



**Maharees Conservation Association**

Protecting | Enhancing | Preserving



**CIEEM**

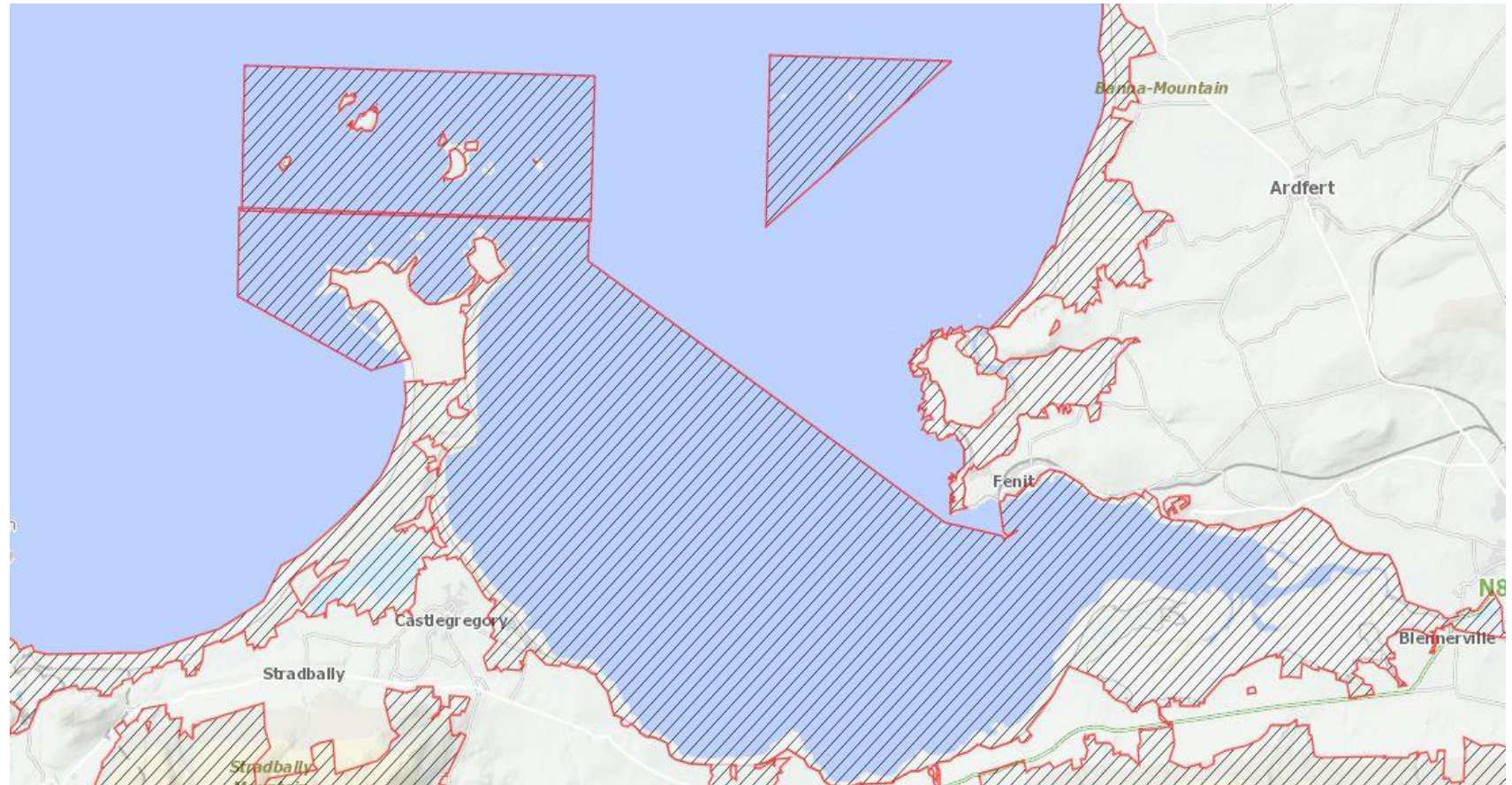
## **MAHAREES CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION CLG**

Nature-based Solutions: Opportunities in a time of  
Biodiversity Crisis and Climate Emergency

**27 APRIL 2021**

# The Maharees is a “tombolo” or finger-like spit that connects several offshore islands with the mainland

- On Wild Atlantic Way
- The Longest Beach on the Wild Atlantic Way
- On Irish Times ‘Best Beach in Ireland’ list
- On Dingle Way
- Blue Flag Beach
- Surfing destination
- *Wild Camping* reputation
- Habitat designations
  - SAC
  - SPA
  - Ramsar site





# Wildlife Protected via SAC and SPA designations





# Our challenges;#1 Coastal Erosion



**Coastal Erosion: from destructive waves, storm surges, wind etc.**

- Loss of Land in unprotected areas
- Sand Deposition on roads
- Damage to Infrastructure/property



# Our challenges; #2 Human Behaviour/ Lack of Awareness/ Lack of Facilities/ Lack of Coastal Management



**Long-lasting impact of events each season. Cumulative damage mounting**



# Our challenges; #2 Human Behaviour/ Lack of Awareness/ Lack of Facilities/ Lack of Coastal Management

- KCC traffic counters recorded 23,040 cars on week beginning 05.08.19
- Drone footage of 3km of the road in Maharees on the afternoon of Sunday 09.08.20 showed 166 cars parked on roadsides or on privately-owned land. Of these, 87 cars were parked on an area designated as a Special Area of Conservation. This was not the busiest day.



## WILD PARKING and TRAFFIC CONGESTION

The **health and safety of residents and visitors** in areas like the Maharees is at **serious risk as emergency services cannot access the area quickly** during summer months.

166 cars wild parked on a 3km stretch on 9 August 2020

# Our challenges; #2 Human Behaviour/ Lack of Awareness/ Lack of Facilities/ Lack of Coastal Management

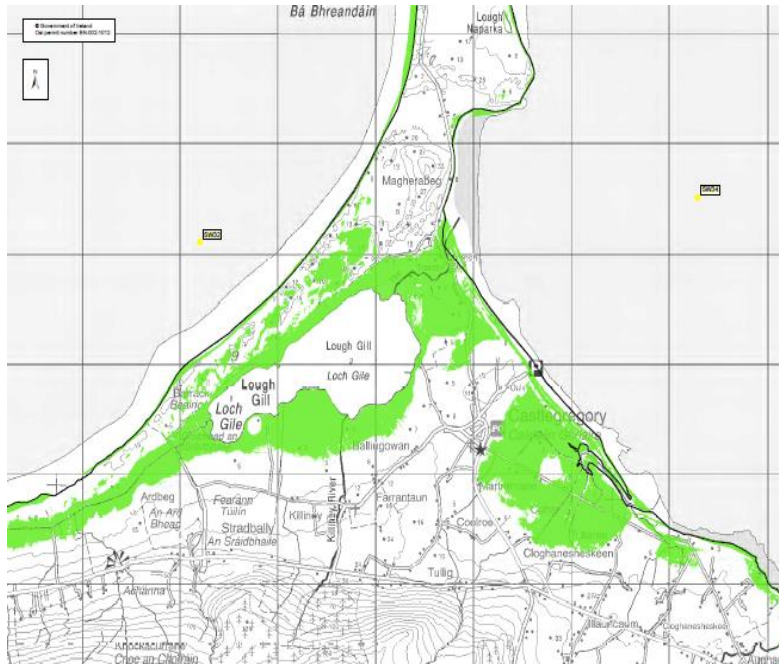


## Magherabeg Cut

- trampling/ parking/ camping/unregulated access
- use of ATVs/dune scrambling
- fires on dune and beach



