

Neagh Bann River Basin Management Plan

# Register of Plans and Programmes

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# Register of Plans and Programmes

## Neagh Bann River Basin District

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## 1 Introduction

Annex VIIA (paragraph 8) of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) requires Member States to include ‘***a register of any more detailed programmes and management plans for the River Basin District dealing with particular sub-basins, sectors, issues or water types, together with a summary of their contents.***’ Although River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) are now the main plans in place in the field of water policy, they are not the only water-related management plans being implemented in Northern Ireland. There is already an array of plans and processes related to land, biodiversity, climate change and water management planning which contribute to the aims of improving and maintaining water quality and enabling sustainable water use. It is important to integrate and co-ordinate these planning processes at a strategic level in order to protect and enhance Northern Ireland’s waters.

Many of these existing strategies, policies, programmes and plans act as drivers for change to the water environment, for example by directing where land-use or development change should take place or by providing agri-environment grant schemes such as the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development’s Northern Ireland Countryside Management Scheme and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) Management of Sensitive Sites (MOSS) Scheme, to encourage environmentally friendly farming practice. RBMPs and relevant plans and programmes must be coordinated to ensure that water objectives can be achieved and ensure that plans contribute to common goals and reinforce and support each other where necessary. The relationship between River Basin Management Plans and other water protection plans and programmes is two-way; each must influence the other’s objectives.

The focus of this annex is on key existing and future national frameworks, strategies, policies, programmes and plans that can help achieve WFD requirements.

## 2 Planning topics

Ten planning topics have been identified as significant for the Neagh Bann River Basin District. These are *land use planning, agriculture, water supply and treatment, waste management, natural heritage, forestry, fisheries, coastal, flooding and climate change planning*. Plans and programmes set out under these topics are implemented at national, regional and local levels by a range of statutory bodies and organisations.

### 2.1 Land use planning

Land use planning mechanisms operate at national (Northern Ireland Regional Development Strategy and Planning Policy Statements) and local level (Development Plans commonly referred to as “Area Plans”). Effective integration between river basin planning and the implementation and ongoing refinement of planning policy is crucial to ensure that development is compatible with

water objectives that we have set in our river basin management plan.

'Shaping Our Future' the Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland 2025 sets out a strategic planning framework for the sustainable development of Northern Ireland until 2025. The strategy promotes sustainability with a strong focus on social cohesion and economic progress along with conservation and enhancement of the environment. A five year review of the Regional Development Strategy has taken place and a number of adjustments have been made to the environmental Strategic Planning Guidelines. One aspect of the adjustments will ensure that stronger links between the strategy and the WFD and its requirements are made.

Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) set out policies on land use and other planning matters and apply to the whole of Northern Ireland. Their contents are taken into account in the preparation of Development Plans. PPSs are also used to inform decisions on individual planning applications. NIEA will directly feed into the development and revision of PPSs to ensure that, where applicable, WFD principles and targets are incorporated.

Development Plans may be in the form of area plans, local plans or subject plans and provide an essential framework for guiding investment by public, private and community sectors. They apply the regional policies of the Department at the appropriate local level. Development Plans inform the general public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested bodies of the policy framework and land use proposals that will guide development decisions within their local area.

It is necessary to maintain and strengthen links between land use planning and river basin planning to ensure the successful delivery of the requirements of the WFD.

## **Land use planning**

### **What land use planning can do for river basin planning**

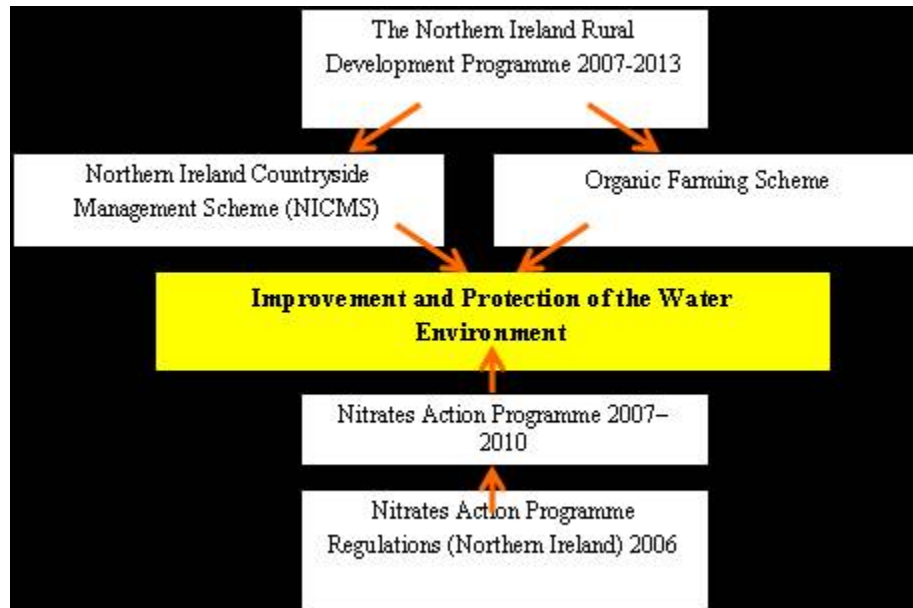
- Recognise the strategic objectives covering WFD interests outlined in Regional Development Strategy planning framework.
- Ensure the economic, social and environmental objectives outlined in Development Plans reflect those of the RBMP wherever possible, making for greater ease and speed in plan implementation.
- Ensure the requirements of the WFD (e.g. the requirement to promote sustainable flood risk management, protect aquatic habitats, ensure the sustainable use of water resources etc.) are taken into account from the outset of development plan preparation.
- Ensure that developments are appropriately located and designed to ensure sustainable use of our water environment.
- Take account of the requirements of the WFD in preparing relevant Planning Policy Statements and Advice Notes
- Actively engage NIEA in the preparation of spatial plans. Promote the exchange of information between planning authorities and NIEA with a view to avoiding duplication of effort and minimising the risk of inconsistencies in the content of Development Plans and River Basin Management Plans.
- Give due consideration to Catchment Flood Risk Management Plans in allocating land for future development

### **What river basin planning can do for land use planning**

- Ensure key partners involved in managing the water environment are actively engaged in addressing issues such as the availability of water supplies, maintaining water quality & minimising/managing flood risk, all of which have implications for development planning.
- Continue to work with regional and local authorities to help identify where development plans can help deliver WFD objectives and embrace WFD principles.
- Promote the exchange of information between planning authorities and NIEA.

## **2.2 Agricultural planning**

There are a number of agricultural planning mechanisms that will contribute significantly to achievement of water objectives established in the Neagh Bann River Basin Management Plan. The Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 sets out strategic objectives for rural development in Northern Ireland. They include improving the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry in Northern Ireland by supporting development and innovation; improving the environment by supporting land management; improving the quality of life in rural areas; and encouraging diversification of economic activity.



Two schemes are available under the Rural Development Programme, the Northern Ireland Countryside Management Scheme (NICMS) and the Organic Farming Scheme. The NICMS provides grants to farmers to ensure they maintain biodiversity, safeguard water quality and improve the management of landscape and heritage features.

The Organic Farming Scheme encourages farmers to convert to organic farming to meet the demand for organic food and enhance the environment. Participants in the scheme will help deliver a number of environmental benefits through the reduced use of artificial fertilisers, pesticides and herbicides, thereby contributing to soil, and water and air quality, the conservation and enhancement of rural landscapes, and to biodiversity.

The Nitrates Action Programme 2007–2010 was introduced under the Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006. The programme includes requirements for a closed period of spreading of organic and inorganic fertilisers; a minimum livestock manure storage requirement; a limit on the amount of nitrogen that can be applied to land from livestock manures of 170 kg nitrogen per hectare per year; and the inclusion of nitrogen efficiency measures. The programme will be subject to review in 2010. This review will examine the effectiveness of the action programme in meeting the environmental aims and objectives of the Nitrates Directive. During the review an assessment of the contribution of the programme to achieving the objectives in the River Basin

Management Plans (RBMPs) will also be undertaken, this will allow for decisions to be made on what further measures may be required to ensure that WFD objectives are met.

Effective integration between river basin planning and the implementation and refinement of agricultural programmes, plans and grant schemes will ensure that WFD objectives are met. Objectives in river basin management plans will also help to inform and target where agricultural inspection and enforcement activity and education and advisory visits are focused.

## **Agriculture**

### **What agricultural planning can do for river basin planning**

1. The Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme
  - Input to and support development and implementation of the RBMPs
  - Target funding of agri-environment schemes towards areas where agricultural pressures have been identified.
  - Encourage Statutory Management Requirements and Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions to avoid pollution to water
  - Encourage Special Environmental options and projects

### **What river basin planning can do for agricultural planning**

1. Provide information on the water environment (classification, objectives and measures)
  - to inform targeting of agricultural planning and funding to achieve the greatest environmental and public benefits
  - to raise awareness within agricultural sector of the pressures impacting on water bodies and of the actions they can take to alleviate these pressures.
2. Continue to work with and influence other agricultural planning processes to help ensure delivery of WFD objectives and the integration of WFD principles of sustainable, catchment based, integrated approach to water management.

