

Working collaboratively across peatland habitats with internationally significant designations



CANN
COLLABORATIVE ACTION
for the NATURA NETWORK



Project background



Quick facts

- Total project budget €9.4m
- 35 staff employed across 11 project partners
- Largest cross-jurisdictional partnership focused on environmental improvement & conservation works
- Operational until Dec 2021



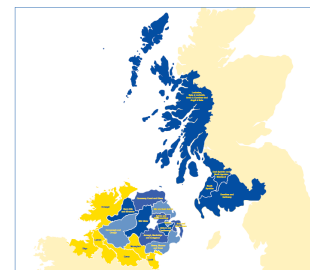
Comhairle Ceantair
**an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin**
**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council



Key outputs

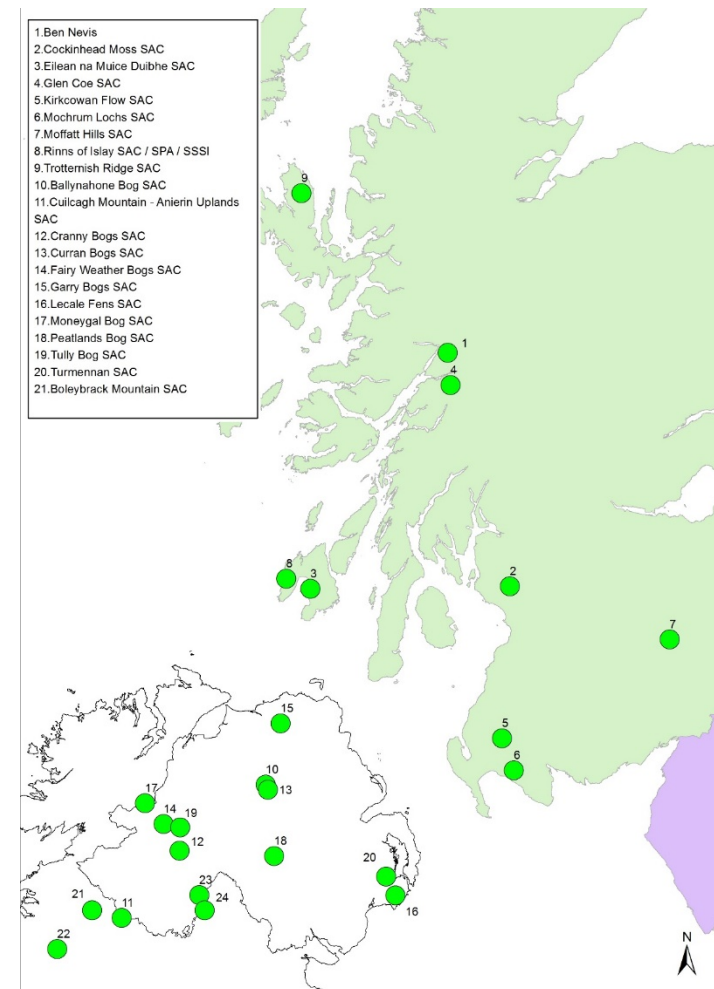


- Production of 25 Conservation Action Plans - outcome indicator for the CANN project and a statutory requirement under EU Directives for designated sites
- 3000+ha of restoration planned to help move sites towards favourable conservation status. **All CANN sites are currently in “unfavourable” condition.**
- Stakeholder engagement and consultation - actions on the ground in partnership with the local communities

