaging activities, bare ground, veg structure etc.




Payment calculations:

Costs and income foregone of the farming practices which are generally required to achieve the desired result.


Local innovative Approach: Inspiration for others




An tSolas Ealaíochais,
Rogair Mair,
Doimníocht na hAgricultúir,
Fíod and the Marraim




Irish EIP-AGRI Operational Groups





European Union
The European Agricultural Guarantee Scheme





National Rural Network


1  Inishowen Upland Farmers Project


2  Cúlra Créafóige - Cultivation Renewal Programme


3  The Conservation of Breeding Curlew in Ireland

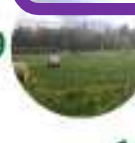
4  Farming Rathcroghan Project


5  Maximising Organic Production Systems (MOPS)


6  North Connemara Locally Led Agri-environmental Scheme


7  Caomhnú Aran


8  Hen Harrier Project


9  Biomass to Biochar for Farm Bioeconomy (BBFB)


10  Mulkear EIP


11  Allow Project - Duhallow Farming for Blue Dot Catchments


12  Biorefinery Glas





Small Biogas Demonstration Programme  **23**


DANIÚ Farming Group  **22**


Sustainable Uplands Agri-environment Scheme (SUAS)  **21**


Enable Conservation Tillage (ECT)  **20**


Blackstairs Farming Futures  **19**


The Duncannon Blue Flag Farming and Communities Scheme  **18**

Protecting Farmland Pollinators  **17**

Biodiversity Regeneration in a Dairying Environment (BRIDE)  **16**

Ovi Data  **15**

Pearl Mussel Project  **14**

A Sustainable Agricultural Plan for the MacGillycuddy Reeks  **13**

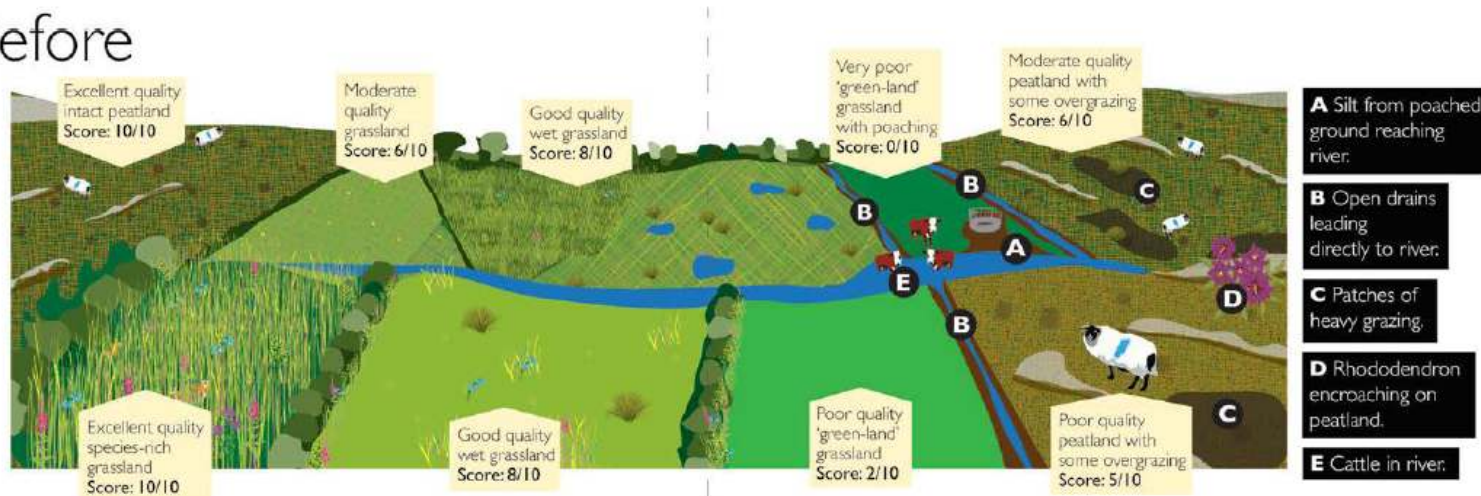
* The location points for each EIP-AGRI Operational Group relates to the group's Lead Partner, however the Operational Groups, in most cases are far reaching regionally and nationally. A specific indication of 'Geographical Location' for each group can be found in the EIP-AGRI Project Storyboard Database on the National Rural Network website, and also on the EIP-AGRI Service Point website.



