

Local Authority 
waters 
Programme 

vibrant communities | catchment assessment | healthy waters



ANNUAL REPORT 2019



Local Authority Waters Programme

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Foreword

This is the first full-year report of the Local Authority Waters Programme based on the Strategic Work Plan written specifically for the Programme and incorporating the work of both the Communities Team and the Catchment Assessment Team.

The detail of the report is captured in the framework in Appendix 1, which is adapted from the annual work plan. Achievements are reported against the specific targets set out at the beginning of the year, accompanied by a brief comment where required.

The summary format of the framework approach is elaborated in Section 5 of the main report; here, the significant inputs and outcomes of the team are encapsulated in a few short pages.

I hope that you the reader will get a clear sense of what LAWPRO has achieved during the calendar year 2019 and that you will appreciate the progress being made towards fulfilling the objectives of the current River Basin Management Plan.



Seán Keating,
Director of Services
National Local Authority Waters Programme

A landscape photograph showing a wide valley with a winding river, surrounded by rugged, rocky terrain. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds. A large, white, stylized number '1' is overlaid on the left side of the image, partially obscuring the valley floor.

1

INTRODUCTION

The Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) is a national shared service, coordinating the local authority response to statutory obligations under the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations, S.I. No 350 of 2014, for implementation of the Water Framework Directive in Ireland.

LAWPRO is leading a 'new approach' to water management in Ireland that involves coordination and close cooperation between Local Authorities, State agencies and WFD implementing public bodies. In addition to coordinated management there is extensive stakeholder and community engagement on local water matters and a catchment assessment approach to investigating poor water quality. The overall aim of the approach is to protect and restore good water quality in Ireland's rivers, lakes, estuaries, groundwater, and coastal waters.

The LA waters programme is managed jointly by Kilkenny and Tipperary County Councils and employs 60 specialist staff from a broad range of disciplines. These staff work out of 13 Local Authority centres in a five regions structure: Border, West, East and Midlands, South East and South West. The work of LAWPRO can be grouped under three themes: regional coordination, community engagement, and catchment science. Those three themes form the basis for this report on the work of LAWPRO in 2019.



THE LAWPRO TEAM

2.1 Senior Management

The senior management team consists of a Director of Service, a Catchment Team Leader and three Regional Coordinators. The Regional Coordinator and Catchment Team Leader roles are at Senior Engineer cognate grade. They have specific sectoral expertise and coordinate and facilitate multi-agency collaboration at regional and national level. The Operations Manager (one of the Regional Coordinators) oversees and directs the work of the LAWPRO head office team, which provides financial operations support, communications and marketing services, community funding services, HR and information technology support. The Catchment Team Leader oversees the work of the Catchment Managers and the regional teams.

Name	Role	Employing Local Authority
Sean Keating	Director of Service	Tipperary County Council
Carol McCarthy	Catchment Team Leader	Kilkenny County Council
Bernie O'Flaherty	Regional Coordinator Border and Western Region	Kilkenny County Council
Fran Igoe	Regional Coordinator Southern Team	Tipperary County Council
Ray Spain	Regional Coordinator Midlands and East, and Programme Operations Manager	Tipperary County Council

2.2 Catchment Managers

The Catchment Manager role is at a Senior Executive Scientist grade. They are responsible for the monitoring and delivery of the programme of work by the catchment scientists in the PAA's in their region and liaise with local authorities and all public agencies to promote the Local Catchment assessment and to identify measures to be taken where pressures are found.

Name	Role	Employing Local Authority
Bernadette White	Western Region/Blue Dot	Kilkenny County Council
Maeve Ryan	South West Region	Kilkenny County Council
Margaret Keegan	Midlands and East Region	Tipperary County Council
Martina Smith	Border Region	Kilkenny County Council
Ruth Hennessy	South East Region	Tipperary County Council

2.3 Community Water Officers

There are 13 Community Water Officers (CWO) (the original 12 were complemented by an additional CWO for Dublin, appointed in late 2019) at Staff Officer Grade, each covering several council areas. They actively engage with the public in water matters, promoting participation, education, local inclusion, two-way communications, understanding and trust. They also assist communities and groups develop local area water management plans in partnership with stakeholders to meet RBMP objectives.

2.4 Catchment Scientists

There are 30 Catchment Scientists at Assistant Scientist grade who carry out investigative assessment and water quality management activities in water bodies in Priority Areas for Action. This includes desk-based and field-based assessments and the analysis of that data to develop mitigation strategies and measures. An additional post of Blue Dot Scientist was created in early 2019 to focus on the high-status objective waters.

2.5 Head Office

There are several support staff based in Clonmel dealing with the following areas:



FINANCE AND HR

The programme is 100% funded by the DHPLG and costs of the programme are recouped monthly. The Programme also liaises with KTCC and numerous other LA Finance and HR sections to gather and process financial data. All purchasing is monitored to ensure compliance with public procurement practices. These functions are managed by an office administration team, consisting of a Senior Staff Officer and two Clerical Officers.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

A cloud-based approach is used to ensure that staff have all the resources and data they need in a timely and efficient manner regardless of location. The various I.T. solutions are administered and supported by an Administrative Officer, who also has an overarching role covering Finance, HR and Health and Safety.



COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

From the outset, communications have been central to every aspect of LAWPRO. Delivering messaging and communications that are effective, meaningful and relevant to our target audiences is a priority. In this way we continually raise awareness of our role and purpose. A range of marketing tools and assets are continually developed for the purpose of promoting our activities, engagements and publications. This is designed and coordinated by an Administrative Officer.



COMMUNITY FUNDING

A Funding Lead, at an Administrative Officer grade, has overall responsibility for ensuring community groups and local and public authorities who wish to fund community water initiatives, have the necessary resources to do so. The funding Lead administers a dedicated Community Water Development Fund to support active community participation in delivering WFD objectives.



HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE AT WORK

Throughout 2019, LAWPRO continued the work started in 2018, and with the help of all staff, developed an Environmental Health and Safety System (EHS) that undertook both internal and external audits. LAWPRO has received certification to ISO 14001:2015 and ISO 45001:2018. The EHS system has been established to ensure a safe place of work, a safe system of work and culture where environmental health and safety considerations are part of how LAWPRO does things. LAWPRO is committed to continual improvement of the EHS to ensure workplaces meet best practice and to show leadership within the sector. Certification for ISO 14001 and 45001 are included in Appendix IV.



3

STRATEGIC WORKPLAN

LAWPRO operates to a strategic workplan. The workplan is based on the Logical Framework approach, which is a strategic project planning and management methodology. It was designed to address some basic concerns around the management of large-scale projects where: planning was not clearly defined, management responsibilities were unclear, and internal evaluation could be an adversarial process in the absence of common agreement on what was to be achieved.

The Logical Framework approach is ideally used to design the project but can also be applied retrospectively. This was the case with LAWPRO, where by 2019 was the second year of operating to a strategic workplan. The process involves a team approach to carry out a rigorous analysis of the programme, including:

- » What the programme intends to do;
- » How it intends to do it;
- » What are the key assumptions/risks;
- » How the outputs and outcomes will be monitored and evaluated.

The result is a detailed matrix of overall and specific objectives, primary results, and ongoing activities and specific actions to achieve the results, all with key performance indicators and criteria for measuring output within defined timelines.

The detailed workplan for 2019 and the recorded metrics are included in Appendix 1. This presents the specific actions for the calendar year in the context of the overall workplan.



