Comhar
Sustainable Development Council

Green New Deal & Green Infrastructure

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Planning for a Smarter Ireland

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Comhar SDC: Who we are

- Established by government in 1999 building on experience of social partnership
- Mandate from Minister for Environment
- Independent chairman and 25 members representing stakeholders from 5 pillars:
  - Environmental
  - Community
  - Economic
  - Professional/ academic
  - State.

- Working Groups on key thematic issues:
  - Biodiversity
  - Climate Change & Energy
  - Green New Deal
  - Education & Awareness
- Evidence based policy analysis informs Council recommendations
- Outreach: Publications, workshops and events, website, Chairman's commentary

Acheim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP, at the launch of the Green Economy Initiative to Get the Global Markets Back to Work – October 2008

- *"The financial, fuel and food crises of 2008 are in part a result of speculation and a failure of governments to intelligently manage and focus markets…. The flip side of the coin is the enormous economic, social and environmental benefits likely to arise from combating climate change and re-investing in natural infrastructure - benefits ranging from new green jobs in clean tech and clean energy businesses up to ones in sustainable agriculture and conservation-based enterprises"* .

GND Report – Policy context

- **Comhar SDC's GND Report published in October 2009.**

- **Policy Context:**

Global

- July 2008 - New Economics Foundation report
- Feb. 2009 UNEP report - "A Global Green New Deal"
- Feb. 2009 - Grantham Research Institute report
- Feb. 2009 World Resources Institute – "Green Global Recovery"
- April 2009 – UK SDC – "Sustainable New Deal"

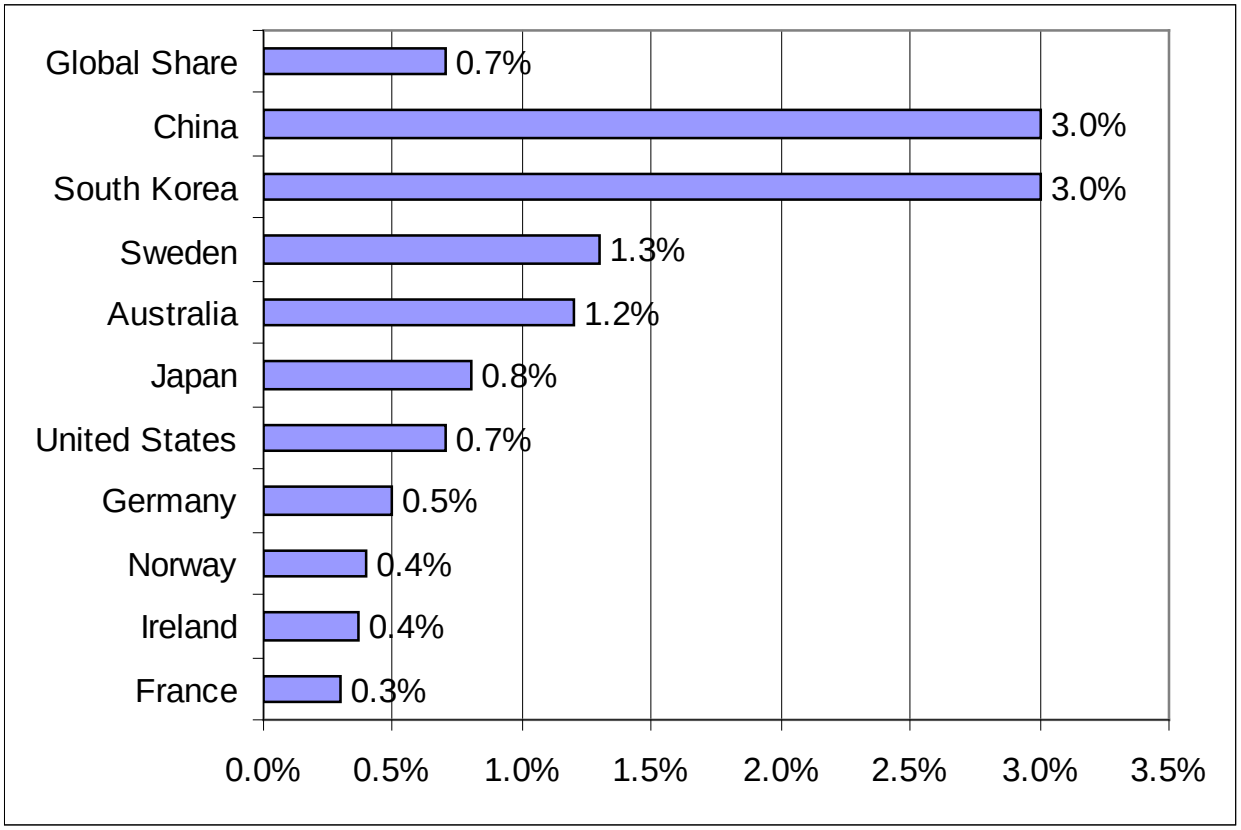
Ireland

- Oct. 2008 Forfas Report on Environmental Goods and Services
- December 2008 Government policy document "**Building Ireland's Smart Economy: A Framework for Sustainable Economic Renewal**"
  - "implement a 'new green deal' to move us away from fossil fuel-based energy production through investment in renewable energy and to promote the green enterprise sector and the creation of 'green-collar' jobs". (Extract taken from pg.9) ."