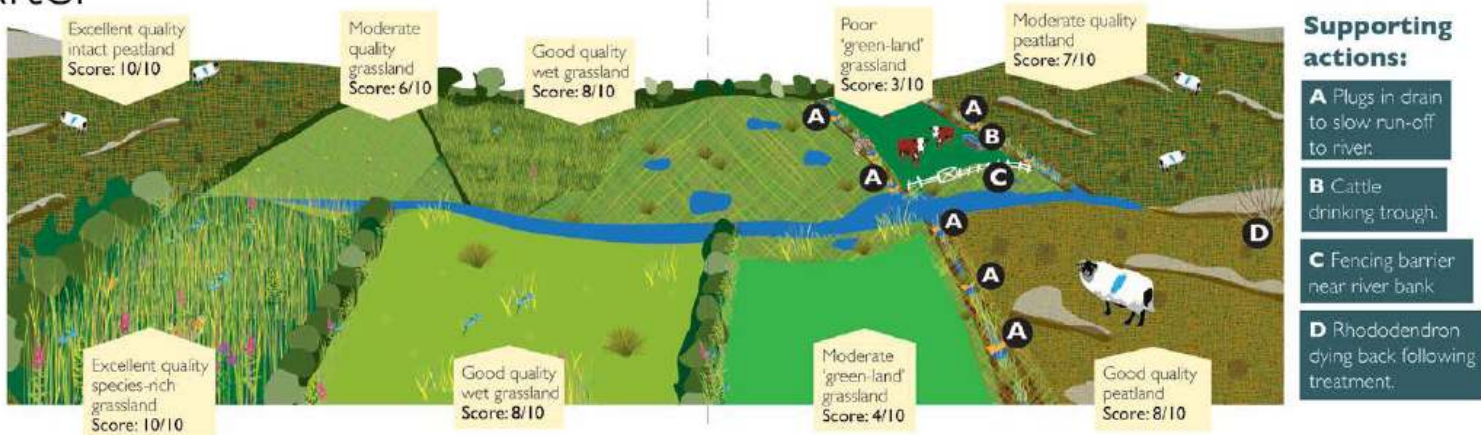
Pearl mussel EIP

<http://www.pearlmusselproject.ie/>

Before



After



The results-based approach rewards & encourages the continuation of good management practices.

Supporting actions payment allows farmers to increase their results-based payment.



Harrier EIP (Ecosystem services)

www.henharrierproject.ie/about.html

Participant: _____		HHP Bog/Heath Scorecard		Date of scoring: _____		Surveyor: _____	
Herd number: _____		Field Number: _____		A. Bog/Heath structure integrity			
A.1.1. Habitat structure							
		Poor	Moderate	Good			
Comment		Bog Cotton, Heathers, Sphagnum and Cladonia lichens rare. Heather cover is low or absent. Parcel dominated by Molinia. No Heather taller than 30cm present. Areas of bare ground or peat hags frequent. Grazing resistant species Heath Rush and Mat Grass abundant. High proportion of Heather grazed to short carpet-like habit. Abandoned, unmanaged sites and fields with widespread and serious overgrazing.	Bog Cotton, Heathers, Sphagnum and Cladonia lichens occur but cover is low. Little mature Heather present (Note: Heather may be less vigorous on very wet blanket bog sites). Sphagnum occurs but not in large hummocks. Very little or no evidence of grazing with litter building up. Remember that apparent litter levels may change dramatically through the assessment season as Molinia matures. Heather often very uniform in size and growth habit. High cover of Molinia particularly on gentle slopes. OB signs of overgrazing present but not throughout. Very little Heather >30cm tall. Includes many sites with historic damage caused by fires or overgrazing.	Bog Cotton, Heathers, Sphagnum and Cladonia lichens (Clumps >15cm across) throughout and abundant. Sward in good condition with undamaged Sphagnum layer. Sphagnum hummocks present and pools often filled with bright green Sphagnum. Grass and sedge-like vegetation abundant on blanket bog. Good mix of heathers grazes and sedges on wet heath areas. On Heath, all stages of Heather growth are present with significant amounts of Heather >30cm. Some areas of mature heather (height > 45cm). Mix of bog and/or heath vegetation at varying heights throughout.			
Score		10	20	40			
A.1.2 Scrub structure & cover							
Comment		Gorse-dominated scrub occurring throughout the site or concentrated in large areas (>0.2ha) with a clear impact on the surrounding hydrology.	Small areas (<0.1ha) of Gorse-dominated scrub occur occasionally throughout the site.	No scrub OB some natural areas of Willow-dominated scrub (in river valleys or on slopes) or Bog Myrtle present. Isolated gorse bushes permissible.			
Score		10	0	10			
A.2 Soil integrity							
Comment		Areas of bare and eroding soil found at intervals along regularly used routes and/or evidence of sheet/ rill erosion or gully-like significant rutting caused by vehicles/machinery particularly going between access gate. Excessive poaching and/or >5% bare and eroding soil.	Bare soil occurring along regularly used routes but little or no erosion. May also be a few isolated bare patches along stock paths and perhaps some damage from vehicles. Areas of bare peat very restricted in distribution and not excessive i.e. <5% of the site. No areas with more than 10% bare peat larger than 0.1 ha.	Little or no bare soil seen over the assessment area other than isolated hoof prints. Some bare soil at "pinch" points along regularly used routes (e.g. gateways, gaps in walls) is acceptable as long as no signs of erosion are visible.			
Score		10	0	10			
A.3 Hydrological integrity							
A.3.1 Drainage: Describe the impact of Drainage on Peatland Hydrology.							
Comment		Drains have been recently dug out or evidence of recent (last 3 years) active management to maintain drain function (excluding roadside drains).	Drains present but no new drains or evidence of recent maintenance to enhance drainage function (in the last 3 years). Maintenance of roadside drains is permitted in this category.	Very little if any impact from artificial drainage, no drains present or drains have been blocked.			
Score		10	0	10			
A.3.2 Impact of Management Activities on Water Resources.							
Comment		Severe damage to banks and channels caused by livestock/ vehicles. Livestock and vehicles ford watercourses on a regular basis causing significant damage. Direct routes from damaged areas to receiving channels.	Natural water supply but limited access by livestock, bankside vegetation remains largely intact. Some poaching but no significant effect. Damaged areas if present are remote from watercourses with no direct linkages.	No obvious damage. Water supply through troughed system or via natural water sources but with no damage to watercourses by livestock or vehicles, no evidence of damage to the bank, erosion or eutrophication.			
Score		10	5	10			