4

FUNDING OF LAWPRO

LAWPRO is fully funded by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. A Memorandum of Funding Agreement is submitted by Kilkenny and Tipperary County Council (KTCC) on an annual basis. This document outlines the purpose of the funding, details of activities and outputs of the Programme, provides three-year financial tables and gives details of financial management procedures. KTCC and the DHPLG had three meetings throughout 2019 to review LAWPRO's budgets, financial recoupments and ongoing activities.

LAWPRO's expenditure profile, as set out in the 2019 Memorandum of Funding Agreement:

Expenditure Headings	2019
Local Authority Salary Recoupment	€ 4,160,870
Office Annual Costs	€ 469,012
Travel and Subsistence	€ 482,114
Local Awareness Initiatives	€ 140,000
Hosting Stakeholder Fora	€ 10,000
Training Costs	€ 49,000
Community Fund	€ 360,000
Recruitment Costs	€ 20,000
Office Capital costs	€ 5,000
ASSAP	€ 916,161
Total	€ 6,612,157



5

OVERVIEW OF
LAWPRO 2019:
ACTIONS AND
ACHIEVEMENTS

It is important to acknowledge that 2019 was the first full calendar year for a LAWPRO workplan that included both the Community Water Officers and the Catchment Scientists. This was a pivotal time in the evolution of the overall programme because it broadened in-house expertise into the field of catchment science. Experiences of the preceding three years [then LAWCO] have allowed LAWPRO develop an approach to public engagement and consultation that focusses on engaging communities and stakeholders on issues of local relevance and value. In this way LAWPRO staff can deliver water quality messaging and local information in a way that makes water quality management and catchment science accessible to all. This is the LAWPRO approach across a five-region structure: Border, East and Midlands, West, South East, South West.

LAWPRO delivered strongly on all objectives during 2019. The work of the Communities Team furthered contact with local groups, expanded access to LEADER funding, built upon the emerging citizen science in water initiatives and continued to spread awareness on the importance of water quality. The Catchment teams completed desktop studies in a further 95 areas for action, met with over 100 local community and farmer groups, carried out more than 100 streamside investigations and made numerous referrals to ASSAP advisors and a range of implementing bodies. The combined teams facilitated more than 40 regional operational and management meetings and liaised with all public agencies in the natural waters arena. Programme staff liaised with all 31 local authorities, participated in national working groups, supported the DHPLG and the EPA on all aspects of WFD implementation and led national workshops on agriculture and water quality and on river partnerships and rivers trusts.

Some specific actions and achievements for 2019 are set out under the following headings: Coordination, Community Engagement, Catchment Science, Communication and Outreach, Projects 2019.

5.1 Coordination

5.1.1 REGIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMITTEES

The Regional Operational Committee (ROC) in each of the five regions are a forum for interagency networking and for building relationships aimed at working towards common goals and implementation of the River Basin Management Plan. Each ROC includes local authority staff, agency staff and other technical experts from the implementing bodies from across each respective region. The committee is chaired by a Director of Services from a local authority within the region, with secretariat provided by LAWPRO. There were four quarterly meetings in each of the five regions in 2019, a total of 20 meetings. Those meetings raised 10 significant issues to be escalated to the Regional Management Committees.

5.1.2 REGIONAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

The five Regional Management Committees (RMC) includes senior management from each of the LAs in each respective region, together with senior management from the EPA. This is a forum for strategy, planning and high-level decision making. Each RMC is chaired by a local authority Chief Executive from within the region. There were four quarterly meetings of the Regional Management Committees in each of the five regions in 2019, a total of 16 meetings. The five regional chairs sit on the National Coordination and Management Committee within the Governance Structure for Water Framework Directive implementation in Ireland, see Figure 1.

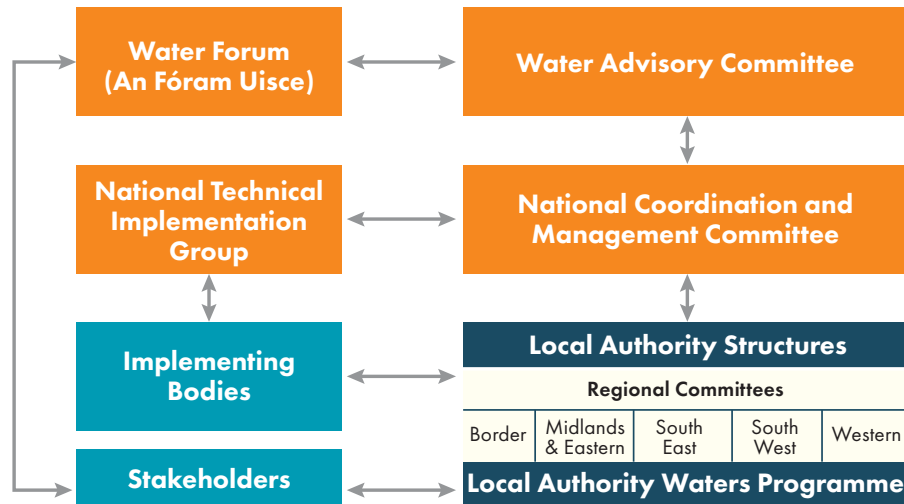


Figure 1: WFD Governance Structure

5.1.3 ENGAGEMENT WITH STATE AGENCIES

During 2019, LAWPRO hosted three separate networking and knowledge sharing events with State agencies, one with the Forest Service, one with Inland Fisheries Ireland and the third with the Office of Public works. The events were coordinated between senior management of the respective agencies to provide opportunities for knowledge sharing and networking between staff. The main purpose of the events was to develop understanding of synergies in areas connected to water quality and to identify opportunities for future collaboration. Each event included presentations to establish background and context and workshops with a focus on regional workplans.



Kevin Collins, Forest Service speaking to LAWPRO and Forest Service staff



LAWPRO and IFI networking and knowledge sharing event

5.1.4 NATIONAL EVENTS HOSTED BY LAWPRO

Farming Mitigation Conference January 2019

This was LAWPRO's first conference and was a collaboration with Teagasc to present the latest developments in Ireland for mitigating adverse impacts on water quality as a result of farming practices. Guest speakers for the UK presented experience and learnings from projects and case studies.



Noel Meehan, ASSAP, addresses a packed room at the Farming Mitigation Conference

Rivers Trusts and Catchment Partnership Conference

In recognition of the growth in emerging Rivers Trusts and Catchment Partnerships a national conference took place on Saturday 30th November, in The Hudson Bay Hotel, Athlone. It was a collaboration between the Local Authority Waters Programme and The Rivers Trust. This gathering was well received by groups interested in the management of our natural waters and the event provided a valuable opportunity to network and learn from other groups at various stages of development. All Ireland Development Officer, Mark Horton continues to provide information and other supports to River Trusts and community-led river interest groups. Presentations from this event were made publicly available via www.lawwaters.ie.



Sheevaun Thompson delivering advice on funding at the Rivers Trust and Catchment Partnership Conference

5.1.5 RESILIENCE PILOT PROJECT

The “Resilience Pilot Project” is funded by Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and supported by LAWPRO and The Rivers Trust. The project will provide funding to Inishowen Rivers Trust and Maigne Rivers Trust as proposed by The Rivers Trust’s All Ireland Director. The purpose of the project is to support these two recently established rivers trusts through the initial years of operation, as they transform from volunteer-led fledgling organisations to sustainable charities capable of securing and delivering catchment-scale projects. Through grant funding these Trusts will each employ a full time Project Officer for a period of three years.

