

# Co-operation Across Borders for Biodiversity

A new five-year project known as CABB (Co-operation Across Borders for Biodiversity), started in 2017. It's a nature conservation project across three areas - the border region of Ireland, Northern Ireland and western Scotland. It is supported by the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme, with match funding from the Government of Ireland, the Northern Ireland Executive and Mines Restoration Ltd. The project is in operation until 2021.

CABB is a partnership of six organisations, led by RSPB Northern Ireland and including BirdWatch Ireland, RSPB Scotland, Northern Ireland Water, Butterfly Conservation, and Moors for the Future. CABB is supported by government authorities in each region: Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, and Scottish Natural Heritage.

CABB will find and test the best way to work with people and communities to safeguard and manage European protected habitats and species. Blanket bogs, wintering Greenland White-fronted Geese, upland breeding birds like Golden Plover and Red Grouse and the Marsh Fritillary butterfly are some of the target features the project will try to protect and improve.

We want to work with farmers, land owners and communities who have a stake in these areas, to address the problems and put forward solutions which work for nature and for communities.

The aim is to survey and map the sites (listed below) and then to produce plans of action that stakeholders agree with, which deal with current land use problems that damage nature or water quality or which increase the risk of flooding.

## **Four Conservation Action Plans (CAPs) will be produced for EU-designated Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)**

### **The four sites are:**

**Lough Nillan Bog (Carrickatlieve)  
SAC (000165)**

**Meentygrannagh Bog SAC (000173)**

**Croaghonagh Bog SAC (000129)**

**Dunragh Loughs / Pettigo Plateau  
SAC (001125)**

The necessary measures will have the best chance of success if everyone involved has an opportunity to input their views and ideas on the solutions required.

The Conservation Action Plans (CAPs) will be produced by dedicated BirdWatch Ireland staff employed through the project. Contact details of the CAP officer for your area are given on the back of this leaflet.

It is our aim to call with as many farms and households as possible which have a stake in these sites, so as to talk to house-holders directly, or at least to make contact by phone.

Please feel free to contact us about the project, find out the details and put your questions to us.



*Red Grouse (photo by Mike Brown)*



*Merlin (photo by Chris Gomersall - RSPB Images)*

Through a letter to each landowner, we are asking permission, for the habitat survey team to go out on SAC lands in 2018.

We are also calling to farmers and landowners to meet them and we intend to hold further information and discussion meetings in your area. These will be advertised by local radio, newspapers and farming press. Farming and community groups including the IFA, community and rural development reps, officials of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, NPWS rangers, agricultural planners, and county council officials will all be invited to participate.



Red Throated Diver (Photo by Chris Gomersall) RSPB Images



# CABB

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Golden Plover (photo by Dick Coombes)



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