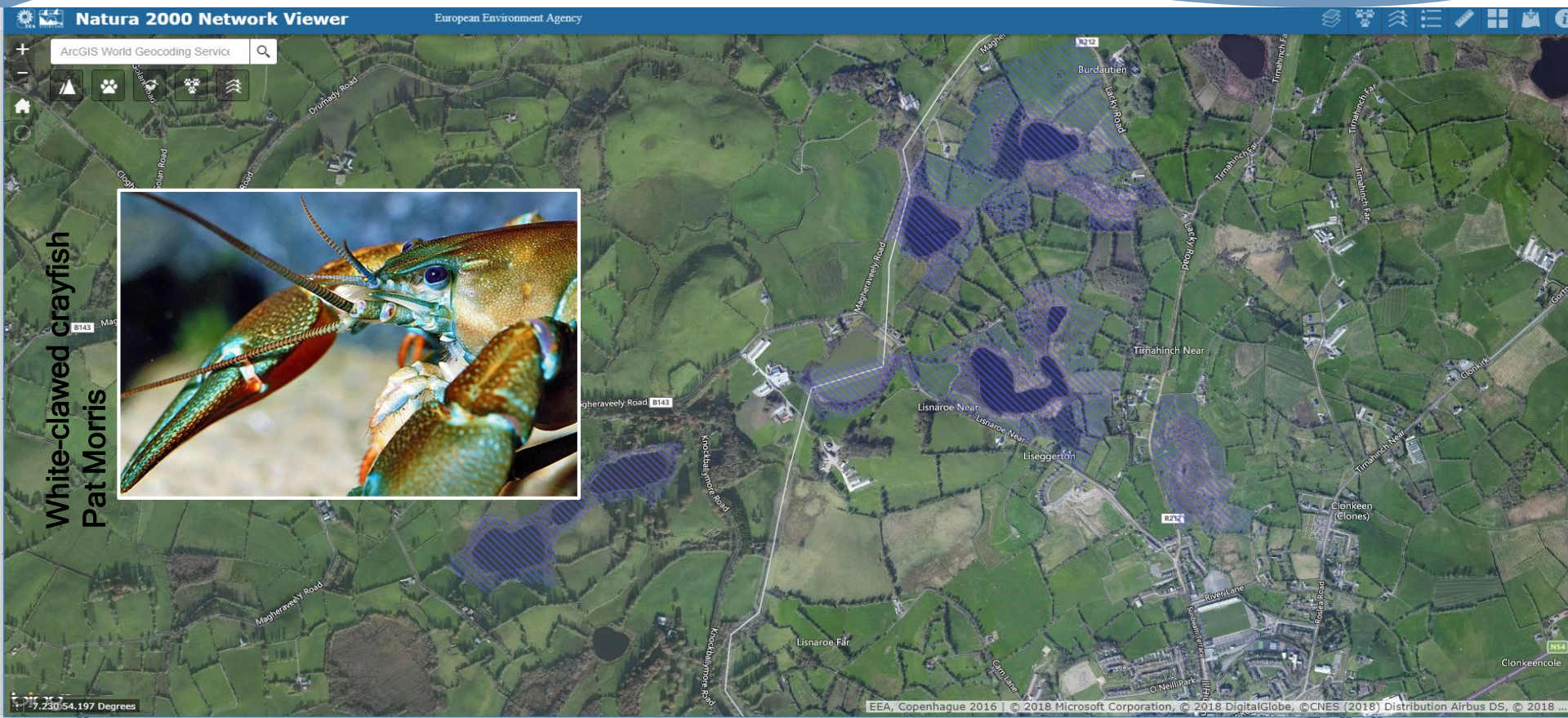


Collaboration

- INTERREG Programme addresses reduced economic development and shortage of joined-up services in border regions of the EU
- INTERREG VA is supported by Northern Ireland, Ireland & Scottish Governments.



'Shortage of joined-up services in border regions of the EU'



Dummy's Lough: a Special Area of Conservation in Ireland but not Northern Ireland!



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**Collaboration is
essential for these
cross-border sites**

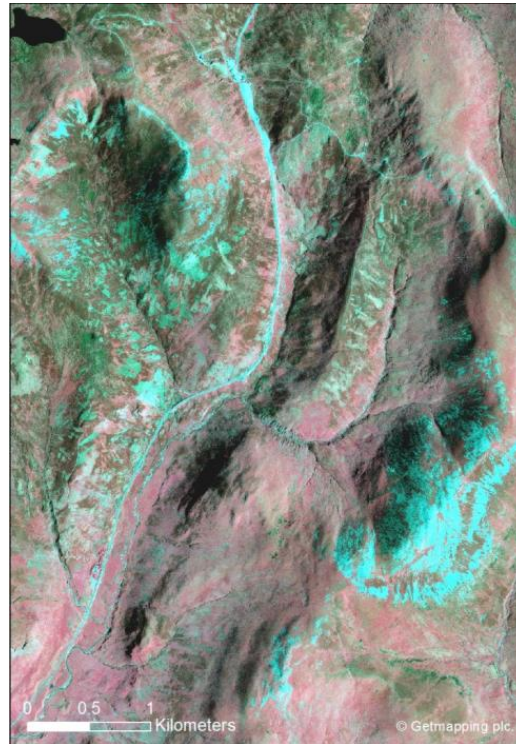


Cuilcagh
Mountain SAC
c3000ha, 100
owners

Cuilcagh_Anierin
Uplands SAC
c7000ha, 450
owners

Stereo colour near-infrared (sCIR) aerial photograph interpretation

CANN partner Scottish Natural Heritage aims to produce a Habitat Map of Scotland providing full coverage of terrestrial habitats in Scotland classified according to EUNIS classification and Annex 1 priority habitats.



