

Lough Carra Catchment Association

This document presents the work of the Working Group (William Cormacan, Bernie White, Cilian Roden, Mick Kane, Verena Berard and Chris Huxley) to establish a draft project outline to be used as the basis for compiling an application for a LIFE Biodiversity project.

Please note that it is a working document which is by no means final in any way. Elements will be added, deleted and modified as part of the feasibility study undertaken by the consultants contracted to carry out the work (Woodrow Sustainability Solutions).

For those not accustomed to working with “logframes”, the following text explains the use of this planning tool.

Using the “Logframe” approach to project planning

The logical framework is a way of presenting the structure of a project. Its use as a planning tool assists in ensuring that the project is built in a rational and structured way.

A logframe starts with an overall **goal**, i.e. what it is that we want to achieve in the long term.

This is then addressed through a series of **objectives** for the project, i.e. those things that, if achieved successfully, will move us closer to the goal. It is not necessary for the project to reach the goal, but it must go towards that end.

For each of the objectives, there will be a series of **activities**, i.e. what the project will actually do. If these activities are implemented successfully, the objectives will be met.

For each activity, there will be **expected results or outputs**, i.e. if the activity is carried out, that is what is the expected outcome.

For each activity, there are then **verifiable indicators**, i.e. what can be measured that will tell us that the expected outcome has been achieved.

Finally, each activity will be subject to **assumptions or constraints**, i.e. what might act to prevent achievement of the expected results.

Once a logframe has been established, it should be fairly straightforward to work out how much each activity will cost and insert this into a budget.

n.b. it is important to note that the logframe will not necessarily include the administration/management of the project, for which a budget will also be required.

CARRA LIFE PROJECT (Biodiversity)

Project title: To be decided

Goal: *To restore, protect and conserve the biodiversity value and ecological integrity of Lough Carra and its lakeshore and catchment habitats and ensure the quality of water in the Lough.*

Project objectives:

- A. To maintain and enhance existing priority habitats in the SAC.**
- B. To ensure the protection and conservation of key species in the SPA, the SACs and the catchment.**
- C. To prevent and reverse eutrophication by reducing the flow of nutrients into the Lough.**
- D. To promote and encourage truly sustainable and environmentally sensitive land use practices in the catchment.**
- E. To prevent the further conversion of land and intensification of agriculture in the catchment.**
- F. To raise awareness of the unique values of the Lough, including ecosystem services, and promote its enjoyment by local communities and all sectors of society.**

	Activities	Results/outputs	Verifiable indicators	Important assumptions
A1	Establish appropriate grazing regimes on semi-natural grasslands in the SAC	Improved condition of semi-natural grasslands in the SAC	Increase in richness and abundance of biodiversity in the SAC	Acceptance of changes to grazing regimes by farmers
A2	Provide incentives and resources for appropriate management (e.g. scrub clearance, alien species control) of land within the SAC	Increase areas of important and priority habitats within the SAC	Increased areas of important and priority habitats	Acceptance of management changes by landowners
B1	Establish optimum habitat management for Lesser Horseshoe bats at Moorehall and Towerhill	Maintenance of healthy and flourishing populations of bats	Number of bats at roosts	No unforeseen threats to bats, landowners cooperative over management
B2	Acquisition of disused quarry at Kilkeeran (Common Gull breeding colony)	Long-term protection of Common Gull breeding colony guaranteed	Quarry in State ownership	Roadstone willing to relinquish ownership of quarry
B3	Control of American Mink (alien species) through trapping programme	Reduction in American Mink numbers and increase in wildfowl numbers	Number of American Mink trapped and breeding wildfowl numbers increased	Wildfowl breeding responds to reduction in alien predator

