

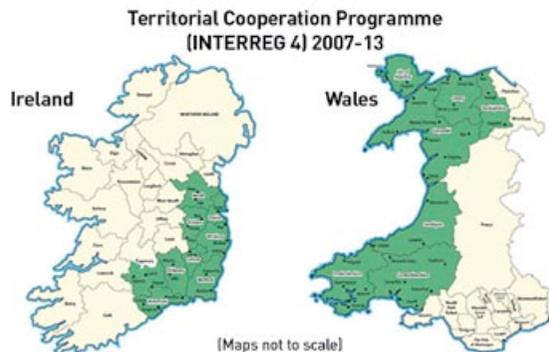
About MISE

MISE is a new project funded by the European Regional Development Fund under the Ireland Wales Programme 2007-2013 (INTERREG IVA), and will set out to foster involvement of communities in Ireland and Wales in mammal conservation.

The nature of the Welsh/Irish INTERREG IVA collaboration will allow the sharing of skills and expertise across the cross border regions. Monitoring and conserving biodiversity is increasingly being recognised as critical for sustainable development. Small and medium sized mammals are key components of most ecosystems but can be difficult to monitor due to small numbers, elusive and or nocturnal behaviour.

The Area

Within the INTERREG IVA area, fieldwork in Ireland will largely be carried out in Waterford but will also involve Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Wexford, Dublin and Wicklow. In Wales, field work will be throughout the INTERREG IVA region.



Contact MISE!

If you are interested in hearing more about our volunteer and workshop opportunities or you would like a member of the MISE team to come talk at your local group or school, please contact us!



Mammals in a Sustainable Environment

Project manager: Dr. Lee Coffey, Waterford Institute of Technology, Cork Road, Waterford
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We will soon have a website and Facebook page!

Project Partners

Waterford Institute of Technology, (WIT).
 Waterford County Council, (WCC).
 Countryside Council for Wales, (CCW).
 Vincent Wildlife Trust, (VWT).
 Snowdonia National Park Authority, (SNPA).
 National Biodiversity Data Center, (NBDC).



Mammals in a Sustainable Environment



WHAT WE'RE DOING AND HOW YOU CAN HELP!





Frank Greenaway/WIT

Do you want to get involved?

- Are you interested in volunteering to help nature and the environment?
- Interested in working with people who share your passion for conservation?
- Interested in learning new skills and improving your CV and life experience?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, then MISE has some great opportunities for you.

What’s involved?

You don’t have to be an expert or have any experience, but if you do we would love you to join us. Training will be provided in the form of free workshops and are a great opportunity to meet fellow volunteers. This is an opportunity to learn new skills and share your local knowledge or gain some awareness of your local environment. It’s completely up to you how much time and effort you can commit. Some of the opportunities on offer include:

- One day group scat hunts in a forest
- Coastal or river walks to find otter spraints
- Monitoring of hair-tubes on a weekly or fortnightly basis in a woodland near you
- Using feeding stations to monitor small mammals in a variety of locations

Why we want you to volunteer?

The MISE project offers a variety of fun and rewarding opportunities to help conserve mammals. Volunteers are encouraged to work in the areas that most appeal to them to derive maximum personal benefit.

You may be particularly interested in one species such as squirrels and like to conduct a hair-tube survey, or you may walk your dog near a river and spot otters on occasion. We don’t mind if you only tell us sightings.

What we’re doing and how you can help!

Survey work will include monitoring different mammals including otters, pine martens, and squirrels. Monitoring in Wales will include some mammals absent in Ireland such as polecats, weasels, harvest mice and dormice. Survey methods include:

- Scat / spraint collections
- Hair-tube surveys
- Small mammal feeding stations

DNA analysis in WIT

Volunteers will get feedback on samples collected during surveys. DNA techniques developed in WIT will be used to provide species identification from collected samples. Further DNA analysis on some species (e.g. pine martens, otters and squirrels) will provide information such as population size and structure, gender assignment and genetic diversity of the species. Prey analysis will also be used to identify small mammals from scats. This information will subsequently be used to identify potential threats and to advise conservation strategies.



We want to involve you for the following reasons:

- Encourage community involvement
- Promote stewardship of our local environment
- Provide an alternative source of outdoor enjoyment
- Up skill members of the community

Johnny Birks/WIT