Dense vegetation with large leaves = bright red signal,

Sparse fine-leaved vegetation = paler white-pink signal.

Bare rock (no vegetation = bright blue).

Good for detecting different vegetation and habitat types as show greater range of variation in near-infrared than visible spectrum.



View imagery in stereo (3D) using specialised computer workstation – Summit software, 3D monitor, emitter and glasses.

Digitisation done in 2D using ArcGIS at same time – connects to Summit and allows simultaneous viewing / panning / zooming.

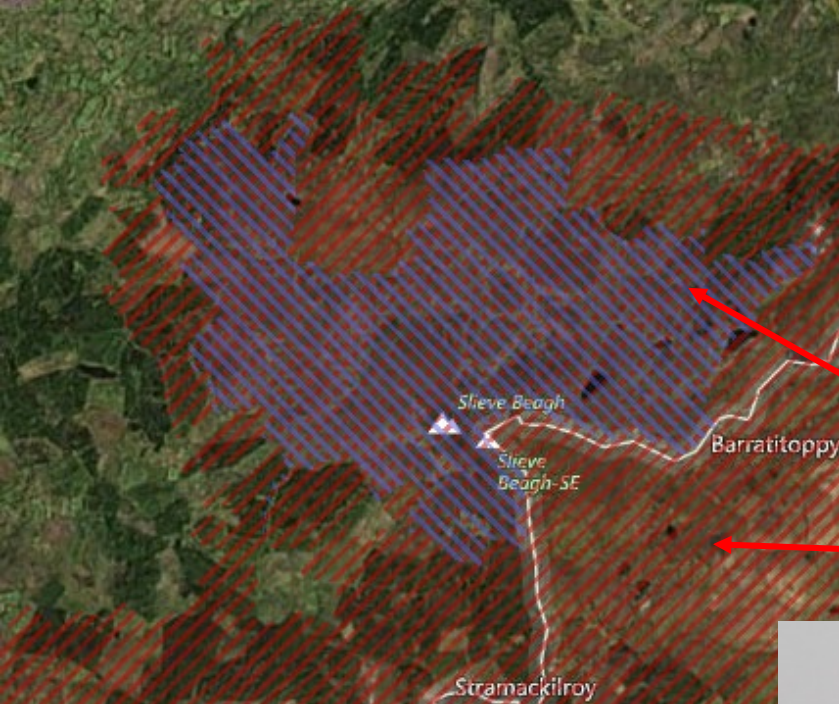


**Because of the CANN project, this method is now being trialled at Cuilcagh Mountain/
Cuilcagh-Anierin Uplands SAC**

- **rapid assessment and classification of habitats is achievable with experience**
- **it can be up to half the price of carrying out fieldwork alone.**



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Special Area of Conservation:
only (blanket bog) area eligible for
reporting targets (hectares improved)
under CANN

Special Protection Area and Natural Heritage Area

“The birds are nesting on one side of the border in one year and the other side in other years. They may nest on one side but hunt and forage on the other side,”

Marc Ruddock
CANN partner Golden Eagle Trust





“People didn’t go into that area at all during the Troubles. People from both sides of the community are just starting to get together now.”

CANN Sliabh Beagh facilitator Rory Sheehan, Monaghan County Council, working predominantly in the SAC in north of the border

“Closed roads divided the communities on Sliabh Beagh and lead to land abandonment. People feel very strongly that the whole area needs to be integrated, roads need to be kept open.”



