

# 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

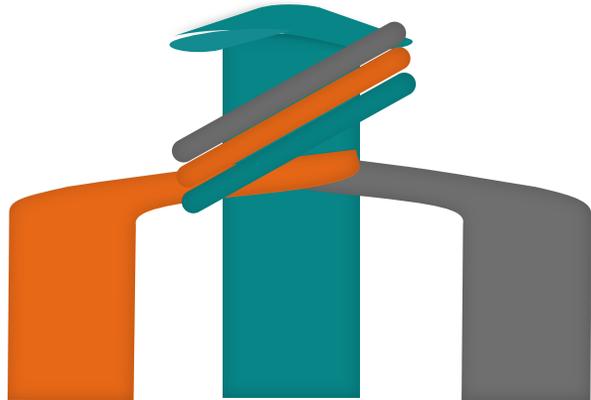
- Sanding became a major issue as road in and out of Maharees was impassable on 17 occasions over winter of 2015-16
- Formation of Maharees Conservation Association GLG



## 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

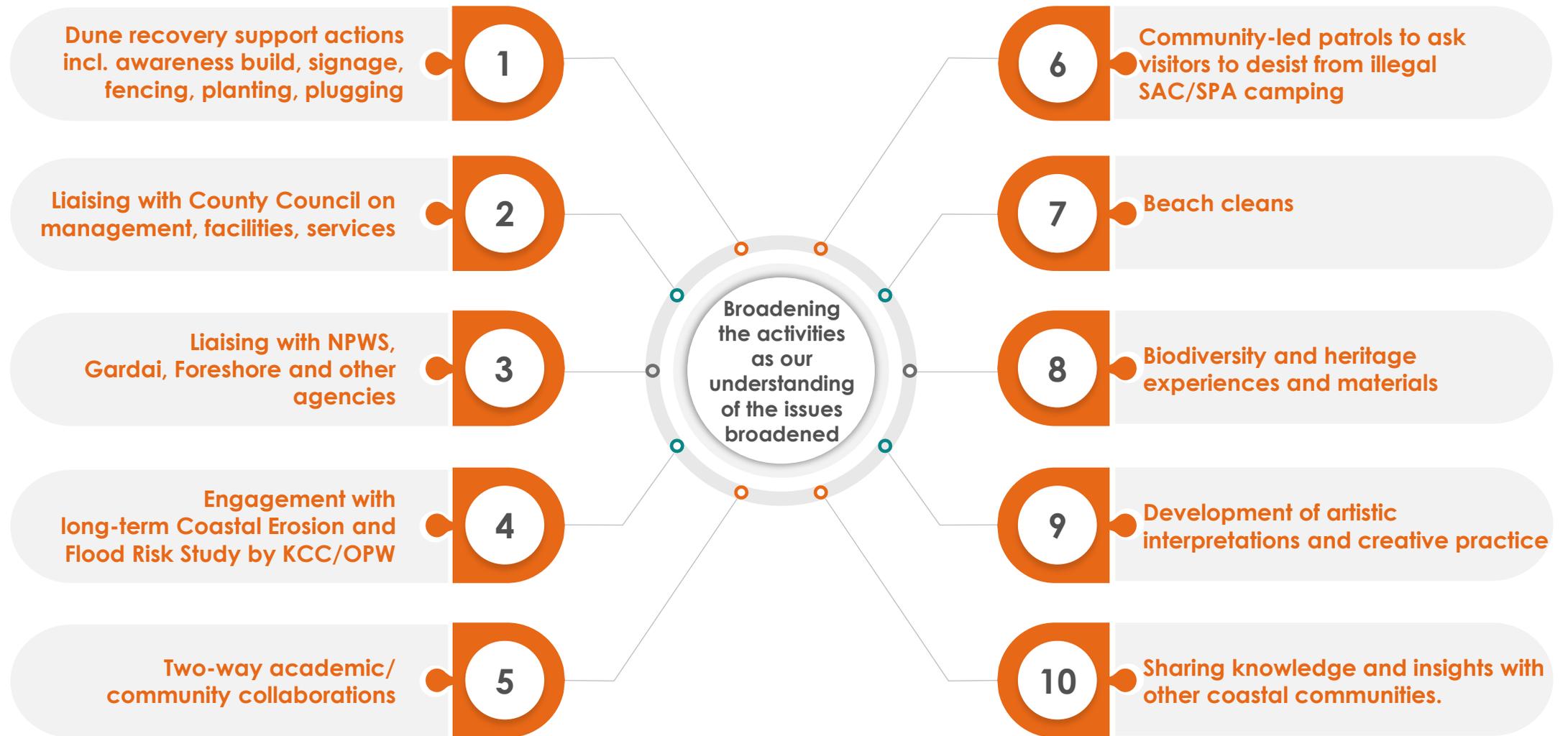
**Education** and experiences for community and visitors. Becoming a living lab and outdoor classroom. Supporting other communities embarking on the journey



