

Who we are



Muireann Kelliher

Chair of Dingle Peninsula
Creativity and Innovation Hub



@dingle_hub



Martha Farrell

Chair of Maharees Conservation
Association



Maharees Conservation Association
Protecting | Enhancing | Preserving



Dr Eugene Farrell

Lecturer, Researcher Geography
NUI Galway



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh



@DoctorDune

1



INTRODUCE

the experience of adaptation issues in the Maharees and in many other coastal communities across the country



2

HIGHLIGHT ADAPTATION ACTIVITIES
we've undertaken over last few years

3



SHARE PERSPECTIVES

on opportunities and challenges for community groups embarking on adaptation



4

SHOWCASE
the opportunities available with more strategic partnerships between community and key agencies

How we came to be



Living it

- Lived experience over decades of
 - » Fragile tombolo with SAC and SPA designations
 - » Ongoing engagement with coastal erosion, defence systems and natural dune recovery processes
 - » Peak seasonal surge in visitor numbers without accompanying surge in facilities and services



Crisis

2014 - 2016

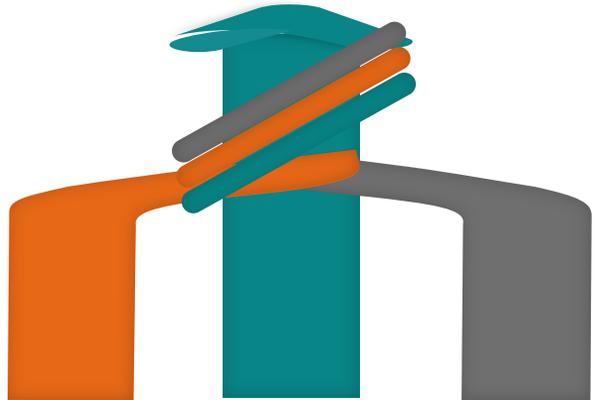
- Sanding became a major issue as road in and out of Maharees was impassable on 17 occasions over winter of 2015-16
- Formation of Maharees Conservation Association GLG



Educating ourselves and showing what could be done

2016 - 2020

- Delivering on the ground, with the support of our local authority and the agencies locally, to address the issues as we identified them and learnt about them



Community initiating and delivering responses here with local authority and agency support

Nature-based Solutions for Dune Management

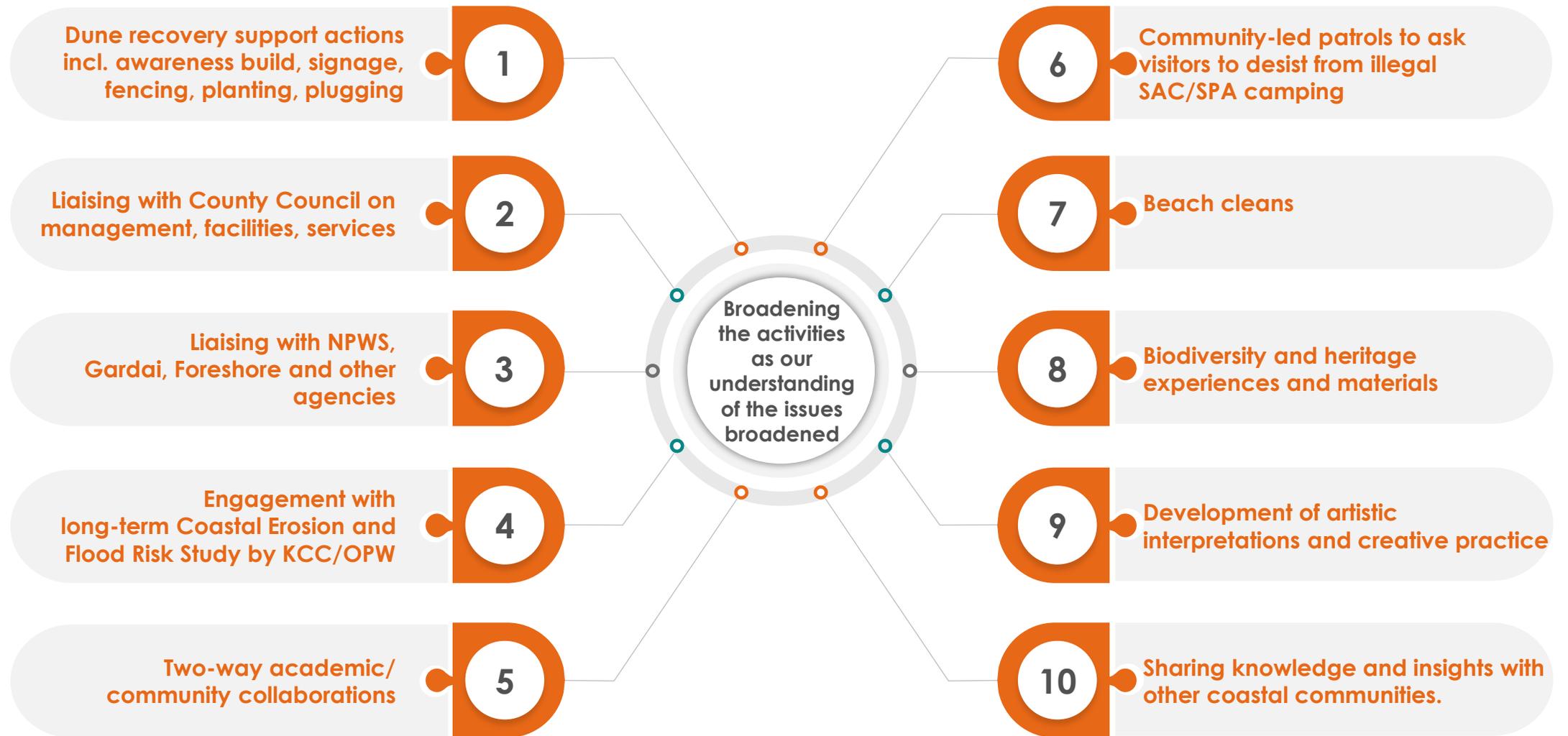
Education and experiences for community and visitors. Becoming a living lab and outdoor classroom. Supporting other communities embarking on the journey