B4	Census and monitoring of Fallow Deer (alien species) population and preparation of management recommendations	Improved knowledge of deer population, assessment of scale of problem and recommended course of action	Reports on deer population and management recommendations	Suitable research personnel available
B5	Design, establishment and implementation of a full management plan for the SAC/SPA	Improved conditions for key species	Populations of key species maintained and/or increased	Cooperation of all stakeholders (landowners, IFI, NPWS, MayoCoCo, Coillte, etc.) obtained
B6	Monitor key aquatic species, especially <i>Chara</i>	Improved knowledge of aquatic ecosystem and marl lakebed habitat	Reports on aquatic ecosystem, especially status of <i>Chara</i> spp.	Suitable research personnel available
C1	Establish constructed wetlands in key areas	Reduction in the inflow of nutrients into the Lough, improved water quality	Artificial wetlands constructed	Suitable locations for constructed wetlands identified and available
C2	Establish buffer zones along banks of inflowing rivers and streams and along whole lakeshore, especially in high risk areas, and provide water troughs where needed	Reduction in flow of nutrients into feeder streams and rivers and into Lough, improved water quality	Buffer zones established	Cooperation of farmers is obtained
C3	Establish modified and location-specific nutrient management plans for targeted farms, especially dairy farms	Reduction in application of nutrients to land and reduction in loss of nutrients from land	Modified nutrient management plans in place	Cooperation and support of farmers obtained
C4	Undertake comprehensive awareness raising and training of all farmers in the catchment in relation to application of slurry and chemical fertilizers	Improved and more efficient use of slurry and chemical fertilizers throughout the catchment	Reduction and improved efficiency in total amount of slurry and chemical fertilizer application in the catchment	Cooperation of farmers obtained
C5	Obtain approval from state authorities to adopt modified rules for slurry application	More efficient and effective use of slurry resulting in less loss of nutrients from the land	Changes in slurry application timing and methods	Cooperation of state authorities and the farmers obtained
C6	Modify forestry management in the catchment and eliminate clear-felling to prevent or reduce nutrient and sediment losses	Elimination or reduction of possible nutrient or sediment loss from forestry into inflowing rivers and streams	Reduction in sediment load in inflowing watercourses	Cooperation of Coillte and private forestry operators obtained
C7	Raise awareness in all households in the catchment of septic tank/nutrient issues	Improved septic tank management and reduction in use of phosphate-rich detergents/washing powders	All households to receive relevant awareness-raising material	Householders act on information
C8	Establish anaerobic digester for slurry	Reduction in amount of slurry spread on land in the catchment	Anaerobic digester established and operating	Farmers willing to use the facility
C9	Provide resources to carry out voluntary de-sludging of all septic tanks in the catchment	Increase in efficiency of septic tanks	Number of septic tanks de-sludged	Sufficient uptake by households
C10	Investigate hydromorphology to identify any problems of sediment loss	Knowledge of hydromorphology and risk areas	Report on hydromorphology	Suitable research personnel available

D1	Convert intensive agricultural land into native woodland and other semi-natural habitats	Area of intensive grassland reduced and area of semi-natural habitats increased	Increase in area of semi-natural habitat in the catchment	Farmers persuaded to participate in scheme
D2	Establish appropriate grazing regimes on semi-natural grasslands adjacent to the SAC	Improved condition of semi-natural grasslands around the SAC	Increase in richness and abundance of biodiversity around the SAC	Acceptance of changes to grazing regimes by farmers
D3	Provide incentives to reduce livestock numbers	Fewer livestock in the catchment	Livestock numbers reduced	Incentives adequate to convince farmers
D4	Provide incentives for organic farming, high nature-value farming and conversion of intensive grassland	Improved uptake by farmers of various schemes	Increase in organic farming, high nature-value farming and new areas of semi-natural habitat	Incentives adequate to convince farmers
D5	Begin the process of converting conifer plantations to native woodland	Gradual decrease in conifer plantation and increase in native woodland	Conversion of conifer plantation to native woodland	
E1	Map the habitats in the catchment	Improved knowledge of distribution of existing habitats	Habitat map of the catchment	Suitable research personnel available
E2	Provide incentives to prevent any further conversion of semi-natural habitats in the catchment, especially those with important habitats or species	No further loss of important semi-natural habitats in the catchment	Continued existence of all important semi-natural habitat	Farmers persuaded to retain existing semi-natural habitats
E3	Identify invasive alien species outside the SACs and establish control/elimination programme	Control or elimination of alien species outside the SACs but in the catchment	Invasive alien species identified and controlled or eliminated	Cooperation of landowners obtained
F1	Produce and distribute educational and awareness-raising material	Raised awareness and understanding of the value of the Lough among local people and other Lough users	Increased participation of local people and Lough users in the LCCA and associated activities	People accept the message
F2	Undertake a publicity programme via local, regional and national media	Increased understanding of the importance of the Lough among the general public, politicians and government officials	Increased political commitment to protection of the Lough	Politicians and Government officials prepared to modify their attitudes
F3	Provide a series of talks and events to raise awareness and promote enjoyment of the Lough	Increased awareness of the Lough's importance and more people visiting	Increased use of the Lough	Adequate access and facilities available
F4	Provide improved facilities for visitors at access points at Brownstown and Moorehall	Improved experience for visitors	Visitor surveys show improved experience	Sufficient visitor numbers

