



Conservation and Restoration of Irish Peatlands

The Role of the IPCC

Irish Peatland Conservation Council





IPCC's Mission

**To conserve a representative
proportion of the peatlands
of Ireland for future generations to enjoy**

Achievements

Last 5 Years

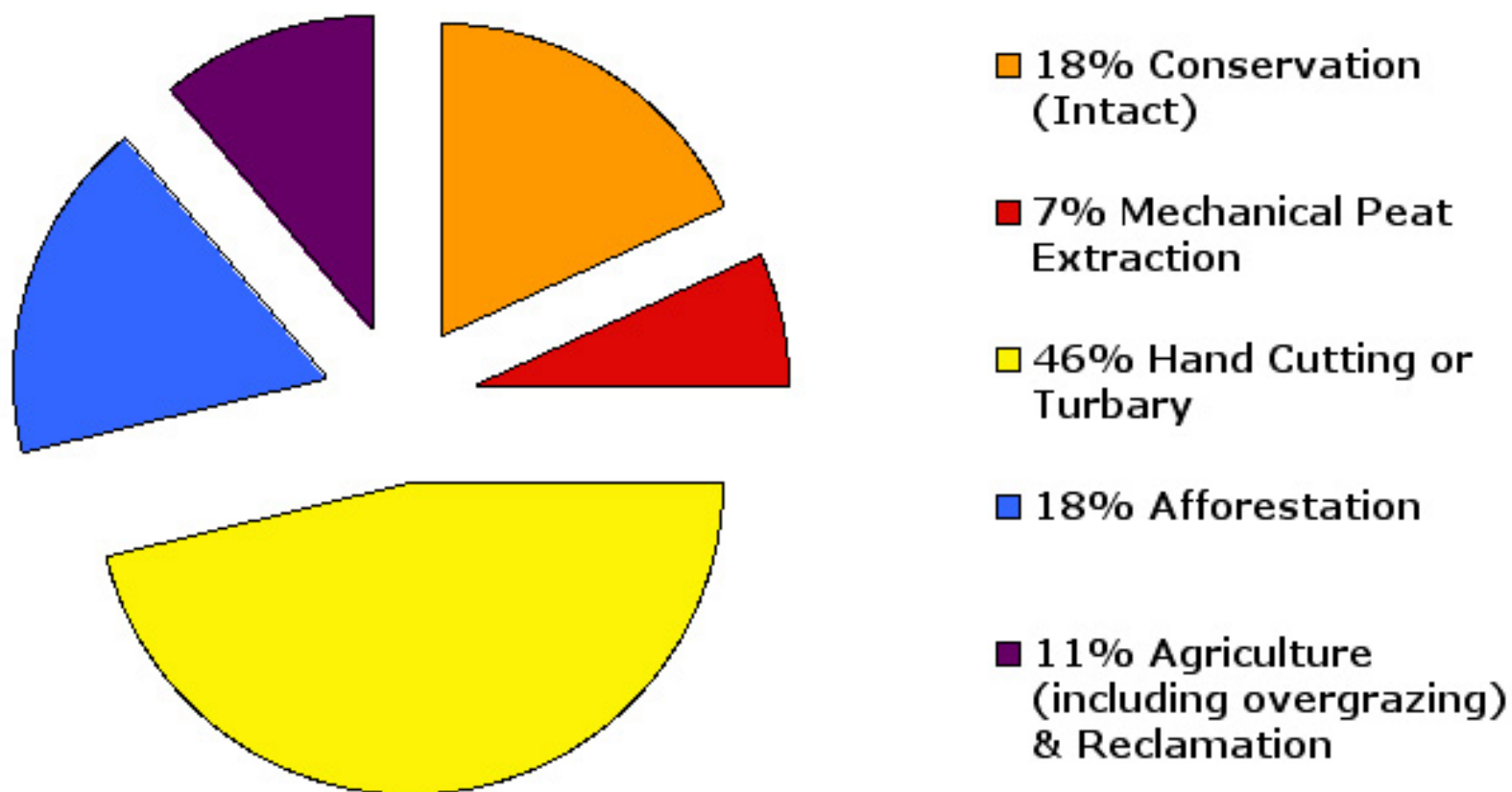
- * Conservation of two raised bogs in Co. Kildare**
- * Purchase and management of the Bog of Allen Nature Centre and HQ**
- * Development and implementation of conservation management plans for all IPCC's sites of conservation importance**
- * Independent monitoring of 1100 peatland sites of conservation importance in Ireland**
- * Development of a Peatland Conservation Strategy for Ireland**

In PEATLANDS
water, peat and vegetation are
strongly interconnected.