## **2.3 Water supply and treatment planning**

The Northern Ireland Water (NIW) Capital Works Programme prioritises upgrade and investment in water and sewerage infrastructure. The Capital Works Programme Strategic Business Plan has been agreed to cover the period March 2007 to March 2010. The majority of the investment in this current Capital Works Programme is directed towards sewerage assets reflecting the necessary priority given to meeting required standards and realising environmental improvements. This will ensure that

improvements are delivered to meet the requirements of European Directives such as the Shellfish Waters, Bathing Waters and Urban Waste Water Treatment Directives which all contribute to achieving the objectives outlined in the RBMP.

The planned Capital Works Programme for the period 2010 – 2013 will be confirmed as part of the periodic review of prices by the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation and the associated Northern Ireland Asset Management Plan (NIAMP3). NIEA will review the environmental investment required during this period and beyond 2015 and will work with Northern Ireland Water to prioritise the environmental problems so that indicative lists can be developed. These lists will prioritise schemes on the basis of the scale of the environmental, social and economic benefits that can be delivered. The output from this process will be the basis of NIEA's submission to the next Northern Ireland investment round and will also be used to provide the basis for identifying indicative WFD objectives for 2021 and 2027.

### **Water Supply and Treatment Sector**

#### **What the investment programmes can do for river basin planning**

1. Plan and fund improvements to meet objectives of the WFD

#### **What river basin planning can do for the investment programmes**

1. Identify those water bodies which require improvements
2. Establish a cost effective programme of measures
3. Place strong emphasis on source control to minimise pollutants entering the water supply and sewage systems

The WFD places a strong emphasis on source control to reduce pollutants entering water supplies. Drinking Water Safety Plans will be developed which will identify where catchment based measures are required to protect drinking water sources. NIW has initiated a programme to develop Drinking Water Safety Plans by 2010. Production of these plans will link directly with the river basin planning process and both plans will help promote and deliver catchment based measures to protect drinking water supplies.

### **Drinking Water Safety Plans**

#### **What Drinking Water Safety Plans can do for river basin planning**

1. NIW to develop Drinking Water Safety Plans to safeguard water quality

### **What river basin planning can do for Drinking Water Safety Plans**

1. Inform the process of drinking water safety planning to ensure delivery of WFD objectives
2. Encourage all stakeholders to agree and deliver measures necessary to protect drinking water supplies to support NIW.

## **2.4 Waste management planning**

The Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy and Regional Waste Management Plans direct waste management planning and control in Northern Ireland and will contribute to the achievement of WFD objectives.

### **Waste Management**

#### **What waste management planning can do for river basin planning**

- Reduce the quantities of waste produced and where waste is generated manage to minimise impact on the environment and public health

#### **What river basin planning can do for waste management planning**

- Continue to work in conjunction with Land and Resource Management Unit to help ensure delivery of WFD environmental objectives.
- Provide information that allows LRMU to take targeted action to protect and improve the water environment.

## **2.5 Natural heritage planning (biodiversity and Natura 2000)**

There are a variety of natural heritage plans in place in Northern Ireland such as Habitat Action Plans, Species Action Plans, Local Biodiversity Action Plans and Conservation Objectives for Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and Areas of Special Scientific Interest. The main areas where river basin planning and natural heritage planning have the potential to interact are the development of objectives and delivery of measures to maintain, enhance or protect water dependent habitats and species. Objectives and management actions within natural heritage plans will also contribute to achievement of objectives for water bodies in the RBMP.

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan provides a programme of action for the UK's most threatened or rarest habitats and species. Implementation of the programme is established through development of Species and Habitat Action Plans and through a network of Local Biodiversity Action Plans. Some of the actions within these plans, which are related to water dependent habitats and

species, will contribute to achievement of objectives in the RBMPs. Likewise measures that are implemented as part of the RBMPs will also help to achieve the objectives of these plans.

Sites are designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) under the Birds Directive. Collectively they are referred to as the “Natura 2000” network. The WFD objective is to achieve favourable conservation status by 2015, where appropriate for those Natura sites with water dependent features. River basin planning can help in the planning process to restore those Natura 2000 sites, which have water dependent features that are not in favourable condition.

### **Natural Heritage Planning**

#### **What Natural Heritage Planning (Biodiversity & Natura 2000) can do for river basin planning**

- Provide more information on key areas for biodiversity action e.g. local groups gathering data on species of conservation concern or presence of invasive non-native species
- Establish links with existing groups and initiatives already taking forward action on biodiversity priorities e.g. LBAPs

#### **What river basin planning can do for Natural Heritage Planning**

- Continue to work with, inform and influence natural heritage and biodiversity planning processes to help ensure delivery of WFD objectives and principles
- Provide classification, measures and objectives information in River Basin Management Plans to inform biodiversity planning processes including the requirement for action to protect/improve the water environment.
- Assist in taking forward measures to address pressures on ASSI and Natura 2000 sites with water related features in unfavourable condition.
- Target resources at pressures impacting on WFD water bodies

## **2.6 Forestry planning**

The UK Forestry Standard provides the policy framework to the UK government’s commitment that forests will be managed in a sustainable way. “Northern Ireland Forestry – A Strategy for Sustainability and Growth” confirms this and provides a strategy for delivery in a Northern Ireland context.

Forest management plans are the basis for monitoring sustainable forest management. All Forest Service plantations and woodlands in receipt of assistance from the DARD will have a plan, the detail and complexity of which will vary. Plans cover the whole range of major forest operations including harvesting, planting, aerial fertilising and road-making. Clear proposals for management of riparian areas are an integral part of all plans. In addition, all Forest Service plantation and a proportion of private woodland, amounting to

74% of all woodland in Northern Ireland, is subject to independent certification approval and audit against the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS). This is a voluntary certification standard which addresses concerns such as the impact of management practice on biological diversity, the impact of timber haulage on roads, consultation with stakeholders and sustainable management of forests.

## **Forestry Planning**

### **What forestry planning can do for river basin planning**

- Implement targets within the Northern Ireland Forestry strategy for sustainability and growth
- Ensure that best practice guidelines and standards are aligned with achieving WFD objectives and secure the effective implementation of this guidance
- Improved guidance based on scientific research for highly sensitive and protected areas

### **What river basin planning can do for forestry planning**

- Continue to work in conjunction with Forest Service to inform and influence forestry planning processes to help ensure delivery of WFD environmental objectives.
- Provide classification, objectives and measures information that allows Forest Service to take targeted action to protect and improve the water environment.

## **2.7 Fisheries planning**

Freshwater fisheries planning in Northern Ireland concentrates on Atlantic Salmon and eels. There are requirements for the production of management plans for these species. These management plans will be developed in line with RBMP objectives and will contribute to the fulfilment of WFD requirements. Through coordination with river basin planning there will be opportunities to identify measures and actions to be undertaken by a range of Departments that will deliver against priorities shared with RBMPs. Implementation of measures outlined in the RBMPs will also help to ensure that objectives outlined in fishery management plans are also realised.

The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure pursues a strategic approach to attempt to address the decline in Atlantic Salmon. The Atlantic Salmon Management Strategy for Northern Ireland has been developed to meet the objectives of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO), an intergovernmental body established by treaty. The core concept is to establish spawning targets (conservation limits) at a river and regional level to ensure that in most rivers in most years sufficient adult salmon are

spawning to maximise output of smolts from freshwater. The Loughs Agency is responsible for implementing this in the Foyle and Carlingford areas and reporting back to NASCO annually through DCAL. In addition the agency in conjunction with AFBI produces the annual report to the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) on the status of stocks of salmon within the FCILC and NI areas.

The European Eel Regulation aims to establish measures for the recovery of the European eel stock. The Regulation requires the establishment of Eel Management Plans for each eel river basin, of which there are three in Northern Ireland, which will demonstrate that at least 40% of the biomass of adult eels from each river basin relative to the best estimate of the potential escapement in the absence of human activities affecting the fishing area or stock are escaping to spawn. Work is on-going in conjunction with other UK departments, the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources in Ireland and the commercial eel industry to meet the requirements of this Regulation. Essentially the Department is seeking to arrive at a balance between permitting a level of commercial fishing to continue and ensuring that there are adequate measures in place to contribute to conservation of the species and thus allow for both a sustainable eel stock and a sustainable industry in the future. Accordingly, the Department continues to operate conservation oriented management policies through the regulation and monitoring of commercial eel fisheries. National Eel management plans have been produced for the three eel river basins. European Fisheries Funding is being sought to implement eel management plans to establish measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel.

