

Hen Harrier EIP Objectives

Objective 1: To prepare and test an effective future scheme

Objective 2: To ensure the sustainable management of High Nature Value farmland in the most important areas for Hen Harrier in Ireland

Objective 3: To promote a stronger socio-economic outlook for these areas

Objective 4: To develop an effective model for sustainable management of Hen Harrier areas

Objective 5: To develop a partnership between Farmers and Government for the delivery of ecosystem services



Why an EIP approach for Hen Harriers in Ireland

- Hen Harriers are a good indicator of ecosystem functionality
- Designation of SPAs for Hen Harriers contentious and ineffective
- National Agri-Environment Schemes failed to resolve disputes





- Not all farms can or should be farmed intensively
 - Ecosystem Services are a valid land management output
 - Some farms are better suited to the delivery of public goods
- Progress requires a joint effort.
 - Through the CAP, the EU and the State invest money
 - The farmer invests with their land, their knowledge, their experience and their time
 - The EIP-AGRI Operational Group facilitates this shared investment while testing a future CAP agri-environmental measure

Hen Harrier Programme Philosophy

- Farmer centred
- Flexible, Locally adapted, Locally relevant approach
- Relevant to local farmers
- Compatible with other CAP Schemes
- Results based Approach
 - Farmers incentivised to provide desired habitats
 - Farmers find their own level
 - Habitat or agricultural commodity ?
 - The farmer makes this decision on a field by field basis



Hen Harrier Programme Governance

- Fully Funded through Irelands Rural Development Programme
- Design and Implementation outsourced to an Operational Group.
 - Payments calculated on the basis of costs incurred and income forgone. This may feed into the future agri-environment measure
- Partnership between Hen Harrier Project Ltd, a Conservation NGO and an Accountancy firm
- Lead Contractor is Hen Harrier Project Ltd Special Purpose Company
- Reports to a Steering Committee
 - Farmers
 - Dept. of Agriculture
 - National Parks and Wildlife Service
 - The Forest Service
 - Farm Advisors



Hen Harrier Programme Design Principles

1. **Co-create** optimal Agri Environment Measures with;

- Farmers and their Representative Organisations
- Scientists
- Advisory Services
- Government

2. **Deliver Value**

- Biodiversity in general, Hen Harriers in particular are a resource, they have value. Farmers must be able to share in this value
- Society must get value for their investment



Hen Harrier Programme Resources

Budget

- €25,000,000,
 - Administration costs are < 15%

Personnel

- 5 full time core staff, 2 based at head office, 3 based locally
- 3 full time equivalents for seasonal monitoring of Hen Harriers
- 1 full time equivalent for accounting and administration
- 3 full time equivalents for nest protection
- 86 Trained Advisors (employed by participants)



Hen Harrier Programme Development Strategy

- Reach out to the Community
- Involve farmers, farm organisations and farm advisors in design phase and throughout = EIP interactive innovation approach
- Develop methodology on real farms
- Make use of all available resources,
- Remove Application Risk
- Phased Intake, year 1 data informs scale of year 2 intake
- Adaptive Management and Concurrent Action
- Maximise duration of benefits for farmers



Hen Harrier Programme Development Timeline

- Project initiated May 2017
- Project Development May -November 2017
- Baseline Survey of Hen Harrier Populations in Project Area May-August 2017
- Farmer Consultations July/ August 2017
- Development Farms June – Sept 2017
- Development of Programme June –November 2018
- Approved - November 2017
- Launched - December 2017
- Habitat Assessments on 614 farms in Summer 2017
- 2018 Habitat Payments commenced in November 2018, completed in February 2019



Hen Harrier Programme Payments Turning Public Goods into Private Goods

- Incentivise
- Support
- Recognise local success
- Demonstrate





HHP1 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM

Name (s): _____

Address: _____

Eircode: _____ Herd No: _____

Phone: _____

- I wish to express my interest in joining the Hen Harrier Programme (Regulation (EU) No. 1305/2013- Rural Development Programme).
- I authorise the Hen Harrier Project Team, contracted by the Department of Agriculture Food and Marine (DAFM) to administer the Hen Harrier Programme, to access my herd number, GLAS participation status and land parcel information from records held by BPS and GLAS Divisions of the DAFM. The data collected for this purpose will be held by Hen Harrier Project only as long as there is a business need to do so in line with the purpose(s) for which it was collected.
- The data provided for this purpose is being requested in order that a contract for participation in the Hen Harrier Programme can be completed. If I choose not to provide this consent I understand that my application for the Hen Harrier Programme cannot proceed.
- I agree to the above conditions and understand that there is no guarantee that a contract offer will be made in response to this expression of interest.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Please return this form to: Hen Harrier Project, 2 Oran Point, Main St., Oranmore, Co. Galway, H91R6XH



How to Apply.

