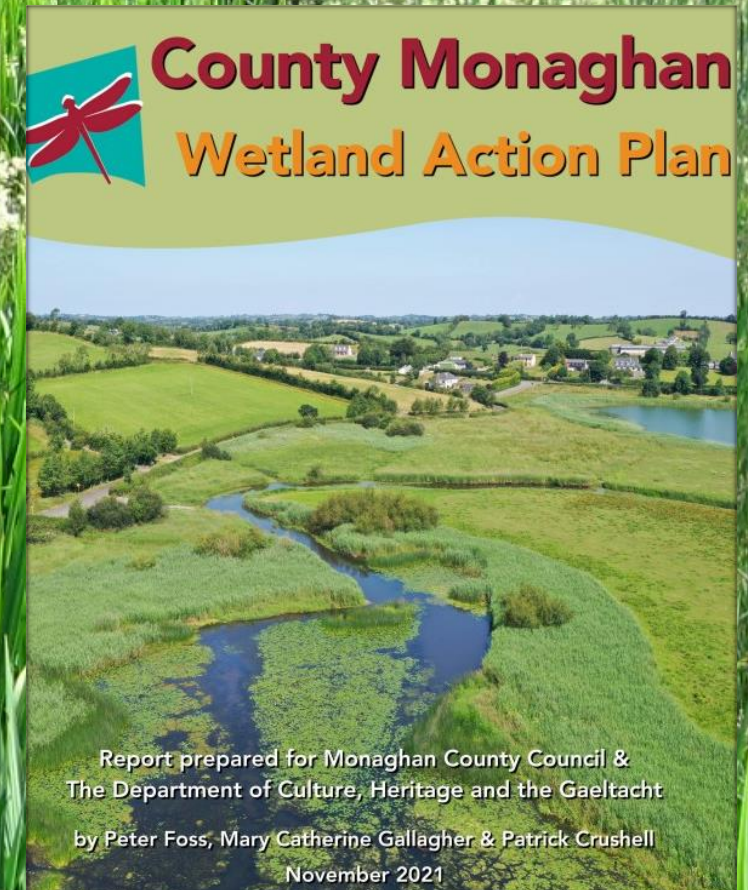


Monaghan Wetland Action Plan & RAMSAR Rapid Assessment of Ecosystem Services method.

Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Officer, Monaghan County Council



In the next 15 minutes....

Context

Challenges facing wetlands in the county

Ramsar

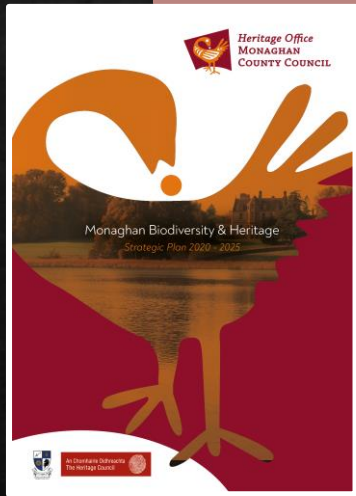
RAWES

Ecosystem services scoring for wetlands

Monaghan Wetland Network



Working for wetlands 2006 - 2022



2006

2011

2012

2017

2022

Heritage Council
Heritage Plan funding



National Biodiversity
Fund

MONAGHAN'S WONDERFUL WETLANDS

Heritage & Biodiversity Plan

Baseline Survey. Fen surveys. Dragonfly surveys.

Information booklet, wetland posters.

Wise Use of Wetlands conference in 2008.

Influencing

“Evaluating the benefits of wetland ecosystem services in Monaghan” study.

Wetland site surveying.

Informing

Monaghan Wetlands Map - 711 sites.

Action for Biodiversity Interreg project.

Wise use of Wetlands conference 2015.

Collaboration

Interreg CANN project. Monaghan wetlands story map.

Book on Monaghan's wetlands published.

Artist led investigations.

