

# Biodiversity Statement

## 5. References

- The EC Birds Directive
- Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985
- The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995
- The Habitats Directive
- Obligations under the RAMSAR Convention Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002
- Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order (NCALO) 1985
- The Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1989
- Special Protection Areas
- Special Areas of Conservation
- National Nature Reserves
- Marine Nature Reserves
- Local Nature Reserves
- Natura 2000 sites



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## 1. Background/ Introduction

The UK Government has made a commitment to halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010 and Northern Ireland has identified some 37 priority habitats and numerous priority species and plants which require conservation action. Whilst only some of these habitats fall within NI Water Landholdings, we have established a biodiversity implementation plan to help reduce the loss of biodiversity and conserve priority habitats and species. We already ensure that significant risk is managed through our Environmental Management System. However NI Water wish to continue to minimise the potential to impact biodiversity, directly or indirectly and formalise our commitment in the form of this Biodiversity Statement.

We aim to continuously improve all aspects of our operations, from the ways in which we operate our business through our supply chain, transport, facilities, and estate and land management. All these have an impact on biodiversity.

We manage about 8615 hectares of land and by developing our Biodiversity Implementation Plan we can assess the contribution we can make to Biodiversity in Northern Ireland.



## 2. Objectives of the Statement

Northern Ireland Water Service will try to:-

- ✓ Assess the impacts of our activities (direct and indirect) on biodiversity by continuous improvement through our environmental management system.
- ✓ Conserve and where possible enhance local biodiversity through building partnerships with local organisations with experience in managing biodiversity.
- ✓ Meet and if possible exceed NI Water's obligations set out in biodiversity legislation and regulations
- ✓ Include in our purchasing decisions products and services that have the least impact on biodiversity by the continued use of the Green Guide for Government and the inclusion of this Biodiversity Statement in all our future contracts
- ✓ Encourage suppliers to adopt our statement or consider biodiversity in provision of services where appropriate to do so
- ✓ Seek a similar commitment towards biodiversity from all third parties involved with our business – suppliers, vendors and contractors
- ✓ Raise awareness and educate both NI Water staff and the general public on how they can help us promote and enhance biodiversity in our local environment.
- ✓ Contribute to projects and programmes that assist with the conservation of biodiversity within NI Water landholdings.
- ✓ Continue to reduce the impact of discharges to the environment through our ongoing Capital Works Programme
- ✓ Continue to ensure that possible impacts on biodiversity are considered in all our investment decisions. Carry out Environmental Impact Assessments on all capital projects where required.

- ✓ Engage with the local community and other stakeholders to deliver better biodiversity conservation – conduct annual stakeholder forums to inform interested parties and seek feedback.
- ✓ Continue to work closely with Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Rivers Agency and other stakeholders to achieve the biodiversity obligations within the Water Framework Directive
- ✓ Continue to actively manage our Water Catchments and prepare Water Safety Plans to preserve the quality of our drinking water and protect the natural environment.

## 3. The Statement

This statement is designed to further demonstrate NI Water's commitment to the protection and enhancement of the natural environment. The statement and its objectives aim to help reduce environmental risk.

## 4. Who should have knowledge of the Statement?

All NI Water staff should be aware of the Statement and our aim to enhance biodiversity. The staff who are responsible for:

- Construction and management of NI Water's Assets
- Catchment management
- Operational areas with the potential to cause pollution

should have a greater appreciation of the objectives and how they can help deliver the aims. This should cascade down our supply chain to suppliers, consultants and contractors.