Signing the Memorandum of Understanding
for the Resilience Pilot Project

L to R: Mark Horton, The Rivers Trust;
Seán Keating, LAWPRO; Alistair Maltby,
The Rivers Trust and Colin Byrne, DHPLG



5.1.6 PROGRAMME KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND TRAINING

The geographical spread of LAWPRO staff across 5 regions and 13 LA offices necessitates regular whole-of-team meetings. This is delivered via quarterly Programme Knowledge Sharing and Training events, which are important for staff based at different offices to get to know one another and to build strong working relationships.

These events are rotated between venues in the midlands, in a bid to accommodate staff travelling times. The format facilitates peer to peer learning, programme updates, invited speakers on specialist topics and workshops to address specific problems and to develop ideas.



Bernie O'Flaherty, Regional Coordinator introducing guest speaker Mark Horton, The Rivers Trust at a training event in Galway 2019.

5.2 Community Engagement

Engagement with communities and local groups around water quality is a core function of LAWPRO. This work continued in 2019 through the efforts of the Community Water Officers, working at both water body and catchment scales. They continue to build awareness, help build group capacity, support training and citizen science initiatives and strengthen links between public bodies, funders and communities. The Community Water Development Fund and Local Awareness Initiative are valuable engagement tools. There was a major focus on delivering Community Information Meetings in the 190 Priority Areas for action; a total of 111 meetings took place in 2019. These meetings required a whole of team effort in each region and county to deliver both the catchment science and community engagement aspects of LAWPRO's work.

Specific community engagement activities and vehicles included:

5.2.1 TIDY TOWNS SPECIAL AWARD

This award is to recognise communities taking positive steps to enhance their local rivers, lakes, streams, canals and coast. It is sponsored by Inland Fisheries Ireland, Waterways Ireland and LAWPRO. There were 31 entries from Tidy Towns groups across the country.

The overall winners in 2019 were Friends of the Camac, Clondalkin, Dublin. They will scoop prize money of €2,000. This announcement was made by the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Mr. Michael Ring, TD, at the SuperValu Tidy Towns awards ceremony, which was held at the Helix Theatre, DCU, on September 30th, 2019.

A prize fund of €7,500 was divided as follows:

Region	County	Community Group	Results	Prize money
Midlands and East	Dublin	Friends of the Camac	Winner	€1,000
	Longford	Legan Tidy Towns	Highly Commended	€500
	Westmeath	St. Joseph's Foróige Club	Commended	€500
North West and West	Galway	Glenamaddy Tidy Towns	Winner	€1,000
	Donegal	Donegal Town Tidy Towns	Highly Commended	€500
South and Mid-West	Kerry	Maharees Conservation Association	Winner	€1,000
	Clare	Kilrush Tidy Towns	Highly Commended	€500
South East	Tipperary	Lattin Tidy Towns	Winner	€1,000
	Wexford	Clohamon Community Development Group	Highly Commended	€500

Table 1: Waters and Communities Tidy Towns Special Award regional winners 2019



Friends of the River Camac hold an organised river Clean-up. (Photo credit: Tommy Keogh)

5.2.2 COMMUNITY WATER DEVELOPMENT FUND

In 2019 LAWPRO received 151 applications under this fund and following a robust assessment process 104 grants were awarded. Grants awarded range from up to €5,000; up to €10,000 and up to €25,000, with the fund capped at €180,000 for 2019. The fund is open to all community and voluntary groups to assist in the protection and management of water quality, locally and in the wider catchment. It enables communities to get more involved in the management of their water environment, delivering multiple benefits for present and future generations.



Albert Nolan leading a nature walk along the River Arra in Tipperary Town.

5.2.3 WATER HERITAGE DAY

LAWPRO collaborates with The Heritage Council to promote and support Water Heritage Day as the last day of National Heritage Week. 2019 was the third successive year of this collaboration and LAWPRO supported 61 local events across the country, ranging from walks and talks along rivers and lakes to boat trips and local festivities.



John Power, West Waterford Eco Groups leads the Cunnigar Nature Walk in Dungarvan Harbour

5.2.4 NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIP 2019

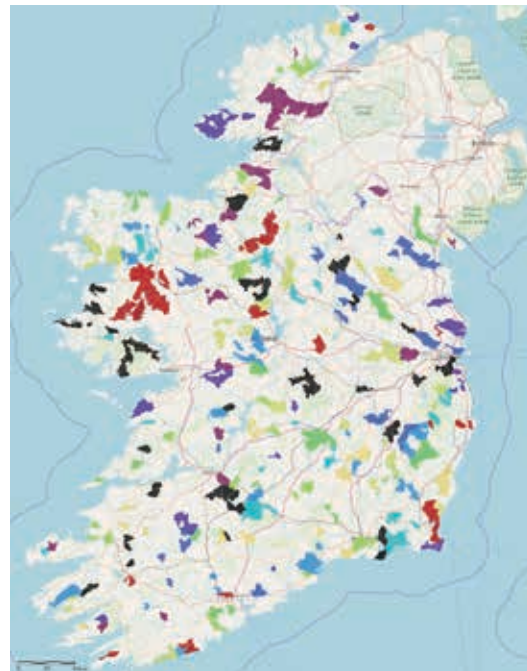
2019 was the third successive year that LAWPRO attended the National Ploughing Championships and a third successive collaboration with the National Federation of Group Water Schemes. The 'Water Quality' stand in 2019 was in the 'Environment, Climate and Sustainability' marquee, managed by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCA). All agencies and public bodies in that space were linked by the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.



LAWPRO and NFGWS collaborated for the third successive year with a Water Quality stand at the National Ploughing Championship 2019

5.3 Catchment Science

Local catchment assessment focuses on delivering water quality improvements in the 190 Priority Areas for Action (PAAs). 2019 was the first full calendar year of this work and it allowed for delivery of the following critical activities: Desktop studies, Community Information Meetings, Stream-side assessments, Referrals, PAA reports



Map shows the 190 PAAs and their locations in each county

5.3.1 DESKTOP STUDIES

There are several stages in the local catchment assessment process. It commences with a desktop study, where all the existing available data on a PAA is gathered and assessed. The study analyses historical water quality data, looks at potential sources of pollution, identifies possible pathways for pollution to reach the receptor which is the watercourse. The study also identifies any data gaps or gaps in understanding of how water flows in the catchment and how activities are impacting on it. There were 117 desktop studies completed in 2019, (out a total of 189 for the full RBMP to 2021), giving a 62% overall completion rate in one calendar year.



Figure 2: Local Catchment Assessment Process



Figure 3: Moynalty, Co. Meath, PAA Conceptual Model

5.3.2 COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETINGS

Once the study is substantially complete, the local community is invited to a meeting where we present our findings and seek feedback and local knowledge to further inform the process. The meeting also updates the community on progress since the RBMP was adopted in 2018. As much of the fieldwork requires access to land, where agriculture is a significant pressure a further water side meeting is organised by the ASSAP advisors with farmers in the area. This allows further specific engagement on potential agricultural issues. There were 111 meetings held during 2019, surpassing the target of 108 meetings.



Information display at Castlegar Community Information Meeting



Community Information Meeting for Colligan, Brickey, Dungarvan Harbour

5.3.3 STREAM-SIDE ASSESSMENTS

Any new information received through the consultation processes is included in the desk study and planning of field work commences. Fieldwork involves systematically working through the catchment, recording presence and abundance of macroinvertebrates and macroalgae. Field parameters are also measured, and the physical condition of the river is assessed. All these can help us to understand what is happening in a river catchment and if it is affected by pollution.



