

SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

Project Case Study: Cooperation Across Borders for Biodiversity (CABB)

THEME:

Environment

FUNDING (ERDF+MATCH):

€4,770,731

MATCH FUNDING:

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs; and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government

LEAD PARTNER:

RSPB NI

PROJECT PARTNERS:

RSPB Scotland, BirdWatch Ireland, NI Water, Butterfly Conservation and Moors for Future.

Start Date: 01/01/2017

End Date: 31/12/2021

PROJECT CONTACT:

Caroline.Marshall@rspb.org.uk

 <https://bit.ly/2m1wdM0>

 @RSPBNI

CABB is a cross-border, six-partner conservation project that is improving habitats for birds, butterflies and plants across Northern Ireland, Ireland and the west coast of Scotland.

Peatlands, wet grasslands and machair provide vital homes for a range of wildlife, including curlews, lapwings, hen harriers and marsh fritillary butterflies. Many of these habitats are under threat from drainage, inappropriate grazing, lack of management and climate change.

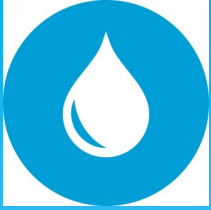
The five year project is working in partnership with farmers, landowners, statutory agencies and other key organisations to improve habitats at some of the most precious environmental sites designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

“We are delighted to be leading the CABB project and we are particularly thankful for SEUPB’s support. This is key European funding for what is a vital conservation project. CABB is the largest project that RSPB NI has been involved in to date and I have no doubt that, along with our partners, we will improve habitats and deliver great things for bogs, butterflies and birds across Northern Ireland, Scotland and Ireland.”

Clive Mellon, Chair, RSPB NI



The project aims to protect and restore peatlands and wet grasslands, which are homes to for a wide-range of wildlife found across Northern Ireland, Ireland and Scotland.



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The project aims to improve breeding habitat for curlews, lapwings, redshanks and snipe in Northern Ireland and Ireland and also to improve habitat for hen harriers. Another aim is to raise awareness in the communities involved of the environmental, cultural and historical importance of these wetland habitats. It will see thousands of hectares of blanket bog being restored across the three countries.

Garron in County Antrim is one of the best examples of blanket bog anywhere on the island of Ireland. A well-managed and functioning blanket bog on the site will help species including hen harriers, curlews and cuckoos to survive in future, along with plants including marsh saxifrage and Irish lady's-tresses orchids. Garron is the only known site for the marsh saxifrage in Northern Ireland.

RSPB NI will be writing Conservation Action Plans for the Garron Plateau SAC, Montiags Moss SAC in County Antrim and Pettigo Plateau SAC in County Fermanagh, by working with and supporting landowners as we agree plans to manage these precious sites, while Butterfly Conservation is working with landowners and volunteers at a number of sites to improve the conditions for the marsh fritillary butterfly.



CABB project volunteers surveying for Marsh Fritillary butterfly.