



**ACRES**  
D O N E G A L  
CO - O P E R A T I O N P R O G R A M M E

# Donegal Local Action Plan GLENCOLMCILLE



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine



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## PRESSURES & IMPACTS

Important bird species in the sub-region are impacted mostly by the loss of foraging areas, fragmented habitats and drainage. Pressures as a result of undergrazing and overgrazing will be addressed by the ACRES programme through a targeted approach.

For water, the key risk is agricultural activities that allow excessive nutrients to run off from the soil into the rivers, drainage, toxic chemicals from sheep dip and illegal dumping. Turf cutting is a pressure in some areas which releases sediment into small upland streams and drains, leaving bare soil and degraded peatland. Other pressures include forestry and physical changes to the rivers.

Through the ACRES programme, farmers will be offered actions that help reverse these impacts.



## TAKING ACTION

The ACRES programme, like previous agri-schemes, provides participating farmers with a chance to improve their farm infrastructure, access continued agricultural support payments and support rural sustainability. ACRES differs from previous schemes because it also supports farmers to take on actions to benefit wildlife, improve water quality and help increase resilience to the effects of climate change.

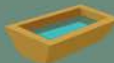
Non-Productive Investments (NPIs) and Landscape Actions (LAs) are measures that farmers can apply for through their farm advisor and through the Donegal Co-operation team. An important element of the Donegal Local Action Plan is that we will focus these actions towards - 'right measure, right place' to achieve our aims.

NPIs and LAs are targeted to certain areas and species. The Donegal ACRES team have made recommendations on what areas to focus on (see last page). These include improving habitats like vegetated cliffs and river banks, that are home to many important species such as chough, peregrine, geese and Atlantic salmon.

The CP team will work with farmers to choose actions that will support the goals of the local action plan to create a healthy environment with a thriving farming community.



### EXAMPLE NPI AND LA



#### NPI: Watering Systems

Install solar pumps, pasture pumps and water storage tanks to help keep livestock out of watercourses.



#### LA: Invasive Alien Species

Training on identification of invasive species, understanding their impact and how to control them on your land.



#### NPI: Tree Planting

Plant native trees for carbon storage, to help soak up excess nutrients, and provide nesting and feeding areas for wildlife.



#### LA: Targeted Grazing

Change livestock density to improve land that has been undergrazed or overgrazed, using temporary or virtual fencing.



#### NPI: Fencing

Repair or install new fencing to block access to watercourses, protect trees and wildlife habitat plots or crops.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made for the Glencolmcille sub-region and activities will primarily be targeted at these specific sites or species. Further actions may be developed over the lifetime of the project.

- Targeted grazing of peatlands and grassland management to suit species dependent on grassland habitat (cough and marsh fritillary)
- Identify suitable peatland sites for potential landscape actions.
- Support geese and swans through targeted NPIs.
- A significant proportion of farming land on the Fintragh catchment has been submitted to the ACRES programme and measures to support the protection of the watercourses in this catchment will be encouraged. Collaboration with the relevant agencies will be important to get the right measures in the right place.
- Nutrient and chemical pollution issues may be addressed through commonage landscape actions. Specialised training will be provided to farmers on the use of chemicals and pesticides near water, and including an explanation of the Source-Pathway-Receptor model for understanding how pollution reaches rivers and lakes
- Support the work of other agencies and local angling group by promoting protection of peatland areas along the Owenteskiny River.
- Commonage Plans – Landscape Actions, formation of Commonage groups, discussion on drainage and impacts of open connections to watercourses, tackling invasive species such as Rhododendron.



A full copy of the ACRES Donegal Local Action Plan 2023-2028 can be downloaded from our website.

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We have offices in:

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