In-stream assessment work underway

5.3.4 BLUE DOT PROGRAMME

The Government has recognised the need for Ireland to be a European leader in the protection and restoration of high-status water bodies, as firmly indicated in the RBMP. To deliver objectives for high-status water bodies the 'Blue Dot' programme was launched in 2019. LAWPRO appointed a Blue Dot scientist to coordinate activities and a steering group was established. A national work programme was agreed by the steering committee and catchment assessments and reports for PAAs with high status waterbodies were carried out by LAWPRO. Additionally, the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) prepared an application for an EU Life programme called 'Waters of Life', which will focus on the protection and restoration of high-status waters.

5.3.5 REFERRALS

As the catchment teams move through a catchment, they refer various issues to the ASSAP advisor (for follow-up with local farmers) or to the relevant implementing body as they come across them. Once the fieldwork is complete and analysed, the lead scientist will write a report on the findings. Formal referrals to ASSAP or the implementing bodies will then take place using the EPA's on-line WFD Application. All the referrals taken together, to ASSAP and implementing bodies, form the Action plan for the catchment. In the case of agriculture, the measures to be implemented will be agreed between the farmer and the advisor. In 2019 referrals were underway in 58 of the PAAs with referrals regarding agriculture underway where relevant.

5.3.6 ASSAP

The Agricultural Sustainability, Support and Advisory Programme (ASSAP) was established as a collaborative initiative involving Teagasc and the dairy industry to address the impact on water quality from dairy sector activities. It is funded by DAFM, DHPLG and Dairy Sustainability Ireland and 2019 was the first full year of the collaboration.

ASSAP is coordinated with LAWPRO on both a national and a regional basis, but it has a local focus in relation to efforts in the PAAs.



On-site farmer meeting in the Analee PAA

5.4 Communication and Outreach

Communication is a core function of LAWPRO and is key to it successfully achieving its aims and strategic goals. This involves coordination and knowledge exchange between a broad range of actors, which includes public bodies, stakeholders and communities. A guiding message that resonates with all actors involved is that good water quality helps to underpin the success, health and well-being of local communities.



5.4.1 CATCHMENTS NEWSLETTER AND CATCHMENTS.IE

LAWPRO is a regular contributor to the EPA-run Catchments Newsletter and website. These are extremely effective vehicles each year for communicating LAWPROs goals and achievements. In 2019 a total of 16 LAWPRO articles were published in Catchments Newsletter and 19 news pieces published on catchments.ie.

5.4.2 CATCHMENT CATCH-UP

Catchment Catch-Up is a quarterly newsletter that was launched in spring 2019 to give an overview of LAWPRO activities in each region. In total there were 20 newsletters issued in 2019, four quarterly issues in each of the five regions, sent by email to LA management, staff and Elected Members. They were also sent to relevant agency staff, stakeholders and regional networks of active communities. The newsletters are also made available to the public at LAWPRO public engagements and events.



An example of a Catchment Catch-Up newsletter

5.4.3 ATTENDANCE AT LOCAL EVENTS

Events run by local communities are a great way of building relationships with key people and local champions. They provide LAWPRO with opportunities to deliver water quality messaging and public information, in a way that is engaging, interactive and fun. The involvement of the catchment scientists in these activities in 2019 allowed for an expanded range of educational elements to the LAWPRO stands. The displays of macro-invertebrates and aquatic biodiversity from kick samples proved a big hit with young and old alike.



The Water Wildlife Quiz

5.4.4 EPA WATER CONFERENCE

The EPA Water Conference continues to be a high point in the calendar for practitioners, academics and policy makers operating in the water space. 2019 was LAWPRO's fourth year in attendance at the event. It provided an opportunity to showcase both the community engagement and catchment science elements of LAWPRO's work. LAWPRO catchment scientists and ASSAP farm advisors presented on the collaborative approach in the PAAs and a session was chaired by Seán Keating, Director.



5.4.5 WATER, BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE ACTION

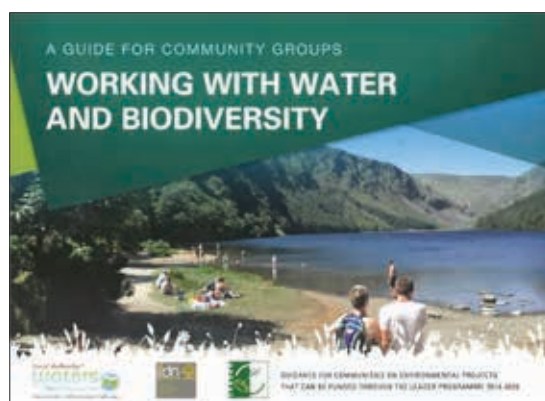
LAWPRO management and staff are fully aware of the synergies between separate policy areas: water quality, biodiversity, and climate action. Achieving water quality objectives can deliver multiple benefits in terms of protecting wildlife habitat and climate action mitigation. LAWPRO management and staff attend relevant events to network and share knowledge from a water quality perspective.



LAWPRO representatives at the inaugural EPA Climate Conference 15 May 2019
L to R: Seán Keating, Wilena Boukelia, Michael Nugent, DJ Lane, Alan Walsh

5.4.6 WORKING WITH WATER AND BIODIVERSITY, A GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

In response to a need for guidance for communities on environmental projects that can be funded through the LEADER programme 2014-2020, LAWPRO published a document *Working with Water and Biodiversity*. This booklet has a full guide for anyone who is thinking of applying for LEADER funding for water or biodiversity projects. It includes examples and ideas for potential projects.



5.4.7 SOCIAL MEDIA

LAWPRO continued its social media engagement across two platforms, Facebook and Twitter, with over 1,200 followers on Facebook and over 1,600 on Twitter. LAWPRO posts on both platforms regularly with a mixture of engaging video, image, and text content. LAWPRO's Facebook page has a 5/5 recommendation from members of the public.

5.4.8 COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

A Communications Plan was developed with input from both the staff and management of LAWPRO. It has been informed by the internal Communications Working Group and a staff survey undertaken during winter 2019 to ensure that the views, experiences and insights of the entire team have been taken into consideration. This approach has helped define the communications processes and protocols necessary for LAWPRO to achieve its strategic goals. The approach is guided by LAWPRO's Strategic Plan, which sets out local, regional and national actions and activities.



5.4.9 INTERNAL WORKING GROUPS

LAWPRO utilises internal working groups to bring together members of staff with relevant knowledge and skills to plan and agree activities necessary to achieve strategic goals. Members of working groups act either individually or collectively to undertake assigned tasks and activities in order to achieve agreed actions.

5.4.10 EXTERNAL STEERING COMMITTEES

LAWPRO staff with specific expertise and experience sit on a number of national steering committees with State agencies, stakeholders and other experts. In this way LAWPRO can ensure the WFD and RBMP objectives are considered during any decision-making process relating to programmes, projects and allocation of resources.

5.5 Projects 2019

Projects are key to delivering certain aspects of WFD objectives in support of the statutory functions of LAs and agencies. A list of projects supported by LAWPRO is included in Appendix III.

5.5.1 COMMUNITY-LED PROJECTS

Local communities are getting more involved in the management of local water bodies, as evidenced by the number of community-led projects successfully delivered in 2019. The Community Water Officers are playing a key role in supporting these projects, both through advice and direct linkages with the relevant local authorities and agencies, and through funding support. The Community Water Development Fund is a valuable tool for LAWPRO to support community projects and initiatives, as are other sources of funding such as LEADER.