Defining a Green New Deal

- Four key objectives:
  - Revive the Irish economy and create job opportunities through building an innovative, low-carbon and resource efficient society.
  - Protect ecosystems and biodiversity while reducing fossil fuel dependency.
  - Provide for greater social inclusion through stimulating new green jobs, reducing fuel poverty and delivering better access to transport.
  - Build ecological resilience and capacity to adapt to climate change.

Green Stimulus as a Share of GDP



Priority Areas for GND

- Seven Priority Areas proposed:
  1. Improving the energy efficiency of existing housing stock
  2. Scaling up Renewable Energy
  3. Redesigning the National Grid
  4. Providing Sustainable Mobility
  5. Public Sector Investments
  6. Skills and Training
  7. Building Green Infrastructure

GND and Skills/Training

Priority Area	Key Skills/Training Needs	Potential Job Numbers (where estimated)
Retrofitting of Existing Housing Stock	Construction skills for skilled/semi-skilled trades Professional level skills relating to energy efficiency in buildings (architects/civil engineers) Quality assurance/energy management	5,200 – 19,250
Renewables	Wind turbine O&M, bioenergy growing and processing, installation of renewable technologies, community energy managers etc.	14,000 – 16,000
Smart Grid	Transmission network planning, information technology, construction, installation etc.	
Sustainable Mobility	Servicing electric vehicles, eco-driving, transport infrastructure, mobility management plans etc.	
Green Infrastructure	Need for training in integrating green infrastructure into a range of existing professions such as planning, tourism, forestry, engineering etc.	
Public Sector	Green public procurement, energy management, carbon accounting etc.	

What is Green Infrastructure ?

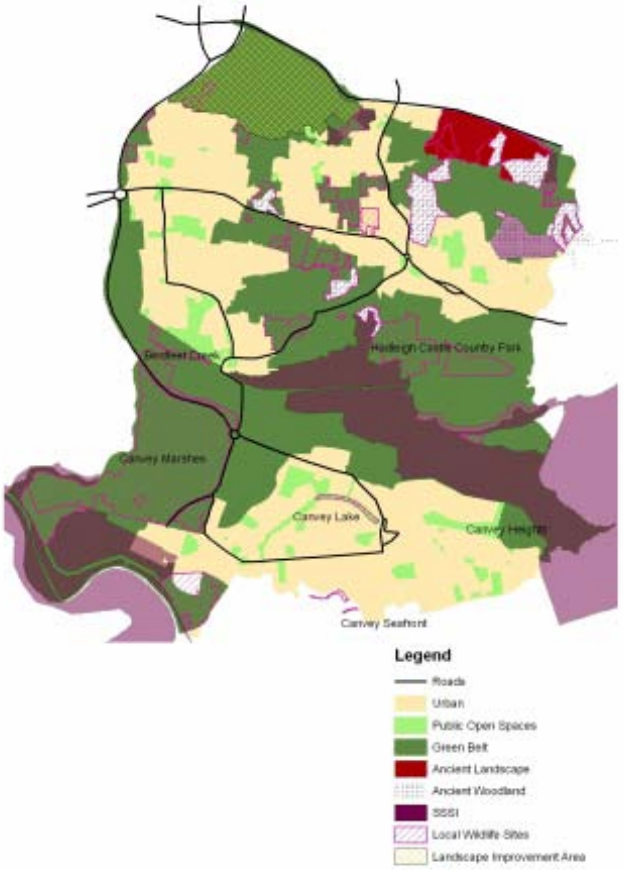
- Connecting habitats for species and giving space to ecosystems.

- 'Planning approaches which maintain ecological functions at the landscape scale through multi-functional spaces'

  EC wokshop in GI March 2009

- "..a strategically planned and managed **network** featuring areas with high quality **biodiversity** (uplands, wetlands, peatlands, rivers and coast), **farmed** and wooded lands and other green spaces that conserves **ecosystem values** which provide essential services to society".