Community agency with '00s of different types of adaptation actions supported by Kerry County Council and agencies locally



The breadth of activity undertaken by MCA



Dune Management Nature-based Solutions example Site 1



Dune Management Nature-based Solutions example Site 2

December 2015



February 2017 (+12 months)



September 2017 (+19 months)



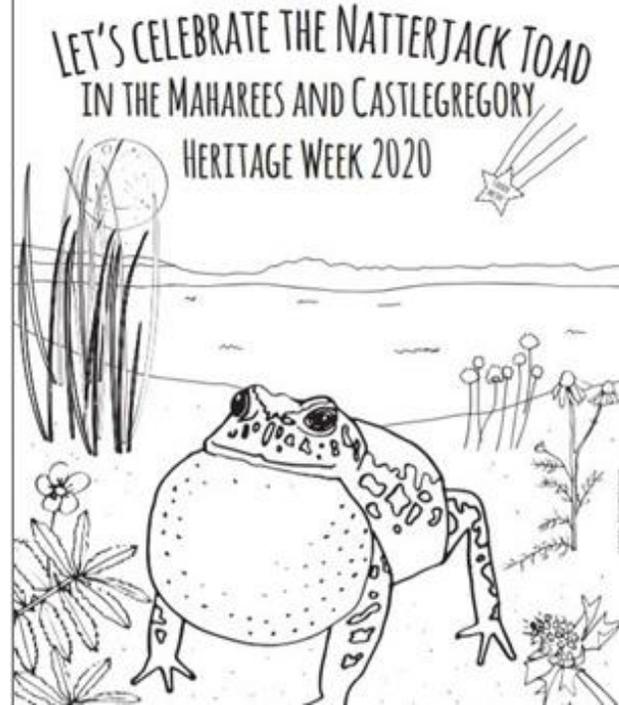
July 2020 (+29 months)



October 2020 (+32 months)



Biodiversity experiences and events for community and visitors as focus broadened from Coastal Erosion



MAHAREES CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION AND CASTLEGREGORY COMMUNITY COUNCIL PRESENT



THE UNDERWATER WORLD OF THE MAHAREES AND TRALEE BAY

BY KEN O'SULLIVAN - WILDLIFE FILM MAKER OF RTE'S IRELAND'S DEEP ATLANTIC

WITH READING FROM LOCAL PLAYWRIGHT MICK MULCAHY



Birds of the Maharees

This infographic lists several bird species found in the Maharees, such as the Great Northern Diver, Ring-billed Gull, and others. It includes small illustrations of each bird and brief descriptions of their characteristics and nesting habits.

The Maharees

This map highlights key locations in the Maharees, such as the Boiler Hole, The Castle, and various bays. A circular inset provides a detailed view of a bird's nest, showing the intricate construction of twigs and mud.

A detailed map of the Maharees coastline, showing numerous place names and geographical features. Key locations include Pointe Góilín, Pairc lochtarach, Barra an Cúisige Móire, and many others.

Maharees Heritage Trail

This map shows the Maharees Heritage Trail, a route that explores the area's history and natural beauty. It includes a legend for trail stops, interesting points, and beach access.

- 1 Site of the old village of Magh...
- 2 Scairt beach where the sail ship th...
- 3 Imilleach, a wintering site for Brent G...
- 4 Oileán Domhnaill where the East Indian...
- 5 The site of the Signal Tower, built betwe...
- 6 200m north of the graveyard on the rocky sho...
- 7 The ruin of the 7th century St. Seanaidh's Church. The building acted as a parish church during the...
- 8 The *Nuestra Señora del Socorro*, a boat attacho...
- 9 The 5th century Monastic site on Oileán (Seannaig) a souterrain and wall chamber, three leachis, a stor...
- 10 The *Aud*, with a consignment of German arms for t... Attempts to land the arms failed and the *Aud* was c...
- 11 The 3.8 metre Standing Stone or Gallán. Local fol...
- 12 On 31 December 1891, the *Catherine Richards* was...
- 13 On 24 November 1890, the *Charger*, a 1748l. bar...
- 14 For hundreds of years Corralougha Strand provi... The collection of Carriegen Moss, Agar and sea...
- 15 Traigh Dhíolmhaoin (The Idle Strand) whose t...
- 16 An tSeán Abhainn, a source of fresh water dur...