The Co-ordinated Local Aquaculture Management System (CLAMS) process is an all-island initiative to manage the development of aquaculture in bays and inshore waters at a local level. Management plans are produced for the development of aquaculture in individual sea loughs. In each case the plan fully integrates aquaculture interests with relevant European and national policies as well as with the interests of all other groups using the marine environment and other initiatives such as Integrated Coastal Zone Management. The CLAMS process has been implemented in Carlingford and Larne Loughs in Northern Ireland and has been widely adopted in areas with fish and shellfish farming around the Irish coast. River basin management planning measures, for example tackling diffuse pollution, have the potential to improve the environment for aquaculture.

## **Fisheries Planning**

### **What fisheries planning can do for river basin planning**

- Ensure that the range of environmental improvement and protection measures undertaken by RA, DCAL and LA are clearly set out in fishery management plans and can be linked to WFD priorities in the area and RBMPs.
- Undertake an ongoing programme of environmental monitoring and data gathering that may be available to NIEA during RBMP implementation.
- Work together to ensure that measures which deliver against shared objectives are funded or become priorities for funding from others.

### **What river basin planning can do for fisheries planning**

- Continue to work with, inform and influence fishery management planning processes to help ensure delivery of WFD objectives and the integration of WFD principles of sustainable, catchment based, integrated approach to water management
- Provide pressure and impact assessments, classification and objectives information for water bodies to help prioritise the work programmes of the fishery management plans.

## **2.8 Coastal planning**

In Northern Ireland Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation Plans for Ports and Harbours and a Coastal Contingency Plan have been prepared to provide a structured framework to address coastal pollution incidents. The draft Marine Bill that will be implemented in Northern Ireland will provide an integrated single marine planning framework that will further augment coastal planning and protection and contribute to the achievement of RBMP objectives.

The first stage of implementation of the Marine Bill will be the development of a UK wide marine policy statement to create a more integrated approach to marine management and setting short and long term objectives for sustainable use of the marine environment. The second stage will be the creation of a series of marine plans which will implement the policy in specific areas.

The Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for Northern Ireland 2006-2026 forms the basis for a new approach to the management of the coastal area and will provide a useful framework for all users, planners, managers and developers in deciding how best to balance competing resource demands with environmental needs. It will also aid the development of an integrated programme of social, environmental and economic improvements for future generations. ICZM and marine issues will be highlighted in the Review of the Regional Development Strategy (currently under preparation). In certain Area Plans NIEA have established coastal zones with associated policies although limited. The Northern Ireland Marine and Coastal Forum are currently conducting their three year review of the ICZM for Northern Ireland, to which NIEA are contributing.

## **Coastal Planning**

### **What coastal planning under the UK Marine Bill the can do for river basin planning**

- Introduction of a more consistent marine licensing regime
- Introduce marine planning to clarify marine objectives and priorities for the future
- Assist decision-makers and users towards more efficient, sustainable use and protection of our marine resources
- Creation of a series of marine plans, which will implement the policy statement in specific areas, using information about spatial uses and

needs in those areas

#### **What river basin planning can do for coastal planning under the UK Marine Bill**

- Work with and inform future marine planning processes to help ensure delivery of the WFD objectives.
- Input classification, objectives and measures into marine planning framework.

## **2.9 Flood planning**

Rivers Agency an Executive Agency of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is the statutory drainage and flood defence authority for Northern Ireland. Rivers Agency responsibilities include maintaining watercourses and sea defences and constructing and maintaining drainage and flood defence structures.

The EC Floods Directive 2007/60/EC came into force in 2007 and will help establish stronger links between river basin planning and flood risk management planning in the second river basin planning cycle. The Directive aims to reduce the adverse consequences of floods on human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity. To achieve this, the Directive establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks. This framework requires member states to take action in three areas:

- Produce preliminary flood risk assessments (by December 2011)
- Produce flood hazard maps and flood risk maps (by December 2013)
- Produce flood risk management plans (by December 2015)

Significant work is underway to fulfill the requirements of the Floods Directive, for example a policy framework 'Living with Rivers and the Sea' published in September 2008 sets out a framework for the delivery of flood risk management in Northern Ireland for the next 10 years. Rivers Agency have produced an interim Flood Mapping Strategy, a Strategic Flood Map for Northern Ireland and are in the process of completing flood risk assessments and developing flood risk management plans. The Floods Directive promotes the enhancement and restoration of natural floodplains which may also help deliver certain WFD objectives. All this work will be aligned with the River Basin Management Plan and its objectives. The Draft Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 are in preparation.

### **Flood Planning**

#### **What flood planning can do for river basin planning**

- Increased involvement of authorities responsible for flood risk management in managing the wider functions of the water environment.
- Cooperation between Departments, agencies and stakeholders to agree flood plans
- Greater stakeholder awareness of the value of the water and land environment in managing flood risk.

#### **What river basin planning can do for flood planning**

- Work with, inform and influence future flood risk management planning processes to help ensure delivery of WFD objectives and principles.
- Help to deliver more sustainable options for flood risk management by working with natural processes at the catchment scale
- Help increased awareness amongst stakeholders involved in managing the water environment regarding their role in flood risk management.

## **2.10 Climate change planning**

Commitments and targets for the UK to achieve its goals of reducing carbon dioxide emissions are currently set out in the Draft Climate Change Bill. Northern Ireland's long term approach to climate change is to ensure its consideration is fully incorporated into all policy, strategy and future plans. Climate change considerations must be fully integrated into the river basin planning process. It may be necessary to adapt to the impacts of climate change on our waters but it will also be necessary to ensure that the measures that are adopted as part of the RBMP do not contribute to climate change (i.e. through increased emissions) but rather contribute to climate change adaptation, by for example through measures to support sustainable flood management.

The water environment is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, and for this reason the European Commission has identified water management as a priority area in which the impacts of climate change must be taken into account. That must happen in all of the key steps of implementation including characterisation, the analysis of pressures and impacts, economic analysis, monitoring, design of the programmes of measures and the objective setting process. Fortunately, the cyclical approach of WFD implementation makes it well suited to adaptation to climate change.

Temperature increases, seasonal rainfall variations, and other climate changes which have been detected within the UK and Ireland, are likely to affect the existing pressures and impacts identified in the WFD Article 5 Characterisation Summary Report. In some circumstances, climate change may make it more difficult to achieve WFD objectives. It is not anticipated that climate change will require significant amendments to currently planned implementation during the first cycle – it is however important that, during the first cycle climate change is taken into account when implementing measures and in planning for the second cycle plans. There is also potential for synergies between WFD objectives and climate change adaptation aims.

The measures in the RBMP help ensure that we firstly protect waters from deterioration due to climate change and secondly take into

account climate change factors when developing and implementing measures to improve the water environment.

### **Climate change planning**

#### **What climate change planning can do for river basin planning**

- Provide better information and data on how future climate change may influence how we need to manage land and water in the future to adapt to and limit climate change.
- Provide a framework for climate change risk assessment.

#### **What river basin planning can do for climate change planning**

- Work with, inform and influence climate change planning processes to help ensure the promotion of sustainable ways of adapting to climate change, such as water efficiency to deal with potential water shortages and coastal realignment to adapt to rising sea levels.
- Ensure that climate change is embedded in the decision making process when developing plans and implementing measures to protect or improve the water environment.
- Consider how measures can help with adaptation to climate change.

## **2.11 Miscellaneous plans and programmes**

Plans and programmes that do not fit directly into the 10 planning topics are included in the *miscellaneous* section of the table.

## **2.12 Plans and programmes specific to the Neagh Bann District**

There are a number of local plans and programmes that are being implemented in the Neagh Bann River Basin District. These include issue logs which have been developed by NIEA, which in some cases have been developed in conjunction with a number of angling clubs to identify problems angling club members have highlighted in the catchment and implement a number of measures to resolve problems.