Send in an expression of interest form.

This is free of charge and allows us to assess your application against the selection criteria. A monthly quota for new participants will be filled for each SPA.

Selection Criteria

1. Farmers who participated as development farmers during the design phase of the Programme.
2. Farmers with lands in a critical site for Hen Harrier i.e. near nest sites or winter roosts.
3. All other farms are scored based on the proportion of the farm designated and the total area designated as SPA for breeding Hen Harrier.

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Hen Harrier Programme Participant Training

General Training

OBJECTIVE 1- Ensure the farmer knows

- What we (the market) want in terms of habitat
- What we (the market) will pay for

OBJECTIVE 2- Opportunities to increase habitat quality and payment

OBJECTIVE 3 - Gather feedback from farmers to inform project development

Spatial targeting of specialist training using Databases and GIS

- Invasive species training
- Wildfire risk management



Hen Harrier Programme

Co-operation



HEN HARRIER PROJECT.

Public

- Managing Authority
- Forest Service
- National Parks and Wildlife Service
- Local Fire Services
- Local Authorities
- Third Level Colleges

Private

- IT Developers
- Meat Industry
- Animal Feed Industry
- Farmer Representative Organisations

Co-operation with Industry

Joint initiative with Animal Feed Industry to develop Hen Harrier Feed block for cattle

- Address nutritional deficits
- To attract cattle into unfavoured areas.
- Reduce Fire Risk
- Trial supported by Dawn Meats by a 14c/ kg bonus for animals from farms participating in the trial



Co-operation with other stakeholders

Slieve Blooms Wildfire Stakeholders Forum

Wild Fire Resilience- Chaired by Hen Harrier Project

Fire Fighting Operations – Chaired by Fire Service

- Fire Service(s)
- Hen Harrier Project
- Farmer Representative Organisations
- Local Authorities
- Forestry Companies
- National Park and Wildlife Service
- Forest Service
- Police
- Civil Defence



Project Scale

Challenges

- 2018 - 9,847 fields farmed by 628 farmers in 6 distinct SPAs spread over 9 counties
- 2019 - Estimated 20,000 fields farmed by 1,472 participants- 69% of BPS area
- Up to 50 data points per field
- Limited time for field assessments
- Advisors initially unfamiliar with process
- Upgrading Advisor skill sets



Data Management

Objectives

- Robust payment system including quality control of habitat assessments
- Contribute to field level management advice
- Training – feedback to advisors and participants
- Identify appropriate supporting actions at field level
- Targeting of specialist training
- Map habitat types and quality over time
- Track changes to each recorded parameter
- Contribute to research on mechanisms for the valuation of ecosystem services
 - Modelling of the delivery of ecosystem services in each SPA
 - LIDAR, Hen Harrier monitoring, forestry data, meteorological data, farm enterprise data
- Design of future mainstream Agri- Environment Schemes in a future CAP



Data Management

Systems

Priority is to speed the flow of information to and from the farmer and their advisor to the Project Team

- DAFM Mapping system (GLAMS) used to identify fields and determine available points
- Bespoke Habitat App used to collect and report on habitat and farm enterprise data
- Microsoft Dynamics database used to collate data from all sources, calculate payments and generate management advice
- Microsoft Sharepoint (cloud based file sharing system) used to disseminate information on payments and management advice to advisors



Technical Supports

to Participant and their Advisor

- Increase Advisor competencies
 - Training
 - Guidance Notes & Best Practice Guidelines for advisors
 - Whatsapp used to assist advisors with plant species identification
- Maximise Advisor productivity
 - Use of App to record field data and report to project team
- Inform how Advisors & Participants plan for future delivery
 - Management Suggestions - 64 rules within Microsoft Dynamics database used to suggest management advice for each field
 - Advice available to advisor immediately after submitting farm data through personal folder on sharepoint
 - Hard copy sent to farmer



Large-scale EIPs focussed on biodiversity are

- Viable
 - For a small multi-disciplinary team working with farmers and partners throughout public and private sector
 - Using modern information technology to maximise the effectiveness of decision making at all levels
- Pre-cursor to locally relevant mainstream agri-environment schemes