Bespoke materials detailing our unique biodiversity and cultural heritage

This spotter sheet identifies various wildflowers found in the Maharees, such as Sea Rocket, Sea Thrift, and Dove's-foot Crane's-bill. Each entry includes a photograph and a brief description of the plant's characteristics and flowering time.

Takeaways from the adaptation journey so far

O **A steep learning curve for a community** from dunes as natural coastal systems with their own natural processes vs anthropogenic impacts to understanding SAC/SPA designation, the role and set-up of local government and agencies, formalising community group status and governance, funding and much more....

O **Simple Dune Management nature-based solutions are working for climate adaptation.** The applied research, on effective coastal resilience with nature-based solutions is forming

O **Community agency in climate adaptation** generates purpose, commitment, camaraderie, social cohesion, unleashing of skillsets, volunteerism and teamwork

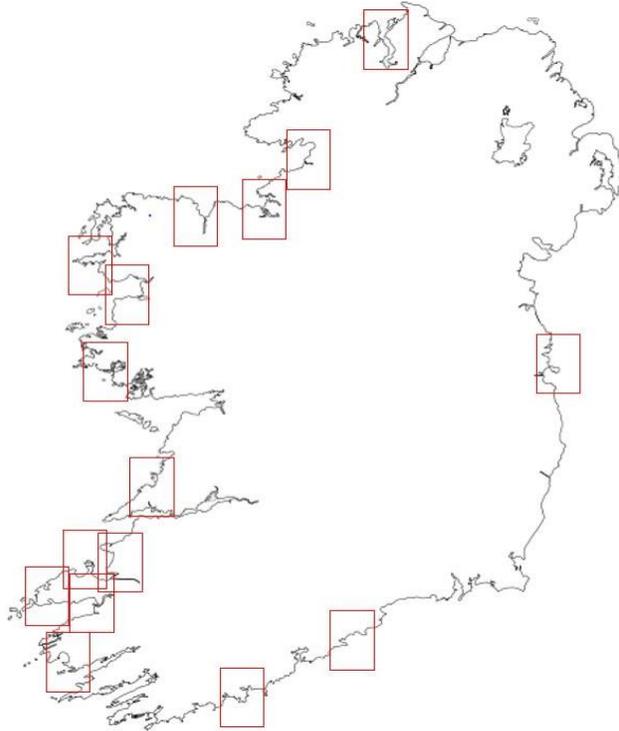
O **Changes in community and visitor behaviour can happen** with information and guidance but it requires an ongoing consistent process of education with occasional need for enforcement

O There are **limitations to standalone community efforts working one-by-one with agencies.** Individual agency efforts can be magnified with **greater cross-community and cross-agency collaboration.**

A dual approach in 2021

Convening conversations to build more strategic partnerships by understanding and aligning community efforts with objectives and activities of agencies and departments

Survey of other communities



Convening conversations and forming more strategic partnerships aligning with department and agency objectives and activities



Immediate low-hanging wins through these collaborations

Community education and youth engagement with Kerry ETB, GSI, Marine Institute and others



Aligning with existing programmes to create new possibilities

New role-based training with Kerry ETB (Beach Stewards, Dune Management Officer and Technician, Coastal Ecology in Regional Tour Guiding)

OPW expanded potential of minor works scheme

Visitor experience development with Failte Ireland



Shared content development and delivery for community education and visitor interpretative experience between Maharees Conservation Association, Kerry ETB and Tralee Wetlands



Building the applied research evidence base

EPA & Marine Institute Research Report

Building Coastal and Marine Resilience in Ireland with case study on Maharees & Community

Additional research proposals being developed around Ocean-based NbS, Citizen Science NbS tracking and monitoring



What's next

Ireland has
604 Natura 2000 sites
that cover **136** species
and **60** habitats
from the Nature directives

37% of our habitats
are Coasts...

...of those, **36%** are
dunes



The 'Tralee Bay and Maharees Peninsula, West to Cloghane' SAC 002070

has the **highest number of
protected habitats** (16) and
**third highest number of
protected species** (28)
of any area in the country

6-month formal preparatory phase of a pathfinder pilot project

- Dedicated 6-month Project Development with financial support of NPWS and participation of others stakeholders
- Align with all stakeholders and partners
- Consult more broadly and deeply within the community here and with other communities across Ireland
- Establish a Steering Committee, scope, objectives, deliverables and funding for pilot project


**Project
2070**

Thank you for engaging with us

Is there anyone else you think would like to become involved?
Please invite them to join us