### 3 Table of Plans and Programmes

Key Plans and Programmes	Details
<b>Land Use Planning</b>	
Northern Ireland Regional Development Strategy 2025	<p>This strategy published in 2001 guides the future development of Northern Ireland to 2025 and helps meet the needs of a fast growing region. It sets strategic guidance on a range of Social, Economic and Environmental matters and is implemented through the Plans and Strategies of Government Departments.</p> <p>The strategy sets out the strategic planning framework for the promotion of sustainable development in the region. The strategy recognises that a high quality environment is an essential component of the quality of life and that economic development must be integrated with environmental quality. The strategy informs strategies, objectives and proposals which emerge in development plans.</p>
<p>Relevant Planning Policy Statements (PPS) are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPS 2 Planning and Nature Conservation</li> <li>• PPS 4 Industrial Development</li> <li>• PPS 7 Quality Residential Developments</li> <li>• PPS 11 Planning and Waste Management</li> <li>• PPS 14 Sustainable Development in the Countryside - now entitled PPS 21 Sustainable Development in the Countryside</li> <li>• PPS 15 Planning and Flood Risk</li> </ul>	<p>Planning Policy Statements contain policies on land-use and other planning matters, for example telecommunications or the built heritage, and apply to the whole of Northern Ireland. They set out the main planning considerations that the Planning Department takes into account in assessing proposals for the various forms of development and are also often relevant to the preparation of development plans.</p> <p>All Planning Policy Statements refer to the context in which their particular policies are formulated. The context in turn refers to the requirements of relevant European Directives thus policy formulation should conform with all the relevant legal /statutory requirements.</p>
<p>Specific development plans relevant in the <b>Neagh Bann International River Basin District</b> include the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Armagh Area Plan 2018</li> <li>• Draft Banbridge, Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015</li> <li>• Cookstown Area Plan 2010 (Adopted 2004)</li> <li>• Craigavon Area Plan 2010 (Adopted 2004)</li> <li>• Dungannon and South Tyrone Area</li> </ul>	<p>Development Plans may be in the form of area plans, local plans or subject plans. They apply the regional policies of the Planning Department of the Department of the Environment at the appropriate local level. Development Plans inform the general public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested bodies of the policy framework and land use proposals that will guide development decisions within their local area.</p> <p>These Plans will identify any local environmental features that should be considered for effective protection of the environment.</p>

Key Plans and Programmes	Details
Plan 2010 (Adopted 2005) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Magherafelt Area Plan 2015</li> <li>• Draft Antrim, Ballymena and Larne Area Plan 2016</li> <li>• Draft Northern Area Plan 2016</li> </ul>	
<b>Agricultural Planning</b>	
Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2007-2013	The Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme is part-financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development with co-funding provided by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. It has four main themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improving the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry by supporting restructuring, development and innovation.</li> <li>▪ Improving the environment and countryside by supporting land management.</li> <li>▪ Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity.</li> <li>▪ Using a LEADER-type approach.</li> </ul>
Nitrates Action Programme / Plan 2007-2010	The Nitrates Action Programme requires farmers to observe rules to reduce nitrate pollution, with measures on storing manure and periods when spreading manure and manufactured fertiliser to land is not allowed. Key measures include: a closed period for the application of organic and inorganic fertilisers; a minimum livestock manure storage requirement; a limit on the amount of nitrogen that can be applied to land from livestock manures of 170 kg nitrogen per hectare per year; and the inclusion of nitrogen efficiency measures.
Northern Ireland Countryside Management Scheme	This scheme provides grants to farmers to ensure they maintain biodiversity, safeguard water quality and improve the management of landscape and heritage features. The scheme aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improve biodiversity.</li> <li>▪ Improve water quality</li> <li>▪ Mitigate climate change</li> <li>▪ Improve soil quality</li> <li>▪ Avoid marginalisation and land abandonment.</li> </ul> <p>The scheme will address reversing the decline in farmland biodiversity; enhancing the landscape; and managing our natural resources to improve the quality of our water, air and soil. Effective pollution control is a requirement of the scheme and scheme participants are provided with farm nutrient and pollution control advice as part of their application process. The scheme requires participants to draw up obligatory farm waste management plans.</p> <p>There are options for participants to take up new farm waterway and riparian zone management measures which aim to enhance river and riverbank biodiversity and act as a buffer reducing pollution of water rivers and lakes by fertilisers and pesticides.</p>
Organic Farming Scheme 2007-2013	The Organic Farming Scheme has been set up to encourage farmers to convert to organic farming to meet the demand for organic food and benefit the environment; it reduces the potential for pollution and other environmental damage.

Key Plans and Programmes	Details
	In 2006 only 0.9% (10,154 hectares) of Northern Ireland's total agricultural land area was under organic production. However targets for an increase of over 5% of total area of land under organic management have been set.
Voluntary Initiative	The Voluntary Initiative (VI) is a programme of self regulation measures proposed by the agricultural and agrochemical industries to minimise the environmental impact of pesticides and has been agreed by government. Farmers are asked to participate in the areas related to the application of sprays, crop protection management plans and appropriate training.
Farm Nutrient Management Scheme	The Farm Nutrient Management Scheme was introduced by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in 2005 to enable farmers to comply with the Nitrates Directive and reduce water pollution by improved storage and use of livestock manures. The scheme provided 60% capital grant to farmers for building manure and slurry storage facilities
Education and awareness programme run by the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE)	The programme aims to encourage a greater understanding of the role farmers play in caring for their environment, issues affecting agriculture and the environment, by providing information on biodiversity, sustainable agriculture, habitat management, endangered species, water quality and waste management.
<b>Water / Wastewater Treatment and Supply Planning</b>	
Northern Ireland Water Capital Works Programme 2009/10	This investment programme sets out priorities for water and sewerage infrastructure to be upgraded with specific dates for completion. As a result of the current programme the percentage of the population equivalent served by compliant wastewater treatment works will increase markedly from 77% to 94%.
Small works upgrade programme	For small wastewater treatment works a priority list has been developed by Northern Ireland Water in conjunction with Planning Service and NIEA, upgrades to works will be delivered in 3 phases.
Drinking Water Safety Plans	Drinking Water Safety Plans are currently being prepared by Northern Ireland Water. They act as a means of assessing hazards and controlling any risks from those hazards within the collection, abstraction, treatment and distribution of drinking water. This process enables Northern Ireland Water to determine whether any actions are required to reduce or eliminate the risk. The actions could be improved operational or maintenance procedures or they could require capital investment in new controls or barriers. Drinking Water Safety Plans will also help identify where catchment based measures are required to protect drinking water sources.
Drainage Area Plans	The sewer network in a number of towns and villages throughout Northern Ireland has been or will be appraised through Drainage Area Studies. Northern Ireland Water is taking forward this programme of just over 100 drainage-area studies across the larger areas of population in Northern Ireland. The studies use models to assess the hydraulic capability of the drainage systems to cater for current and future development. The drainage-area studies will determine the improvements required to the sewerage network in order to reduce pollution and the risk of flooding and to meet environmental objectives within a 30-year horizon. Drainage Area Plans are developed and implemented as a result of these studies.
<b>Waste Management Planning</b>	
Towards Resource Management – The Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy 2006-2020	The aim of the Waste Management Strategy is to manage waste and resources effectively by using material resources in a way that reduces the quantities of waste produced and, where waste is generated, to manage it in a way that minimises its impact on the environment and public health. The strategy places emphasis on waste prevention and reinforces the need to increase waste recycling and recovery through a mixture of approaches including the renewal of recycling targets, focused awareness campaigns and the possible introduction of incentive

Key Plans and Programmes	Details
	schemes.
Waste Management Grant Scheme (2006 - 2008)	NIEA continued to provide grant aid to District Councils to cover the last two years of the Waste Management Grant Scheme (2006 -2008). This helped Councils invest in the minor infrastructure needed to implement their Waste Management Plans.
Landfill site closure plans	<p>A Strategic Plan for the Closure of Landfill Sites in Northern Ireland was finalised at the start of 2008. Closure plans for individual landfill sites address a number of issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the current site conditions, both environmentally and physically;</li> <li>• recommendations for works to minimise the environmental impact of the site after the site's closure, and to comply with the requirements of the Landfill Directive; and</li> <li>• provisional cost estimates for the recommended works.</li> </ul>
North West Region Waste Management Plan 2007-2020	<p>The purpose of the Plan is to set out a framework for the management of controlled wastes arising in the North West Region over the period 2006 to 2020. This includes identifying capacity needs, potential sites and/or siting criteria, and the services needed for the collection, treatment and disposal of the wastes.</p> <p>The North West Region plan was prepared by the North West Region Waste Management Group consisting of seven councils (Ballymoney Borough Council; Coleraine Borough Council; Derry City Council; Limavady Borough Council; Magherafelt District Council; Moyle District Council; and Strabane District Council).</p>
Arc 21 (Eastern) Region Waste Management Plan 2006-2020	<p>The Arc21 (formerly Eastern Region Waste Management Group) Waste Management Plan was adopted in January 2003. The central focus of the plan is an analysis of the waste streams arising in the Arc21 Region and associated potential for waste prevention, recycling and recovery and disposal. The plan sets out the range of facilities that will be needed to deliver the strategic targets and criteria for locating these.</p> <p>The Arc21 region plan is governed by a collective agreement by eleven councils (Ballymena Borough Council, Antrim Borough Council, Ards Borough Council, Down District Council, Carrickfergus Borough Council, Newtownabbey Borough Council, North Down Borough Council, Castlereagh Borough Council, Larne Borough Council and Belfast and Lisburn City Councils).</p>
Southern Region Waste Management Plan 2006-2020	<p>The purpose of the Plan is to set out a framework for the management of controlled wastes arising in the southern region of Northern Ireland over the period 2006 to 2020. This includes identifying capacity needs, potential sites and/or siting criteria, and the services needed for the collection, treatment and disposal of the wastes.</p> <p>The Southern regional plan is managed by the Southern Waste Management Partnership comprised of eight councils (Fermanagh District Council, Omagh District Council, Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council, Cookstown District Council, Armagh City and District Council, Craigavon Borough Council, Banbridge District Council, Newry and Mourne District Council).</p>
Port Waste Management Plans	The Merchant Shipping (Port Waste Reception Facilities) Regulations 2003 (S.R. 2003/1809) require harbour authorities in the UK to prepare a waste management plan with respect to the provision and use of facilities for the management of prescribed wastes from ships using the port. This encourages the regular disposal of vessel generated wastes in an environmentally correct manner.
<b>Natural Heritage Planning (Natura 2000 and Biodiversity)</b>	
Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy	In October 2000 the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Group's 'Recommendations to Government for a Biodiversity