Results Indicators

Habitat Structure

Scrub Structure

Soil Integrity

Hydrological Integrity

Impact on Water



Hen Harrier EIP

www.henharrierproject.ie/about.html

Results Indicators

Negative Plant Indicators

Burning damage

Turbary

Feeding damage

Bracken

Other damaging activities

B. Threats and Future Prospects					
B.1 What is the total cover of negative indicators/agriculturally favoured weeds throughout the site? *Soft Rush cover in flushes or small areas of Heath/ Grassland mosaics can be excluded.					
Cover Score	Very High: >30%	High: 16-30%	Moderate 6-15%	Low: 1-5%	None/ Negligible
Rhododendron	-20		-10	0	10
Self-sown conifers					
Soft Rush					
European Gorse/Furze					
B.2 Presence of Rhododendron or self-sown conifers					
Number	Present		E.g. Rhododendron, Self-Absent		
Score	-10		0		
	Rhododendron		Self Sown Conifers		
B.3 Burning damage					
Comment	High	Moderate	Low		
	Extensive un-prescribed burning >5% of the site affected. Note unplanned, uncontrolled burning may have taken place during the legal burning period.	Burning only takes place in accordance with prescribed burning programme. No damage caused to moss layer. Up to 5% of the site affected by burning in the previous 3 years.	No evidence of recent burning on site.		
Score	-20	0	10		
B.4 Turbary					
Comment	The area affected by turbary operations is the actively cut area and any areas used for drying or storage of turf.				
	High	Moderate	Low		
	>30% of the site affected by turbary operations irrespective of method OR more than 5% of the site affected by sausage machine cutting. High proportion of bare peat affecting more than 10% of the site	Any sausage machine cutting or 6-30% of area affected by turbary irrespective of method employed.	No evidence of turbary activity on site, historic turbary only or very small (up to 5% of site) being cut on the vertical face only.		
Score	-30	-20	0		
B.5 Damage due to supplementary feeding					
Comment	Type of Supplementary Feeding				
	High	Moderate	Low/ None		
	Damage at multiple supplementary feeding sites OR Any supplementary feeding sites at vulnerable locations e.g. close to a watercourse OR >5% of area damaged due to poaching at supplementary feeding site OR severe poaching damage extending further than 30m from the feeding site(s). Damaged areas may not have revegetated by the following summer or be dominated by annual weeds.	Damage from a single supplementary feeding site with damage accounting for <5% of the area and extending less than 30m from the feeding site(s). Some weeds associated with disturbance present.	No damage due to supplementary feeding.		
Score	-20	-20	0		
B.6 Bracken cover					
Comment	High: >50%	Moderate: 11-50%	Low: <10%		
	Dense Bracken extending over 50% of the site, very little vegetation under the Bracken canopy, abundant Bracken Litter even in summer.	Bracken extending over 11-50% of the site, most Bracken is short with an open canopy, vegetated underneath.	Bracken is occasional on the site, very small areas with dense canopy, small patches of bracken as a mosaic with other habitats.		
Score	-30	-10	0		
B.7 Damaging Activities					
Comment	Type of Damaging Activity				
	High	Moderate	Low	None/ Negligible	
	Large scale dumping or dumping at multiple locations. Any damage to soil/ vegetation or water arising from pollution with hazardous or toxic materials. Broadcast spraying of herbicides. Use of poison baits. Active quarry or sand pit. Current construction/ demolition, Wind Turbines.	Minor dumping issues, small in scale and limited to a single site. Serious litter problem across the site. Occasional Quads of organic farm wastes or fodder, redundant fencing materials or construction materials remaining on site. Vehicle traffic over the bog surface is evident.	Historic dumping of FYM or silage (now largely decayed). Occasional Quad bike tracks on bog. Significant amount of litter. Unmarked permanent fencing.	Occasional litter	
Score	-30	-20	-10	0	

