

An Atlantic Blanket BOG



**wetlands
for life**

EAZA CONSERVATION
CAMPAIGN 2026 - 2027

Wetlands for life 2026-27

The Bog Story

Galway Atlantaquaria is delighted to join zoos and aquariums from across Europe to work towards the conservation of Wetlands and wetland biodiversity.

As part of the European Association of Zoos and Aquariums (EAZA), Wetlands For Life Campaign, we are delighted to share some of our stories and interpretations of our shared history and the story of the Bog is a huge part of who we are.

To learn more about this campaign, see;
<https://wetlandsforlife.eaza.net/about>

#EAZA
#WetlandsForLife
#CelebratingWetlands
#WetlandConservation
#WetlandsMatter

Away from the shore and 200 metres high

Thanks to the local farming community for access to the bog and telling us stories

The bog we visited has been a shared resource for the small community for over 50 years. The plots are used by horses and cows and the turf is used for the homes. It is an Atlantic Blanket bog that sits upto 200 metres high.





Bell Heather
Erica cinerea
frapoch cloigíneach



Cat's-ear
Hypochaeris radicata
cluas chait



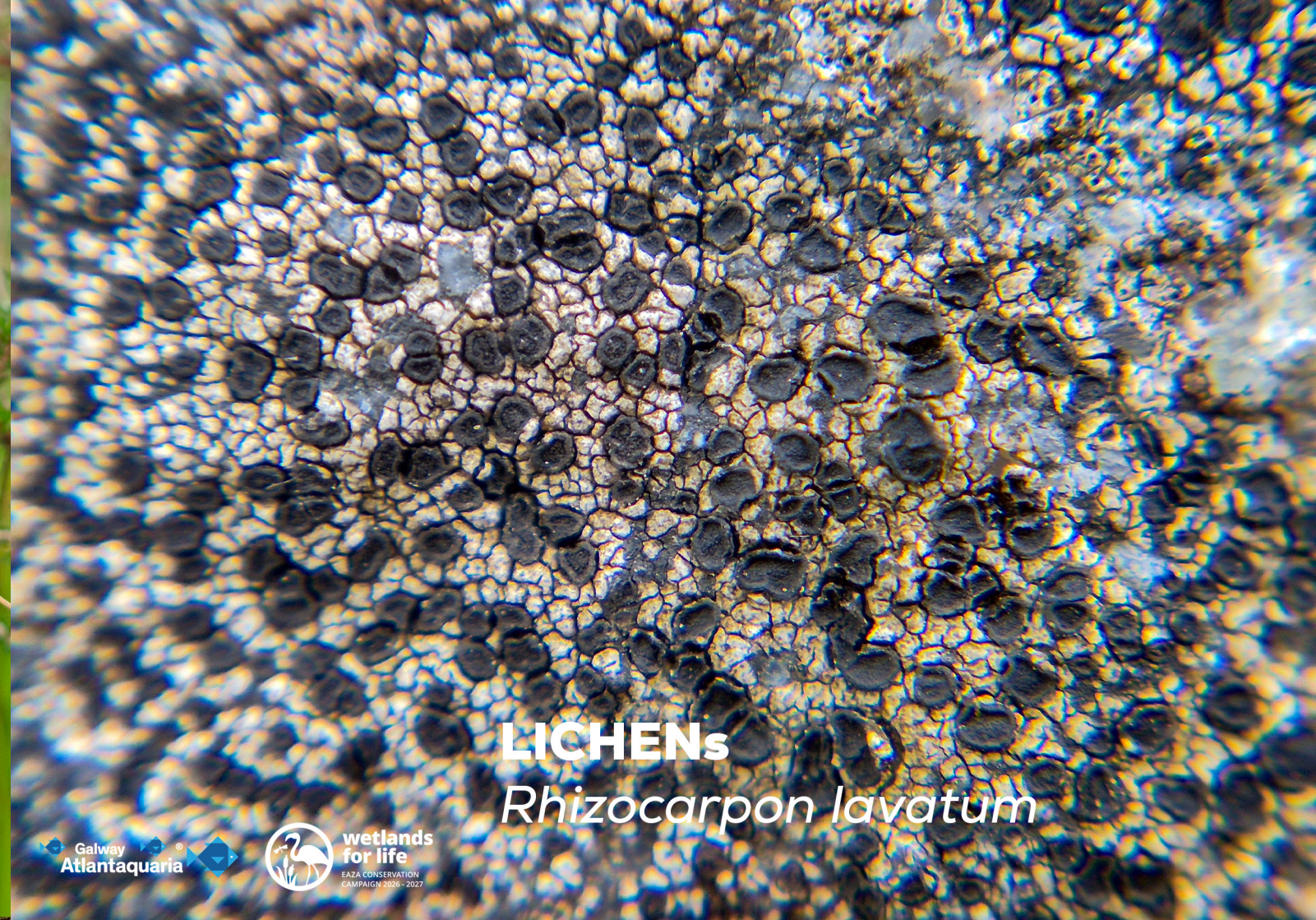
Common Cottongrass
Eriophorum angustifolium
Ceannbhán