Key Plans and Programmes	Details
	Strategy' outlined a series of recommendations to further protect Northern Ireland's biodiversity. It provided specific recommendations to produce a range of Habitat and Species Action Plans which aimed to protect Northern Ireland's wetlands and coastal resource. Following on from this in August 2002 the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy was launched.
Northern Ireland Biodiversity Delivery Groups	Following on from the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Group's 'Recommendations to Government for a Biodiversity Strategy' in 2000 Six Biodiversity Delivery Groups have been set up. One of these groups looks specifically at Wetland Habitats and Species. Whilst other groups cover water dependent habitats and species such as the Peatlands and Uplands Biodiversity Delivery Group and the Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Group.
UK Biodiversity Action Plan	The UK Biodiversity Action Plan sets out the governments commitments to the Convention on Biological Diversity signed in 1992. It provides a detailed plan for the protection of these resources and includes Species Action Plans, Habitat Action Plans and Local Biodiversity Action Plans.
Northern Ireland Habitat Action Plans (HAPs)	Habitat Action Plans have been developed for 37 priority habitats in Northern Ireland, of which a variety are water dependent. Linkages between the River Basin Management Plan and the Habitat Action Plans are required to ensure that conservation and Water Framework Directive requirements are met and aligned. Details on each of these plans can be found in the Biodiversity section of the NIEA website ( <a href="http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/biodiversity">http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/biodiversity</a> ).
Northern Ireland Species Action Plans (SAPs)	A list of Northern Ireland priority species was published in March 2004 and subsequently approved by the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Group in October 2004. This list formed the basis for selecting species requiring Northern Ireland Species Action Plans. To date detailed SAPs have been developed for 34 priority species in Northern Ireland and for 7 species at an All-Ireland level. A number of these species are water dependent and therefore linkages between the River Basin Management Plan and the individual Species Action Plan are required to ensure that conservation and Water Framework Directive requirements are met. Details on each of these plans can be found in the Biodiversity section of the NIEA website ( <a href="http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/biodiversity">http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/biodiversity</a> ).
Regional Management Groups	Across Northern Ireland there are a series of regional management groups, such as the Strangford Lough Management Committee and the Lough Neagh Advisory Committee. These regional management groups consist of representatives with an interest in the management of their wetland and coastal resource. Several of these groups have developed Management Strategies and/or websites which take into account the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment.
Local Biodiversity Action Plans	<p>The Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) listed have been developed by local councils in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and NGOs. They aim to conserve biodiversity through local partnerships, taking into account both national and local priorities. LBAPs involve local people and local organisations through the practical delivery of biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>For further information on LBAPs in the Neagh Bann International River Basin District see section on <b>Plans and Programmes in the Neagh Bann International River Basin District</b></p>
'Our Nature with Aggregates' Strategy	The strategy aims to conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity in the Aggregates and Quarry Products Industry in Northern Ireland. It is a five year strategy that guides the protection, enhancement and management of

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	biodiversity and geodiversity on the variety of quarries and associated products manufacturing sites belonging to Quarry Products Association NI (QPANI) member companies. Under the strategy the QPANI and its member companies will work together with government, planners, councils and nature conservation organisations to achieve shared goals, for the benefit of wildlife and society.
Aggregates Levy Credit Scheme (ALCS)	On joining the ALCS mineral extractors, including quarry operators and sand and gravel extractors sign a legal agreement to comply with all regulatory requirements and to carry out environmental improvements identified by the Department of the Environment (DOE), following periodic review. On joining the Scheme operators receive a Code of Practice and Audit Protocol which identifies the type of environmental requirements needed to remain within the Scheme. In order to avail of the Scheme (80% reduction in the Levy), an operator must have in place and comply with all relevant environmental consents/licenses. Regular audits are carried out by the DOE to assess compliance with the scheme.
Local Biodiversity Action Plans for quarries	A number of QPANI member companies have prepared company site Biodiversity Action Plans, detailing priority habitat and species and management plans.
<p>Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) in the <b>Neagh Bann International River Basin District</b> have Conservation Objectives, these SACs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dead Island Bog</li> <li>▪ Slieve Gullion</li> <li>▪ Derryleckagh</li> <li>▪ Rostrevor wood</li> <li>▪ Peatlands Park</li> <li>▪ Montiaghs Moss</li> <li>▪ Upper Ballinderry River</li> <li>▪ Teal Lough</li> <li>▪ Curran Bog</li> <li>▪ Ballynahone Bog</li> <li>▪ Carn / Glenshane Pass</li> <li>▪ Wolf Island Bog</li> <li>▪ Bann Estuary</li> <li>▪ Garry Bog</li> <li>▪ Main valley bog</li> <li>▪ Rea's Wood &amp; Farr's Bay.</li> <li>▪ Slieve Beagh</li> </ul> <p>Special Area of Protection (SPAs) in the <b>Neagh Bann International River Basin District</b> have Conservation Objectives these</p>	<p>SAC and SPA Conservation Objectives include descriptive information about the site and have a management framework section which outlines objectives and management actions for the site.</p> <p>Site condition is monitored as a requirement of the Habitats Directive through Common Standards Monitoring. Through this monitoring these sites are classified into condition categories based upon their features.</p> <p>Restoration Plans will be produced for those sites which are deemed to be in unfavourable condition.</p> <p>NIEA requires an Appropriate Assessment to be carried out on activities that could potentially be damaging to these sites under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p>

Key Plans and Programmes	Details
SPAs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Carlingford Lough</li> <li>▪ Lough Neagh</li> <li>▪ Antrim Hills</li> <li>▪ Slieve Beagh – Mullaghfad-Lisnaskea</li> </ul>	
Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs)	<p>Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) are areas that have been identified as being of the highest degree of conservation value. ASSIs are found across Northern Ireland in each of our River Basin Districts. Many of these ASSIs contain water dependent habitats and species.</p> <p>ASSI Conservation Objectives include descriptive information about the site and have a management framework section which outlines objectives and management actions for the site.</p> <p>Details of ASSIs can be found in the Biodiversity Section of the NIEA website (<a href="http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/biodiversity">http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/biodiversity</a>).</p>
NIEA Natural Heritage Grant Aid Programme	<p>The Northern Ireland Environment Agency administers the Natural Heritage Grant Programme to support projects in Northern Ireland to encourage the conservation and enhancement of key elements of the environment and its wildlife, and the provision of facilities which help as wide a range of people as possible to enjoy and appreciate our natural heritage.</p>
Management of Sensitive Sites (MOSS) Scheme	<p>MOSS is a voluntary scheme, administered by NIEA, which is designed to ensure the positive management of land within ASSIs. Its key objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To conserve and enhance the nature conservation interests of the land.</li> <li>• To conserve and enhance the diversity of plant and animal species found in each ASSI.</li> <li>• To introduce or continue a land management regime that will create the conditions necessary to ensure that the special interests of the ASSI are maintained or enhanced.</li> </ul>
Natural Heritage Research and Development Strategy 2004-2009	<p>The Northern Ireland Environment Agency through the Natural Heritage Research and Development Strategy and the Natural Heritage Research Partnership carries out research. The information gathered through research is used by NIEA Natural Heritage to make informed decisions on the protection of Northern Ireland's natural environment.</p>
Zebra Mussel Management Strategy for Northern Ireland 2004-2010	<p>The strategy aims to minimise the spread of zebra mussels in Northern Ireland through raising awareness, developing policy and legislation, monitoring and research and developing contingency plans for immediate action in the event of further zebra mussel spread.</p>
<b>Forestry Planning</b>	
Northern Ireland Forestry – A Strategy for Sustainability and Growth	<p>The strategy focuses on how more forests can be created and on the sustainable management of existing forests. This document provides a strategy for the delivery of forestry policy in Northern Ireland and identifies a commitment to increasing long term forest cover. An indicative map for new woodland planting identifies areas where afforestation should be encouraged as well as those areas where it should be discouraged.</p>
Forest Management Plans	<p>All Forest Service woodlands are subject to a detailed management planning process and are reviewed on a five-yearly rolling basis. The plans cover the full range of major forest operations. The protection and improvement of</p>