Score



Perceived Barriers/Potential opportunities



Perceived barriers and weaknesses of RBAPS	Inherent and potential opportunities of RBAPS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduced budget for Pillar 2 post 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wiser spend of a limited budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Institutional resistance, eg fNGOs• Institutional stasis of lack of ambition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supported by DG AGRI and ENV, nature authorities, eNGOs etc
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current policy framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved policy framework
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greater risk for farmers and MAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greater flexibility and autonomy, trust
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More challenging/expensive to deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Better value for money; delivers results
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of capacity and appropriate skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Builds capacity and expertise
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data deficits can limit roll-out	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Incentivises gathering of data
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Budget forecasting is difficult for MAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Builds budgetary confidence
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No current incentive for MAs or MSs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides a market for biodiversity
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No current consequence for not delivering results	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delivers biodiversity (<u>and other</u>) obligations (RDP, NBP, BS2020, PAF)

Lessons Learned



- Common design approach across diverse agricultural landscapes possible.
- Time and expertise required to develop the scoring systems to:
 - a) account for variations in environmental conditions outside control of the farmer
 - b) ensure indicators reflect achievement of the biodiversity target (potential for wider ecosystem services targets-EIPS)
 - c) ensure locally adapted, practical and results focused
- Guidance and training are key
- Integrated local farm advisory systems
- Implementation and control can be simpler but capacity and resources needed for effective design



Recommendations

- Policy framework-a clear focus on incentivising performance
- Clear objectives and targeting essential
- Co-operation, knowledge-sharing, capacity and trust building
- Long term commitments to sustain newly created market for ecosystem services
- Ensure implementation, financial management and monitoring regs facilitate RBAPS approach
- Initial investment in design will reap dividends (e.g. defining and testing indicators, of training staff, farmers, advisers and inspectors, communications etc.)