Lemon-scented fern
Oreopteris limbosperma
raithneach bhui



Bog Asphodel -herb of the broken bones
Narthecium ossifragum
Sciollam na Móna



LICHENS
Rhizocarpon lavatum



Ling Heather
Calluna vulgaris
Fragoch mór



Meadowsweet
Filipendula ulmaria
Airgead luachra



Low Peatmoss
Sphagnum compactum
Caonach móna



Reindeer lichen
Cladonia portentosa



Reindeer lichen
Cladonia portentosa



Rowan Tree
Sorbus aucuparia
Caorthann



Compact Rush
Juncus conglomeratus
Ilúachair dhlúth







This bog is a great example of the local farming community caring for the wildlife and continuing their culture and historical use of the bog.

We are so grateful to the local farming community for allowing us to tell a story of the Bog, the life and history that surrounds it.

This bog will be handed down from generation to generation and they too will take stewardship of the bog, flora and fauna.

Blanket bogs are valuable wetlands, not wastelands. There are a number of scientific, economic, cultural and moral reasons for conserving blanket bogs.

Only a small amount of blanket bog exists in the world. Ireland possesses 8% of the world's blanket bog and is the most important country in Europe for this type of habitat.

Blanket bog landscapes provide a refuge for a rich biodiversity of species including several rare plants, birds and invertebrate species.

Blanket bogs are commonly used as rough grazing land for sheep and cattle, grouse shooting, deer stalking and fishing.

Blanket bogs preserve prehistoric farming landscapes beneath the peat as well as a diverse range of artefacts within the peat mass.

The patterns of pools on the flatter areas of blanket

bog is of particular conservation significance. The pools support a specialised range of mosses (especially species of Sphagnum) and plants and they provide essential feeding habitats for wetland birds.

Within their peat layers, blanket bogs preserve a record of their own growth and development and on a larger scale, they provide insights into regional vegetation change, climate change, atmospheric pollution and act as chronometers for other events such as volcanic eruptions.

Blanket bogs accumulate and store millions of tonnes of carbon and have a vital function in controlling the greenhouse gases that cause climate change.

Blanket bogs contain in excess of 90% water and act as vast water reservoirs. They have a vital role to play in the management of water within river catchments.

Blanket bogs and their utilisation for recreation can have positive benefits on the health of people.

Bog Mosses or Sphagnum are the most important plants on bogs. They form a living multi-coloured carpet over the entire surface of the bog.

The different types of bog moss grow to form hummocks or hollows on the bog. They grow quickly and hold up to 20 times their own weight in water. When they die their remains do not decay but collect as peat or turf.

Ling Heather grows on the drier hummocks of bog moss. Bog cotton has lovely white seed heads and looks like cotton wool. Bog asphodel has glowing yellow flowers with orange anthers (front cover).

Bogbean grows in pools and its white flowers can be seen in May and June.

Bogs are valuable habitats for wildlife but they also provide many ecosystem services such as water storage and climate regulation.

It is important that we protect the small areas of bogs that still remain in good hydrological condition so that future generations can enjoy their beauty.

SOURCE

<https://www.ipcc.ie/a-to-z-peatlands/peatland-habitat-types/blanket-bogs/>

https://www.ipcc.ie/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Bogland_Habitat-guide.pdf