5.5.2 EIPS

The European Innovation Partnerships Initiative (EIP), under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (RDP), promotes local solutions to specific issues by putting existing ideas/research into practice. LAWPRO is supporting a number of EIPs with water quality elements built-in, these are:

- » Duncannon farming for Blue Flags
- » Blackstairs Farming Group
- » Duhallow EIP
- » Mulkear EIP

5.5.3 CROSS-BORDER PROJECTS

The LAWPRO Border Region team seek to improve collaboration with relevant Northern Ireland authorities in cross-border catchments. In 2019 LAWPRO attended 13 meetings and are involved in six cross-border projects and initiatives. These projects include:

- » Source to Tap (led by NIW)
- » Catchment Care (led by Donegal County Council)
- » SWIM (led by SEPBU-UCD)
- » CANN (led by Newry Mourne District Council)
- » ALICE (led by AFBI)
- » Riverine Environmental Project (led by Strabane and Lifford)

APPENDICES



Appendix I: Water Heritage Day Events 2019

No.	Region	County	Location/Venue	Event Name
1	Border	Sligo	Kilglass House, Co. Sligo	Wildchild Woodland Adventure
2	Border	Sligo	Doorly Park, Sligo	Poetry and Birds Along the Garavogue
3	Border	Sligo	Slish Wood, Co. Sligo	Awareness of the Nature of Lough Gill
4	Border	Sligo	Dromore West	Talk and walk with Michael Bell
5	Border	Leitrim	St. Ann's Church of Ireland, Annaduff, Drumsna, Co. Leitrim	Annaduff Abbey Site Visit and Talk
6	Border	Leitrim	Manorhamilton Castle	Rivers of Manorhamilton
7	Border	Leitrim	Dromahair Community Park	Wild Child Day
8	Border	Donegal	Glenveagh National Park. Grass Routes Bike Hire Stand	Biodiversity by Bike
9	Border	Donegal	Culdaff – Meet at the beach car park beside the football pitch	Culdaff Estuary Exploration
10	Border	Donegal	Ards Friary near Creeslough: Meet at the friary car park	Ards Friary: Where the River Meets the Sea
11	Border	Donegal	Bank Walk, Donegal town	Bank Walk Biodiversity
12	Border	Donegal	Inch Wildfowl Reserve	Foraging and Natural heritage at Inch Wildfowl Reserve
13	Border	Donegal	Bredagh River Bird Hide, Moville	River Birds of Ireland
14	Border	Donegal	Maritime Museum, Greencastle	Gods, Gold and Graft: Lough Foyle's Nature and Culture
15	Border	Cavan	Lavey Lake, Lavey, Co. Cavan	Water and Wildflowers at Lavey Lake
16	Border	Cavan	Killydoon Village, Cavan	Past times at Killydoon Forge
17	Border	Monaghan	Rossmore Park, Monaghan	Wild Child Day
18	Border	Monaghan	Mountain Water river, Emyvale Village, Co. Monaghan	Introduction to Fly Fishing
19	Border	Louth	Monasterboice Co. Louth	Nature and Heritage on the Monasterboice Trail
20	Border	Louth	Ardee, Co. Louth	Launch of water training course
21	East Midlands	Longford	Legan Club House, Legan	Legan Rock and Lady Well Rock
22	East Midlands	Kildare	Footbridge, Rathangan	Rathangan River and Canal Biodiversity Walk
23	East Midlands	Kildare	The Jetty, Athy	Athy Biodiversity Walk
24	East Midlands	Meath	Broadmeadow River, Ashbourne	Broadmeadow River Family Fun Day, Ashbourne

(continued)

No.	Region	County	Location/Venue	Event Name
25	East Midlands	Westmeath	Talbot Avenue, Athlone	Athlone Canal Heritage Tour
26	East Midlands	Westmeath	Lough Ree Boat Club, Athlone	Coosan Community Development Group
27	East Midlands	Westmeath	Coosan Boat Club, Lough Ree	Coosan Community Development Group
28	East Midlands	Westmeath	Dún na Sí Heritage and Wetland Park	Dún na Sí Heritage Park Wild Child Day Wetland Insect Workshop
29	South East	Tipperary	Bansha, Co. Tipperary	Celebrate Water Heritage Day
30	South East	Tipperary	Inch Field, Cahir, Co. Tipperary	A Taste of Cahir
31	South East	Kilkenny	Graig Outdoor Hub	Eanna Ní Lamhna Biodiversity Walk
32	South East	Kilkenny	Thomastown Weir Pool (Ollie Walsh statue)	Public Walk and Talk Along the Weir
33	South East	Kilkenny	Kilkenny City Canal Walk	Heritage Walk Along the River Nore
34	South East	Waterford	Anne Valley Dunhill, Co. Waterford	Nature Detectives in Anne Valley
35	South East	Waterford	Cheekpoint, Waterford	Maritime Heritage of the Three Sisters and Waterford Harbour
36	South East	Waterford	Belle Lake, Co. Waterford	Belle Lake lecture
37	South East	Wexford	Seal Rescue Centre, Courtown	Seals as Bioindicator of Water Quality
38	South East	Wexford	Wexford Town Library	Water Quality in the Three Lagoons
39	South East	Carlow	Carlow Town	Wild Flowers along the River Burren with Molly Aylesbury
40	South East	Carlow	People's Park, Carlow	Boat trips on the Barrow
41	South East	Laois	Killeshin Waterworks Park	Killeshin Water, Amenity and Biodiversity Park, Built and Natural Heritage Seminar
42	South East	Tipperary	Inch Field, Cahir, Co. Tipperary	Taste of Cahir
43	South East	Waterford	Dungarvan Harbour	Cunnigar Nature Walk
44	South West	Kerry	Milltown Bridge, Dingle	History of Milltown River
45	South West	Kerry	Lerrig Lough, Kilmoyley	Love our Waters Weekend
46	South West	Cork	Castlemartyr Resort	
47	West	Mayo	Louisburgh	Explore Your Local River
48	West	Mayo	Keel, Achill Island	Biodiversity of Keel Lake
49	West	Mayo	Glore Mill, Kiltamagh	Wild Child Day
50	West	Mayo	Moore Hall, Carnacon	Lough Carra Catchment Association

(continued)

No.	Region	County	Location/Venue	Event Name
51	West	Mayo	Partry	Lough Carra Catchment Association
52	West	Mayo	Foxford	Moy Trust Foxford River Fest
53	West	Mayo	Ballyhaunis Abbey	Ballyhaunis River Dalgan Talk
54	West	Galway	Coole Park, Galway	Coole Park Turlough
55	West	Galway	Lough Corrib	Lough Corrib Tour
56	West	Galway	Milltown, Co. Galway	Guided Walk of the Clare River
57	West	Galway	Connemara National Park	The Waters of Connemara: A Precious Resource
58	West	Galway	Glenamaddy	Guided walk of a bog in Glenamaddy
59	West	Roscommon	Portrunny	Portrunny Day
60	West	Galway	Terryland Forest Park	Mini walking tours

