



AN GHRIAN AG DUL FAOI AR AranLIFE...

Seo í ceathrú nuachtlitir agus nuachtlitir dheireanach thogra AranLIFE. Ba mhaith linn, tríd an nuachtlitir seo, tú a choinneáil ar an eolas faoin obair atá idir lámha faoi láthair ag an togra agus d'aird a dhíriú ar nithe a bhéas ag tarlú.

SUN SETTING ON AranLIFE...

Welcome to the fourth and final newsletter of the AranLIFE project. This newsletter is to keep you informed of the work going on within the project and to highlight the events that will be occurring.



Ó Fhoireann Aranlife

Táimid ag teannadh le deireadh thogra AranLIFE anois. Ba 5 bhliana shuimiúla iad dúinne, foireann an togra, agus cé go bhfuil muid sásta gur bhain muid amach ár n-aidhmeanna agus spriocanna tá muid sórt brónach go bhfuil an togra ag críochnú tar éis caidreamh iontach oibre a bheith bunaithe idir na páirtithe leasmhara uilig, feilméaraí, comhlachtaí rialtais agus an pobal ginearálta.

Ba dhúshlán mór a bhí ann do thriúr daoine bualadh faoi thogra nua a thosaigh ón mbun aníos, ní raibh oifig againn, ní raibh aon aithne againn ar a chéile, ní raibh againn ach foirm iarratais 160 leathanach a bhí ag míniú an chláir oibre le téarmaí ar nós seirbhísí éiceachórais, gníomhaíochtaí nithiúla agus tuairiscí socheacnamaíocha. Bhí sé de bhuntáiste againn áfach go raibh duine againn páirteach i gcur le chéile an iarratais ach, mar a dúirt sé fhéin, is beag a cheap sé go mbeadh sé le cur i bhfeidhm aige. Bhí imní orainn bualadh faoi ar dtús ach in achar gearr thuig muid go raibh neart cúnaimh le fáil againn ón Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta (RCOG), ó Theagasc agus ón tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra. Is díol suntais an chabhair a thug na heagraíochtaí seo agus iad chomh fadbhreathnaitheach gur leagadar síos na meicníochtaí a theastaigh le go rachadh an togra AranLIFE

ar aghaidh. Ar cheann de na mórdheacrachtaí le feidhmiú togra ar bith de chuid LIFE is ea eagraíocht a fháil leis an gclár a chomhordú agus thug RCOG faoin dúshlán sin i ré an chúlú eacnamaíochta, agus is creidiúint dóibh é sin.

As sin thosaigh an obair, ag roghnú na bhfeilmeacha, ag cur pleannanna feirme le chéile, ag dul i dteagmháil leis na feilméaraí ar fad - b'shin é an píosa ab fhusa. Ba mhór an pléisiúr a bheith ag obair le feilméaraí ar na hoileáin, idir rudaí a d'fhoghlaimaíomar, an fiadhúlra a chonaiceamar, an plé faoin mbealach a bhféadfaí, nó ar cheart rudaí a dhéanamh, chuidigh siad uilig le múnú togra a d'oibrigh agus as ar dtáinig torthaí. Dhéan muide an obair pháipéarachais ach dhéan na feilméaraí an obair chrua, ghlannadar scrobarnach agus scaití bhíodh cúpla uirlis láimhe difríocht ag teastáil lena aghaidh sin, thógadar umair uisce agus ba mhinic an t-ábhar le n-iompar le lámh trasna talamh fíorgharb le go mbeadh uisce ag na beithigh. Bhí na feilméaraí dúthrachtach ag coinneáil taifid dúinn, ó thaobh an achair ama a thóg oibreacha áirithe, an t-achar ama a raibh beithigh fágtha ag ithe i mbuaile áirithe, ag bailiú na mbeithíoch le meá, ag tástáil fola agus ag toiliú áiteacha áirithe a ithe, rud a chuidigh le bithéagsúlacht a fheabhsú, ach nach mba ghnáthchleachtas fheirme iad. Scaití d'aontaigh muid le

chéile, scaití níor aontaigh, scaití eile d'aontaigh muid gan aontú le chéile ach i mbealach folláin agus, le chéile tháinig torthaí maith as, ní amháin ó thaobh staid na ngnáthóg a fheabhsú ach ó thaobh eolas a bhailiú freisin, a bhéas ina chuidiú agus a bhí ina chuidiú cheana le córais a fhorbairt a chuideoidh le bainistíocht ní amháin ar na hoileáin ach i gceantair eile ar fud na hEorpa ina bhfuil Meas ar an Dúlra. Bhí cuairteanna malairte ann idir áiteacha eile in Éirinn agus san Eoraip, go deimhin tháinig dream as 16 náisiún ar cuairt in aon seachtain amháin le cloisteáil faoin togra.

Mar fhoireann an togra, ba mhaith linn an deis seo a thapú le buíochas a ghlacadh leis na feilméaraí rannpháirteacha as a gcúnaimh uilig agus as a suim sa togra. Ba dheas a bheith i mbun oibre le feilméaraí an togra, chuireadar croí is anam isteach ann agus d'oibrigh i ndrochaimsir corr uair, agus bhí sásta i gcónaí dul ar shiúlóid linn, muid a thiomáint thart san oileán, éisteacht lena raibh le rá againn agus a gcuid tuairimí féin a thabhairt ag cruinnithe grúpa nó duine le duine. Glacann muid buíochas freisin le muintir na n-oileán, nach raibh páirteach sa togra ach a raibh suim acu ann,

dream a bhí ag iarraidh ár mbróisiúr flóra agus fána, a ghlac páirt i gcuid den obair shuirbhéireachta, a mbíodh focal acu linn ar an mbád, ag fiafraí cén chaoi a raibh an togra ag déanamh nó a thug síob dúinn agus muid ag déanamh ár mbealach trína róidíní.

Cé go bhfuil AranLIFE ag críochnú, táimid de bharr chomhoibriú na bhfeilméaraí, ag tosaí ar thogra eile 'Caomhnú Árann' sna míonna amach romhainn. Beidh dúshlán i gceist le roghnú feilmeacha agus ag cur pleannanna feirme le chéile ag úsáid teicneolaíocht nua, ach fós mar fhoireann táimid muiníneach go mbeidh an taithe dhearfach a ghnóthaigh muid trí AranLIFE le feiceáil i gCaomhnú Árann agus go mbeidh tairbhe ann do na hoileáin agus don phobal go forleathan. Ó fhoireann Thogra AranLIFE míle buíochas as bhur gcabhair uilig agus táimid ag tnúth oibriú le chéile amach anseo.

From the AranLIFE Team

We are now coming to the end of the AranLIFE project; For us, the project team, it has been an interesting 5 years and whilst we are happy to have met our aims and objectives it comes with some sadness that the project is coming to an end, having built up a great working relationships between all the different stakeholders, farmers, government bodies and the general public.

Three people taking on a new project from the start was a daunting process, we had no office, hadn't actually met each other previously and all we had was a 160 page application form that outlined the work programme with terms such as ecosystem services, concrete actions and socio-economic reports. We had an advantage in that one of us had been involved in writing up the application but in his words, he didn't think he would have to deliver it too. However as daunting as we thought it first seemed, it didn't take long to find out that we had great help in the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DCHG), Teagasc and NPWS. It is worth noting the incredible input by these organisations that were far sighted enough to put in place the mechanisms which enabled the AranLIFE project to proceed. One of the major problems in implementing any LIFE project is getting an organisation to co-ordinate the programme and DCHG

met that challenge in difficult economic times and they deserve credit for this.

