



**THEME:**

Environment

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**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.

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



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## SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

### Project Case Study: Cooperation Across Borders for Biodiversity (CABB) - Lower Lough Erne

CABB is working 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). In addition, it's also producing Conservation Action Plans (CAPs) for eight SACs/SPAs in Northern Ireland, Ireland and Scotland.

#### Cot Boat Aids Conservation Efforts at Lower Lough Erne

In November 2019, the project launched a new cot boat to help transport livestock and machinery, on and off, the islands of Lower Lough Erne. The vessel was named after Joe Magee, a former RSPB warden who was the first to notice an alarming decline in breeding wading birds in Fermanagh. The boat will assist the project in managing endangered wildlife, including the breeding wading birds and curlews, through the transportation of grazing cattle and sheep. Together, they create a sustainable structure of grass and vegetation to form an ideal habitat for breeding wading birds to nest and raise young.

*"The cot will be used throughout the year. We move about 150 cattle and 60 sheep back and forth to our managed islands, as well as livestock to other privately-owned islands. In its first voyages, the new vessel will be used to bring livestock off for the winter."*

Brad Robson, RSPB NI Site Manager



The new cot boat, transferring cattle to the Lower Lough Erne Island reserve. Credit: Amy Burns