Long-range scenarios on sea-level rise to 2050 and 2100 are highly challenging. Our current approach is accelerating and worsening likely outcomes



Our impact on this environment matters. We can either accelerate these future impacts or buy ourselves time. Our environment is responsive to our choices. **Our actions in this time matter.**



Human behavior is a significant factor negating natural dune recovery processes and impacting on habitats



Over the winter of 2015-16, the **only** road in and out of the Maharees peninsula was **impassable** on **17** occasions.

We've already  
seen what the  
future could  
hold

Our actions  
now impact  
the range of  
future  
scenarios we  
will actually  
experience





Community-  
driven formation  
of Maharees  
Conservation  
Association CLG  
in 2016.  
Now a registered  
charity



Associated Implementation Challenges of forming Maharees Conservation Association CLG and sustaining it over an extended period as scope of what needs to be addressed becomes clearer/grows

What we did	Associated Implementation Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Held a public meeting and from that formed a committee.</li> <li>• Started with a Muintir na Tire Constitution.</li> <li>• Set up as a Clean Coasts group so an Taisce could start engaging with us.</li> <li>• Acquired insurance through BHP Insurance.</li> <li>• Subsequently set up as a CLG</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public meeting held with expert view on what the community needed to do. Nominations sought from the floor on committee members and donations were collected taken to initiate action.</li> <li>• Seeking landowner signatures on agreement to permit interventions.</li> <li>• Seeking advice on how to set up from: Castlegregory Community Council, Muintir na Tire, The Wheel, Pierse McCarthy Lucey LLP, Solicitors Tralee.</li> <li>• Researching insurance companies.</li> <li>• Researching accountants.</li> <li>• Convincing other committee members to become company directors.</li> <li>• Understanding and applying the governance code.</li> <li>• Reporting requirements associated with CLG.</li> <li>• Funding the CLG – Costs:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial Setup of CLG: €450</li> <li>• Insurance costs p.a. (2021): €850</li> <li>• Accountancy fees p.a. (2020) €750</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Managing ongoing governance and cohesion             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring changeover in officer roles</li> <li>• Managing disappointment and frustration at slow pace of delivery</li> <li>• Managing range of different personalities, interests, viewpoints. Trying to ensure maximum participation and cohesion</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

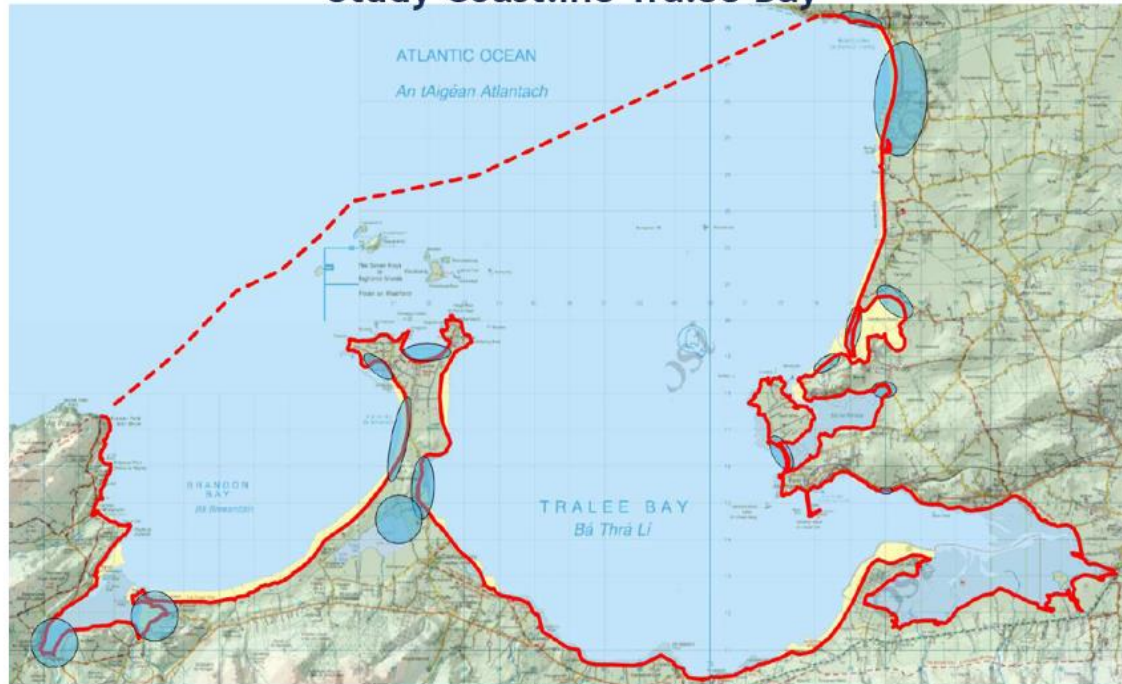


Since our formation in 2016, we have engaged in an expansive range of actions with broad community participation across locals and visitors



A Flooding & Coastal Erosion Risk Mitigation Study has been commissioned by OPW and Kerry County Council. This will form the fundamental framework for long-term response.