From that the work progressed, the selection of farms, drawing up the farm plans, engaging with all the farmers - that was the easy part. Working with the farmers on the islands has been a pleasure, the things we learned, the wildlife seen, the discussions on how things could or should be done all help build together a project that worked and delivered results. We did the paper work but the farmers did the hard work, the removal of scrub, which in some cases required several different hand tools; the building of rain catchers where the materials often had to be carried by hand over very difficult terrain so water would be available for the grazing animal. Farmers diligently kept records for us, on the time it took to carry out particular work, the length of time cattle grazed a particular field, gathering cattle for weighing, blood testing and agreeing to graze particular areas, which aided in the enhancing of biodiversity but was outside the normal farm practices. Sometimes we agreed, sometimes we disagreed, sometimes we agreed to disagree but always in a good way and together we delivered results not only in improving the condition of the habitats but in gathering information that can help and has helped in developing systems that will

Foireann AranLIFE (Louise Duignan, Patrick McGurn, Amanda Browne agus Gráinne Ní Chonghaile)

The AranLIFE team (Louise Duignan, Patrick McGurn, Amanda Browne and Gráinne Ní Chonghaile)



aid management not only on the islands but on other High Nature Values throughout Europe. Exchanges trips have taken place between other areas of Ireland and Europe, in fact in one week we had 16 nationalities visiting to hear about the project.

As a project team we would like to take this opportunity to thank the participant farmers for all their help and for taking an interest in the project. The participant farmers were a pleasure to work with, and fully embraced the project and committed themselves to the work sometimes in horrendous weather and were always willing to take a walk with us, drive us around the island, listen to what we had to say and contribute to general discussions, be it on a one to one basis or in group meetings. We would also like to thank the people on the islands who may not have participated but

took an interest, looking for our flora and fauna brochures, taking part in some of our survey work, having a quick chat on the ferry, enquiring how the project was going or just giving us a lift as we made our way along the boreens.

Whilst AranLIFE is coming to an end, by working with the farmers we have successfully developed Caomhnú Árann, which we plan to start in the coming months. Whilst there will be challenges selecting farms, developing farm plans using new technology, we as a team are confident that the positive experiences we have gained through AranLIFE will be reflected in Caomhnú Árann and it too will deliver results for the benefit of the islands and wider community. From the AranLIFE Project team, míle buíochas as bhur gcabhair go léir agus táimid ag tnúth le n-oibriú le chéile amach anseo.

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Dul chun cinn go dtí seo Progress so far

Tá go leor bainte amach ag togra AranLIFE ó thosaigh sé i 2014, agus ba chúnamh iad na gníomhaíochtaí a dtugtar cuntas orthu thíos, le feabhas mór a chur ar stádas caomhnaithe na ngnáthóg tosaíochta in éineacht le go mba chuidiú iad leis na cleachtais fheilméarachta a choinneáil ag imeacht sna trí oileán.

The AranLIFE project has achieved so much since its start in 2014, and the completion of concrete actions described below have helped to significantly improve the conservation status of the priority habitats as well as facilitating the continuation of farming practises on the three islands.

Gníomh C.1 Action C.1

Feabhas a chur ar bhealaí isteach ag gabháiltais talún le cuidiú le bainistíocht is innilt.
28km de Róidíní glanta, 40 geata curtha suas.

Improve access to land parcels to facilitate management including grazing.
28 km of Boreen cleared, 40 gates installed.



Gníomh C.2 Action C.2

Bainistiú ar shríonadh raithní is scrobarnaí.
92 heicteár Scrobarnaí smachtaithe.

Scrub and bracken control management.
92 hectares of Scrub controlled.



Gníomh C.3 Action C.3

Áiseanna bainistíochta beostoc feabhsaithe de bharr gur cuireadh infreastruchtúr uisce ar fáil.
131 gné nua uisce déanta, 107 umar uisce a bhíodh ann deisithe.

Enhancement of livestock management facilities through the provision of a water infrastructure.

131 new water features installed, 107 existing rain catchers repaired.



Gníomh C.4 Action C.4

Úsáid á bhaint as na seifteanna is fiúntaí innilte.

An innilt is fiúntaí á chur i bhfeidhm ar 1100ha talún de chuid an togra.

Implementation of optimal grazing plans.
Implementation of optimal grazing on 1100ha of land within the project.



Feasacht Pobail agus Scaipeadh Torthaí

Public Awareness and Dissemination of results

Is sprioc mhór i dtogra AranLIFE é eolas a scaipeadh agus aird an phobail a tharraingt ar chomh tábhachtach is atá cothabháil is caomhnú na ngnáthóg speisialta atá ar Oileáin Árann. Eagraíodh imeachtaí oideachasúla le grúpaí difríocht ar nós feilméaraí na n-oileán, gasúir scoile na háite, an pobal ginearálta áitiúil, an pobal forleathan náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta féachaint leis an tuiscint, an t-idirghníomhú agus an meas ar thogra AranLIFE a mhéadú.

A key component of the AranLIFE project is disseminating information and raising public awareness of the importance of maintaining and conserving the unique habitats on the Aran Islands. In order to enhance understanding, appreciation and engagement with the AranLIFE project a programme of educational events were organised with various groups such as the islands' farmers, local schoolchildren, the broader local community, and the wider national and international public.

Naisc Chultúrtha agus Oidhreachta Ceantair Natura 2000

Cultural and Heritage Links Natura 2000 Areas

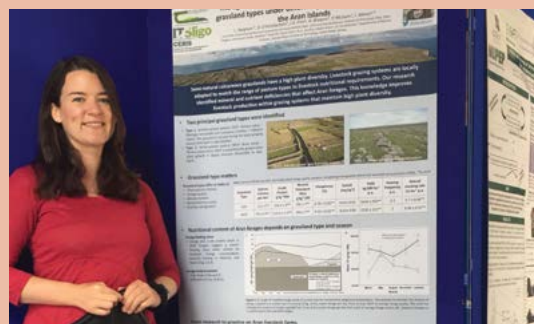
In Aibreán na bliana seo, rinne Patrick McGurn cur i láthair ag an gcomhdháil 'Ag Nascadh Natura 2000 agus Oidhreachta Chultúrtha' a d'eagraigh an Chomhairle Oidhreachta i mBeairic Collins, i mBaile Átha Cliath. Bhí AranLIFE sásta páirt a bheith acu ann mar gur chuidigh an Chomhairle Oidhreachta go mór leo le togra AranLIFE a fhorbairt. Ag an gcomhdháil úsáideadh Oileáin Árann mar chás staidéir faoin gcaoi go bhfuil ceangal idir oidhreachta chultúrtha na n-oileán agus caomhnú dúlra ó thaobh struchtúr buailte agus córas bainistithe feirme. Ba an-deis a bhí anseo do AranLIFE lena gcuid oibre a chur os comhair lucht éisteachta mór.

In April this year Patrick McGurn presented at a conference in Collins Barracks, Dublin on 'Linking Natura 2000 and Cultural Heritage' organised by the Heritage Council. AranLIFE were pleased to contribute as the Heritage Council were heavily involved in developing the AranLIFE project. For the conference, the Aran Islands were used as a case study on how the cultural heritage of the islands links with nature conservation, in terms of field structure and farm management system. This was an excellent opportunity for AranLIFE to present its work to a wider audience.