Conservation activities

Monaghan Wetlands Action Plan

Monaghan Wetland Network

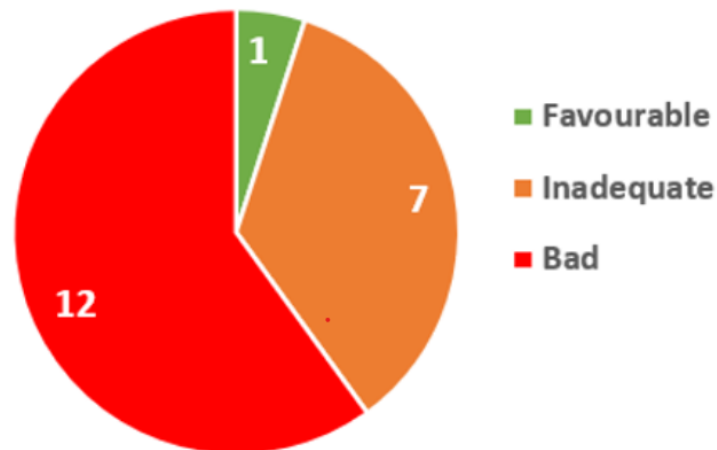
Sliabh Beagh conservation works.

Number of sites listed in the Monaghan Wetland Sites database (714) impacted by or threatened by various factors.

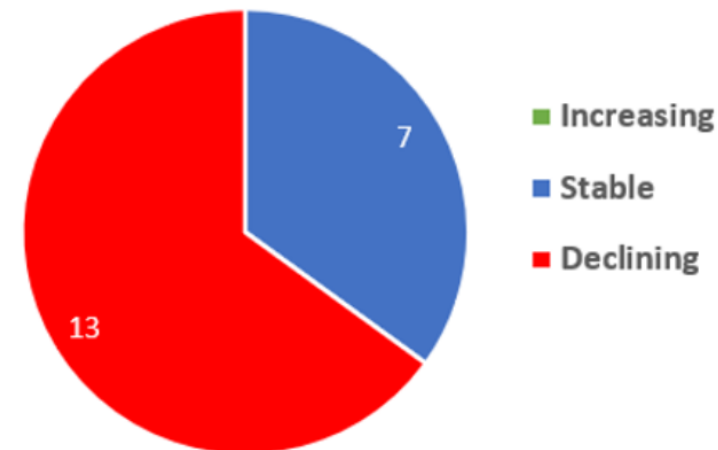
	Number of sites with impacts & activities affecting conservation value of site.
A Agriculture	51
B Forestry, Sylviculture	42
C Mining, extraction of materials & energy production	28
D Transportation & service corridors	15
E Urbanisation, residential & commercial development	24
G Human intrusions and disturbances	6
H Pollution	89
I Invasives, other problematic species & genes	25
J Natural System modifications	213
K Natural biotic & abiotic processes	7
X No threats or pressures	24
	524

EU Listed Wetland Habitats In Ireland

Overall Conservation Status

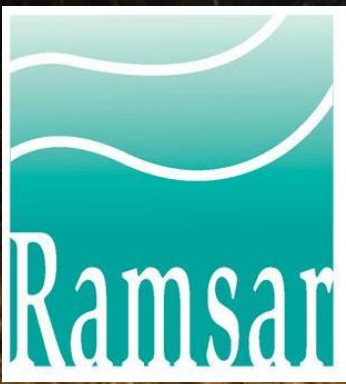


Conservation Status – Trend



Extrapolated from data on inland wetlands (n=20) presented in: NPWS (2019). *The Status of EU Habitats and Species in Ireland*.

Figure 3-2: Summary of conservation status reported by NPWS (2019).



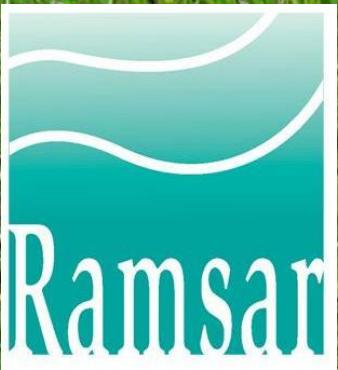
◆ A little history.....

The Convention on Wetlands is the oldest of the modern global intergovernmental environmental agreements.

The treaty was negotiated through the 1960s by countries and NGOs concerned about the increasing loss and degradation of wetland habitat for migratory waterbirds.

It was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in 1975.

◆ The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through **local** and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world".



COP 14 – November 2022

Framework for inventory, classification and restoration of small wetlands

- ◆ To promote development of local & national plans for management and restoration of small wetlands.

- ◆ Apply the guidelines for Rapid Assessment in order to collate information on the multiple values of small wetlands and pressures on ecological character of small wetlands.



