

**THEME:**

Environment

**FUNDING (ERDF+MATCH):**

€9,230,313.93

**MATCH FUNDING:**

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

**LEAD PARTNER:**

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

**PROJECT PARTNERS:**

East Border Region Ltd; Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council; Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute; Ulster University; Ulster Wildlife; Monaghan County Council; Institute of Technology Sligo; Golden Eagle Trust; Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust; and Scottish Natural Heritage.

**Start Date:** 01/01/2017

**End Date:** 31/12/2021

**PROJECT CONTACT:**

[thecannproject@nmandd.org](mailto:thecannproject@nmandd.org)

 <https://thecannproject.org/>

 [@theCANNproject](https://twitter.com/theCANNproject)

## SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

### Project Case Study: Collaborative Action for the Natura Network (CANN)

The CANN project is a cross-border environment project which aims to improve the condition of protected habitats and support priority species found within Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Scotland, allowing the region to meet key EU biodiversity targets and ensuring the future of these internationally important habitats and species.

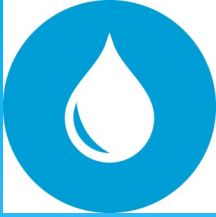
Made up of leading government departments, local authorities, research institutions and charities from across the three jurisdictions, the CANN project team is working together with local communities and stakeholders towards a common goal of improving the environmental condition of Special Areas of Conservation.

*“Newry, Mourne & Down District Council are proud to lead this important new project which will help raise awareness among cross-border communities about the potential threats to the natural habitats and endangered species in their area. It is through effective cross-border collaboration that we can best protect, improve, restore and sustain the threatened habitats and species in our shared regions.”*

**Councillor Mark Murnin, Chairperson of Newry, Mourne & Down District Council**



The project aims to protect the Marsh Fritillary butterfly which has seen a drastic drop in numbers over recent years.



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The CANN project aims to improve the condition of protected blanket bog and key wetland habitats and to support the priority species found there through:

- Carrying out on the ground conservation actions on designated sites (Special Areas of Conservation) to improve their environmental condition;
- Producing Conservation Action Plans (CAPs) which will act as a roadmap to recovery for these sites and inform strategic planning processes to ensure that these sites continue to be guided towards favourable conservation status beyond the lifespan of the CANN project;
- Operating as a multi-jurisdictional network to exchange conservation knowledge and environmental best practise, to strengthen cross-border co-operation in facilitating the recovery of these protected habitats and priority species, and to ensure that borders do not represent an overwhelming barrier for conservation and biodiversity.

*“The EU is committed to the protection of our shared natural environment across Europe as demonstrated through its Birds and Habitats Directives. This project will serve to further this European environmental policy by improving the conservation status of thousands of hectares of natural habitats found across Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland.”*

Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB



The project will help protect the Golden Plover which is in decline as a result of the destruction of their habitats and food sources, through afforestation, intensification of agriculture and changes in land use and land management.