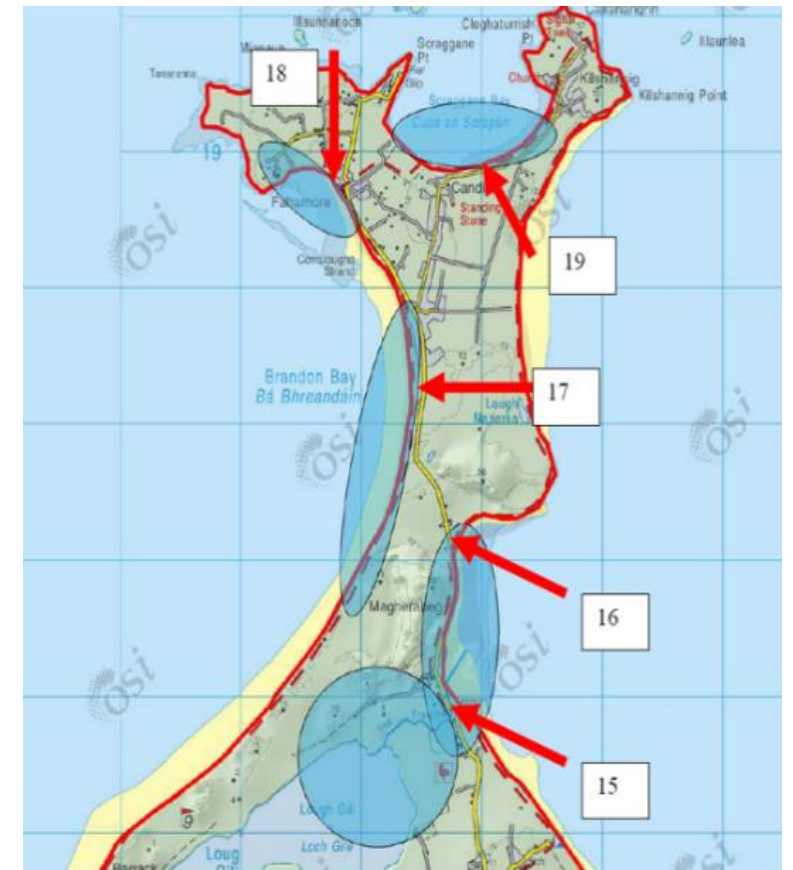
### Study Coastline Tralee Bay



Malachy Walsh and Partners  
Engineering and Environmental Consultants



Comhairle Contae Chiarraí  
Kerry County Council





# Associated Implementation Challenges of the Flooding and Coastal Erosion Risk Mitigation Study

What we did	Associated Implementation Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Raised awareness of the need for a FCERM study in the Castlegregory Maharees area.</li><li>• Engaged with: the local community, the media, Local politicians, OPW, Kerry County Council staff including Senior Engineer, Kerry County Council – with responsibility for coastal erosion, flooding and climate adaptation.</li><li>• Engaging with and informing the assigned consultant.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understanding and explaining to the community in public meetings and social media posts why the FCERM study was necessary (<i>“it seems like a lot of money to spend on a report to tell us what we know, when the money could be spent on defences”</i>).</li><li>• Understanding who the correct officials responsible were.</li><li>• Engaging in many, many meetings and phone calls to raise awareness of the issues and identify the barriers and to try to convince the Council to send an application for the Castlegregory Maharees Cell Case to the OPW to be funded.</li><li>• Extensive media campaign to raise awareness of the issues.</li><li>• Engagement with the assigned Consultants (and those tendering) – sending images, information, locations. Site visits and tours showing areas of concern.</li><li>• Arranging for public presentations of progress reports.</li><li>• Forming a sub-committee of community tasked to stay in touch with study and act as liaison. Challenges to secure participation from LA and consultants in this approach. Managing community frustration at lack of engagement with the community and progressively extending timelines</li></ul>

# The range of nature-based solutions (NbS) we have deployed

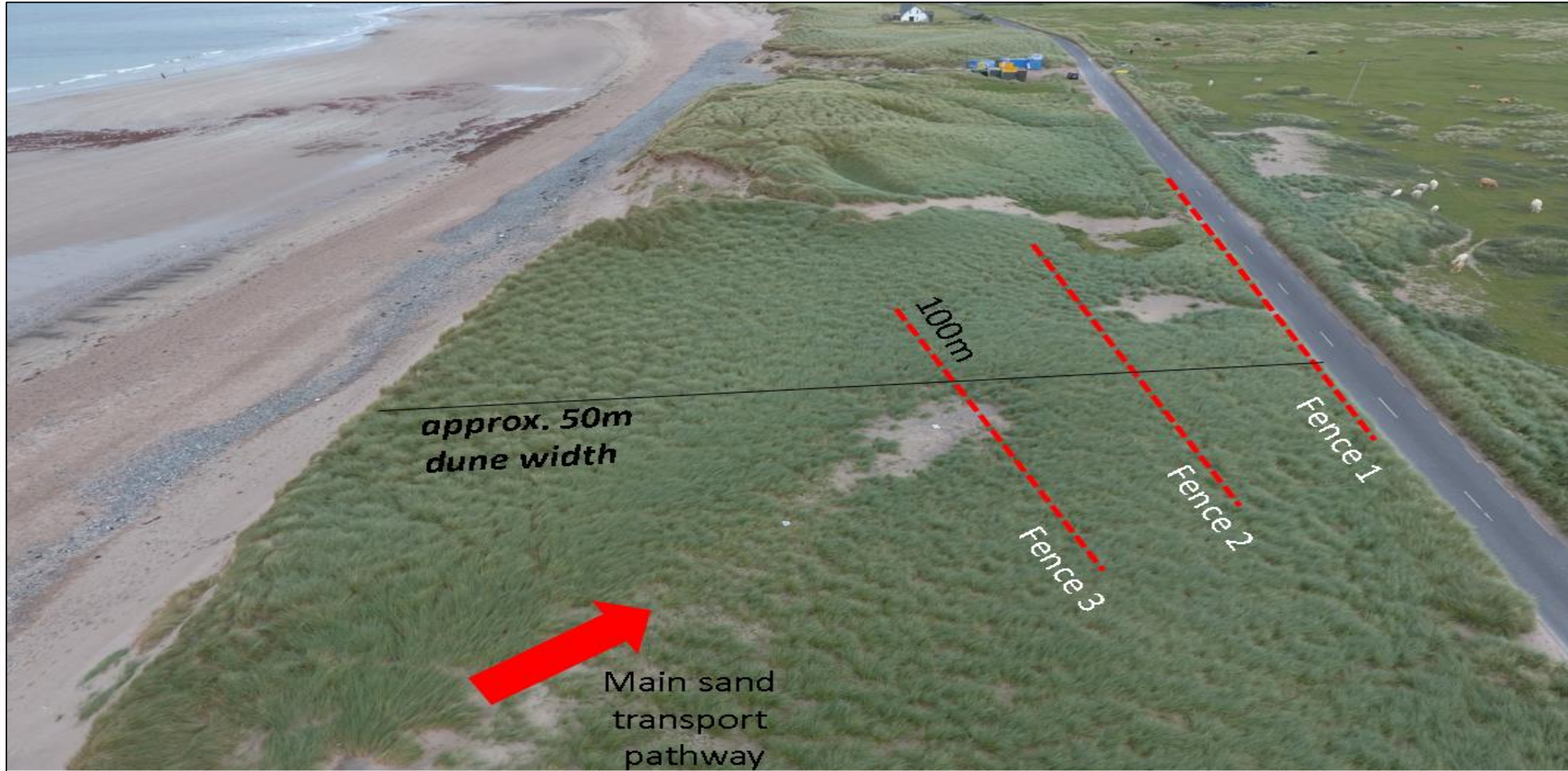
<div> <div></div> Necessary                     <div></div> Needed in some circumstances                     <div></div> Not necessary                 </div>							
Intervention type to assist dune self-recovery and natural processes	Awareness	Signage	Fencing	Sand refill	Marram planting	Bales/ Christmas Trees	Revetments (timber posts)
Work on 'human nature' first – stay off them	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Managed access to beach through dunes	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Addressing general areas of vegetation loss on dunes	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Plugging blowouts	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Managing sand-deposition onto roads/carparks	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>



# NbS; Controlling sand deposition on access road (1/5)



# NbS; Controlling sand deposition on access road (2/5)



Chestnut Fencing Project, designed by local resident and with expert input from Dr Eugene Farrell on sand transport pathway approved by Kerry County Council and National Parks and Wildlife Service. Fencing materials funded by KCC. Fencing installed by local community



# NbS; Controlling sand deposition on access road (3/5)





# NbS; Controlling sand deposition on access road (4/5)

Photo: Dr Eugene Farrell





# NbS; Controlling sand deposition on access road (5/5)



**Oct 2016. Meeting**

Nov 2016. Proposal

**Apr 2017. Installation**

Jan 2018. Dug out

Jul 2019. Dug out

Feb 2020. New fence

**Road clear since April 2017.**

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) work.  
Community effort rewarded (attainable goals)  
Stakeholders communicating.  
Building awareness and education.