- ◆ **Monaghan Wetland Action Plan**

- ◆ RAWES- Rapid Assessment of Wetland Ecosystem Services of 177 wetlands in Monaghan

RAWES

- ◆ First assessment of sites was in Sri Lanka.
- ◆ Trained local assessors to use a variety of field indicators to assess negative or positive contributions at local, regional or international scales.
- ◆ **OUTPUTS** are **SIMPLIFIED**, signalling to decision makers the diversity of interlinked ES outcomes as a consequence from development, management policies and actions.

Wetland painting by Neal Greg



PROVISIONING



FOOD



MEDICINE



FRESH WATER



RAW MATERIALS

REGULATING



POLLINATION



LESSEN WEATHER IMPACTS



AIR QUALITY



SOIL PROTECTION

CULTURAL



CULTURAL HERITAGE



RECREATION & TOURISM



EDUCATION & RESEARCH



AESTHETIC

SUPPORTING



SOIL FORMATION



PHOTOSYNTHESIS



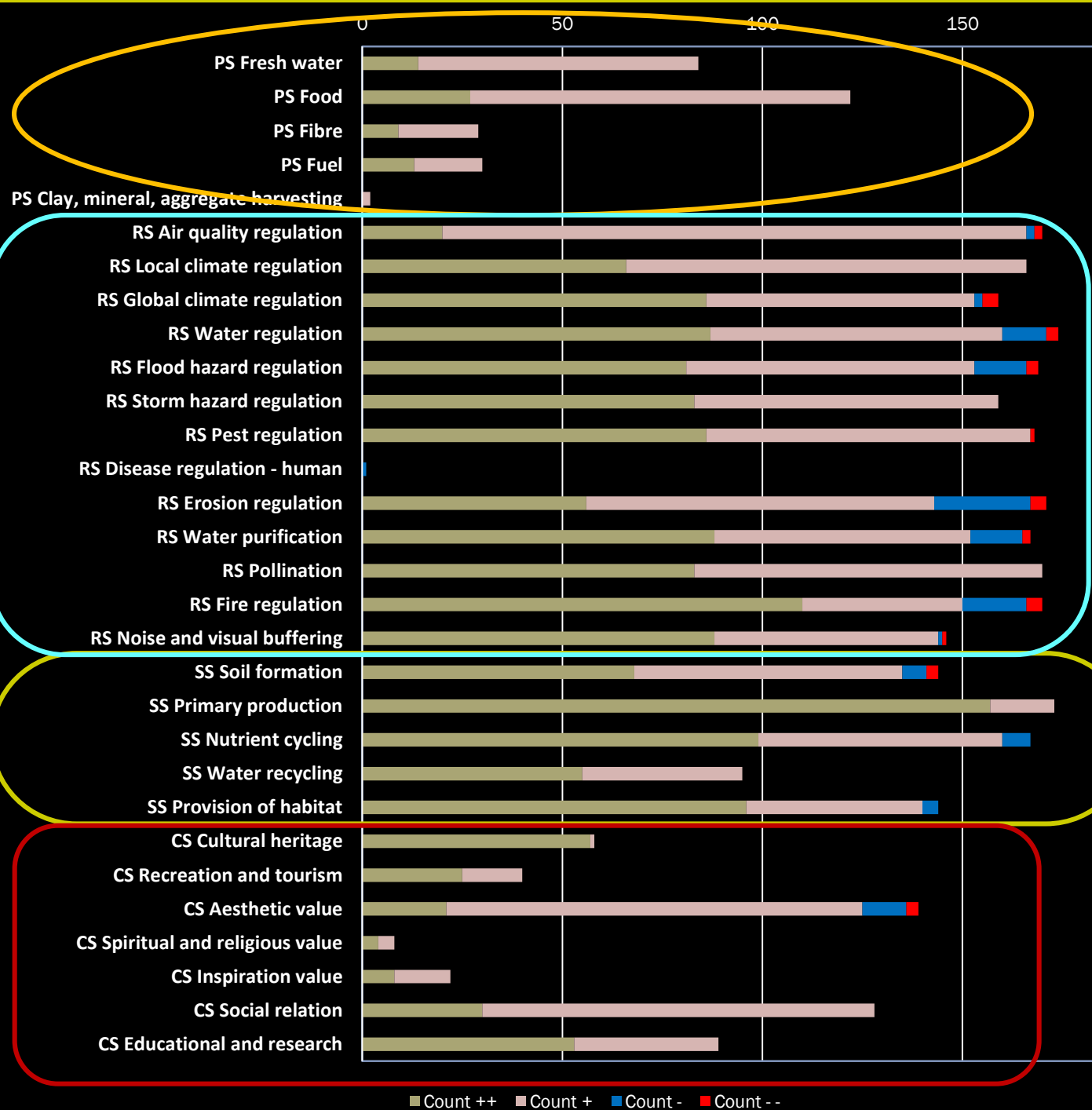
NUTRIENT CYCLING



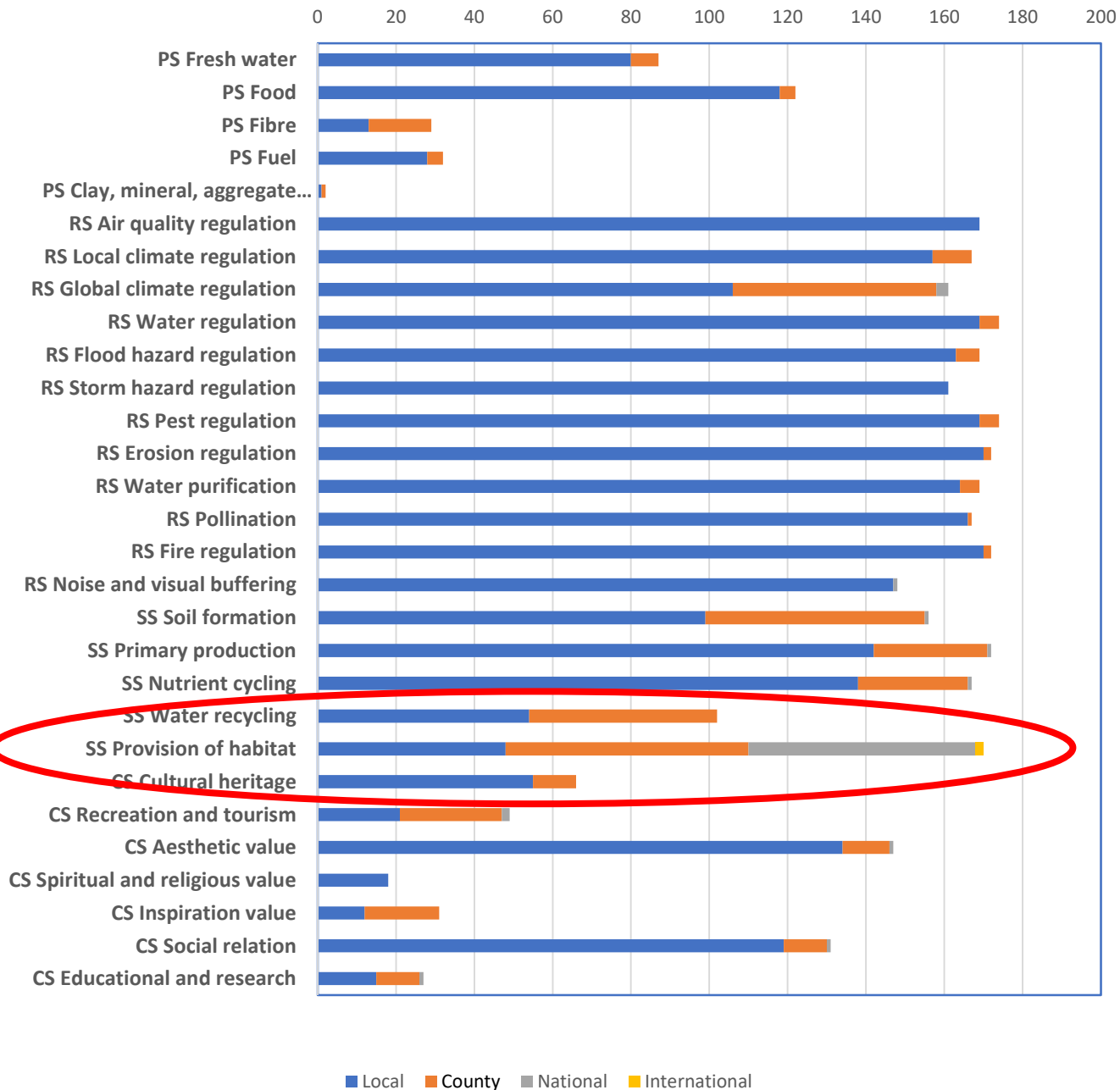
HABITATS



MONAGHAN'S
WONDERFUL
WETLANDS



ES Scale of benefits for MWAP wetland sites assessed



Local benefits



County benefits



National benefits

*Highest score possible for site = 32
1 point max per category*

Fire Regulation

Providing physical barriers to the spread of fire, maintaining wet conditions to prevent fires spreading, etc.