Appendix II: Projects by LAWPRO

Project Title	Led by	Region	Catchment/Sub catchment
Catchment Care	Donegal County Council	Border	Blackwater (MN), Finn(DL), Arney (LM, CN F)
Source to Tap	NI Water	Border	Erne and Derg Rivers
CANN (Biodiversity) Project	Newry Mourne District Council	Border	Kilrooskey Lough Cluster and Lough Arrow
SWIM Project	SEPBU-UCD	Border	
ALICE Project	AFBI	Border	Carlingford Lough Catchment
Riverine Environment Project	Strabane and Lifford	Border	Folye
Melvin Tourism Study	RD Company Leitrim	Border	Lough Melvin
Stranooden SW Source Protection Pilot Project	NFGWS	Border	Dromore/Erne
Inishowen EIP		Border	
Falcarragh EIP		Border	
Bunroe River Drainage Scheme	TCD/LAWPRO	Border	
Inishowen IRT – Trinity project		Border	
Citizen Science	LAWPRO with support from NIEA and EPA	Border	
Shannon Tourism Project	Fáilte Ireland	Border	
Biodiversity Training	Louth Leader Partnership	Border	
Biodiversity Training	Monaghan Integrated Development Ltd	Border	
Biodiversity Training	Breffni Development (RD)	Border	
Water Resource Management Training	Louth Leader Partnership	Border	
Biodiversity for CE scheme hosts and TUS workers	Monaghan Integrated Development Ltd	Border	
Glen Village WWT Project	LAWPRO/DCC/Community	Border	
NFGWS Roscommon Source Protection Pilot Project	NFGWS	Western	Karst GW North Roscommon
Source Protection Education initiative Lough Carra	Lough Carra/LAWPRO, IFI, NFGWS	Western	Lough Carra, PAA
Bellawaddy River Project	Mayo County Council	Western	Bellawaddy PAA
Castlebar River Clean up	LAWPRO and multiple agency contribution	Western	Castlebar River
Curew EIP, Galway	Birdwatch	Western	Corrib
Nephin Uplands EIP, Mayo		Western	

(continued)

Project Title	Led by	Region	Catchment/Sub catchment
Corrib Beo LIFE Appl	Corrib Beo	Western	
Lough Carra LIFE Appl	Lough Carra Association	Western	
GWS Energy Project	NFGWS and TCD	Western	
Interagency Sub group to advise on potential LEADER projects	LAWPRO	Western	
Shannon Tourism Project	Fáilte Ireland	Western	
Mayo Cleaner Communities Initiative	Mayo County Council	Western	
Suck Valley Bioblitz	Suck Valley Development Association and Galway County Council	Western	
Claregalway Rivers Project	Claregalway Tidy Towns	Western	
WaterMarke	Teagasc and EPA	Western	
Roscommon Biodiversity Training	Roscommon Leader Partnership	Western	
Cuan Beo Education Programme	Cuan Beo	Western	
Smart Farming	IFA and EPA	Western	
Pearl Mussel Project EIP	DAFM	Western	Bundorragha, Dawros, Owenriff PAAs
Smarter BufferZ	Teagasc	Western	National
MACROMAN Project	NUI Galway	Western	National
Newport Pesticide Catchment Focus Group	Irish Water	Western	Newport PAA
Lough Forbes Pesticide in DW Catchment Group	NPDWAG	Midlands and East	Lough Rinn Forbes PAA
Athy Blueway Stakeholder Engagement	Waterways Ireland	Midlands and East	Grand Canal
Devensih (Nutrition) Dowth Hall, Meath	MCC	Midlands and East	Boyne
Eutro SED	Trinity College/EPA	Midlands and East	National
2016-W-MS-24: Diffuse Tools	UCD	Midlands and East	National
2019-W-DS-34: Rain Solutions	VesiEnvironmental	Midlands and East	National
2018-W-MS-38: ROADRUNNER	Teagasc and EPA	Midlands and East	National
2018-W-LS-18: Strategies to improve Water quality from Managed Peatlands (SWAMP)	TCD	Midlands and East	National
EPA Water Research Co-ordination Committee	EPA	Midlands and East	National

(continued)

Project Title	Led by	Region	Catchment/Sub catchment
Acclimatize	UCD	Midlands and East	Elm Park River
Fingal Biodiversity Plan 2020-25	Fingal County Council	Midlands and East	Rogerstown Estuary
Dublin City Council WFD office	DCC	Midlands and East	Camac/Lower Tolka/Dodder
Ballynacarrig and Silver River Enhancement Projects	IFI/Silver Anglers	Midlands and East	Silver River PAA
National Aquatic Environmental Chemistry Working Group	EPA	Midlands and East	National
Lough Ennell Conservation Management Plan	Westmeath County Council	Midlands and East	Westmeath
Camlin Quarter Regeneration Project	Longford County Council	Midlands and East	Camlin River, Longford
pH Review Project	EPA	Midlands and East	King's Liffey_010 (2 sites), Ballinagee_010
IRD Duhallow Blue Dot	IRD Duhallow	South Western	
Mulkaer EIP		South Western	
River Ara Project	Tipperary County Council	South Western	River Suir/River Ara
RaptorLIFE	IRD Duhallow	South Western	Blackwater main channel
Duhallow LIFE after LIFE	IRD Duhallow	South Western	Blackwater/Allow
Youghal Lady Delta Project	Cork County Council	South Western	Blackwater
Wild Works	SECAD	South Western	Lee
Citizen Science in Cork Harbour	Cork County Council	South Western	Owenboy and unassigned rivers
Lough Gill Water Quality Group	LAWPRO	South Western	Lough Gill
Lough Leane Working Group	Multi-stakeholder	South Western	Lough Leane
Waterville Sustainability Plan	South Kerry Development Partnership/LAWPRO/Kerry County Council	South Western	Dunmanus-Bantry-Kenmare
Caherdaniel River Management Plan	Led by new group that are forming	South Western	Coomhnaora
Removal of New Zealand Pygmyweed	Castlegregory Trout Angling Club	South Western	Lough Gill
Environmental Community Expo	Kerry County Council	South Western	County wide

(continued)

Project Title	Led by	Region	Catchment/Sub catchment
Barrow Awards Scheme	With Carlow County Council, WI and IWWA	South Eastern	River Barrow
Nore Vision Project	Steering Group Member	South Eastern	
Phishing for Plastic	With BIM, Waterford and Wexford County Council	South Eastern	Estuary
Pearl Mussel Project	With Waterford County Council, NPWS, IW and OPW	South Eastern	Significant technical and institutional support
Sow Demonstration Farm	With Wexford County Council	South Eastern	
Carlow Regeneration Group	With Wexford County Council	South Eastern	
Borris My Vision Community Project	Carlow County Council	South Eastern	
EIP, Duncannon Farming for Blue Flags		South Eastern	
EIP Blackstairs Farming Group		South Eastern	
River Suir invasives species (H balsam) Clonmel-Carrick	Suircan and EIL	South Eastern	River Suir
Suir Island Giant Hogweed Control project	Suircan	South Eastern	River Suir
Wexford Lagoon Project EU LIFE application	Wexford County Council	South Eastern	
River Ahare Project	Local volunteers	South Eastern	Ahare River
Kilcash Project	Kilcash Tidy Towns	South Eastern	Tributary of River Suir