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)**



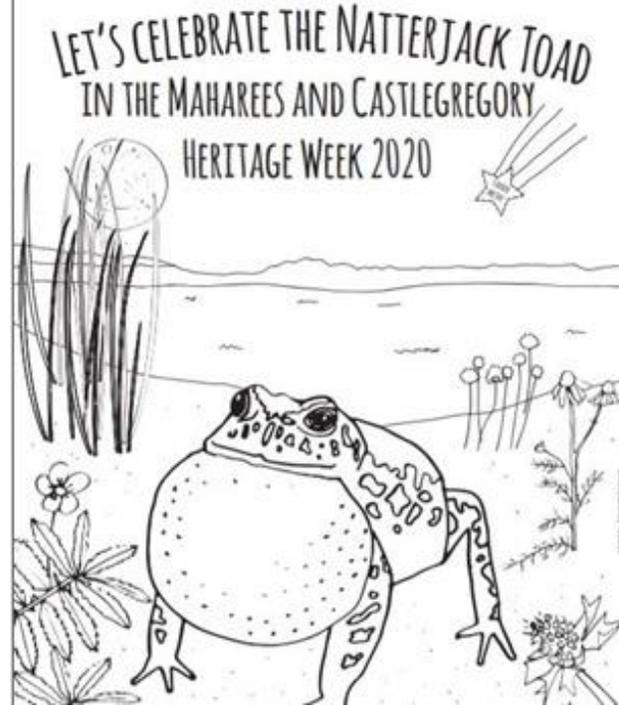
**July 2020 (+29 months)**



**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



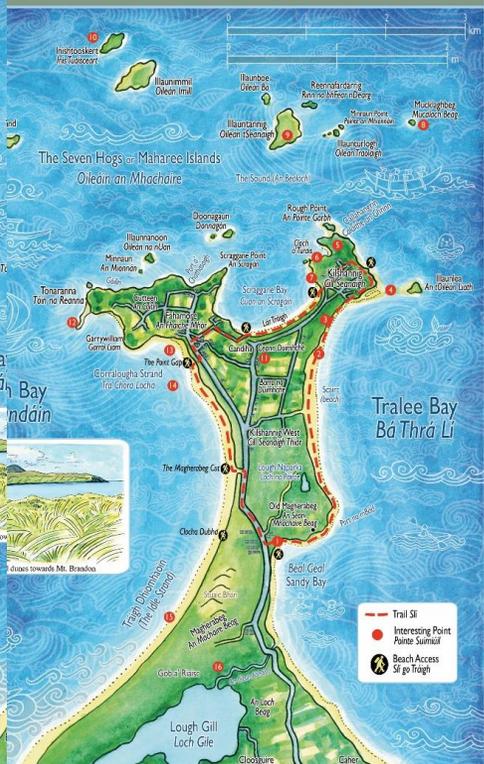
# Birds of the Maharees



# The Maharees



# Maharees Heritage Trail



- Start at Béal Geata. Proceed westwards along the coast. Pass the old village, Cahamore village. Head south along the coast. Pass the Maharees Cut where you can see the sea stacks.**
- 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 between...
  - 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 174ft. barc...
  - 14 For hundreds of years Corralougha Strand provi... The collection of Carriegen Moss, Agar and sea...
  - 15 Traigh Dhíonhaoín (The Idle Strand) whose t...
  - 16 An tSeán Abhainn, a source of fresh water t... during periods of drought.

Bespoke materials detailing our unique biodiversity and cultural heritage



## 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

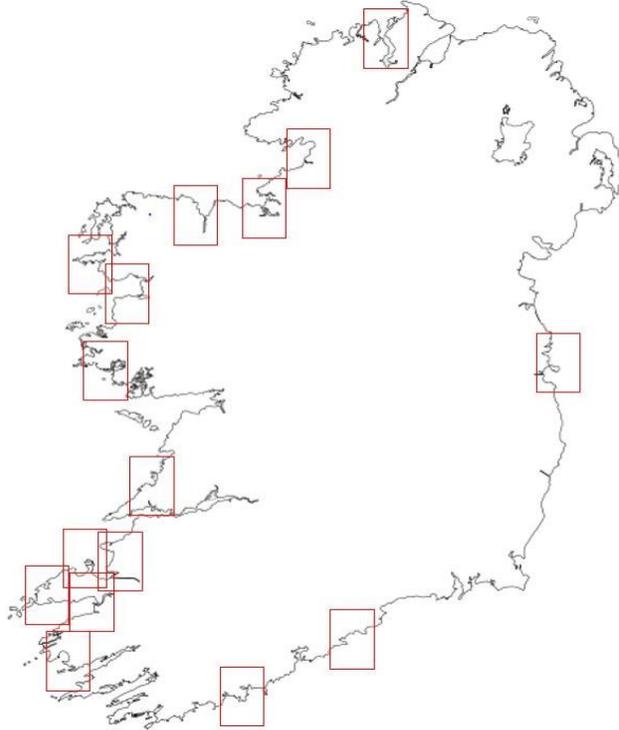
**O** **Changes in community and visitor behaviour can happen** with information and guidance but it requires an ongoing consistent process of education with occasional need for enforcement

**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

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