

# DAERA Environment Fund & Peatland Challenge Fund

## DAERA Environment Fund

This fund is administered by DAERA to support projects which will help deliver key environmental outcomes across Northern Ireland.

[www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/environment-fund-2023-2028](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/environment-fund-2023-2028)

The Fund contributes to 2 Environmental Impact Priority areas:

- Nature and Climate Recovery: Building Ecological and Climate Resilience -
- Connecting People with the Environment -

There are 3 Strands to the Environment Fund:

- Multi-year Strategic Environment Fund -
- Strand 2 Strategic Strand including Land Purchase and new projects leveraging significant match funding -
- Environmental Challenge Competition –



## Glenullin Bog

- Glenullin is a lowland raised bog approximately 3 miles southwest of Garvagh on the southern bank of the Agivey River.
- The Environment Fund supported the purchase, development and implementation of a restoration plan, including drain-blocking and contour bunding to raise the water table.
- A Flux Tower was installed in February 2022 by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, also funded by the Environment Fund.
- The Peatland Challenge Fund provides the funding mechanism to complete restoration work on peatland sites, which were initially supported by the Environment Fund.

## Peatland Challenge Fund

### Peatland Challenge Fund 2024-2027 Competition

This has been funded by DAERA's Environment Fund and the Irish Government's Shared Island Initiative. It was made available in May 2024 to not-for-profit organisations and councils to deliver key environmental priorities across Northern Ireland's Peatlands. It is now closed for applications.

#### Environmental Impact Priority 1: Nature Recovery; Building ecological and climate resilience in Peatland:

- Developing and/or delivering peatland restoration plans to maintain and increase the area of peatlands in favourable condition. This includes restoration of erosion impacts, reactivation of drained peatlands, forest to bog restoration, control of alien invasives, and projects that address grazing pressure.
- Development of environmental surveying, monitoring and mapping programmes for biodiversity, archaeology, climate and water impacts of the peatland restoration works. This includes the development of pilots to demonstrate success of existing restoration proposals.

#### Environmental Impact Priority 2: Connecting People with Nature; Peatlands:

- Provision or improvement of resources and capacity building activities to deliver environmental learning and community engagement projects for peatlands. This includes an arts-based approach to engagement.
- Improving educational opportunities relating to peatlands, including for under-represented groups.
- Volunteering, including the establishment of new local groups or greater public involvement within their organisation.
- Strategic development of citizen science for peatland conservation and improvement where this will produce reliable long term surveillance indices/data.

## Shared Island Initiative Peatland Programme



Shared Island  
Initiative



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

In partnership, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), the EU-funded Wild Atlantic Nature LIFE Integrated Project (National Parks and Wildlife Service) and NatureScot are collaborating to deliver the aims of the programme - to reduce carbon emissions of 6,000 tonnes of carbon per year, restore 4,000ha of blanket bog within and adjacent to protected sites, across Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland and conserve vital peatland ecosystems.