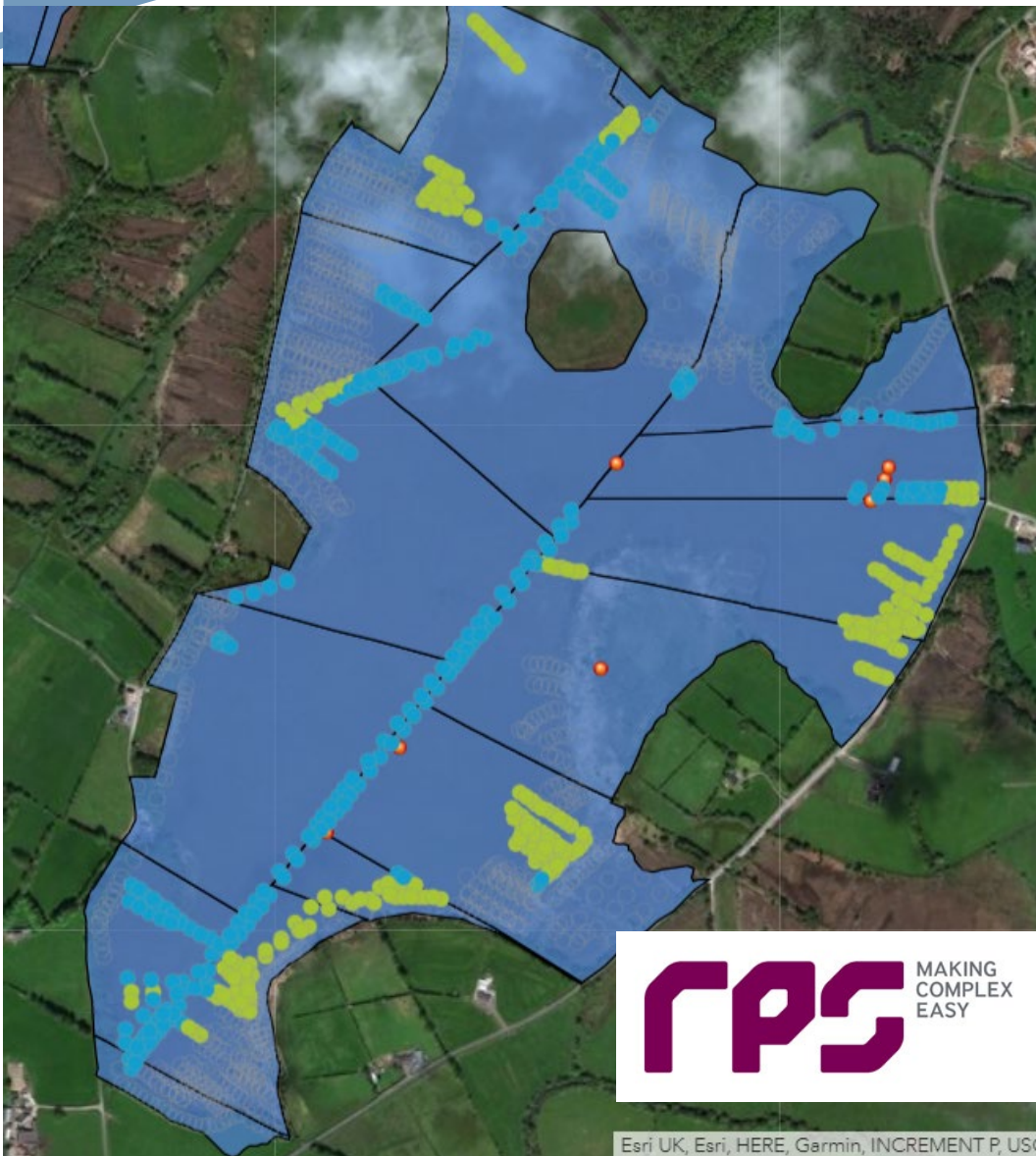
“Because nobody went into that area, nobody saw the conifers encroaching or saw the turf-cutting. INTERREG is all about the human aspect.”

How does a council in the Republic of Ireland deal with threats to the bog on the northern part of the SAC?

Agreement reached for them to operate under a licence between a Northern Ireland partner (Ulster Wildlife) and NI Forest Service.



One bog: 10 owners



Just as important
is working
collaboratively
WITHIN sites

One hydrological unit
so ideally we would like
to do drain blocking
across all ownership



Thank you

Anyone here
working **ACROSS**
country borders:
come and have a
chat!