Comhdháil na Slóivéine Slovenia Conference

Chuaigh Patrick McGurn chuig an tSlóivéin i mí na Bealtaine i mbliana leis an togra AranLIFE a chur i láthair ag comhdháil a d'eagraigh Institiúid Phoblacht na Slóivéine um Chaomhnú Dúlra, dream a bhí ag bainistiú togra LIFE faoi chaomhnú agus bainistiú féarthailte tirime in Oirthear na Slóivéine. Bhí cur chuige AranLIFE scrúdaithe acu agus thugadar cuireadh anonn do bhall den lucht foirne le sonraí an tionscadail, an bealach ar oibrigh sé, an pháirt a ghlac feilméaraí ann agus an córas scórála féarthailte a húsáideadh a léiriú. Ba dheis maith a bhí ann do thogra AranLIFE le n-insint faoi shonraí an togra agus le foghlaim faoi thionscnaimh eile d'fhéarthailte leathnádúrtha.

In May this year, Patrick McGurn travelled to Slovenia to present the AranLIFE project at a conference organised by The Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation, who were managing a LIFE project on the conservation and management of dry grasslands in Eastern Slovenia. They had looked at the AranLIFE approach and invited a member of the team to present details of our project, how it operated, involvement of the farming community and the grassland scoring system used. This was a good opportunity for AranLIFE to detail our project and also learn from other initiatives on semi-natural grasslands.



Póstaer á chur i láthair ag Louise Duignan ag Conaidhm Fhéarthailte na hEorpa

Louise Duignan presenting a poster at the European Grassland Federation conference

Comhdháil Fhéarthailte na hEorpa European Grassland Conference

Ag comhdháil Chónaidhm Fhéarthailte na hEorpa (CFE) a bhí i gCorcaigh i mí Meithimh chuir Louise Duignan póstaer i láthair darbh ainm "Luach agranamaíoch agus bithéagsúlachta na bhféarthailte leathnádúrtha faoi bhainistiú éagsúil innilte ar Oileáin Árann". Ba é seo an dara comhdháil CFE ag a raibh seans ag AranLIFE eolas faoina dtogra a chur i láthair ann, rinneadar amhlaidh cheana i 2017 nuair a chuireadar póstaer i láthair ag comhdháil sa tSairdín.

In June, Louise Duignan presented a poster entitled "The agronomic and biodiversity value of semi-natural grasslands under different grazing management on the Aran Islands" at the European Grasslands Federation (EGF) conference which was held in Cork. This is the second EGF conference AranLIFE have had the opportunity to present information at, having presented a poster in the 2017 conference held in Sardinia.

Siúlóid Dúlra Siúlóid Dúlra

Sa tráthnóna ar an 15ú Bealtaine, thug Amanda Browne grúpa de bhaill 'Chumann Dúlra Inis Oírr' ar shiúlóid trí roinnt de ghnáthóga feirme Inis Oírr. D'fhoghlaim na baill an bealach le go leor de na speicis plandaí a bhí faoi bhláth ag an am a aithint agus bhí ainmneacha slám eile plandaí ar eolas acu ar fad ag dul abhaile dóibh. Tá foireann AranLIFE breá sásta a gcuid eolais faoi fhiadhúlra na n-oileán a roinnt le chuile ghrúpa.

On the evening of the 15th May, Amanda Browne took a group of members of Cumann Dúlra Inis Oírr on a walk through some of the farmed habitats on Inis Oírr. Participants learnt to identify many of the plant species in flower at the time and everyone went home having learnt the names of a few more plant species. The AranLIFE team are happy to share their knowledge of the wildlife of the islands with all groups.

Seimineár RBAPS, Baile Átha Luain RBAPS seminar, Athlone

Tá Éire chun tosaigh san Eoraip, agus AranLIFE ina bpríomhbhall, i dtrial agus i bhfeidhmiú tionscnamh a bhíonn faoi cheannas áitiúil agus bunaithe ar thorthaí. Rinne Amanda Browne cur i láthair i mBaile Átha Luain le deireanas ag seimineár dheireadh thogra RBAPS (Ag Forbairt Tionscadail Agra-Chomhshaoil in Éirinn agus sa Spáinn) agus phléigh dúshlán agus oibríochtaí thogra AranLIFE agus an chaoi go bhféadfaí múnla AranLIFE a fheidhmiú i gceantair eile.

Ireland is at the fore front in Europe, trialling and implementing locally led and results based initiatives of which AranLIFE is a leading member. Amanda Browne presented at the RBAPS (Developing Results Based Agri-environment Projects in Ireland and Spain) end of project seminar in Athlone recently, and discussed the challenges and workings of the AranLIFE project and how the AranLIFE model could be implemented in other areas.

Burren in Bloom Burren in Bloom



Lucht siúlóide 'Burren in Bloom' le Amanda Browne agus feilméara na Boirne, Patsy Linnane

Participants of 'Burren in Bloom' walk with Amanda Browne and Burren farmer Patsy Linnane

Reachtálann 'Iontaobhas Burren Beo' an fhéile bhliantúil 'Burren in Bloom' a chomóireann bláthú réimse éagsúil agus uathúil bláthanna atá sa mBoirinn. Bhí féile na bliana seo ann ón 14ú go 18ú Bealtaine agus ba é chéad imeacht na féile ná siúlóid le Amanda Browne (AranLIFE) agus Patsy Linnane (feilméara ón mBoirinn) ar a fheirm cnoic i gCeapaigh an Bhaile, gar do Bhaile Uí Bheacháin, Contae an Chláir. Ba é teideal na siúlóide ná 'Feilméarachta do Bithéagsúlacht – ó Árainn go dtí an Bhoirinn'. Le linn na siúlóide pléadh an obair iontach a bhí déanta ag feilméaraí Árann agus na Boirne chomh maith leis na nithe uilig a chaitheann feilméaraí i gceantair aolchloiche déileáil leo.

The Burren in Bloom Festival is an annual event run by BurrenBeo Trust and celebrates the blooming of the unique and diverse range of flowers in the Burren. This year's festival ran from 14th to the 18th May and the first event of this year's festival was a walk led by AranLIFE's Amanda Browne along with Burren farmer Patsy Linnane on his hill farm at Cappawalla near Ballyvaughan, County Clare. The walk was entitled 'Farming for Biodiversity – from Aran to Burren'. During the course of the walk the great work done by Burren and Aran farmers was discussed as were the many issues facing farmers in limestone areas.

Feachtas Meán Media Campaign

Gné tábhachtach den togra is ea an scéal a scaipeadh faoi thogra AranLIFE mar go bhfuil sé tábhachtach go léireofaí go náisiúnta chomh maith agus a d'éirigh leis an togra mar go bhféadfaí macasamhail de mhúnla AranLIFE a fheidhmiú in áiteacha eile sa tír ina dteastódh togra faoi cheannaireacht áitiúil.

Spreading the word about the AranLIFE project is a key element of the project as it is vital to show the success of the project on a national scale as the AranLIFE model could be replicated elsewhere in the country in other areas in need of a locally led initiative.