Key Plans and Programmes	Details										
	water quality is a key consideration when preparing forest management plans. Design plans are prepared clearly identifying riparian zones and their future management objective of improvement of biodiversity. Plans are subject to wide consultation ranging from statutory bodies to local populations.										
Short Rotation Coppice Scheme	This scheme supports the planting of Short Rotation Coppice crops for renewable energy purposes.  All proposed Woodland Grant Schemes must comply with the UK Forestry Standard and Guidelines including the Forests and Water Guidelines. Special conditions may apply where planting is proposed within sensitive water catchment areas following consultation with NIEA. Grants are conditional on such conditions being met.										
Woodland Grant Scheme	This scheme aims to encourage the creation of new woodlands and the management of existing woodlands by providing money towards the cost of the work involved.										
Farm Woodland Premium Scheme	This scheme is designed to encourage the creation of new woodlands on farms through annual payments which help offset the loss of income resulting from taking the land out of agriculture.										
Woodland Certification under the UK Woodland Assurance Standard	The UK Woodland Assurance Standard is a voluntary standard primarily for use in UK woodlands and verified through independent audit. This standard covers the key components of sustainable forest management. It addresses legislative issues, management planning, and the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity. The majority of woodlands in Northern Ireland have been certified in accordance with this standard.										
<b>Fishery Planning</b>											
Northern Ireland Atlantic Salmon Management Strategy and plans 2008 - 2012	<p>The main objective of the Atlantic Salmon Management Strategy is to conserve, enhance, restore and rationally manage salmon stocks in catchments throughout Northern Ireland through Catchment Management Plans (CMPs). The core concept of the plans is to establish spawning targets at a river and regional level. The central aim of management is to ensure that in most rivers in most years sufficient adult salmon are spawning to maximise output of smolts from freshwater. The river or catchment is monitored for salmon numbers and where levels are not being attained the problem is identified and addressed. Implementation of the plans is reported to and assessed by the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO).</p> <p>CMPs will aim to provide a scientific evaluation of each salmon population and its habitats at catchment or sub catchment level including an assessment of Conservation Limits, an evaluation of quantity and quality of habitat units, identification of impacts and threats, and prioritisation of management actions in consultation with stakeholders.</p> <p>Catchment Management Plans will be developed in line with the following schedule:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="703 1198 1885 1364"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="703 1198 940 1222">2009</th> <th data-bbox="940 1198 1178 1222">2010</th> <th data-bbox="1178 1198 1415 1222">2011</th> <th data-bbox="1415 1198 1652 1222">2012</th> <th data-bbox="1652 1198 1885 1222">2013</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="703 1222 940 1364">Blackwater and tributaries Glendun Moneycarragh Garvary</td> <td data-bbox="940 1222 1178 1364">Upper Bann Clady Shimna</td> <td data-bbox="1178 1222 1415 1364">Sixmilewater Agivey Glenarm and other Antrim rivers Ballinderry</td> <td data-bbox="1415 1222 1652 1364">Inver Moyola Quoile Enler Lagan</td> <td data-bbox="1652 1222 1885 1364">Crumlin/Glenavy Ballymoney/ Ballycastle Ballinamallard Kesh</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Blackwater and tributaries Glendun Moneycarragh Garvary	Upper Bann Clady Shimna	Sixmilewater Agivey Glenarm and other Antrim rivers Ballinderry	Inver Moyola Quoile Enler Lagan	Crumlin/Glenavy Ballymoney/ Ballycastle Ballinamallard Kesh
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Key Plans and Programmes	Details					
				Lower Bann		
Eel management plans	<p>The European Commission adopted the European Eel Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007 on 18 September 2007 which aims to establish measures for the recovery of the European eel stock. The Regulation requires the establishment of Eel Management Plans for each river basin district.</p> <p>The main aim is to permit the escapement to the sea of at least 40% of the biomass of adult eels relative to the best estimate of escapement that would have existed if no human influences had impacted the stock. Measures to attain this target might include reduction in commercial fishing effort, restocking measures, improvement of passage, combating predators and addressing problems caused by hydro electric power stations.</p>					
Loughs Agency Riverwatch Outreach education programme: 'Adopt a stream' 'Salmon in the Classroom'	<p>A number of out reach programmes are undertaken such as 'Salmon in the Classroom' and 'Adopt a Stream' which target schools within the Foyle and Carlingford areas. The Adopt a stream programme encourages groups to tidy up local streams. The various outreach education programmes increase stakeholders knowledge and level of understanding and encourage stakeholders to take ownership of waterways.</p>					
Co-ordinated Local Aquaculture Management System (CLAMS) for Carlingford Lough	<p>Co-ordinated Local Aquaculture Management Systems (CLAMS) is a process to develop, at local level, a management plan for the development of aquaculture in individual sea loughs. In each case the plan fully integrates aquaculture interests with relevant European and national policies as well as with the interests of all other groups using the marine environment and other initiatives such as Integrated Coastal Zone Management.</p>					
<b>Coastal Planning</b>						
Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for Northern Ireland 2006-2026	<p>The Strategy forms the basis for a new approach to the management of the coastal area and will provide a useful framework for all users, planners, managers and developers in deciding how best to balance competing resource demands with environmental needs. It will also aid the development of an integrated programme of social, environmental and economic improvements for future generations.</p>					
Draft Marine Bill	<p>The draft UK Marine Bill is being finalised by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). This extends to Northern Ireland in a number of areas, including a new marine licensing regime. The changes that are proposed are intended to result in better, more consistent licensing decisions delivered more quickly and at less cost to all by a system that is proportionate and easier to understand and to use. They will integrate delivery across a range of sectors.</p> <p>The Bill also introduces the concept of marine planning. This will clarify marine objectives and priorities for the future, and will assist decision-makers and users towards more efficient, sustainable use and protection of our marine resources. The first stage of this marine planning system will be the creation of a UK-wide marine policy statement to create a more integrated approach to marine management and setting both our short and longer-term objectives for sustainable use of the marine environment. It is then intended that the second stage will be the creation of a series of marine plans, which will implement the policy statement in specific areas, using information about spatial uses and needs in those areas.</p>					

Key Plans and Programmes	Details
UK National Contingency Plan	After saving human life, the key purpose of responding to a maritime incident is to protect human health, and the marine and terrestrial environment. The UK National Contingency Plan sets out detailed plans to ensure there is a timely, measured and effective response to marine pollution incidents.
Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation Plans for Ports and Harbours	A statutory duty has been imposed on harbour authorities, harbours and oil handling facilities of a certain size and or turnover to produce plans to respond to marine pollution incidents in their waters. These plans are commonly referred to as Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation Plans and dovetail with the UK National Contingency Plan to ensure an effective response to marine pollution incidents.
Northern Ireland Coastal Contingency Plan	This plan details the actions to be taken to minimise the effects of unauthorised discharges of polluting substances to coastal waters.
<b>Flood Risk Management Planning</b>	
Rivers Agency Interim Flood Mapping Strategy	This strategy sets out a structured programme of fluvial and coastal flood risk mapping that is based on current knowledge of the mapping requirements for PPS15 (Planning Policy Statement 15 planning and flood risk) and the Floods Directive.
Watercourse Maintenance Programme 2008-2009	This programme involves routine maintenance work on designated main, minor and urban watercourses, and also minor works regarding repair / refurbishment to ancillary structures and installations to ensure that watercourses are kept free flowing to prevent flooding.
Flood Risk Management Plans	The Floods Directive which entered into force on 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2007 has a requirement for preparation and implementation of flood risk management plans by 2015.
<b>Climate Change Planning</b>	
UK Climate Change Bill	This Bill provides a long-term framework for the UK to achieve its goals of reducing carbon dioxide emissions and will ensure that steps are taken towards adapting to the impacts of climate change. The Bill puts into statute the UK's targets to reduce carbon dioxide emissions through domestic and international action by 80% by 2050 and 26-32% by 2020, against a 1990 baseline.
UK Climate Change Programme	The Programme is the UK's key strategy for its work on tackling climate change. It sets out the policies and measures which the UK is using to cut its emissions of greenhouse gases. It also explains how the UK plans to adapt to the impacts of climate change.
Carbon Reduction Commitment Scheme	This new scheme will apply mandatory emissions trading to cut carbon emissions from large commercial and public sector organisations (including supermarkets, hotel chains, government departments, large local authority buildings) by 1.1 MtC / year by 2020.
'Preparing for a Changing Climate in Northern Ireland'	This focuses on the ways in which Northern Ireland must respond to meet the opportunities and threats presented by the impact of a changing climate. Risk analysis has been carried out and impacts have been identified. Adaptation strategies for each impact have been prepared.
<b>Miscellaneous plans and programmes</b>	
UK Shared Framework for Sustainable Development 'One future – different paths'	The UK Shared Framework for Sustainable Development sets out the common challenges and goals for the UK. The framework affirms that, although powers have been devolved to democratic bodies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, the UK will work to common goals.
Northern Ireland Sustainable Development Strategy and Implementation Plan	The Northern Ireland Sustainable Development Strategy was published in May 2006. The document focused on six priority areas:

Key Plans and Programmes	Details
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable Consumption and Production</li> <li>• Natural Resource Protection and Environmental Enhancement</li> <li>• Sustainable Communities</li> <li>• Climate Change and Energy</li> <li>• Learning and Communication</li> <li>• Governance and Sustainable Development</li> </ul> <p>The Implementation Plan has been developed around this framework and detailed targets have been set for each priority. The Plan also contains details of how each government department will address sustainability issues across the full range of their policy and operational areas.</p>
Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland – 'Building a Better Future' Draft Investment Strategy 2008–2018	<p>The strategy identifies priority areas for investment and is intended to assist government and private sector partners to plan ahead to deliver the investment programme. There are a number of cross cutting objectives of the strategy based on economics, society and the environment. They include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic – investment in infrastructure to accelerate economic growth and improve competitiveness of business;</li> <li>• Societal – investment in infrastructure to promote equality of opportunity and the desirability of good relations, promote regional balance in future development, and tackle areas of social disadvantage; and</li> </ul> <p>Environmental – investment in infrastructure to protect and enhance our environment, particularly addressing areas affected by EU Directives.</p>
Programme for Government 2008-2011	<p>The Programme for Government sets out strategic priorities and key plans for 2008-2011. The Programme for Government is used to determine the Budget and Investment Strategy and together, these demonstrate how resources and capital investment will be allocated in support of priorities.</p> <p>Priorities under the Programme for Government are divided into a number of key Public Service Agreements (PSAs). These confirm the key actions that will be taken in support of priorities, and the outcomes and targets that will be achieved over the 2008-2011 period.</p> <p>A number of these PSAs are applicable to the Water Framework Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PSA 22 - Protecting our environment and reducing our carbon footprint;</li> <li>• PSA 15 - Water and sewerage infrastructure; and</li> <li>• PSA 23 - Managing the risk of flooding from rivers and the sea.</li> </ul>
NIEA Better Regulation Programme 2008-2010	<p>The Better Regulation Programme will modernise and simplify NIEA's approach to regulation to help the competitive position of business by lowering the administrative burden and at the same time, improve the quality of the environment. NIEA are committed to delivering effective, risk-based, streamlined regulation. By improving awareness and compliance assistance, through effective and consistent enforcement and by simplifying permitting and data returns, NIEA will be able to provide a more balanced and integrated system of protection for the environment.</p>
<b>Plans and Programmes in the Neagh Bann International River Basin District</b>	
Maine Issue Log	<p>Catchment investigation by NIEA Regional Operations into reported point and diffuse pollution sources highlighted by the Maine Angling Club and the Maine Enhancement Partnership. Actions resulting from the investigations have in some cases lead directly to review of consents and cessation of direct discharges.</p>

Key Plans and Programmes	Details
Ballinderry Issue Log	Catchment investigation by NIEA Regional Operations in conjunction with Ballinderry Fish Hatchery into poor water quality in the Ballinderry catchment. A number of point source pollution problems have been identified which has lead to action being taken to remedy the situation and cease the discharge. A number of prosecutions are also pending.
RIPPLE project	The Ballinderry River Action Plan has been produced as part of the RIPPLE Project – Rivers Involving People, Places and Leading by Example. During 2008, over 300 people living in or near the Ballinderry River catchment contributed to the creation of visions for the river. Over 115 actions have been identified by the community that could help make these visions for the Ballinderry River a reality. In October 2008 these actions were prioritised in order of those which were considered to be most important and most achievable. Members of the local community took on the role of ‘Champion’ for the main issues of concern identified through the RIPPLE project. A ‘CURE’ group, Clean Up The River Environment’ has also been established to provide practical actions. The RIPPLE project is a WWF project delivered by the Ballinderry River Enhancement Association’s Ballinderry Fish Hatchery and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.
Lower Bann Issue Log	Catchment investigation by NIEA Regional Operations in conjunction with the Ballinderry Fish Hatchery into poor water quality in the Lower Bann and associated tributaries. A number of point source pollution problems have been identified which has lead to action being taken by landowners to remedy the situation and cease the discharge.
Blackwater Issue Log	Catchment investigation by NIEA Regional Operations into reported point and diffuse pollution sources highlighted by Clogher Anglers. A number of point source pollution problems have been identified which has lead to action being to remedy the situation and cease the discharge. The relevant authorities in the RoI have also been involved in supporting this initiative on the Blackwater.
Six Mile Water Issue Log	Catchment investigation by NIEA Regional Operations into reported point and diffuse pollution sources highlighted by Antrim and District Angling Association and the Ulster Angling Federation. A number of point source pollution problems have been identified which has lead to action being taken to remedy the situation and cease the discharge. This work has lead to a number of successful prosecutions and a number are still pending. A number of additional issues have been highlighted by Ballynure Angling Club and are currently being addressed by NIEA Regional Operations.
Six Mile Water Trust	NIEA are providing support to the development of Rivers Trust in NI in partnership with the Association of River Trusts. The Six Mile Water Trust has been established to protect, enhance and restore the river catchment and its wildlife. The Trust consists of local volunteers with angling, community and environmental interests who work with a range of agencies to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the river and its use to the local community, schools, anglers, boat owners etc;</li> <li>• Improve access to the river;</li> <li>• Reduce pollution;</li> <li>• Increase biodiversity.</li> </ul> For further information please contact Eileen Mallon, the local Catchment Officer at eileen.mallon@doeni.gov.uk or 028 9263 3442.
Actions/plans to bring Natura 2000 sites and ASSI’s (Areas of Special Scientific Interest) towards favourable condition by 2015 for sites	The actions are ongoing at Coney Island (Lough Neagh and Lough Beg SPA and Ramsar) and Barmouth and Grangemore (Bann Estuary SAC).

Key Plans and Programmes	Details
in National Trust ownership.	
Environmental Compliance Audit of all Natural Trust owned sites.	Action on the remaining assets presenting a risk to water quality completed or in progress. Issue a code of practice to septic tank users. Sites include Address House, Ballyward, Derrymore House, Hazlett House Pattersons Spade Mill, Divis and the Black Mountain, Springhill, The Argory and Coney Island.
Ongoing advice to farm tenants on resource management, waste control and environmental performance.	Encouraging tenants to adhere to best practice for pollution control. Sites include Address House, Berrymore, Divis and the Black Mountain, Springhill, The Argory, Avish and Grangemore
Coastal Risk Assessment to identify habitats at risk of coastal erosion and flooding. Based on the results, work to identify opportunities for managed realignment and habitat creation on National Trust land.	Assessment complete, follow-up action ongoing Barmouth and Grangemore
Greening National Trust buildings to reduce run off and improve water efficiency.	All renovation and building projects to apply sustainability criteria. Main pressure is abstraction and flow regulation. Ongoing project which will apply to all future projects.
Control of invasive species on National Trust Land.	Participation in invasive species control forums and provide advice on good practice in invasive species control. Ongoing at Grangemore, The Argory, Derrymore and Coney Island
Audit of water use at all NT sites to establish a baseline then set targets for reduction and introduce water efficiency measures.	Ongoing at Address House, Ballyward, Derrymore House, Divis and the Black Mountain, Hazlett House, Pattersons Spade Mill, Springhill, The Argory and Coney Island.
Site specific projects to improve fish habitats and access for salmonids.	Ongoing projects include Address House, Ballyward, Derrymore House, Hazlett House, Pattersons Spade Mill, Springhill and The Argory
Site specific projects to improve river corridor habitats and create new wetlands and habitats.	Ongoing projects include Address and Divis and Black Mountain.
Promoting the importance of water and its efficient use to our supporters through information, campaigns and events.	Planned to include the Argory
Craigavon Borough Council - Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Many of the LBAPs include watercourses and their associated habitats and species. Most will have reference to Alien Invasive Species. The Craigavon LBAP includes actions for Standing Open Water and Canals and the control of Invasive Alien Species. A copy is available on request from the Lough Neagh Discovery Centre, Oxford Island.
Antrim Borough Council - Local Biodiversity Action Plan	The Antrim Biodiversity Action Programme aims, laid out in the document: "Antrim Borough Biodiversity Action Plan 2007-2011" are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Explore how the biodiversity of the borough can be conserved and where possible and appropriate, enhanced or restored.</li> <li>- Explore existing actions, as well as initiating and co-ordinating new actions, taking into account local and national priorities</li> <li>- Promote public awareness of and involvement in biodiversity conservation through action by local government, private and voluntary sectors and through environmental education.</li> </ul>