# Associated Implementation Challenges of using NbS to Control Sand Deposition

What we did	Associated Implementation Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Installation of 3 lines of Chestnut Fencing to Control Sand Deposition</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Researching and designing a Solution ourselves – a local resident did the research and proposed the design of the three-row approach informed by sediment transport path information from Dr Eugene Farrell, NUIG - because no one else had one!</li><li>• Documenting the proposal</li><li>• Gaining permission separately for the approach from<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NPWS (Natura 2000 site)</li><li>• Kerry County Council (planning permission)</li></ul></li><li>• Funding the purchase of the fences<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• €5000 – from Kerry County Council</li></ul></li><li>• Developing a works plan and securing the necessary expertise locally. Erecting the fencing – community event</li><li>• Adjusting the fencing as required on a number of occasions since then</li></ul>



# NbS; Dune protection and regeneration (1/3)

**March 2016**



**April 2016** - Fencing of vulnerable areas to protect dunes and encourage dune regeneration. Straw Bales used to 'fill void.'

## NbS; Dune protection and regeneration (2/3)





# NbS; Dune protection and regeneration (3/3)



Managed access and restoration activity has supported significant regeneration at this beach access point



# Associated Implementation Challenges of Using NbS to Regenerate the Dune at Magherabeg Cut

What we did	Associated Implementation Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Installed fences to control access</li><li>• Managed the area to maximise dune recovery.</li><li>• Fundraising</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Designing the fencing pathway approach</li><li>• Seeking advice on what materials we were allowed to use from NPWS and Kerry County Council Biodiversity Officer<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Used Sheep Wire Fencing and Straw Bales. Funded by local contributions</li></ul></li><li>• Developing a works plan and securing the necessary expertise locally. Installing the fences and bales on a community work day.</li><li>• Erecting signage to explain about the dune protection work and why parking and access was being restricted.</li><li>• Enduring the vitriol of those who prefer to park on the beach/ camp on the dunes on social media channels.</li><li>• Seeking advice from the Biodiversity Officer on whether cleared sand from the road could be used to cover decomposing bales (aesthetic considerations) and on how the dry sand could be kept from blowing if it was permitted.</li><li>• Weeding out alien species (e.g. dock leaves) from decomposing bales.</li><li>• Planting Marram to expedite re-establishment of sand dune vegetation.</li><li>• We have since deployed bales in other hotspot areas to deliver critical foredune protection. Key challenges here involved funding (local councillors allocations), securing permissions from all parties (KCC, NPWS, Foreshore) and timely delivery of bales pre storm season</li></ul>



## NbS; Blowout recovery (1/2)



How to fill the  
blowout?  
Too  
inaccessible to  
be filled with  
sand from road  
clearance.  
Christmas trees  
trialled in 2019



# NbS; Blowout recovery (2/2)

2017



2019



2020





# Associated Implementation Challenges of Using NbS to Fill a Large Blowout in the Dune

What we did	Associated Implementation Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Placed Christmas Trees in a very large blowout.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Sourcing Christmas Trees: created a social media post and arranged an agreed drop off point.</li><li>Developing a works plan and securing the necessary expertise locally. Arranging for a community work day to place the trees.</li><li>Keeping the public off the dune blowout by fencing the foredune.</li></ul>

# NbS; Dune protection and regeneration (1/4)

**Marram Grass Planting** at 5 vulnerable sites in conjunction with Clean Coasts, an Taisce and community, local schools, visitors, scouts, caravan park summer residents





## NbS; Dune protection and regeneration (2/4)

Erecting Chestnut Fencing to protect young Marram plants





# NbS; Dune protection and regeneration (3/4)

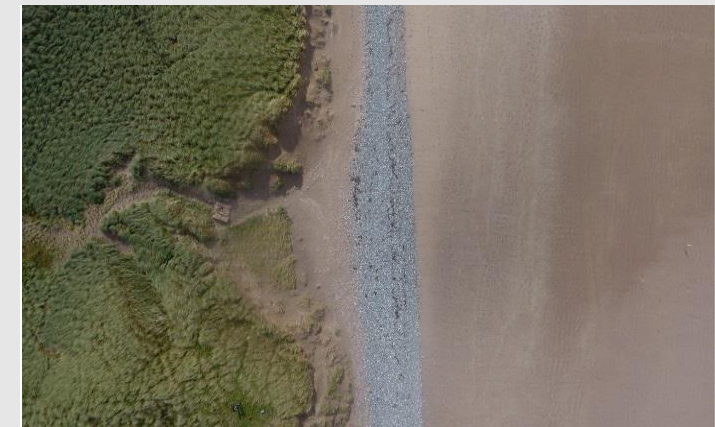
December 2015



February 2017 (+12 months)



September 2017 (+19 months)



July 2020 (+29 months)



October 2020 (+32 months)

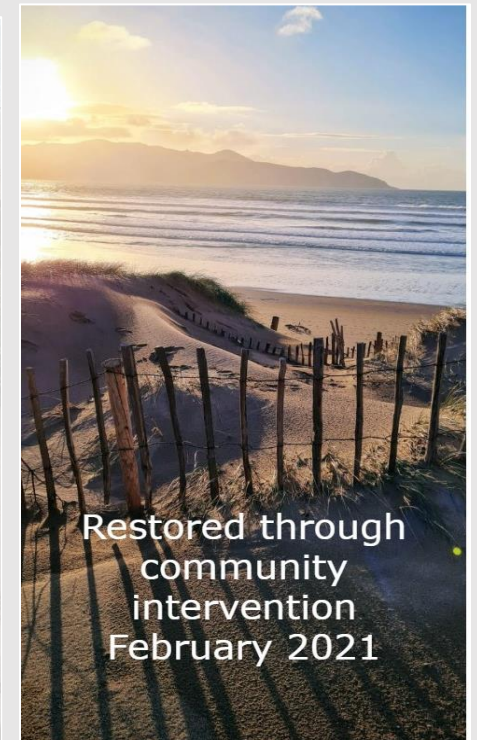




# NbS; Dune protection and regeneration (4/4)



Original breach due to unmanaged foot traffic accessing beach through dune and wild camping. Dune Recovering post intervention.