Nuachtlitir na nDobharcheantar Catchment Newsletter

Bhí alt faoin togra AranLIFE i nuachtlitir Earraigh 2018 na Gníomhaireachta um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil. San alt seo, 'AranLIFE - ag obair san am i láthair, ag forbairt don todhchaí' bhí cur síos ann faoin gcaoi a raibh an togra ag obair le feilméaraí lena n-eolas áitiúil a úsáid i gcomhar le saineolas eolaíochta pháirtithe an togra le caighdeán na gnáthóg tosaíochta ar Oileáin Árann a fheabhsú.

The 2018 Spring edition of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) newsletter featured an article on the AranLIFE Project. Entitled 'AranLIFE-working in the present, building for the future', the article described how the project was working with farmers to harness their local knowledge and combining this with scientific expertise from project partners to improve the quality of priority habitats on the Aran Islands.

Dialann na bhFeilméaraí Farmers Journal

San Aibreán seo caite bhí alt freisin faoi AranLIFE agus na feilméaraí rannpháirteacha in eagrán de Dhalann Feirmeoirí na hÉireann. Tugadh tuairisc san alt faoi thuras chuig an oileán a d'eagraigh an togra AranLIFE do bhaill foirne Theagasc inár léiríodh cé faoi a raibh an togra, an obair a déanadh agus dearcadh na bhfeilméaraí ar an togra.

AranLIFE and the farmers involved also featured last April in an edition of the Irish Farmers Journal. The article documented a visit to the island from Teagasc staff hosted by the AranLIFE project, and outlined what the project was about, the work undertaken and the farmer's view of the project.

Alt i bhFiadhúlra na hÉireann Irish Wildlife Article

Tugadh tuairisc faoi thogra AranLIFE in eagrán an tSamhraidh den irisleabhar 'Fiadhúlra na hÉireann'. Déanadh cur síos ann ar na dúshláin a bhaineann le feilméarachta ar na hoileáin chomh maith leis an mbithéagsúlacht iontach atá coinnithe de bharr na gcleachtas traidisiúnta feilméarachta.

The AranLIFE project featured in the Summer edition of Irish Wildlife magazine. The article described the challenges involved in farming on the islands as well as the fantastic biodiversity that has been maintained by the traditional farming practises.

An Saol ó Dheas An Saol ó Dheas

Thug foireann 'Saol ó Dheas' Raidió na Gaeltachta cuairt ar an oileán i mí Iúil agus rinne clár a chuaigh amach ar an aer ar an 19 Iúil. Chuireadar agallamh ar dhaoine as Inis Oírr, is bhí Gráinne Ní Chonghaile ar dhuine acu sin, agus mhínigh sí faoi chuid de na nithe atá bainte amach ag togra AranLIFE agus an obair chrua atá déanta ag na 67 feilméara atá sa togra ar na trí oileán.

In July, Raidió na Gaeltachta's 'Saol Ó Dheas' team visited the island and made a program which was aired on the 19th of July. Gráinne Ní Chonghaile was interviewed along with other Inis Oírr locals and described some of the achievements of the AranLIFE project and the hard work done by our 67 farmers on the three islands.



Buaile innilte geimhridh sa samhradh Winter grazed field in summer



Buaile innilte geimhridh sa ngeimhreadh Winter grazed field in winter



Buaile innilte samhraidh sa samhradh Summer grazed field in summer

SCÓIR INNILTE

An chaoi a noibríonn siad, an fáth go dtriaileann muid iad agus an chaoi go bhfeileann siad cláir agra-chomhshaoil bunaithe ar thorthaí

GRAZING SCORES

How they work, why we try them and how they fit in with outcome-based agri-environment programmes

An Córas Innilte

Is bealach éifeachtach é an scóráil féarthailte atá bunaithe ar ghnás measúnaithe eolaíochta, le caighdeán éiceolaíoch féarthailte a thomhas. Thug an togra AranLIFE isteach córas scórála faoi ghníomh innilte an togra.

Bíonn an córas Féar Geimhridh á chleachtadh sna hoileáin agus is féidir na féarthailte a rangú de réir an ama a itear iad, sé sin féar geimhridh nó féar samhraidh. Le linn an tséasúir fáis itheann na beithigh slám de bhualite na feilme agus fágtar na cinn eile go leataobh le go bhfásfaidh neart féir iontu a íosfaidh na beithigh sa ngeimhreadh mar bharr ar a chois. Is iondúil go mbíonn an innilt samhraidh ar ithir dhomhain níos gaire do na tithe cónaithe agus itear iad seo ó am breith (Márta/Aibreán) go deireadh an Fhómhair/Tús an Gheimhridh. Fágtar an féar geimhridh gan ithe sa samhradh le go mbeidh neart féir ann don tréimhse ó Shamhain go Márta/Aibreán. Bíonn na buailte féir geimhridh lán le dath le linn mhíonna an tsamhraidh mar gheall ar an éagsúlacht bláthanna a thagann aníos de bharr innilt an gheimhridh.

The Grazing System

Scoring grassland based on a scientifically evaluated procedure is an effective way of measuring the ecological quality of grasslands. The AranLIFE project implemented a scoring system under the grazing action of the project.

The Winterage farming system is practised on the islands and grasslands can be classified according to the time they are grazed, i.e. winter or summer grassland. During the growing season, cattle graze part of the farm, with the remainder left closed to allow excess grass to grow which is then grazed in winter as a standing crop. The summer grazing tends to be on deeper soils closer to the dwelling houses and is generally grazed from calving time (March/April) to late Autumn/Early winter. The winter grazing is left ungrazed during the summer allowing the build-up of a bank of grass for grazing in the period November to March/April. Winterage fields fill with colour during the summer months because of the diversity of flowering plants which has been promoted by the winter grazing.

Chuire sheans go mba chleachtas coitianta ar fud na hÉireann uair amháin an cleachtas Féar Geimhridh agus i dtéarmaí talmhaíochta an Bhéarla is 'foggage' a thugtar ar an mbarr ar a chois, tá athrú tagtha ar an gcóras seo thar na blianta áfach, mar gheall ar ardmheas ar fhéar tirim agus ansin caomhnú sadhlais. Is ar Oileáin Árann agus sa mBoirinn is mó a chleachtar anois é, áit, de bharr féarthailte agus pábháil aolchloiche níos tirime, nach mbíonn pasáil mhór i gceist. Is córas feilméarachta éifeachtúil é, ní bhíonn gá beithigh a choinneáil faoi dhíon ná áit a fháil do sciobar agus baineann an córas an fiúntas is tairbhí as teacht chun cinn cúiteach, sé sin nuair nach dtagann beithigh acu féin chomh maith sin ar feadh roinnt míosa de bharr tearc-chothaithe ach ansin, nuair atá cothú maith ar fáil ina dhiaidh sin go dtéann an breisiú beomheáchain níos airde ná mar a bheadh de ghnáth. Bíonn ráta íseal stocála agus go leor oibre i gceist leis an gcóras seo áfach, rud a chuireann teorainn leis an méid airgid a bhaintear as an talamh.

This Winterage practice was likely widespread in Ireland at one stage and in agricultural terms the standing crop is known as foggage, but this system has changed over the years because of the ascendancy of hay and then silage conservation. It is now predominantly only practised on the Aran Islands and the Burren, where the drier limestone grasslands and limestone pavement are less prone to poaching. It is an efficient farming system, no cattle housing or slurry accommodation is required and the system takes full advantage of compensatory growth, a process where if growth is less than normal for some months due to under-nutrition, then later when good nutrition is available the live weight gain of the cattle will be greater than would otherwise be the case. However associated with this system is a low stocking rate and high labour requirement which limits the financial returns from the land.