Key Plans and Programmes	Details
	An important part of this plan is to involve and work in partnership with all stakeholders to form a consensus on priorities throughout the borough.
Banbridge District Council	See <a href="http://www.banbridge.gov.uk/template1.asp?parent=116&amp;parent2=432&amp;pid=637&amp;area=1">http://www.banbridge.gov.uk/template1.asp?parent=116&amp;parent2=432&amp;pid=637&amp;area=1</a> for LBAP details.
Coleraine Borough Council - Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Ongoing LBAP – See <a href="http://www.colerainebc.gov.uk/show.php?id=80">http://www.colerainebc.gov.uk/show.php?id=80</a> for details
Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council - Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Ongoing LBAP – See <a href="http://www.dungannon.gov.uk/index.cfm/area/page/pagekey/668">http://www.dungannon.gov.uk/index.cfm/area/page/pagekey/668</a> for details
Limavady Borough Council - Local Biodiversity Action Plan	In partnership with Coleraine BC and Ballymoney BC. Within the next 12 - 15 months we would hope not only to have at least 1 member of staff in place to have an LBAP.
Newry and Mourne District Council - Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Ongoing LBAP – See <a href="http://www.newryandmourne.gov.uk/environment.asp">http://www.newryandmourne.gov.uk/environment.asp</a> for details
Protect and Preserve Ballysaggart Lough (Blackwater LMA)	Ballysaggart Environmental Group co ordinate environmental awareness to protect the biodiversity and address pollution issues in Ballysaggart Lough .
Moyola Foot Pilot Project	NIW together with the Lough Neagh Partnership
Clanrye Angling Project (newry and carlingford LMA)	Monitoring improvements using fish counter installed at Thompsons Weir, Newry following project to encourage salmon and trout and increase populations in the Clanrye River system
River Maine River Bank Enhancement	The Maine Angling Club's ongoing project of enhancement aims to keep the river banks and waterways free from litter and weeds. Monitoring is ongoing.
Kilrea Angling Club Hatchery Project	The Club aim to enhance salmon and trout stocks in Lower Bann and Lough Neagh rivers through education and restocking. Monitoring is ongoing.
River Bann Enhancement Group	The group produces annual action plans which steer a clear way forward in delivering the comprehensive and appropriate regeneration of the River Bann riverside at Portadown over a 10 year period. The action plan is informed by the Craigavon Area Plan 2010, the Portadown Development Framework and the River Bann appraisal carried out by Scott Wilson Planning Consultants in 2006. Achievements to date are detailed in the annual action plans and include aquatic and weed management, river focused events programmes, signage, education programmes, etc
Friends of the River Bann	Friends of the River Bann is a community interest group established in conjunction with the River Bann Enhancement Group and is due to be re-constituted January. For further details contact Clifford Forbes at <a href="mailto:clifford.forbes@craigavon.gov.uk">clifford.forbes@craigavon.gov.uk</a>
Six Mile Water Guardians	This project aims to conserve the corridor of the Six Mile Water managed by Antrim Borough Council from Antrim Town to Muckamore. Up to 40 project volunteers are actively involved in a regular programme of training and outdoor activities to improve the river corridor. The project has been awarded two prestigious Biodiversity awards. Further details contact Elaine Upton, Countryside Recreation Officer, <a href="mailto:elaine.upton@antrim.gov.uk">elaine.upton@antrim.gov.uk</a>

Key Plans and Programmes	Details
Upper Bann River Enhancement Programme	The Upper Bann River Enhancement Partnership project, managed by Rathfriland Angling Club in partnership with Banbridge and Clonduff Angling Clubs has completed river enhancement work on the Upper Bann River such as introducing stone groynes and spawning gravel. Kilrea Angling Club and the Maine Angling Club are a number of other clubs that carry out river improvement works in their respective rivers; whether it is through fish stocking, removing litter from the banks or protection of river banks from erosion.
The Lough Neagh Partnership Project	The Lough Neagh Partnership Project has responsibility for the delivery of a £3.2 million strategic fund, under the European Union Programme for Building Sustainable Prosperity, to support work and provide additional resources to help achieve implementation of parts of the Lough Neagh Management Strategy. This funding is available to support organisations to help develop the Lough in an economic, environmental and socially sustainable way. The Strategic Fund is currently supporting over 130 environmental, economic and social projects. For example, the Moyola Angling Association in conjunction with landowners on the Moyola River worked with Lough Neagh Partnership to enhance the habitat of the river for spawning and growth of game fish.
River Bann and Lough Neagh Association (RBLNA)	<p>The Association came into existence officially in 1964 and is made up of a voluntary body of waterways enthusiasts and a Branch of Inland Waterways Association of Ireland (IWA). RBLNA holds events and fundraisers throughout the year and organise visits.</p> <p>Members expressed concerns about Rams Island and in 2003 the Association formed Rams Island Heritage Project Committee. The Association formed a Non Profit Taking Limited Company. In July 2007 at a Special General Meeting a unanimous resolution was passed for the Company to become a registered Charity.</p> <p>The Project Aims are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preserve and Promote the Amenities Biodiversity and Heritage of Rams Island;</li> <li>• Encourage More People to be involved in the Heritage of Rams Island and</li> <li>• Ensure that everyone can learn about, have access to and enjoy the Natural and Built Heritage of Rams Island.</li> </ul>
Lower Bann Erosion Alleviation Project	<p>The Rivers Agency have recently completed work at a number of sites along the River Bann designed to show how 'soft engineering' using natural biodegradable products, can be used to slow the rate of river bank erosion. The banks of the Lower Bann suffer from the wake created by passing boats and jet skis etc. resulting in many areas becoming unstable and slumping into the river. In the past, some landowners have attempted to slow the rate of erosion by tipping stone and concrete along the edge of the bank. This is not only damaging to the environment, but also extremely unsightly for an increasing number of river users and tourists.</p> <p>The Agency used a number of methods including recycled Christmas trees (provided by local councils), willow bundles (AFBI), coir rolls and matting to stabilise the banks. These materials provide valuable stability to the bank while allowing the natural bank-side vegetation to develop again. Over time, these materials will be 'taken over' by local vegetation improving the visual and ecological value of the banks.</p> <p>The project was carried out in conjunction with a number of partners including the Lough Neagh and Lower Bann Advisory groups, DARD Countryside Management, Craigavon and Coleraine Borough Councils and local landowners. Funding was provided by the Building Sustainable Prosperity Fund (BSP).</p>
Lodge Burn Flood Alleviation Scheme	<p>The proposals for environmental improvements in this scheme include the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leisure Centre Culvert Replacement &amp; Environmental Enhancements</li> </ul> <p>There is a need to embed the floor of the replacement culvert so a natural river bed can be created within the culvert.</p>

Key Plans and Programmes	Details
	<p>To retain and / or improve the passage of fish in the proposed culvert replacement, the floor of the culvert will be embedded and a gravel bed laid in baffles to generate resting areas along the length of the culvert. The baffles will assist in bed material retention and prevent scour of bed material during high flows. This will improve habitat for salmonid fish and particularly brown trout.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poundstretcher Culvert Renovation</li> </ul> <p>The proposal in this location is to renovate the existing rectangular culvert and remove the step in the floor. Baffles and gravel will be difficult to install in this area but roughening of the culvert bed and suitable gradient / water depth will assist in improving fish passage beyond its current condition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flood Wall Construction</li> </ul> <p>Concrete flood walls will be installed along the extreme boundary of the watercourse on both banks between Railway Road Bridge and Anderson Park. To improve fish passage into the Railway Road culvert, a rock ramp fish pass will be installed. The rock ramp will be constructed of excavated boulders and local cobbles/gravels to achieve recycling targets. New landscaped earth banks and gravel riffles will be installed within the flood walls to create a meandering watercourse and minimise canalisation of the watercourse. The riffles will also provide a low flow channel in the reinstated river for smaller fish species and additional spawning areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anderson Park Off-line Pond</li> </ul> <p>Anderson Park is located on the Lodge Burn River just downstream from Brook Street Bridge. Concerns were raised by numerous consultees regarding sediment build-up and fish passage as a result of the impoundment and associated weirs. It has been considered important for the environmental enhancement of the Lodge Burn and general improvement to water quality to take the pond off-line. This proposal will return the river to its natural channel facilitating fish passage and restoring the sediment transport mechanisms of the river. The pond will be taken off-line by removing the existing weirs and filling the existing pond.</p> <p>The new pond will be excavated in an area on the right bank of the Lodge Burn and will incorporate sloped banks and marginal vegetation. The new pond, once separated from the main channel flows, runs the risk of becoming stagnant; therefore, a means of periodic refreshing of the water from the main channel will be provided by utilising the existing upstream inlet structure and installing new pipework to the pond. An outlet feature will be installed to allow pond water to return to the main channel during flushing.</p> <p>An existing sewer crosses the river at the downstream weir and poses a problem in removing this weir. It is only possible to remove the gabion baskets in the weir (lowering its level) which does not completely remove the obstruction. Creating some rock riffles downstream of the lowered weir will compensate for this; allowing the bed level to be raised locally for fish passage.</p>

Northern Ireland Environment Agency  
17 Antrim Road  
Lisburn  
BT28 3AL

Our aim is to protect, conserve and promote  
the natural environment and built heritage for  
the benefit of present and future generations.

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