

## RESPONSE FORM

### 1. Details:

Full Name: **Niall Ó Brolcháin**

Organisation where applicable: **NUI Galway / Insight (EU Interreg Care Peat)**

Please tick one of the following options that best describes you;

Farmer (full-time)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Farmer (part-time)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Farm family member	<input type="checkbox"/>
Member of the public	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

### 2. Are you involved in:

Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Forestry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Farm Organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	Food industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Environment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	Research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Civil Society / NGO	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Nine specific objectives of the Common Agriculture Policy post 2020

- (a) support viable farm income and resilience across the Union to enhance food security;
- (b) enhance market orientation and increase competitiveness, including greater focus on research, technology and digitalisation;
- (c) improve the farmers' position in the value chain;
- (d) contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as sustainable energy;
- (e) foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air;
- (f) contribute to the protection of biodiversity, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes;
- (g) attract young farmers and facilitate business development in rural areas;
- (h) promote employment, growth, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including bio-economy and sustainable forestry;
- (i) improve the response of EU agriculture to societal demands on food and health, including safe, nutritious and sustainable food, food waste, as well as animal welfare.

Those objectives shall be complemented by the cross-cutting objective of modernising the sector by fostering and sharing of knowledge, innovation and digitalisation in agriculture and rural areas.

<b>Objective</b> - Attract young farmers and facilitate business development in rural areas.	
<p><b>Strength</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Using wet peatlands as a source of income for rural communities</li> <li>2. All direct payments will be conditional to enhanced environmental and climate requirements</li> <li>3. New forms of wetland farming such as paludiculture and carbon farming for carbon credits and blue credits will provide new opportunities for young farmers who are willing to adapt</li> </ol>	<p><b>Weakness</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Culture of draining and degrading peatlands</li> <li>2. Lack of research into the real values of wet peatlands</li> <li>3. Lack of understanding of the real value of peatlands for carbon storage (4 times as much carbon stored per hectare in peatlands than in tropical rain forests)</li> <li>4. Inappropriate farming on peatlands</li> </ol>
<p><b>Opportunity</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Carbon credits from carbon sequestration in fully functioning peatlands</li> <li>2. Paludiculture recognised as a viable form of sustainable agriculture in CAP</li> <li>3. Carbon farming on wet peatlands</li> <li>4. Sphagnum farming on wet peatlands can replace peatland scraping and supply a sustainable source of fertilizer for horticulture improving soil</li> <li>5. Biomass schemes on wet peatlands</li> <li>6. Renewable energy schemes can co-locate with some wet peatlands and provide a significant income for local communities</li> </ol>	<p><b>Threat</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Degraded peatlands causing 5% of global emissions</li> <li>2. Culture of draining wetlands for agricultural purposes</li> <li>3. Inappropriate forestry planted on peatlands causing a net carbon loss</li> <li>4. Short term profits from turf cutting and scraping for horticulture</li> <li>5. Lack of a wetland and carbon farming culture in rural Ireland</li> <li>6. Carbon credit schemes not mature for carbon farming</li> </ol>

**Objective** - Foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air.

<p><b>Strength</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Protection of peatlands</li> <li>2. Rewetting degraded peatlands</li> <li>3. Using wet peatlands as a source of income for rural communities</li> <li>4. preserving carbon-rich soils through protection of wetlands and peatlands</li> <li>5. All direct payments will be conditional to enhanced environmental and climate requirements</li> <li>6. Wet peatland act to store flood waters</li> <li>7. Fully functioning peatlands improve air quality.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Weakness</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Culture of draining and degrading peatlands</li> <li>2. Lack of research into the real values of wet peatlands</li> <li>3. Lack of understanding of the real value of peatlands for carbon storage (4 times as much carbon stored per hectare in peatlands than in tropical rain forests)</li> <li>4. Inappropriate farming on peatlands</li> </ol>
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<b>Objective</b> - Contribute to the protection of biodiversity, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes.	
<p><b>Strength</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Protection of peatlands</li> <li>9. Rewetting degraded peatlands</li> <li>10. Preserving carbon-rich soils through protection of wetlands and peatlands</li> <li>11. All direct payments will be conditional to enhanced environmental and climate requirements</li> <li>12. Wet peatland act to store flood waters</li> <li>13. Fully functioning peatlands improve air quality.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Weakness</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Culture of draining and degrading peatlands</li> <li>6. Lack of research into the real values of wet peatlands</li> <li>7. Lack of understanding of the real value of peatlands for carbon storage (4 times as much carbon stored per hectare in peatlands than in tropical rain forests)</li> <li>8. Inappropriate farming on peatlands</li> </ol>
<p><b>Opportunity</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Using peatlands to improve overall biodiversity on an ongoing basis</li> <li>8. Peatlands can be rich natural habitats if managed correctly providing a home for many endangered species and allowing pollinators to thrive which can help neighbouring lands</li> <li>9. Peatlands can be natural wetlands of enormous ecological importance</li> </ol>	<p><b>Threat</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Degraded peatlands causing 5% of global emissions</li> <li>6. Culture of draining wetlands for agricultural purposes</li> <li>7. Inappropriate forestry planted on peatlands causing a net carbon loss</li> <li>8. Short term profits from turf cutting and scraping for horticulture</li> <li>9. Fires on peatlands both from natural and human causes</li> </ol>

<b>Objective</b> - Contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as sustainable energy.	
<p><b>Strength</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14. Protection of peatlands</li> <li>15. Rewetting degraded peatlands</li> <li>16. Inclusion of peatlands as agricultural land for paludiculture and carbon farming</li> <li>17. Co-location of renewable energy schemes such as biomass, solar and wind with peatlands in appropriate ways</li> <li>18. Using wet peatlands as a source of income for rural communities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weakness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. Culture of draining and degrading peatlands</li> <li>10. Lack of research into the real values of wet peatlands</li> <li>11. Lack of understanding of the real value of peatlands for carbon storage (4 times as more per hectare than tropical rain forests)</li> <li>12. Inappropriate farming on peatlands</li> </ul>
<p><b>Opportunity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. Carbon credits from rewetting peatlands</li> <li>11. Paludiculture recognised as a viable form of agriculture in CAP</li> <li>12. Carbon farming on wet peatlands</li> <li>13. Sphagnum farming on wet peatlands</li> <li>14. Biomass schemes on wet peatlands</li> <li>15. Reducing carbon emissions in Ireland by up to 10% by rewetting and enhancing degraded peatlands</li> <li>16. Using peatlands to improve overall biodiversity</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threat</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. Degraded peatlands causing 5% of global emissions</li> <li>11. Culture of draining wetlands for agricultural purposes</li> <li>12. Inappropriate forestry planted on peatlands causing a net carbon loss</li> <li>13. Short term profits from turf cutting and scraping for horticulture</li> </ul>