# Progressive development of our signage content and messaging since we started



**Welcome to Maharees**

**Please respect this special area of conservation and use official camp sites.**

**No unofficial camping permitted.**

Thank you for your cooperation





# Associated Implementation Challenges of using NbS to regenerate the Dune Vegetation

What we did	Associated Implementation Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Planted marram grass to regenerate the dune.</li><li>• Erected fencing to keep the public off the dune.</li><li>• Erected signage to notify the public regarding the dune protection work in operation.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Became a Clean Coasts group and arranged for Clean Coasts Rep to demonstrate Marram Planting skills</li><li>• Arranged several community planting events.</li><li>• Learning where and how to source the Marram slips.</li><li>• Learning how to plant the Marram grass.</li><li>• Funding application for trowels and signage for the planting works</li><li>• Creating and erecting signage to explain the work and access restrictions.</li><li>• Drafting the right message!</li><li>• Erecting fencing to keep the public off the dune.</li><li>• Engaging in repeat planting where footfall prevailed.</li><li>• Fencing off further areas of dune as more breaches form from public walking up the dune.</li></ul>

Community beach cleans and marram planting events build broad awareness of damaging impacts of human behaviors



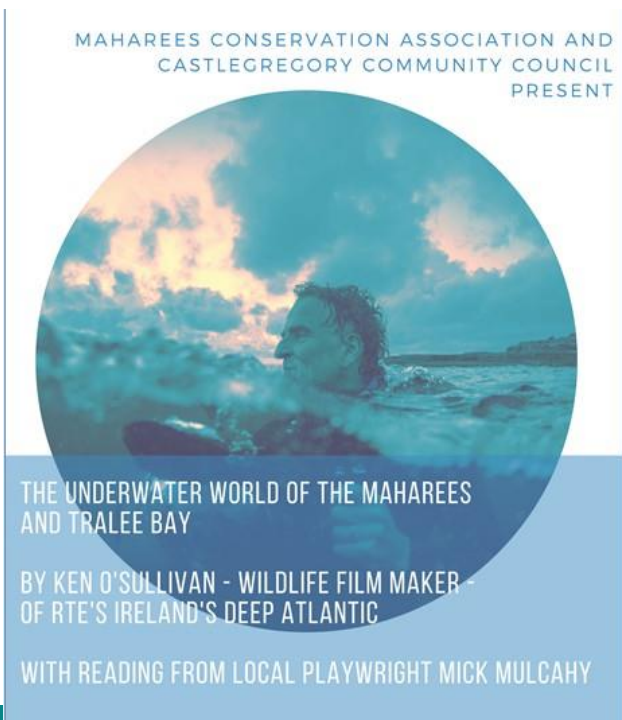
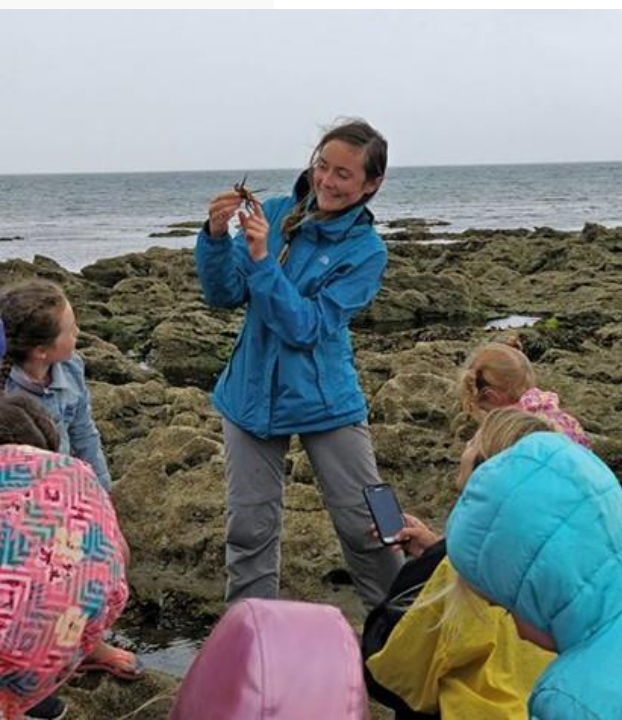
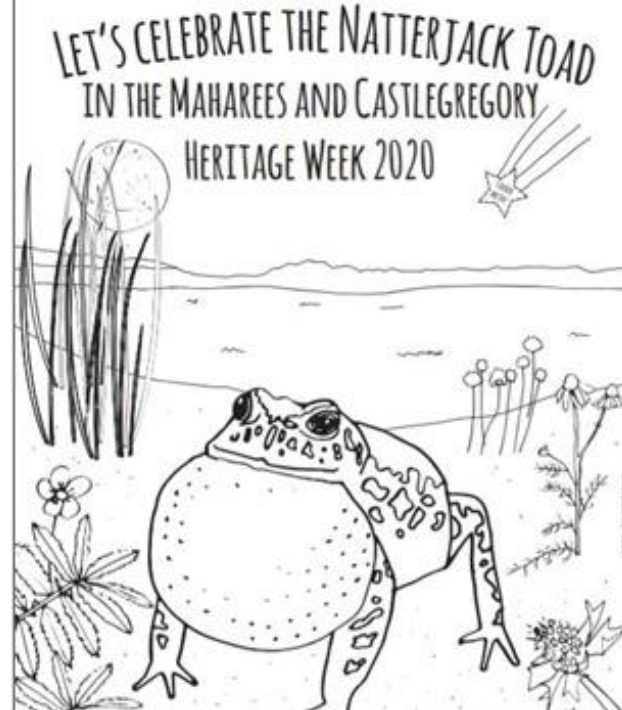
**SURVEY OF OUR MARINE LITTER (OVER 11 BAGS) BY  
STUDENTS OF MEAN SCOIL NUA AN LEITHRIUGH  
CASTLEGREGORY  
25TH SEPTEMBER**



**In conjunction with partners including** Clean Coasts, Camp Juniors FC, Castlegregory Community Council, Castlegregory Celtic, Castlegregory Community Games, Maharees Regatta, Castlegregory GAA, Dingle Oceanworld, the Maharees & Castlegregory community and visitors







# Range of Biodiversity experiences and events





**Release of Natterjack Toadlets with NPWS  
July and August 2020**



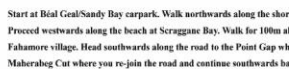
The Seven Hogs of Mahore Islands  
Oheini on Mhogheire

Brandon Bay  
Bá Bhreandain

Tralee Bay  
Bá Thra Li

Legend:

- Trail 50
- Interesting Point
- Point
- Beach Access
- All go Traigh



**Time** 2 ½ hours approx.

- 1 Site of the old village of Magherabeg, finally abandoned c. 1916.
- 2 Scillie beach where the sail ship the *Industry*, with its cargo of flour
- 3 Inmillcaha, a wintering site for Brent Geese and other birds.
- 4 Olefin Donmhall where the East Indianan, the *York*, was delisted.
- 5 The site of the Signal Tower, built between 1813 and 1816.
- 6 200m north of the graveyard on the rocky shore lies Cloch 'a' Tairis
- 7 The ruin of the 7th century St. Senach's Church. Within the walls of  
The building acted as a parish church during the 1300's.
- 8 The *Nuestra Senora del Socorro*, a boat attached to the International
- 9 The 5th century Monastic site on Olefin (Seannagh) founded by St. A  
a southern and wall chamber, three leaches, a stone cross and a but
- 10 The *Aud*, with a consignment of German arms for the Easter Rising.  
Attempts to land the arm failed and the *Aud* was captured by the B
- 11 The 3.8 metre Standing Stone or Gallin. Local folklore maintained
- 12 On 31 December 1891, the *Catherine Richards* was wrecked at Tóin
- 13 On 24 November 1890, the *Charger*, a 1740L barque containing 29;
- 14 For hundreds of years Corraougha Strand provided the inhabitants  
The collection of Carrigan Moss, Agar and seaweed for keep man
- 15 Traigh Dhiomhaoin (The Idle Strand) whose name derives from the
- 16 An (Sean) Abhainn, a source of fresh water for the inhabitants of Ma  
during periods of drought.

[illegible][illegible]

**How to identify birds in the Hawaiian Islands**

The Hawaiian Islands are home to a large number of seabirds, many of which are found nowhere else in the world. This guide provides information on 18 species, including their names, scientific names, and key characteristics.

**Map of the Hawaiian Islands**

The map shows the location of the Hawaiian Islands in the Pacific Ocean. The islands are labeled with their names: Hawaii, Maui, Oahu, Molokai, Lanai, Kahooolawe, Kauai, Niihau, Kauai, Oahu, Maui, Hawaii.

**Species and Characteristics:**

- Albatrosses:**
  - Albatrosses:** Large, white birds with long, hooked bills. They are found in the Hawaiian Islands and the Pacific Ocean.
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- Seabirds:**
  - Seabirds:** Medium-sized birds with long, hooked bills. They are found in the Hawaiian Islands and the Pacific Ocean.
  - Seabirds:** Medium-sized birds with long, hooked bills. They are found in the Hawaiian Islands and the Pacific Ocean.
- Other Species:**
  - Other Species:** Small, brown birds with long, hooked bills. They are found in the Hawaiian Islands and the Pacific Ocean.
  - Other Species:** Small, brown birds with long, hooked bills. They are found in the Hawaiian Islands and the Pacific Ocean.

Additional materials detailing our  
unique biodiversity and heritage



# LOGAINMNEACHA AN MHACHAIRE - THE TRADITIONAL PLACENAMES OF MAHAREES



## Fund Raising

This is an important stream of revenue for us and helps us keep our carbon projects going. Sponsorship has helped pay for chestnut fencing, straw bales for emergency coastal protection, science and wildlife information and much much more!

### Our latest campaign:

LOGAINMNEACHA AN MHACHAIRE - THE TRADITIONAL PLACENAMES OF MAHAREES

'Place names are not only signposts to space, they are also signposts to time.'

The traditional Gaelic place names of a locality are rooted in topography and cultural history and reflect the close relationship between a community and its immediate environment. The names of places, such as waterways, hills, fields, and bays, are often ancient, and many are unique to the locality. Through a study of these place names, we can learn about the history of a locality and the people who lived there. We are currently undertaking a project to collect and record the traditional Gaelic place names of the Maharees. This project is part of a larger initiative to preserve and promote the Gaelic language and culture. We are seeking sponsors to help us with the costs of the project. If you are interested in sponsoring this project, please contact us at [info@maharees.org](mailto:info@maharees.org).

IN DONATE TO OUR CAMPAIGN



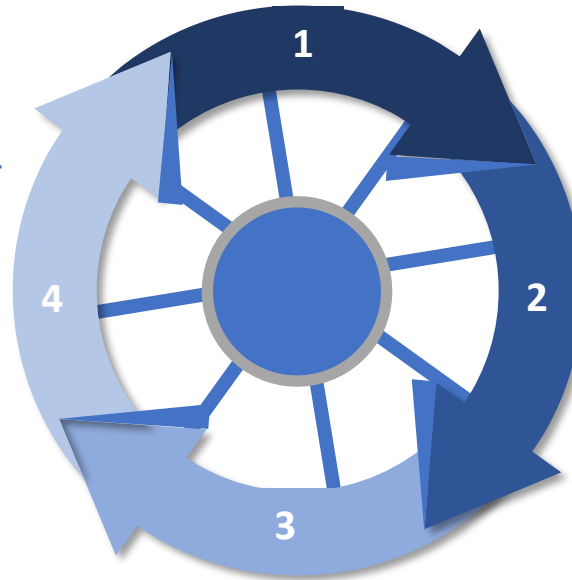
# Hugely beneficial academic collaborations have been key to all this