Cosúil Leis an mBoirinn Ach Difríocht

Tá an córas feilméarachta cosúil leis an gcóras sa mBoirinn, ach go bhfuil na feilmeacha níos lú sna hoileáin agus gan talamh torthúil ar fáil mar atá sa mBoirinn. Chomh maith leis sin, de bharr a bhfuil de chláiocha tógtha timpeall ar bhualte agus go mbíonn na píosaí beaga feirme scaipthe thall is abhus, is córas innilte de réir uainíochta atá á úsáid anseo i leaba chóras innilte na Boirne atá bunaithe ar stocáil shocraithe.



Leagan amach bhualte Árann in Inis Meáin
Aran field systems on Inis Meáin

Similar But Different From the Burren

Whilst the farming system is similar to that practiced in the Burren, the Islands' farm sizes are smaller with little recourse to productive land as they have in the Burren. In addition the dense network of field walls and highly fragmented farms mean the system is based on a rotational grazing system where the Burren is based on set stocking.



Barr cnoic sa mBoirinn gar do Bhaile Uí Bheacháin, Co. an Chláir
A burren hilltop near Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare

An Chaoi a n-Oibríonn Scóir Innilte

Faoi scór innilte AranLIFE, tugtar scór níos airde don talamh féarach leis an gcaighdeán is airde ó thaobh na héiceolaíochta de. Ó thaobh Oileán Árann de, itear na féarthailte seo go príomha ag ráta ísealdéine le linn an gheimhridh agus fágfar gan ithe iad sa samhradh, le go bhfaigheann féara speiceas-shaibhir deis a theacht faoi bhláth agus síolta a chur i dtalamh agus, le linn an tsamhraidh, bíonn na gnáthóga bláthanna seo go hálainn ildathach agus go hidirnáisiúnta feictear mar rud luachmhar iad.

Tugtar scór idir 1 agus 5 do na dáileachtaí talún ag brath ar bhail na gnáthóige agus ar an leibhéal innilte. Is measúnú súl é seo atá iomasach agus éasca le déanamh sa mbuaile, agus ceanglaíonn isteach leis an monatóireacht eolaíochta a dhéantar ar an réimse uilig gnáthóg.

How Grazing Scores Work

The AranLIFE grazing score gives higher scores to the ecologically higher quality grassland. In an Aran Islands context these grasslands have been primarily grazed during the winter at a low intensity, and are left ungrazed during the summer allowing the species-rich grasslands to flower and set seed producing fantastic floral display during the summer in the grassland habitats that are highly prized in an international context.

A score of 1 to 5 is given to the land parcels and is determined by the condition of the habitat and related to the grazing level. This is a visual assessment method, which is intuitive and quick to apply in the field and links in with the scientific monitoring across the range of habitats.

Tá córas scórála AranLIFE bunaithe ar tháscspeicis dearfacha, sé sin plandaí nach bhfásann ach nuair a bhíonn na leibhéil innilte díreach ceart agus gan aon leasú curtha amach ná aon ghníomhaíochtaí eile ann a dhéanfadh damáiste, ar nós an iomarca pasála de bharr an iomarca innilte. Tá sé furasta an córas scórála seo a thuiscint agus a fheidhmiú agus d'fhéadfadh sé a bheith ina chóras féinscórála i scéimeanna amach anseo le luach caomhnaithe na bhféarthailte cailcreacha a mheas.

AranLIFE's scoring system is based on the presence of positive indicator species, i.e. plants that only occur when grazing levels are just right and when there is no input of fertiliser or other damaging activities occurring, such as excessive poaching from over grazing. This scoring system is simple to implement and to understand which makes it possible for it to be part of a self-scoring system when used in assessing the conservation value of calcareous grassland in future schemes.

Táscspeicis Dearfacha

Is éard atá i gceist le speicis dhearfacha ná speicis atá ina macasamhail díreach d'fhéarthailte speiceas-shaibhir ar leith Oileán Árann mar atá aitheanta inár n-obair shuirbhé. Bíonn a fhios, nuair a fheictear na speicis seo sna buailte, go bhfuil na leibhéil chearta innilte á dhéanamh.

Ní bheidh na speicis seo sna buailte má bhíonn scrobarnach iontu nó mura mbíonn siad sách ite. Ní bheidh siad ann ach an oiread má bhíonn leasú curtha amach, mar cuireann leasú an féar ag fás i leaba bláthanna.

Positive Indicator Species

The positive species are species that specifically reflect species-rich grasslands particular to the Aran Islands as identified in our survey work. The presence of these species within the field show that the right levels of grazing are in place.

In fields that are under grazed or where there is scrub encroachment, these species will not occur. These species will also be absent if fertiliser has been spread, as this activity will promote grass growth at the expense of wildflowers.



Tá an chuid is mó de tháscspeicis dearfacha fheilmeacha na n-oileán le feiceáil inár leabhrán bláthanna, 'Oileáin Árann: Plandaí Feirme'

Most of the positive indicator species for island farms are displayed in our flower booklet, 'Aran Islands: Plants of the farm'



Magairlín na mBeach
Bee orchid



Lus Taghla
Fragrant orchid



Magairlín an Fhéileacáin
Butterfly orchid



Magairlín an Loscáin
Frog orchid



'Blue moor Grass', an chéad fhéar a thagann faoi bhláth sna Féara Geimhridh, tugtar Féar Boirne freisin air

Blue moor grass, the earliest grass to come into flower on the winterages also known as Féar Boirne



Searbh na Muc, breathnaíonn sé cosúil le caisearbhán beag ach bíonn na bileoga gruagach agus iad cruinn in áit fiachlach

Mouse-ear hawkweed, looks like a small dandelion but with hairy, rounded instead of toothed leaves



Odrach Bhallach (gorm) agus Méara Muire (buí), plandaí bia tábhachtacha d'fhéileacáin

Devils-bit-scabious (blue) and kidney vetch (yellow), important food plants for butterflies



Minscath Mhór, tá an planda seo faoi bhagairt ar an móirthír ach sách coitianta ar na hoileáin

Greater knapweed, this plant is under threat on the mainland but relatively common on the islands

Córas Scórála AranLIFE

The AranLIFE Scoring System

I dtogra AranLIFE, déanadh trialacha leis an gcóras scórála seo, agus d'fhéadfaí é a chur in oiriúint agus a fheidhmiú i gceantair eile ina dtugtar íocaíochtaí níos airde d'fhéara a bhíonn ar chaighdeán níos airde.

This scoring system has been trialled in the AranLIFE project and could be adapted and applied in other areas where higher quality grassland is rewarded by higher payments.



Scór 5

Tugtar an scór seo do ghnáthoga tosaíochta ar chaighdeán maith. Bíonn sé bainistithe go maith, bíonn córas feiliúnach innilte aige a áiríonn, de ghnáth, innilt beagnach síos go scaith sa ngeimhreadh ach freisin d'fhéadfadh go ndéanfaí innilt sciobtha air sa samhradh má bhíonn an fás féir go maith.