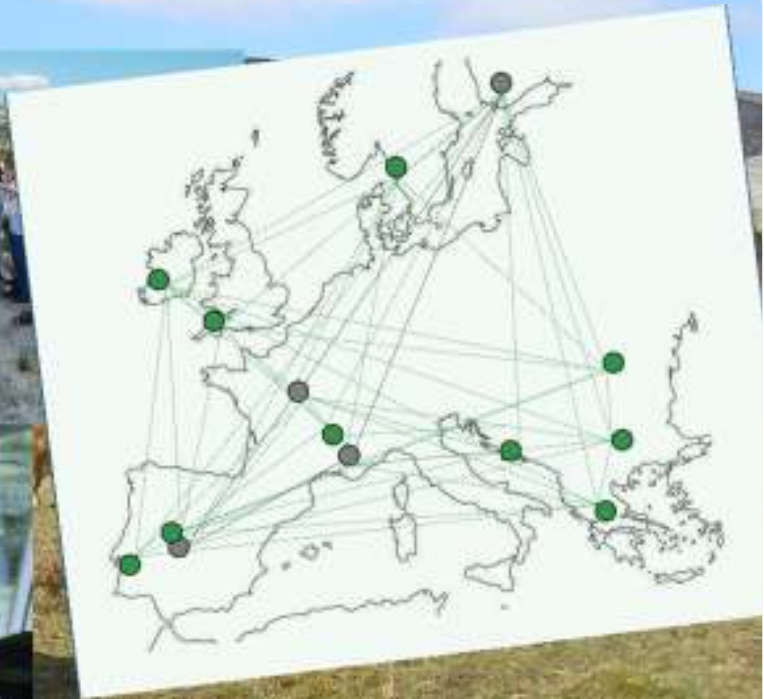
NOTE: Not all About the Money



**Source: Dr. Aine Macken Walsh
(agricultural sociologist)**



Knowledge sharing and network building: Continuing to develop and learn

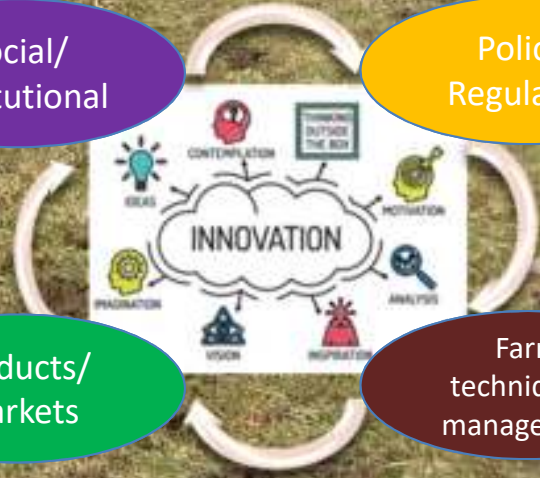


Social/
Institutional

Policy/
Regulation

Products/
Markets

Farm
techniques/
management



Resources

Objectives



The programme is a pioneering agri-environmental scheme that aims to conserve and support the heritage and communities of the Burren.

The objectives of the Burren Programme are:

- To support the sustainable agricultural management of low value farmland in the Burren
- To contribute to the positive management of the landscape and cultural heritage and
- To contribute to improvements in water quality and energy efficiency in the Burren region.



PROJECT DOCUMENTS

RDAPS has produced a series of technical reports, guidance documents, best practice guidance and scoring assessments which can assist in the design and development of results based agri-environment schemes.

Development/Technical Reports	Assessment/Conditioning (2014-15)	Design and Conditioning (2014-15)	Subsidy/Assessment (2015)	Design/Assessment (2015)
Technical Reports	Design and Conditioning (2014-15)	Design and Conditioning (2014-15)	Subsidy/Assessment (2015)	Design/Assessment (2015)
Assessment/Conditioning (2014-15)	Design and Conditioning (2014-15)	Design and Conditioning (2014-15)	Subsidy/Assessment (2015)	Design/Assessment (2015)
Design and Conditioning (2014-15)	Design and Conditioning (2014-15)	Design and Conditioning (2014-15)	Subsidy/Assessment (2015)	Design/Assessment (2015)
Subsidy/Assessment (2015)	Design/Assessment (2015)	Design/Assessment (2015)	Design/Assessment (2015)	Design/Assessment (2015)

Hen Harrier Project

- HOME PROGRAMME PAYMENTS BIRDS/EGGS CONTACT US PARTICIPANTS BRANDS

KEY INFORMATION



THE BURREN PROGRAMME ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN DOCUMENT
The Burren Programme Environmental Design Document (EDD) sets out the design and technical specifications for the Burren Programme (2014-2020) and is a key document for the 2014-2020 Burren Programme in the Burren.



APPLICATION GUIDANCE
The guidance documents set out the rules of the Programme and a number of other related rules.
[VIEW THE GUIDANCE](#)



Planning for the future of a vibrant and sustainable Burren.

Publications

Use these detailed programme publications from the Burren Project that are available in electronic, printable and/or large format, and may be downloaded or printed through the browser on your computer.

Pearl Mussel Programme - Key Publications



EIP-AGRI Operational Groups - IRELAND

The European Union's Rural Development Programme (RDP) and Operational Groups (OGs) are key elements of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and are designed to support rural development and improve the competitiveness of the agricultural sector. The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) is currently supporting the development of OGs across Ireland. These groups are designed to support farmers and other rural businesses in their efforts to improve their competitiveness and sustainability. The DAFM is currently supporting the development of OGs across Ireland. These groups are designed to support farmers and other rural businesses in their efforts to improve their competitiveness and sustainability.

EUROPEAN UNION MEMBER STATES

The map shows the locations of EIP-AGRI Operational Groups across the European Union. The map is color-coded by country and includes a legend for each country. The legend provides details on the number of OGs in each country and the total number of OGs in the EU.

Country	Number of OGs
Austria	1
Belgium	1
France	1
Germany	1
Italy	1
Spain	1
Sweden	1
United Kingdom	1
Other EU Countries	1
Total	8