Huge expert support and guidance to our efforts



Their students help to deliver our community and visitor-engagement experiences

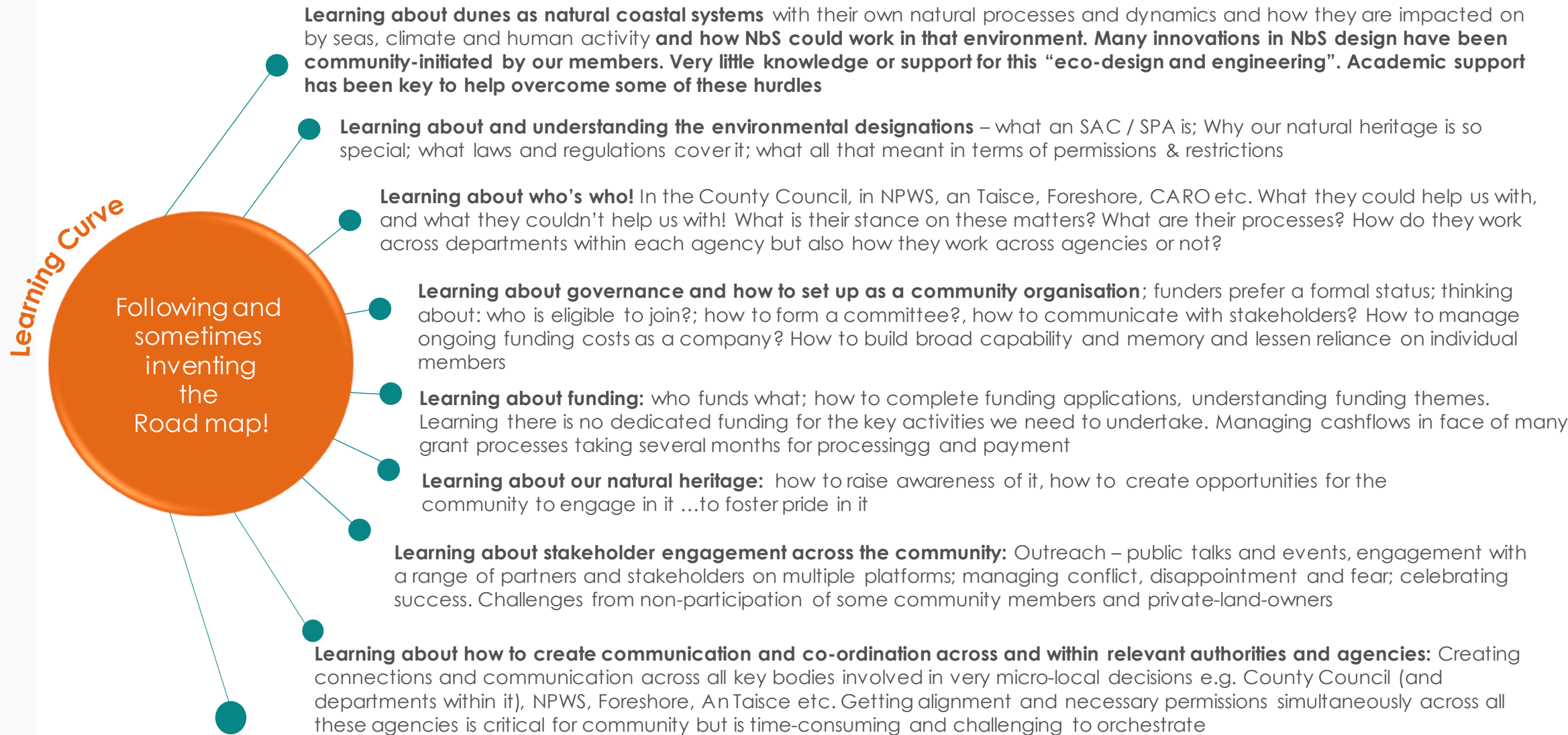


We support them in their use of our community as living laboratory and living classroom

They generate applied academic research on our issues and evaluate the results of our efforts. Their research groups are embedded



We have undergone massive learnings over the last number of years. It is now very evident to us the types of challenges inhibiting efforts in other communities that our learnings could be useful in addressing



**Learning to be resilient:** we're in it for the long haul

# Summer-long weekly rostering of community dune-patrol and carpark-gate locking; >400+ hours of voluntary community life in summer

## Cross-community participation



## Weekly rostering

### Moving on and Gate Roster 2020

22-Jun	Moving on	FM
29-Jun	Moving on	SK and RH
06-Jul	Moving on	CM and FM
13-Jul	Moving on Gate	FM and FG
20-Jul	Moving on Gate	COM
27-Jul	Moving on Gate	LM
03-Aug	Moving on Gate	COA
10-Aug	Moving on Gate	BP
17-Aug	Moving on Gate	BR
24-Aug	Moving on Gate	FM and FG
31-Aug	Moving on Gate	SK and RH

## Please vacate requests



### NO CAMPING ALLOWED ON THE MAHAREES DUNES

#### Welcome to the Maharees.

The Maharees sand dune system is a privately-owned commonage. It is designated as a Special Area of Conservation and is protected under the EU Habitats Directive.

**Overnight parking/ camping is not permitted on a special area of conservation. Please move to an official camp site as you will be moved on. The Gardai are fully cooperating with this dune protection measure.**

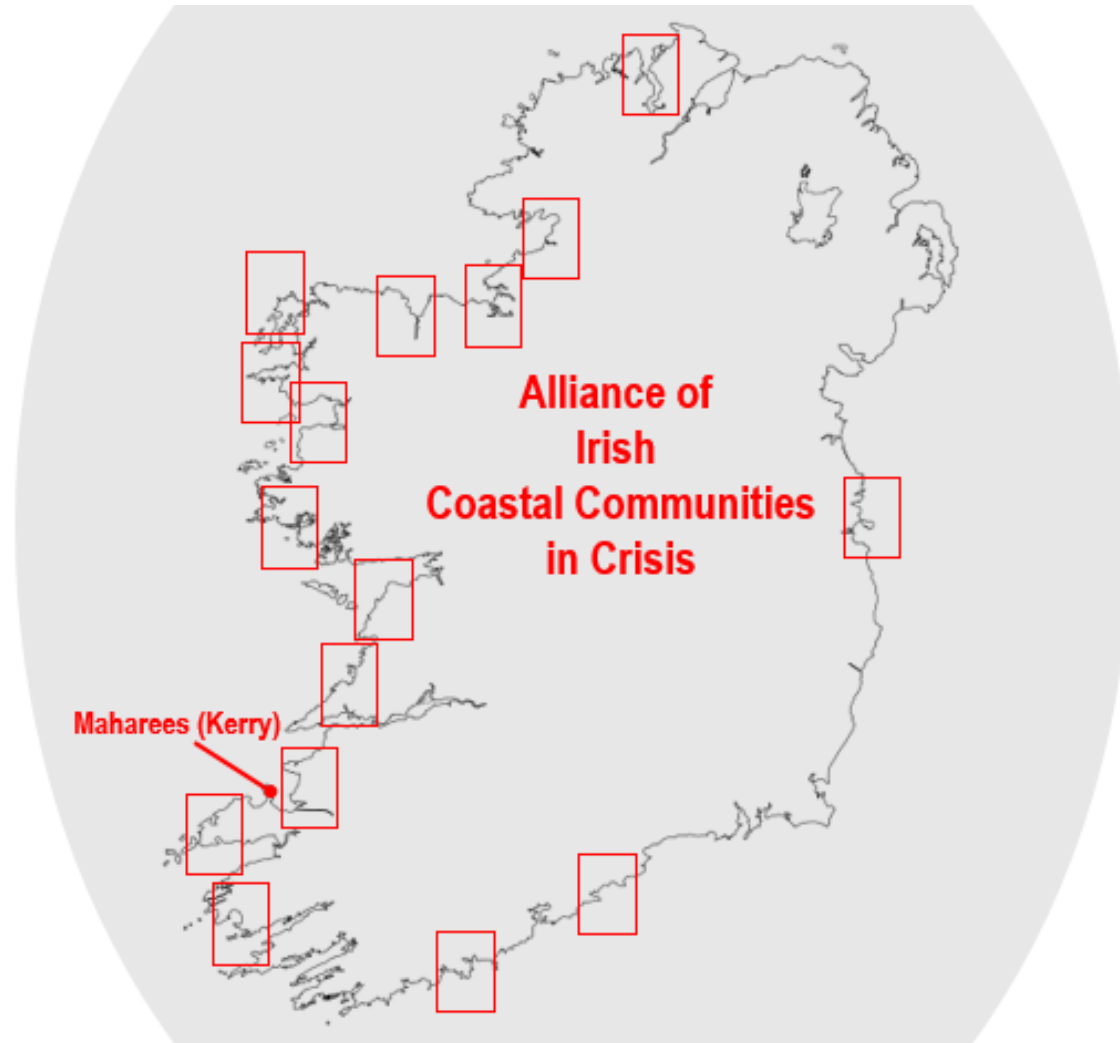
All sand dunes are environmentally sensitive areas which support a rich variety of wildlife. The Maharees sand dunes support rare and endangered species such as the Natterjack Toad (80% of Ireland's population); Bee Orchid, Cowslip and Petalwort. The marram grass, which stabilises the sand dunes and allows other species to exist, is fragile and cannot withstand trampling or burning.