Bíonn éagsúlacht ard speiceas i scór 5 chomh maith le cuid mhaith táscspeicis dearfacha, a chruthaíonn sraith ildathach bláthanna le linn míonna an tsamhraidh ag áireamh neart speiceas magairlíne. Ní chuirtear aon leasú ar an talamh féarach seo mar go laghdódh sé an éagsúlacht speiceas go mór. Tharla go mbíonn déine na hinnilte ag leibhéal barrmhaitheasa, ní bhíonn scrobarnach ná raithneach ag déanamh dochar, sin nó bíonn sé faoi smacht nó leigheasta ó bheith á ghearradh.

Represents good quality priority habitat. It is well managed with an appropriate grazing regime which usually involves grazing to a short turf in winter but may also involve a flash grazing during the summer if grass growth is good.

A score 5 has a high-species diversity with frequent positive indicator species, producing a colourful array of flowers during the summer months including an abundance of orchid species. No fertiliser is applied to this grassland as doing so would reduce the species diversity significantly. Since the grazing intensity is at an optimum level, scrub and bracken encroachment is not an issue or has been rectified or controlled by cutting.



Scór 4

Seo gnáthóg tosaíochta ag a mbíonn, don chuid is mó, éagsúlacht ard speiceas agus táscspeicis dearfacha go minic. D'fhéadfadh an leibhéal innilte a bheith díreach faoin leibhéal barrmhaitheasa nó go mbeadh scrobarnach nó raithneach ag teannadh isteach ann.

Is priority habitat that has a high-species diversity for the most part with frequently occurring positive indicator species. The grazing level may be just below optimum and scrub or bracken encroachment an issue.



Scór 3b

Is gnáthóg tosaíochta le líon níos lú de tháscspeicis dearfacha í seo. Mar gheall ar leibhéal easpacha innilte bíonn an éagsúlacht speiceas íseal, feileann seo d'fhéara arda borb agus bánseach níos airde sa samhradh, rud a scáthaíonn an speiceas luibheach a fhásann sna féara cailcreacha. Bíonn deacracht le scrobarnach agus raithneach sna buailte seo, agus seo toradh eile ar chóras innilte nach bhfuil sách maith.

Is priority habitat with reduced number of positive indicator species. It has a low species diversity because of the inadequate grazing levels which favours a dominance of rank tall grasses and a higher sward height in summer which shades out the herbaceous species typical of calcareous grassland. Scrub or bracken is an issue in these fields which is also a consequence of the sub-optimal grazing regime.



Scór 3a

Seo gnáthóg tosaíochta nach bhfuil úsáid talmhaíochta á bhaint as, nó nach bhfuil á innilt nó go bhfuil an ráta innilte chomh híseal go bhfuil go leor leor seanfhéar ann.

Is priority habitat either not in agricultural use or where grazing is not occurring or where the grazing rate is so low it there is a substantial build-up of grass.



Scór 2

féarthalamh leathfheabhsaithe ina mbíonn táscairí teoranta de ghnáthóg tosaíochta. Féar is mó a bhíonn sa bhfásra, le leibhéal níos airde torthúlachta, nó féarthailte a déanadh le deireanas .

Is semi-improved grassland with limited indicators of priority habitat, the vegetation is grass dominated, with higher levels of fertility or more recently made grasslands.



Scór 1

Gnáthóg é seo nach bhfuil clúdaithe ag an togra LIFE.

Is habitat that is not one of the habitats covered by the LIFE project.

TUAIRIM THEAGASC FAOI ARANLIFE

Cleachtas bunaithe ar fhianaise: Ag feabhsú táirgeachta agus soláthar ar mhaithe leis an bpobal

Daire Ó hUallacháin agus John Finn

Léiríonn AranLIFE an chaoi gur féidir le pobail áitiúla úsáid a bhaint as eolaíocht, teicneolaíocht agus comhairle le réitigh nuálacha a bhrú chun cinn chun talmhaíocht inmharthana a bhaint amach. Ní forbairt agus feidhmiú ar theicneolaíochtaí ar leith an t-aon rud a bhaineann leis seo, mar táthar in ann taispeáint gur féidir táirgeacht agus soláthar ar mhaithe leis an bpobal a mhéadú nuair a fheidhmítear eolaíocht agus teicneolaíocht i gcórais fheilméarachta fairsing.

Chuidigh AranLIFE go mór le cuimse gnéithe d'inmharthanacht talmhaíochta agus feictear é seo mar phríomhcheann dá mbuaiceanna. Trí chomhairliúchán le feilméaraí áitiúla déanadh amach deacrachtaí a bhí ann agus thángthas ar réitigh. Dá bharr seo, úsáideadh teicneolaíochtaí ábhartha, cuí agus éifeachtacha sna córais fheilméarachta fairsing seo. I measc na dteicneolaíochtaí ar leith seo bhí spriocbhainistiú ar innilt, umair uisce agus forlionsa cothaitheacha saincheaptha,

teicneolaíocht thábhachtach eile ná aistriú éifeachtach eolais idir feilméaraí agus foireann an togra. Tagann cuimse buntáistí as na hathruithe ar dtug feilméaraí AranLIFE a dtacaíocht dóibh ina gcleachtais fheilméarachta: feabhas ar sholáthar seirbhíse éiceachóras, feabhas ar bhithéagsúlacht i ngnáthóga tábhachtacha fiadhúlra, níos mó cinnteacht sa soláthar uisce do bheithigh, seans breise ar éiceathurasóireacht agus ar ioncam ó thaobh amuigh den fheilm, íocaíochtaí as seirbhíse éiceachóras, agus teacht isteach níos fearr ar bheostoc níos folláine agus níos táirgiúla.

Is údar bróid do Theagasc a bheith ina bpáirtí in AranLIFE. Is sampla iontach de dhiansaothrú éiceolaíoch iad na nithe atá bainte amach ag an togra. Is rud tábhachtach é go bhféadfaí ceachtanna ó AranLIFE a úsáid ar fud na hÉireann agus na hEorpa i gcórais fheilméarachta dá leithéid, le luach ard ó thaobh an dúlra de agus a bheadh á mbainistiú go forleathan.

Fear ag glanadh cré de ghimseán spáide... binn an fhuaim san earrach thiar

Beidh ról tábhachtach ag rathúlacht thogra AranLIFE maidir le bainistiú inmharthana thalamh feirme Oileán Árann.

Léiríonn taighde a rinne AranLIFE agus Louise Duignan (le tacaíocht Theagasc agus Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Shligigh) an saibhreas eisceachtúil plandaí atá i bhféara Árann, idir 24 speiceas éagsúil i ngach 4m² de na féara a itear sa samhradh go breis is 30 speiceas sna féara a itear sa ngeimhreadh. I gcás tailte féaraigh gan saibhreas speiceas chuidigh glanadh scrobarnaí agus an bainistiú innilte ina dhiaidh sin le hiad a thabhairt suas go caighdeán ard. Nuair a ghlantar róidíní agus nuair a chuirtear soláthair eile uisce ar fáil cinntítear go mbíonn buntáistí feilméarachta agus bithéagsúlachta i dtalamh a d'fhéadfadh a bheith fágtha tréigthe. Tacaíonn na gníomhaíochtaí seo ansin le tionscadal tábhachtach na turasóireachta ar na hoileáin.