Considerations:

- Does the configuration of waterbodies (ditches, streams, etc.) help to prevent the spread of fires?
- Is there water at or near the soil surface that restricts the spread of fire?
- Are organic rich or peat soils drained and susceptible to fire and burning?

Assessment:

- Is the wetland prone to fires as described in literature or based on habitat type (PB; HH)
- Does peat extraction occur on the site and affect this ecosystem service (increased fire frequency due to drainage and dry effects; human disturbance)

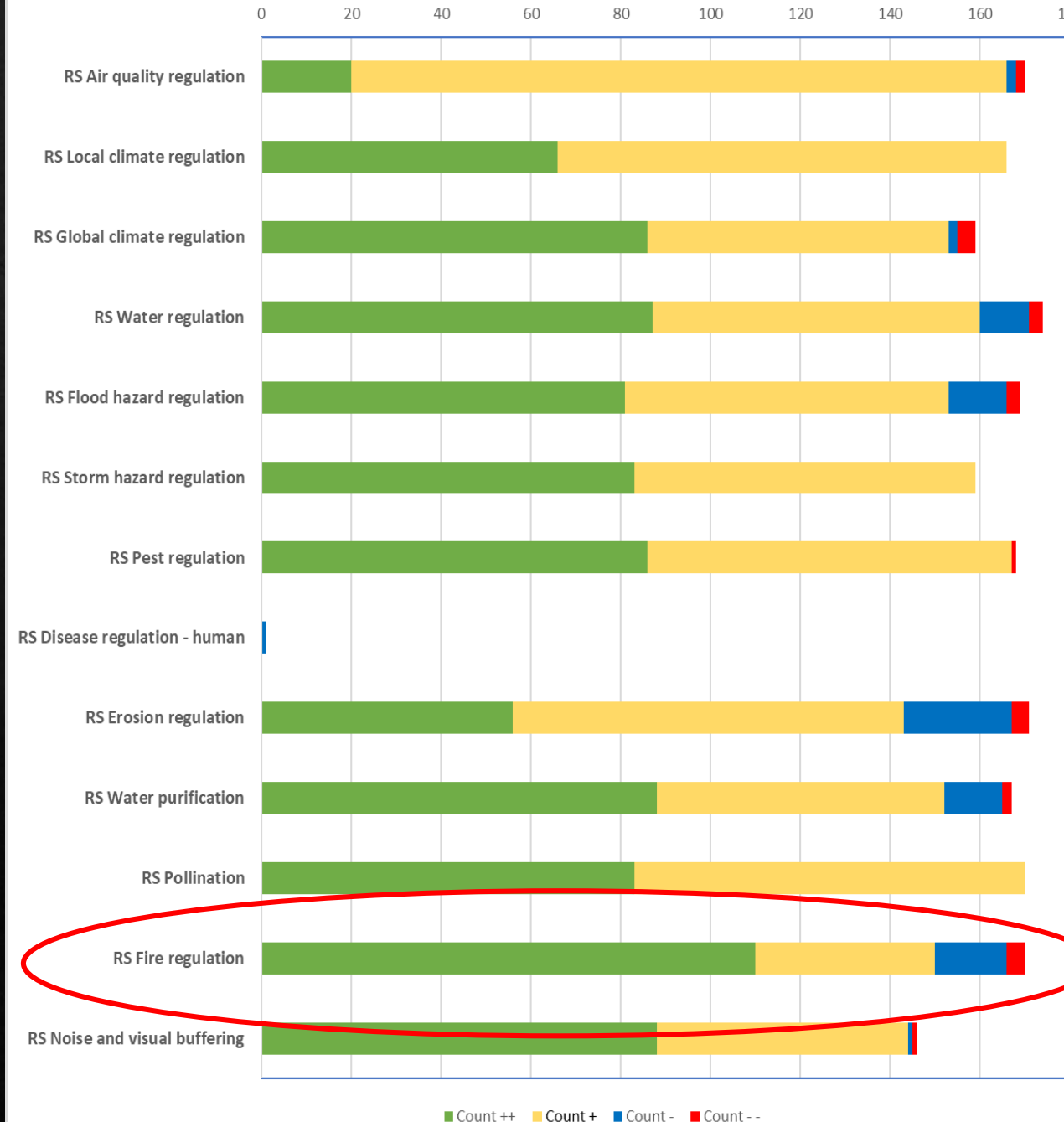
Data Sources:

- Field survey data
- Aerial imagery

Scoring matrix

- Intact wetland system on site, apply a score of ++
- Presence of open water on site, apply a score of ++
- Slightly altered wetland system on site, apply a score of +
- If evidence of past burning (either on aerial imagery or in survey notes) on site, apply a score of -
- Conifer forestry immediately adjacent to or on the wetland on site, apply a score of -
- If site is extensively drained or has extensive peat cutting on site, apply a score of - -

Regulatory ES provided by wetlands assessed as part of the MWAP



Drum Lake

Total score 23.5	P	C	R	S
ES score	3	5	11.5	4
ESI index value	0.5	0.71	0.96	0.8

Lake, reedswamp, wet woodland

Wetland conservation rating habitat: B

Clarderry

Cutover bog. Eastern part used as shooting range. Western side has good quality fen regenerating.

Total score 13	P	C	R	S
ES score	0	2	8	3
ESI index value	0.0	0.29	0.67	0.6

Restoration objectives:

- Restore carbon sequestration functions on the cutaway.
- Restore wetland hydrology.





MONAGHAN'S WONDERFUL WETLANDS

The County Monaghan Wetland Network encourages conservation or enhancement measures to be undertaken at wetlands, promotes the importance and values of wetlands, helps people to share their experiences and builds capacity to protect our wonderful wetland heritage.



Read more about the network in the following pages.

26th May, 2022

Monaghan Wetlands Network meeting learns about FarmPeat project

Monaghan Wetlands Network's most recent get together of people and organisations interested in protecting wetlands was held in Iontas on the 19th May. Drawing on models elsewhere, where grass roots organisations have led conservation projects for wetlands, the Community Wetlands Forum part of the Irish Rural Link, is working with Monaghan County Council to support and mentor a wetlands network for the county.

Wetlands are essential for a healthy environment. Their protection and restoration are necessary for our climate change and biodiversity crisis response. In Monaghan they are crucial for wildlife habitats - plants, birds, insects, dragonflies, mammals; flood control and mitigation, carbon sinks and stores, and water quality.

At the meeting last week, Emma Byrne, from the FarmPeat project in the midlands, explained how participating farmers receive payments based on the results they achieve for habitats across their peatland sites and peat soils. Their fields are scored based on floristic and

hydrological criteria and payments due are received over and above their single farm payment. Where changes are required to enable restoration of peatlands, the project will pay the farmer to block drains and restore

hydrology. Find out more at www.farmpeat.ie Mary Mulvey of the Community Wetlands Forum facilitated the meeting and the discussions about the types of challenges facing wetlands and peatlands in Monaghan.

The Wetlands Network will be hosting more talks and presentations to build capacity for wetland conservation in the county. All are welcome to attend. Contact heritage@monaghancoco.ie



Group pictured at the County Monaghan Wetlands Network, biodiversity meeting by Zoom in the Iontas Conference Centre last weekend. From left; Tony Keenan Ballybay, Alan McCabe Emyvale, Dan Curley Monaghan Town, Paddy Sherry Tydavnet and Mickey Lavelle Ballybay. © Jimmy Walsh Photography



Margarret Byrne, (left) from Carrickmacross, Mary Mulvey, Wetlands Forum and Mary Kerley Carrickmacross, Group pictured at the Monaghan Wetland Network, biodiversity meeting by Zoom. © Jimmy Walsh Photography



From left; Horticulturalist John McKeon, James Bannigan Aughnamullen and Monaghan Heritage Officer Shirley Clerklin, at the Monaghan Wetlands Networks Biodiversity meeting by Zoom. © Jimmy Walsh Photography





An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

Thank you

◇ shclerkin@monaghancoco.ie

◇ www.monaghan.ie/heritage