**If any one of these components is
removed, the nature of the peatland
is fundamentally changed.**

Utilisation of Irish Peatlands

Original Area 1.2 million hectares





Peatland Conservation

**Protecting, maintaining and
enhancing the habitats and
species diversity of peatlands
in a functioning
hydrological system**

Irish Peatland Conservation Plan 2020

* **Designating Sites**

- * *National Nature Reserves*
- * *Natural Heritage Areas*
- * *Special Areas of Conservation*
- * *Special Protection Areas*

* **Controlling Developments**

- * *Environmental Impact Assessment Directive*
- * *Planning Law*
- * *Rural Environmental Protection Scheme*
- * *Wildlife Amendment Act*

Peatland Conservation Issues

Forestry	Cutaway Bogs	Cutover Bogs	Dumping	Education & Training
Biodiversity Protection	EIA	Habitats Protection	Fen & Heathland Inventories	Climate Change
GAPP	Moss Peat & Horticulture	Farming & Overgrazing	Archaeology Protection	Palaeoecology Protection
Peat Energy	Peatland Management	REPS	Cessation of Turbary	Visitor Use
Wind Energy	Invasive Species	Wildlife Act	Habitats Directive	Water Framework Directive

Designation is Not the End of the Conservation Line



- * **Girley Bog NHA - badly damaged by illegal drainage. No one seen, therefore no one prosecuted.**
- * **Issue 1: Notification to owners or users of the site of its designation - no signs**
- * **Issue 2: Regular inspections of designated sites by Wildlife Rangers needed**
- * **Issue 3: Using circumstantial evidence to link people to illegal site damage and prosecuting under the Wildlife Amendment Act 2000**

If a Site is not Designated, should it be developed?



- * **Case of Kilballyskea Bog in Co. Offaly**
- * **Planning permission granted for moss peat extraction**
- * **Contravenes reduce, reuse, recycle campaigns**
- * **No after rehabilitation to wildlife after use plan with EIA**
- * **Halting Biodiversity not an issue?**

Mouds Bog SAC - great phone signals



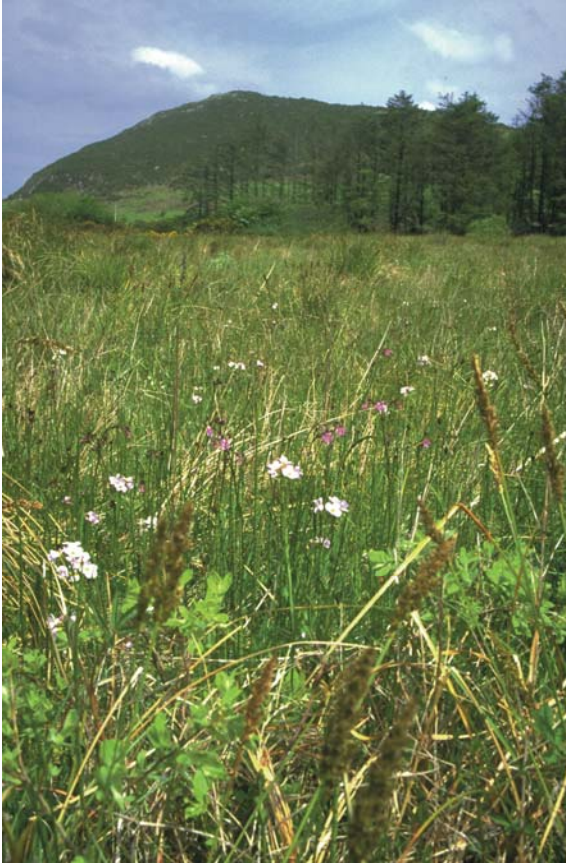
- * SAC Appeals Board still in existence 5 years after the EU Atlantic Biogeographical Meeting
- * Boundaries are being changed and the final list of designated sites cannot be transmitted
- * Part of the Mouds Bog SAC was excluded from the hydrological unit in 2007
- * Meteor made a proposal to install a Mobile Phone mast on the boundary of the SAC, granted permission by Kildare County Council.

Mountallen Bog - needs to be designated



- * Raised bog grading into fen on the the shores of Lough Allen, Co. Leitrim
- * Two rare species present: Irish Lady's Tresses Orchid and Marsh Fritillary Butterfly
- * Irish Government slow to designate further sites as NHAs or SACs
- * Site is being protected by the good will of the farmer through his REPS Farm Plan
- * What future for the sites identified in the NPWS and County Councils fen survey at present?

Fenor Bog NNR - fresh water source for Celtic Tiger Housing?



- * **Rezoning of land within the hydrological catchment of the bog nature reserve by Waterford County Council**
- * **2007 Housing development proposal for 160 homes drawing water from wells within the catchment of the bog**

Blanket Bog - the right place for a windfarm?



- * **Windfarm proposal on an intact area of mountain blanket bog at Tieveenamenta, Co. Donegal**
- * **Not designated and probably not surveyed for nature conservation**
- * **Competition in the industry on the price of renewably produced energy favours the location of farms within sensitive uplands where land is cheap**
- * **Danger of bog bursts with the installation of the foundations for the wind turbines**
- * **How can we halt the loss of biodiversity in Ireland with such a system in place?**

The Future

**Irish Government needs to
develop a peatland
conservation and protection
strategy which is adopted and
implemented by all relevant
Government Departments and
Local Authorities**