Appendix III: ISO 45001 and 14001 Certifications



Appendix IV: 2019 Progress Report

Activity 1			
Activity 1.1: Identify specific causes of deterioration in water quality in Priority Areas for Action (PAA)			
Action	Target for 2019	Progress	Comment
1.1.1	Schedule PAA for assessment and update regional integrated catchment management programmes for calendar year	Updated programmes prepared and agreed in all five regions by end of Q1	Minutes of regional committee meetings
1.1.2	Assess water bodies through desk studies	73 PAAs assessed by December 2019	By Dec 2019 121 PAAs assessed out of total 189. (62 in 2019 + 59 in 2018)
1.1.3	Carry out community information meetings where required	87 meetings held	By Dec 2019 112 meetings held out of a total 189. (92 in 2019 + 20 in 2018)
1.1.4	Carry out in-stream assessments on PAA; Analyse new data along with data from desk study and public	75 initial assessments completed	By Dec 2019 90 assessments out of a total 189. (82 in 2019 + 8 in 2018)
1.1.5	Complete report on PAA detailing findings	59 reports logged	Template agreed, assessments ongoing
1.1.6	Prepare Action Plans	43 Action Plans prepared	
Activity 1.2: Agree solutions/measures with implementing bodies, stakeholders and ASSAP, and support them to have them carried out			
Action	Target for 2019	Progress	Comment
1.2.1	Develop site specific measures with relevant implementing bodies	All referrals done in 123 PAAs by December 2019	Formal referrals ongoing in 45 PAAs
1.2.2	Develop site specific measures with ASSAP	All referrals done in relevant PAAs by December 2019	Ag referrals (formal and informal) ongoing in relevant PAAs
1.2.3	Support communities to develop landowner-led projects in PAA to help implement measures	Five projects by December 2019	No uptake on landowner-led projects to date
1.2.4	Monitor implementation of measures by implementing bodies to ensure that measures are implemented	50% of referrals have some actions implemented	Too early to begin monitoring of implementation of measures
1.2.5	Manage ASSAP governance and coordination structures	12 meetings held; Minutes, report	17 held with ASSAP and an additional five with farm organisations
1.2.6	Monitor implementation of measures with ASSAP to ensure that measures are implemented	50% of referrals tracked with ASSAP to assess implementation	Currently working with ASSAP to commence tracking of implementation
1.2.7	Identify constraints to implementation and raise through governance structure;	10 issues raised	10 issues raised through WFD governance structure.
1.2.8	Continue to monitor PAAs for signs of improving Water Quality;	20 PAAs bodies monitored	No PAAs monitored by LAWPRO as of yet. The ongoing EPA monitoring programme includes PAAs.

Activity 1.3: Support all Local Authorities to implement basic WFD/RBMP measures in a co-ordinated manner; Pay attention to waterbodies newly at risk within subcatchments containing PAAs			
Action	Target for 2019	Progress	Comment
1.3.1	Support local authorities to prepare and implement water quality actions (within RMCEI) to complement LAWPRO Plan	31 meetings (to discuss no. and range of actions implemented by LAs) or at least one meeting per LA	There has been at least one meeting held in each of the 31 LAs
1.3.2	Arrange regional LA liaison meetings quarterly	No. of meetings arranged (20 meetings arranged/four per region); % attendance	Held before or after each ROC
1.3.3	Co-ordinate national sampling programme	95% planned samples received at EPA labs from each LA	99% samples received (range 80.8% – 100%)
1.3.4	Provide relevant data sets and best practice examples	Number of focus areas addressed by LAWPRO with relevant LA	Collaboration with all LAs is a continuous part of the work programme
1.3.5	Provide training and scientific expertise (LA and implementing bodies)	Three training courses arranged and number of people trained including implementing bodies	Pilot Urban Pressures – two days Sept 11/12; Preparation for one day pilot ICM course in January; Ag measures training day Jan 17;
1.3.6	Co-operate with NIECE steering committee (co-ordinates RMCEI)	Attend all NIECE steering committee meetings	Also had one day workshops with ASSAP (Apr 8); OPW (Nov 14); and IFI (Dec 11); Presented at ACA training day Feb 7; Forestry stakeholder day (May 13); GSI Karst workshop (Jun6); IFI barriers training day (Jul 22)
Activity 1.4: Assess reasons for loss of high status in affected water bodies; Work with relevant stakeholders to identify and implement potential solutions			
Action	Target for 2019	Progress	Comment
1.4.1	Assess reasons for loss of high status in affected water bodies; Work with relevant stakeholders to identify and implement potential solutions	Pressures and Supplementary Measures identified (Objective High-Status); High-Status retained where it currently applies; No. of water bodies where High-Status is regained	Not on steering committee – attendance and presentation at seminar and close liaison with NIECE
1.4.2	Appoint Blue Dot scientist	Blue Dot scientist in place, reporting to Western Region Catchments Manager	Appointed in January 2019
1.4.3	Set up and facilitate working group	Four meetings of steering committee	Cormac McConigley appointed Blue Dot scientist, reporting to Bernadette White, Western Region Catchments Manager
1.4.4	Prepare work programme	National work programme approved by steering committee	Jan 16; Feb 17; May 17; Sep 26; Dec 12; Field trips (May 16/31)

Activity 1.4: (continued)			
Action	Target for 2019	Progress	Comment
1.4.5	Assess and compare desk top studies on relevant PAAs	30% of High-Status Objective water bodies assessed by December 2019	LCA underway in 41% of PAAs with High-Status Objective water bodies by December 2019
1.4.6	Develop additional site-specific measures;	Reports prepared for 30% of High-Status Objective water bodies by December 2019	Reports prepared for 30% of HSO water bodies
1.4.7	Work with implementing bodies and stakeholders to ensure that measures are implemented	Agreement reached on 25% of measures to be implemented	Too early to begin monitoring
1.4.8	Co-ordinate with relevant pilot projects in the High-Status areas	Four projects participated in (no. of new projects initiated)	Three projects participated in
1.4.9	Work with communities to support implementation of projects	Five projects supported	Duhallow farming for Blue Dot. Waters for LIFE. Freshwater Pearl Mussel
1.4.10	Assist with DHPLG LIFE Blue Dot IP application	Application submitted. Number of application preparation meetings	Activity not being tracked in 2019
1.4.11	Identify areas for further research in the High-Status area	Two research projects initiated	Application successful
Activity 1.5: Coordinate with LAs on DWWTs in PAAs and High-Status areas			
Action	Target for 2019	Progress	Comment
1.5.1	Grant scheme extension raised at all PAA meetings; All householders identified with defective DWWTs informed of grant eligibility	Approach agreed with LAs	NOTE: Awaiting DHPLG go-ahead – revised grant scheme not yet finalised
Activity 1.6: Identify learnings from 2nd Cycle implementation and coordination with relevant projects for application into other AA and 3rd Cycle			
Action	Target for 2019	Progress	Comment
1.6.1	Co-ordinate with relevant EIP's and NFGWS pilot projects and apply learnings from them to PAAs	Eight steering groups attended (on eight projects); Pilot project reports	10 steering groups attended for EIP and NFGWS pilot projects
1.6.2	Identify areas for further academic/ scientific research into possible measures	Five new research projects commenced or referred to EPA	Liaison with EPA Research Programme ongoing
1.6.3	Identify learnings from Cycle 2 that can feed into preparation for Cycle 3	An overall learnings report submitted DHPLG	Learnings presented at SWMI workshop and input into the SWMI process
			Relevant areas for further research currently under consideration

