



**THEME:**

Environment

**FUNDING (ERDF+MATCH):**

€4,935,983.90

**MATCH FUNDING:**

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs; and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government

**LEAD PARTNER:**

RSPB NI

**PROJECT PARTNERS:**

RSPB Scotland, BirdWatch Ireland, NI Water, Butterfly Conservation and Moors for Future.

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<https://bit.ly/2m1wdM0>



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## SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

### Project Case Study: Cooperation Across Borders for Biodiversity (CABB) - Plateau Restoration

CABB is working with farmers; landowners; statutory agencies; and other key organisations to improve habitats at some of the most precious environmental sites designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). In addition, it's also producing Conservation Action Plans (CAPs) for eight SACs/SPAs in Northern Ireland, Ireland and Scotland. This includes the Garron Plateau, County Antrim, Northern Ireland and the Pettigoe Plateau in County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland.

#### Garron Plateau

Work at this plateau aims to restore the blanket bog to its former glory, improve water quality and encourage the native wildlife that used to live there to return. In 2019 the project's restoration work was recognised with a prestigious accomplishment, winning the 'Green Apple Environment Award' for its work with Lowry Building and Civil Engineering, who helped to install a number of dams for project partner NI Water. Using an innovative method, drains were deliberately blocked to raise the water levels in the peat so that the bog could be recreated. Pools were formed across the area, providing the ideal conditions for sphagnum mosses to grow. The moss and peat naturally filters the water, in turn, reducing the amount of chemicals NI Water need to use to clean the water. This work is envisaged to serve as a demonstration site for best practice, as well as developing a model for future bog restoration projects in Northern Ireland and beyond.



*"The blanket bog is home to protected birds of prey including the hen harrier and rare plants such as bog orchid. The blanket bog restoration, through drain blocking and implementation of actions within a Conservation Action Plan, is not only a win for NI Water in terms of raw water quality, but it is also a win for the environment, creating an improved habitat for wildlife."*

Joanne Sherwood, Director of RSPB Northern Ireland

#### Pettigoe Plateau

The plateau is made up of blanket bog, wet heath and dry heath. The habitat is dominated by carpets of sphagnum mosses, cotton grasses and heathers. As a westerly bog it supports different plant species such as bog myrtle and black bog-rush. A sensitive habitat, it's easily damaged. The work of the CABB project is ensuring the rare habitat is looked after.

