

# An Fóram Uisce | The Water Forum

## Looking after Ireland's water resources



LIVE WEBINAR – 21<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021 – 10:00-12:30

**A discussion on: *Managing peatlands to improve water quality, climate change mitigation and biodiversity.***

The webinar will provide an opportunity to disseminate and discuss research commissioned by An Fóram Uisce on how peatlands need to be managed to improve water quality and the how community engagement is essential to realise positive environmental outcomes.

Time	Item
10:00	Welcome and introduction Prof. Tom Collins, Chair of An Fóram Uisce
10:05	Address – Guest Speaker ( <i>tbc</i> )
<b>Session 1: Managing peatlands to improve water quality, climate change mitigation and biodiversity</b>	
10:15	<i>An introduction to peatlands; natural, degraded and rewetted</i> ; Dr Florence Renou-Wilson, UCD
10:30	<i>Carbon cycling in natural, drained, and rewetted peatlands</i> ; David Wilson, Earthy Matters
10:45	<i>Blanket bog management and Results-based Payment Schemes (RBPS)</i> ; Derek McLoughlin, Wild Atlantic Nature LIFE IP
11:00	Q&A
<b>Session 2: Cultural ecosystems services and the social values of peatlands</b>	
11:30	<i>Cultural ecosystems services and the social value of peatlands</i> ; Kate Flood, NUIG
11:45	<i>Community-led conservation at Abbeyleix bog, for the common good</i> ; Chris Uys, Abbeyleix Bog project
12:00	<i>'Otherworldly wonders of the bog'</i> ; Tina Claffey, Award winning Irish nature photographer
12:10	Q&A
12:30	<i>Closing address</i> ; Prof. Tom Collins

### The Speakers:

<p><b>Dr Florence Renou-Wilson</b>, (School of Biology and Environmental Science, University College Dublin, Ireland, has investigated peatlands for more than 20 years at the crossroads of ecology, forestry, agriculture, climate change and sustainable management. She has been appointed scientific advisor to the Government multi-stakeholder Peatlands Council.</p>	<p><b>Dr David Wilson</b>, BSc. Hons. In 2005, he received his doctorate for his work investigating the impact of peatland restoration on greenhouse gas (GHG) fluxes. A Lead Author in the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2013 Wetlands Supplement and has published in peer-reviewed scientific journals, books, and in national newspapers.</p>	<p><b>Derek McLoughlin</b>, lives in his native Westport, Co. Mayo. He has worked on many aspects of the management of peatlands and associated habitats over the past 20 years and has worked with farmers and land owners across a range of projects including the EU RBAPS project in Ireland and Spain, the Pearl Mussel Project European Innovation Partnership (EIP).</p>
<p><b>Kate Flood</b>, is a PhD Candidate, National University of Ireland Galway. Kate's research integrates social science, ecology, and humanities disciplines to explore the relationships between people and peatlands, focusing on the values of nature (including cultural ecosystem services, social, and relational values) and the processes by which these values emerge at community levels.</p>	<p><b>Chris Uys</b>, a native of Namibia, has been living and working in Ireland for the last 20 years. His educational background is in Communication. He has been actively involved in community-based projects and social entrepreneurship all his working life. Chris has been involved with the Abbeyleix Bog Project (ABP) on a voluntary basis since 2000.</p>	<p><b>Tina Claffey</b>, is an award-winning Irish nature photographer, and author of 'Tapestry of Light-Ireland's bogs &amp; wetlands as never seen before' published in 2017. Tina specialises in close-up macro photography, which captures this ancient wilderness in a unique way, seeing beyond what the human eye is capable of. She has exhibited in the US (New York &amp; San Francisco), Botswana, Zambia and throughout Ireland.</p>

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Link to [Synthesis Report](#); Link to [Peatlands Research Report](#) or see [www.thewaterforum.ie](http://www.thewaterforum.ie)