

# The importance of peatlands for biodiversity

- **17.6%** of Ireland's landscape is peatland
- **15%** of original flora of Ireland are peatland plants
- **14%** or 59 species of Irish bird species occur on peatland, most as breeding species
- **26%** of Ireland's mammals are dependent on peatlands in some phase of their life cycle
- **65%** of Ireland's butterfly species found in Ireland are found on peatlands. There are two species that rely on bogs for breeding: the Large Heath (*Coenonympha tullia*) and Green Hairstreak (*Callophrys rubi*).





# Status of peatlands and their biodiversity

- The conservation status of only about **10%** of Ireland's biodiversity has been assessed. What we do know:
- **75%** of peatland habitat mined or drained and less than 1% remains active
- The status of raised bog (\*Active) **BAD**, degraded raised bog **BAD**, blanket bog (\*active), **BAD**, Transition Mire **BAD**.
- **26.6%** or 8 of the bog forming *Sphagnum* mosses are on Ireland's Red List
- **44%** or 26 of the peatland bird species are on the Ireland's Red list. The Curlew has recorded a 98% decline in populations since the 1980's
- **19.6%** of peatland plants are on the red list



# It is not too late to halt peatland biodiversity loss

- The protection of designated sites should be the central to our action including to complete the formal **designation** of Ireland's peatland NHA's.
- Thanks to research we know what we need to do: **restoration and rehabilitation**
- Carry out and **complete inventories** of peatland biodiversity
- Encourage land owners to engage in the **active protection of peatland biodiversity** through an adequately funded national scheme
- **Raise awareness** and provide education materials of the services peatlands offer and their importance for halting the loss of biodiversity
- **Integrate peatland biodiversity** into all government departments and development plans