**Thank you for your help in preserving this important natural feature of the Maharees.**

Maharees Conservation Association CLG



We have validated our experiences with other communities. We are not alone. We are many.



# What outcomes are needed: high level one-pager summary

## In local areas

### This summer

- **Traffic & footfall management** - proper resourcing of services and temporary facilities to minimize harmful impact of the surge and current practices and to provide a more positive experience for all
- **Temporary car parks with managed access onto beaches** while protecting dunes
- **Temporary toilets** to avoid use of dunes and afford visitors / beach users some dignity
- Restrictions and **enforcement of laws and bye-laws** on littering, illegal parking, camping, access on dunes/ salt marsh/ beach areas with environmental designation **with visible presence from Gardai, Local Authority wardens, NPWS**. The times and areas requiring additional services are highly predictable in what is a relatively short season
- **Dune fencing** to protect sensitive areas with large visitor numbers from damage from trampling
- **SAC/SPA signage** on habitats, restrictions and visitor behaviors
- **Crowd management** and dispersal to alternative attractions in area
- **Awareness-building** of dune restoration and biodiversity experiences

### Continuing beyond the summer into the next decade

- **Seasonal surge in infrastructure facilities and services at peak every peak** with long-term investments in capacity management, mobility and dispersal in area-based visitor management
- **Hierarchy of signage in all SAC/SPAs** (akin to Nature Reserves or National Parks) with content on value of and behaviours re dunes
- Develop **integrated coastal zone management plans for each of our areas** with our communities and with all the relevant parties across local authorities and agencies agreeing the most appropriate approach to manage and address coastal resilience in each area
- Incorporate **sustainability requirements and opportunities in local tourism strategy**
- Develop **community and visitor awareness of our natural heritage and biodiversity** with pride-building community participation in conservation and restoration measures
- **Enforce protections** on illegal activity on dunes and beaches incl illegal parking, camping, fires, sand-mining, etc.
- Broader **deployment of nature-based solutions** at key hotspots across SAC/SPA (incl. dune fencing) with a key role for the funding and upskilling of community groups in doing this work. Support in the engagement of private landowners. Continue build of evidence base and train planners in how to integrate these solutions into their approaches
- Engage **communities in OPW /LA studies** on longer-term strategies to coastal resilience
- Support communities **to secure scale national and EU funding on climate adaptation and management measures and programs**

## Nationally

### This summer

- **Set expectations in advance for visitors** with tourism-oriented info and education campaign on appropriate behaviours in SAC/SPA areas: unauthorized parking, litter, fires, long-term damaging impact of dune access and wild-camping, toileting, biodiversity and wildlife impact etc
- **Set expectations on arrival** with nationally-aligned SAC/SPA signage re code of conduct and content re protected biodiversity, local protection and conservation measures and impacts, conservation & recovery measures underway etc
- **Prepare for the knowable now with temporary infrastructure & mobility solutions** to address crowding management incl. dispersal, as well as deployment now of protective measures e.g. fencing of dunes to protect from trampling in most sensitive areas with high visitor numbers
- **Provide surge funding to services for surge numbers** e.g. SAC/SPA protection and enforcement with additional Gardai, as well as Local Authority presence and activity especially re Beach Stewards

### Continuing beyond the summer into the next decade

- **National multi-year commitment to culture change, awareness-build and communications strategy re. dune habitats** with SAC designation and appropriate behaviours that is fully integrated with other tourism messages. Underlining their role in Climate Risk Adaptation and the restorative actions we can take and that work
- Invest in **knowledge-building and deployment of Integrated Coastal Zone Management**, including governance and strategic frameworks for use nationally, regionally and area-level with all the relevant parties across local authorities, agencies and communities. Engaging with Engineering Consultancies is also key
- Address **challenges posed by complex ownership/regulations of the narrow strip of ocean-land called the coast**.
- Develop **expertise and fund nature-based solutions**, across land and sea, most appropriate to Irish situation. Engage in European-wide programs. Integrate nature-based solutions into OPW and LA planning. Train up the planners and the engineers (public and private). Deploy results-based approach to support local communities, private landowners and farmers
- **Better-resourced, more proactive and community-embedded NPWS and An Taisce resource base year-round** that incorporates harm avoidance, nature-based solutions and action re IAS. Guiding local voluntary actions in nature-based, temporary protections & conservation measures including citizen science initiatives
- **Tourism strategies** take cognisance of SAC/SPA & Climate Risk. Support development of ecology and natural culture tourism
- **Seasonally-responsive surge in basic infrastructure, facilities and services** to align with surge in visitor numbers
- **National seasonal Beach Steward initiative** to deliver education, experience and first line of enforcement during the tourist season with back up enforcement from Gardai & Local Authority Enforcement Officers. Akin to Lifeguards e.g., a national scheme delivered through Local Authorities
- **Proactive multi-agency action on enforcement**
- Establish **exemplar communities** to piloting key approaches
- Scale draw down of **EU funds for Climate Risk Transition, Adaptation and Management for dunes and impacted coastal communities nationally**



# The 2020s could be the decade in which we safeguard the viability of our community for coming decades. **Our successes and learnings are scalable**



The fruits of our efforts with dunes re-rising, blow-outs recovering and lower levels of sand deposition due to very simple and cost-effective fencing and planting measures. **These nature-based solutions are working for us in climate adaptation**



The evidence base, via applied research in Ireland and beyond, on what works in effective coastal resilience is getting slowly built. **We can accelerate this**



**Changes in visitor behaviour can happen when they are informed and guided.** For most part, they stay on paths, they desist from illegal camping, they stay off dunes, they will use temporary car-parking facilities. **Simple interventions can be very effective**



Community buy-in and engagement and appetite for more. **Hope and agency rising!** Spillover benefits in community cohesion and agency. **More hope and agency rising!**



Growing **community interest in the biodiversity and natural processes** at play around us. Individuals impassioned! Multi-generational interest and commitment is possible



Demonstrated **visitor interest in biodiversity-based and natural heritage tourism experiences**



**Farming interest in results-based ecology-friendly farming and land stewardship**



Demonstrated examples of integrated coastal zone resilience management and other parallel examples elsewhere could be deployed here. We have so many relevant and capable resources here. **We just need to organise what we have better**



**Individual officials who go above and beyond to help us** notwithstanding the constraints they work within

Contact us:

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Thank you for engaging with us

Is there anyone else you think would like to become involved?  
Please invite them to join us