Le go mbeidh feilméarachta inmharthana, teastaíonn taighde agus comhairle thráthúil agus spriocdhírthe d'fheilméaraí. Léiríonn taighde a rinne Louise Duignan (maoinithe trí Scéim Chomhaltacht Walsh/Theagasc) ar an gcaighdeán foráiste agus ar chumas innilte fhéarthailte éagsúla Oileán Árann go bhfuil córas bainistithe innilte na mbeithíoch mairteola, a thug feilméaraí Árann chun cinn, deartha go barrmhaithe

le soláthar foráiste a úsáid ar feadh na bliana. Soláthraíonn féara a bhíonn ite sa samhradh 5.5 tonna d'ábhar tirim ar an meán in aghaidh gach heicteár rud a thugann deis do bheithigh bhainne meáchan a chur suas i míonna an Earraigh agus an tSamhraidh. Is 2 tonna d'ábhar tirim in aghaidh gach heicteár a bhíonn sna féara a itear sa ngeimhreadh agus tá siad níos teoranta ó thaobh caighdeán agus méid, mar sin úsáideann ainmhithe suas sail a bhíonn stóráilte ina gcolainn sna míonna seo. Leis an gcóras seo ní bhíonn an costas ar bheathú forlionsa geimhridh chomh daor ach braitheann sé seo ar dhlúthbhainistiú ar chúlthaiscí fuinnimh na mbó diúil sa tréimhse siolrúcháin le héifeachtacht atáirgthe a chinntiú.

Thaispeáin taighde a rinne AranLIFE, Teagasc agus Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Shligigh neamhchothromas séasúrach ó thaobh roinnt cothaitheach agus mianraí (fosfar, copair, sinc, seilíniam agus cóbalt), rud a bhí ag teacht le tuairim na bhfeilméaraí féin go mbíodh easpa agus neamhchothromas mianraí i gceist scaití. Táthar ag obair leis an tréidlia áitiúil Máire Ní Chonghaile agus tá an t-eolas is deireanaí seo á úsáid le teacht suas le forlionsa mianraí ar leith a chuideoidh le feabhas a chur ar bhail bheostoc Árann, agus tacóidh sé seo tuilleadh le hinmharthanacht na gcóras feilméarachta.



TEAGASC'S VIEW ON ARANLIFE

Evidence-based practice:
improving production and public good provision

Daire Ó hUallacháin and John Finn



AranLIFE demonstrates how local communities can use science, technology and advice to drive innovative solutions to achieve sustainable agriculture. This innovation lies not just in developing and implementing specific technologies, but in demonstrating that when we apply science and technology in extensive farming systems, we can increase both production AND public good provision.

One of the major achievements of AranLIFE is its contribution to multiple dimensions of agricultural sustainability. Through consultation with local farmers, problems were identified and solutions developed. This led to the use of relevant, appropriate and effective technologies for these extensive farming systems. Specific technologies included targeted grazing management, water-catchers and customised nutritional supplements;

The success of the AranLIFE project will play an important role in ensuring the sustainable management of farmland on the Aran Islands.

Research by AranLIFE and Louise Duignan (supported through Teagasc and the Institute of Technology Sligo) has highlighted the exceptional plant richness of Aran grasslands, ranging from 24 different species per 4m² in summer-grazed pastures to over 30 species on winter-grazed pasture. Removal of scrub by farmers and subsequent grazing management has helped restore less species-rich grassland to high quality. Clearing bóithriní and provision of alternative water supplies ensures that land formerly at risk of abandonment, will now deliver farming and biodiversity benefits. In turn, these actions support the important tourism industry on the islands.

For farming to be sustainable, farmers need timely and targeted research and advice. Research by Louise Duignan (funded by the Teagasc Walsh Fellowship Scheme) on the forage quality and grazing potential of the different grasslands on the Aran Islands, indicates that the suckler beef grazing management

another important technology was the effective knowledge transfer between farmers and the project team. The changes in farming practice championed by the farmers in AranLIFE lead to multiple benefits: enhanced ecosystem service provision, improved biodiversity of important wildlife habitats, more reliable water supply for livestock, enhanced potential for eco-tourism and off-farm income; payments for ecosystem services, and improve market returns from healthier more productive livestock.

Teagasc is proud to be a partner in AranLIFE. The project's achievements are a wonderful example of ecological intensification. Importantly, lessons from AranLIFE are transferable to similar extensively-managed high nature value farming systems throughout Ireland and Europe.

Fear ag glanadh cré de ghimseán spáide... binn an fhuaim san earrach thiar

system, developed by farmers on Aran, is optimally designed to use forage supply throughout the year. Summer-grazed pastures provide an average of 5.5 tonnes of dry matter per hectare, allowing cows to gain weight over spring and summer months. Winter-grazed pastures, at 2 tonnes of dry matter per hectare, are more limited in quantity and quality, thus animals use up stored body fat over these months. This system minimizes winter supplementary feed costs, but depends on close management of suckler cow energy reserves throughout the breeding cycle to ensure reproductive efficiency.

Research by AranLIFE, Teagasc and Sligo Institute of Technology showed seasonal imbalances in some nutrients and minerals (e.g. phosphorus, copper, zinc, selenium and cobalt), supporting farmers' observations of occasional mineral imbalance and deficiencies. Working with the local vet, Máire Ní Chonghaile, this latest information is being used to help design customised mineral supplements to help improve the condition of Aran livestock, further supporting the sustainability of the farming systems.

Coinneod féin an t-oileán, seal eile i mo dhán, toisc a ionraice atá, cloch, carraig, is trá

Láidríonn dearadh agus bainistiú thogra AranLIFE, in éineacht le tiomantas leanúnach na bhfeilméaraí agus na bpáirtithe leasmhara eile, an tábhacht atá i scéimeanna a bhíonn faoi cheannaireacht áitiúil, spriocdhírthe agus bunaithe ar thorthaí. Bunaítear scéimeanna dá leithéid ar an taighde is deireanaí, ar oideachas agus ar aistriú eolais leanúnach. Tá Teagasc tiomanta i gcónaí tacaíocht agus cúnamh a thabhairt le córais fheilméarachta fairsing a fhorbairt, ar nós atá ar Oileáin Árann. Tá aitheantas breise tugtha don luach a bhaineann le cur chuige faoi cheannaireacht áitiúil, spriocdhírthe agus bunaithe ar thorthaí mar gheall gur glacadh le hiarratas Chaomhnú Árann. Tá Teagasc thar a bheith sásta a bheith páirteach i gCaomhnú Árann, mar go mbeidh deis ann cur le rathúlacht AranLIFE agus déileáil freisin le roinnt de na bearnaí san eolas, le bainistiú inmharthana fhéarthailte Árann (mar a d'aithin AranLIFE, Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Shligigh agus Teagasc) agus teacht suas le cur chuige nuálach le dul i ngleic leis na bearnaí eolais seo.

The design and management of the AranLIFE project, coupled with continuous engagement with farmers and other stakeholders, reinforces the importance of locally-led, targeted, result-based schemes. Such schemes are built on latest research, education and continuous knowledge transfer. Teagasc remains committed to supporting and helping to develop extensive farming systems such as those of the Aran Islands. The value of the locally-led, targeted, result-based approach has been further acknowledged by the recent success of the Caomhnú Árann application. Teagasc is delighted to be part of Caomhnú Árann, where there will be an opportunity to build on the success of AranLIFE and also to address some of the gaps in knowledge the sustainable management of Aran grassland (as identified by AranLIFE, Sligo Institute of Technology and Teagasc) and develop innovative approaches to address these knowledge gaps.