Activity 2: Implementing bodies collaborating effectively				
Activity 2.1: Coordinate among all implementing bodies at regional level				
Action	Target for 2019	Progress	Comment	
2.1.1	Support and animate Regional Committees (Management and Operational)	Number of Regional Management and Operational Committee Meetings (At least 75% of agencies attending regional operational meetings). Three to four management meetings held per region. Four operational committee meetings held per region	20 Regional Management Committee Meetings. 20 Regional Operational Committee Meetings. Approx. 80% attendance	Detailed assessment of sign-in sheets needed to determine % attendances
2.1.2	Facilitate two-way communication between regional and national structures	No. of issues escalated	10 significant issues raised through regional meetings	Communication through WFD governance structure and LA oversight
2.1.3	Encourage cooperation and collaboration on projects with implementing bodies	Five inter-agency meetings held with relevant projects	Seven inter-agency meetings held with relevant projects	
2.1.4	Seek to improve collaboration with Northern Ireland authorities in cross-border catchments	Attendance at regional operational meetings and collaboration on cross-border projects. A target of eight meetings	13 meetings attended	
2.1.5	Bring significant issues raised by communities to implementing bodies	No. of significant issues communicated		Community issues collated by Communities Team. Will be submitted together by mid-2020 as part of SWMI consultation process
Activity 2.2: Engage with RBMP governance and coordination structures				
Action	Target for 2019	Progress	Comment	
2.2.1	Attend all meetings of RBMP governance bodies, collaboration networks and relevant working groups	LAWPRO present at all relevant meetings of governance, working and steering groups	Attended all organized meetings (six)	2 x WPAC 2 x NTIG 2 x NCMC
2.2.2	Support DHPLG, EPA in delivery of 2nd Cycle RBMP	No. of issues progressed with DHPLG and EPA	Five issues raised through NTIG and ongoing meetings DHPLG & EPA	
2.2.3	Feedback to implementing bodies on 2nd Cycle progress	Feedback presented at all Regional Management and Operational Committee Meetings	Presented at all meetings	Feedback from Governance Structure = NCMC, NTIG, WPAC
2.2.4	Support DHPLG in preparation of 3rd Cycle RBMP	108 public consultations in 2019 (within framework of PAA)	Raised at consultation meetings and DHPLG supported as required	

Activity 2.3 : Support Local Authority Sections in addition to Environment to contribute to WFD objectives			
Action	Target for 2019	Progress	Comment
2.3.1	Support Local Authority Sections in addition to Environment to contribute to WFD objectives	No. of liaison meetings with different LA sections; Four newsletters	Discussions with planners and C&E staff; Four Catchment Catch-Up newsletters issued
2.3.2	Develop WFD understanding and education within LAs	No. of meetings with Heritage Officers, Environment Awareness Officers, planning and the LA staff	147 meetings This action covers a broad range of activities and engagements with LA staff and officers. All with a WFD element
2.3.3	Develop strategy and engage with the local authority community function to strengthen the role of the LCDC and PPN in natural water management	Strategy developed; 20 meetings held with LA community sections; One article in each PPN newsletter annually	28 meetings with LA community staff
2.3.4	Provide information for dissemination to elected members, SPC's and staff	Four LAWPRO newsletters circulated No. of county specific requests responded to	Four newsletters 'Catchment Catch-Up' issued to LAs Newsletter issued to LA staff, management and members, and other agencies and contacts
2.3.5	Engage with individual LAs in water related projects	Support 10 initiatives countrywide	22 water-related initiatives with LAs
Activity 3: Communities engaged in river catchment protection and improvement			
Activity 3.1: Engage communities at water body, sub-catchment and catchment level to build awareness and increase involvement and stewardship in the management of natural waters			
Action	Target for 2019	Progress	Comment
3.1.1	Support the development of catchment-based community-led ICM approaches, partnerships and rivers trusts	Number of active RTs and catchment-based community groups	Four events
3.1.2	Bring local communities together to discuss and engage with WQ issues	Number of active communities identified; Increased level of community involvement (ranking matrix); Number of LAWPRO-community related activities (a minimum of 30 in addition to PAA meetings)	49 meetings
3.1.3	Organise events for Heritage Water Day in collaboration with The Heritage Council and facilitate Heritage Week Events	Organise at least one water event per county; At least 50 events across the country	60 events Third year of collaboration with The Heritage Council to host local events in each county

Activity 3.1 (continued)			
Action	Target for 2019	Progress	Comment
3.1.4	Organise the Waters and Communities Award and promote Tidy Towns activity in sustainable water management	Minimum of 40 applications. LAWPRO to support/organise at least five water themed events through Tidy Towns networking events	31 applications LAWPRO attendance at awards ceremonies and national and local publicity
3.1.5	Support collaboration and knowledge exchange of water management between community groups and other stakeholders	At least five partnership and other initiatives held (n=5)	130 activities
3.1.6	Support relevant national, regional and local events to increase awareness of LAWPRO	Minimum of 30 events attended	34 events
Activity 3.2: Raise awareness of water quality issues, the LA Waters Programme and its outcomes among all stakeholders and the general public			
Action	Target for 2019	Progress	Comment
3.2.1	Update Communications Strategy	No. of meetings of Communications Working Group	Four meetings of Communications Working Group Includes one workshop to develop a new Communications Plan
3.2.2	Communicate work of LAWPRO through multiple social and traditional media outlets	Number of awareness-raising campaigns; Social media reaction (Twitter n= 2,000, Facebook n=1,000); Increased awareness levels across targeted sectors; LAWPRO media log (at least 50 newsprint articles and 25 radio interviews)	Twitter: 1,671 Followers, 177 Tweets Facebook: 1,159 Followers, 164 posts 67 articles in local press Nine radio interviews Two press release templates issued from Head Office (1 x Water Heritage Day, 1 x Community Water Development Fund)
3.2.3	Develop LAWPRO strategy to support education initiatives around water quality	Engage with bodies involved in education (IW, IFI, An Fóram Uisce)	Development of strategy postponed to 2020 to allow for further research at An Fóram Uisce and collaboration with other agencies
3.2.4	Collaborate with Catchments.ie and Catchments Newsletter	Six articles in Catchments.ie newsletter 21 articles on Catchments.ie website	A revised system for recording activity is in place for 2020. This will also assign responsibilities for producing articles and news pieces across the five regions
3.2.5	Develop and promote Water awareness through dedicated National Water Day event	Deliver one national seminar event on water	Two events Farming Mitigation Conference (January) RT and Catchment Partnerships event (Nov)

Activity 3.3: Build capacity of local communities to engage with own water bodies through funding; knowledge sharing, training, improved supports and resources			
Action	Target for 2019	Progress	Comment
3.3.1	Organise 2019 call under the Community Water Development Fund	ToR agreed with DHPLG; At least 80 grant applications submitted; At least 70 grant applications completed	151 applications for CWDF 104 grants awarded
3.3.2	Assist local communities to manage and improve waters in their own area through capacity building and grant funding (excluding CWDF funding)	20 funding applications submitted; 10 projects completed; Three training courses delivered; Four Citizen Science and other initiatives rolled out	19 funding applications. Projects completed. 10 training courses delivered Three Citizen Science initiatives
3.3.3	Engage with Department of Rural and Community Development, Rural Development Companies, ILDN, BIM(FLAGS) and other funders	20 meetings held	44 meetings Booklet for LEADER engagement 'Working with Water and Biodiversity'
3.3.4	Engage with the local authority community function, LCDC and PPN to encourage alignment of projects and funding for natural water management	10 meetings held; Number of guidance documents disseminated	28 meetings with C&E and ICDC staff
3.3.5	Support development of guidance and tools to assist water-related community projects	Prepare at least one document	One document published Working with Water and Biodiversity, A Guide for Community Groups (LEADER booklet)
3.3.6	Support stakeholder-led water management cross-border projects	At least three projects supported through advice and collaboration	Eight cross-border projects supported by LAWPRO Staff from the border team sit on steering committees for cross-border projects and support delivery where necessary
3.3.7	Support An Fóram Uisce	No. of engagements and collaborations	Engaged with AFU management; Held joint field trip to UK Rivers Trusts AFU staff appointed in 2019; future collaborations under consideration



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