



Water-based solutions for carbon storage, people and wilderness

The Challenge

Wetlands provide essential services for landscapes and society by retaining and purifying water, removing pollutants and excess nutrients, storing atmospheric carbon, moderating flooding and coastal storms, supporting an immense variety of wildlife, and offering recreational, well-being and economic benefits to surrounding communities. When mismanaged, these valuable services are lost. On the other hand, opportunities can be realised from scaling up the restoration of isolated wetlands towards re-establishing former wetland landscapes.

Project Objectives

WaterLANDS aims to restore wetland sites across Europe which have been damaged by human activity and to lay the foundations for upscaling protection across more areas. The project will undertake hands-on restoration of specific wetland sites, covering an initial 10,500 hectares, and create best practice models that can be applied to wetland restoration at other sites. By engaging with local communities, policymakers and other stakeholders, the project will ensure that wetland restoration results not only in environmental gains, but also social and economic benefits for the communities involved. Identifying viable investible propositions for wetlands will also help establish long-term financial support for scalability.

Expected Results

The partners will work together to ensure the resilience and health of both wetland habitats and the communities who rely on them. The following results are expected:

- Demonstration of large-scale wetland restoration.
- Overcome barriers to restoration and develop integrated solutions for upscaling.
- Cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary collaboration to co-create wetland restoration.
- Maintained wetland carbon storage and enhanced natural carbon sequestration services.
- A community-led paradigm in the co-design of restoration, empowering, engaging and reconnecting with nature.
- Tailored financial solutions and resources for restoration of wetlands.

www.waterlands.eu



At a Glance

Programme: H2020 - LC-GD-2020-3

Type of Action: Innovation Action

Duration: Dec. 2021 - Nov. 2026

Coordinator: University College Dublin, Ireland

Total Budget: €23,631,574

EU Grant: €23,068,483

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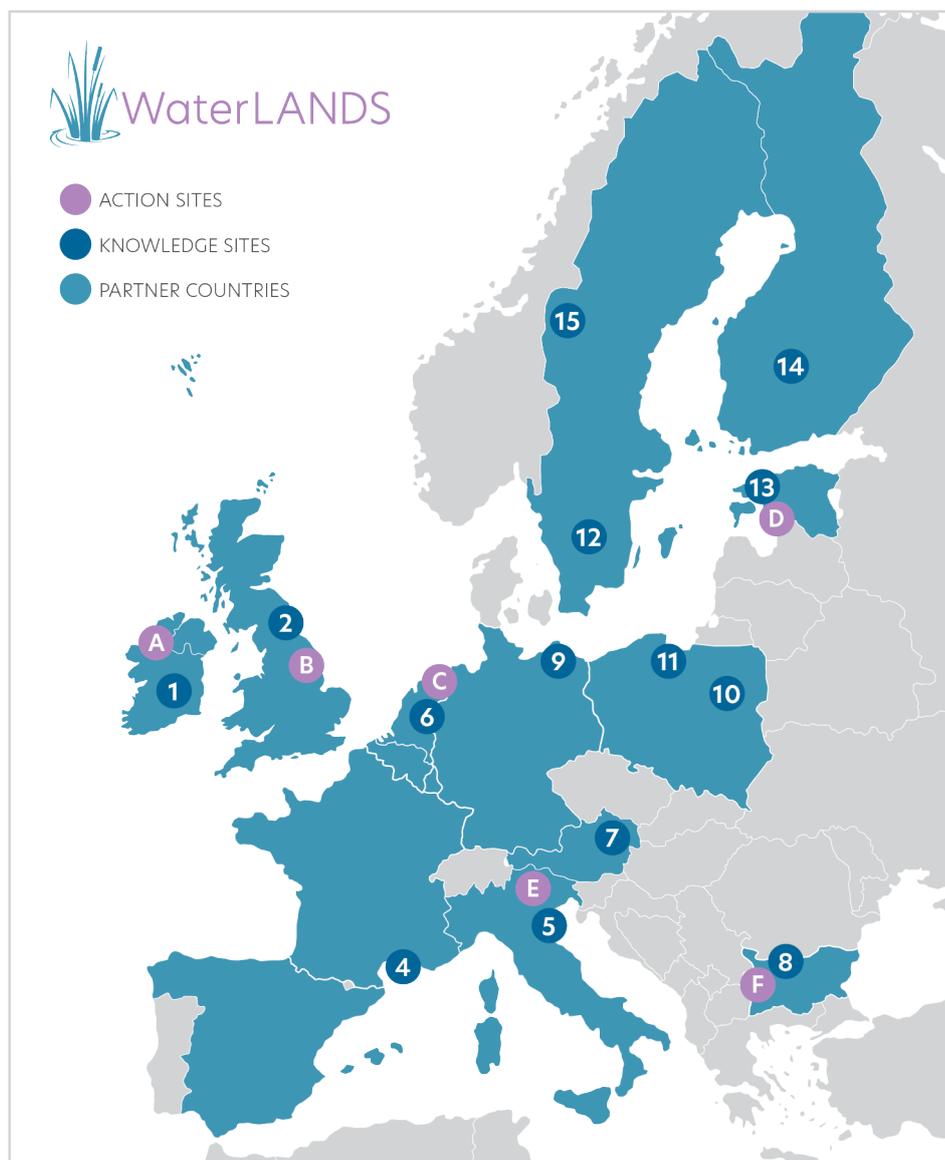
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ACTION SITES

- A** LIFE-IP Wild Atlantic Nature (Ireland)
- B** Yorkshire iCASP (The United Kingdom)
- C** Eems-Dollard Estuary (The Netherlands)
- D** Pärnu Catchment (Estonia)
- E** Venice Lagoon (Italy)
- F** Dragoman Marsh (Bulgaria)

KNOWLEDGE SITES

- 1** Abbeyleix Bog (Ireland)
- 2** Water@Leeds (The United Kingdom)
- 3** Doñana Wetland (Spain)
- 4** Camargue (France)
- 5** Venice Lagoon (Italy)
- 6** Engbertsdijkvenen (The Netherlands)
- 7** Landscape Finance Lab (Austria)
- 8** Belene Island (Bulgaria)
- 9** M. Succow Foundation (Germany)
- 10** Wetlands around Warsaw (Poland)
- 11** Mazury Forest Mire (Poland)
- 12** Store Mosse (Sweden)
- 13** Maima Bog (Estonia)
- 14** Siikaneva (Finland)
- 15** Jämtland Mountains (Sweden)



WaterLANDS Partnership

The five-year project is led by University College Dublin, Ireland and brings together 32 organisations from research, industry, government and non-profit sectors in 14 European countries.



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