EIP PROJECT PLAN - CAOMHNÚ ÁRANN

Managing the habitats of the Aran Islands to maximise their agricultural and ecological output



CAOMHNÚ ÁRANN Ag Bainistiú gnáthóga Oileán Árann lena n-aschur talmhaíochta a uasmhéadú

D'éirigh le togra AranLIFE, ag obair i gcomhar le páirtithe leasmhara eile, maoiniú a fháil do thogra nua den Tionscnamh Comhpháirtíochta Nuálaíochta Eorpach faoi Chlár Fhorbairt Tuaithe 2014-2020. Tosóidh an togra 'Caomhnú Árann' chomh luath agus a chríochnaíonn togra AranLIFE.

Cuirfidh Caomhnú Árann le hobair AranLIFE ach úsáidfidh teicneolaíocht nuálach le costas riaracháin an fheidhmiúcháin a laghdú, le páirteachas feilméaraí a mhéadú agus le scrúdú a dhéanamh ar bhealaí le hioncam feirme a fheabhsú gan fóirdheontais, le go mbeidh cosaint gnáthóg níos inmharthana d'fheilméaraí. Is maoiniú iomlán €1.4 milliún atá ar fáil do Chaomhnú Árann ón gComhpháirtíocht Nuálaíochta Eorpach do thogra 3 bliana.

Le linn mhí na Samhna/Nollag 2018 beifear ag lorg léirithe spéise ó fheilméaraí a mbeadh suim acu páirt a ghlacadh sa scéim. Ansin beidh próiseas roghnúcháin ann agus piocfar timpeall 100 feilméara le bheith páirteach sa scéim.

Rud atá éagsúil ó AranLIFE ná go bpiocfar talamh taobh amuigh den LCS le háireamh sa togra ach beidh próiseas roghnúcháin á leagan síos faoina bpiocfar an talamh is feiliúnaí le haidhmeanna agus spriocanna an togra a bhaint amach.

CAOMHNÚ ÁRANN Managing the habitats of the Aran Islands to maximise their agricultural input

The AranLIFE project working with other stakeholders succeeded in securing funding for a new project in the European Innovation Partnerships (EIP) Initiative under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. This project 'Caomhnú Árann' will begin once the AranLIFE project is completed.

Caomhnú Árann will build on the work of AranLIFE but use innovative technology to reduce the administrative costs of implementation, increase farmer participation and examine the possibility of non-subsidy ways of improving farm unit income, to make protecting habitats more viable for farmers. Total funding from the EIP for Caomhnú Árann is €1.4 million for a 3 year project.

Expressions of interest will be sought from farmers interested in participating in the scheme during November/December 2018. A selection process will follow to select around 100 farmers to participate in the scheme.

Unlike AranLIFE, land outside the SAC will be selected for inclusion in the project, however, a land selection process will be put in place to select the land that is most suitable in achieving the aims and objectives of the project.

Cláir Fógraí Fiadhúlra ar Inis Oírr

Tá an tsraith iomlán de ceithre chlár fógraí fiadhúlra curtha suas anois ag clós spraoi Inis Oírr. Chuir Comhar Caomhán Teo, Inis Oírr, suas na cláir fógraí seo le maoiniú ó Chomhairle Contae na Gaillimhe, trí Chiste Áitiúil Comhpháirtíocht Comhshaoil Chlár 21. Tá na comharthaí seo bunaithe ar leabhráin Flóra agus Fána na n-oileán a chuir AranLIFE le chéile agus bhí ionchur ag AranLIFE iontu le go bhfeilfeadh an t-eolas d'Inis Oírr.

Wildlife Notice Boards on Inis Oírr

The full suite of four wildlife notice boards has now been erected at the playground on Inis Oírr. These notice boards were erected by Comhar Caomhán Teo, Inis Oírr with funding from Galway County Council through the Local Agenda 21 Environment Partnership Fund. These signs are based on the Flora and Fauna booklets for the islands that AranLIFE produced and some input was given by AranLIFE to adapt the information to suit Inis Oírr.



Comhartha Nua Faoi Éanacha in Inis Mór

Tá líon dochreidte d'éanacha neadaithe ar fhéara Machair Iarárna, ina measc geabhróga agus pilipíní, cinn atá ag éirí fíorghann in áiteacha eile. Neadáíonn siad seo ar an talamh agus bíonn baol ann go gcuirfí as dóibh nó go ndéanfaí creach orthu. Chroch AranLIFE comhartha faoi thábhacht na háite seo d'éanacha le go bhfeicfeadh úsáideoirí uilig an Mhachair é. Bhí an comhartha thuas in am, in Aibreán 2018, don séasúr neadaithe. Táimid fíorbhuíoch do Phádraic Ó Flaithearta agus do na feilmearaí eile uilig a chuidigh linn leis an gcomhartha seo, agus tá aiseolas an-dearfach á fháil óna cuairteoirí a thagann thart ann.

New Bird Sign on Inis Mór

The Machair grassland at Iararna has an incredible number of nesting birds, including those such as terns and lapwing which are becoming increasingly rare elsewhere. These are ground nesting birds which are vulnerable to disturbance and predation. AranLIFE erected a sign highlighting the importance of the area for birds to all the users of the Machair. This sign was erected in time for the bird nesting season in April 2018. Many thanks to Pádraic Ó Flaithearta and all the farmers who helped us with this sign, which has received very positive feedback from all visitors to the site.



Cuairt Scoileanna Inis Mór agus Inis Oírr ar Inis Meáin

Ar an Aoine 15 Meitheamh thug foireann AranLIFE na trí Scoil Náisiúnta as Inis Oírr agus Inis Mór ar shiúlóid treoraíthe le Scoil Náisiúnta Inis Meáin ar bhóithríní Inis Meáin. Bhí an t-ádh orainn go raibh Ciarán Ó Fatharta in éindí linn, mar d'inis sé do na páistí faoi fheilmearacht ar na hoileáin agus an obair a bhaineann le fás seagail, rud a dhéantaí go forleathan sna hoileáin roimhe seo agus nach ndéantar ach in Inis Meáin anois. Bhí Michael O'Connell as Inis Mór in éineacht le AranLIFE freisin agus thaispeáin seisean roinnt d'éiceolaíocht chladach Inis Meáin do na páistí. Bhí 95 páiste agus 24 duine fásta uilig ar an turas agus táimid an-bhuíoch do Scoil Náisiúnta Inis Meáin as an imeacht a óstach agus sólaistí a chur ar fáil don 119 rannpháirtí! Míle Buíochas.

Inis Mór and Inis Oírr Schools Visit Inis Meáin

On Friday 15th June, the AranLIFE team brought all the three National Schools from Inis Oírr and Inis Mór for a guided walk along with Inis Meáin National school along the boreens of Inis Meáin. We were fortunate to be accompanied by Ciarán Ó Fatharta who told the children about farming on the islands as well as the work involved in producing a rye crop, a practise which was once widespread on the islands and now only occurs on Inis Meáin. AranLIFE were also joined by Michael O'Connell from Inis Mór who showed the children some of the ecology of the Inis Meáin seashore. In total 95 children and 24 adults participated in the trip and we are very grateful to Inis Meáin National School for hosting the event and providing refreshments for all 119 participants! Míle Buíochas.

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An Roinn Cultúir,
Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta
Department of Culture,
Heritage and the Gaeltacht



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
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Fáilte Ireland
National Tourism Development Authority

An Chomhairle Oidhreacht
The Heritage Council



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
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