  Comhar SDC GI Study 2010



Putting a value on the loss of biodiversity

- Human well-being is dependent upon "ecosystem services" provided by nature for free - water and air purification, fisheries, timber and nutrient recycling.
- Predominantly public goods with no markets and no prices, so their loss often is not detected by our current economic incentive system.
- Initial findings of the TEEB study, suggest the costs of the loss of biodiversity, under BAU scenario would amount to 7% of global GDP by 2050.

Commissioned Research on Green Infrastructure

- Comhar SDC has commissioned research on Green Infrastructure. Tasks include:
  - Establishment of the baseline situation regarding any mapping or policy development
  - Selection of three local authority areas for baseline assessment of GI assets as demonstration case studies - including urban, rural and mixed areas
  - Collation of existing baseline data and digitisation of data to produce green infrastructure baseline maps for the three sample areas.
- Conference 11th November, 2009, Dublin
- Recommendation to Government 2010
- www.comharsdc.ie

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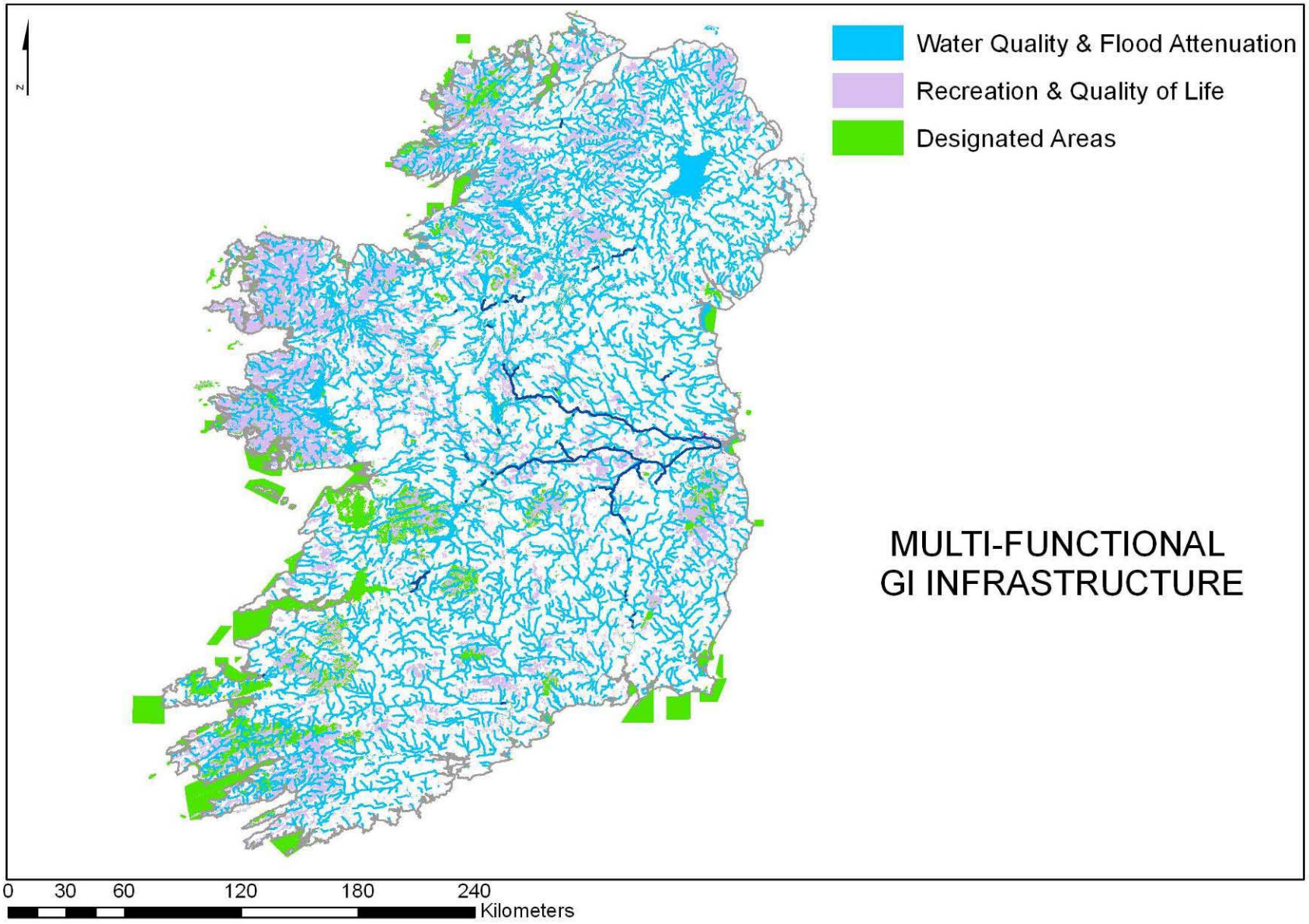
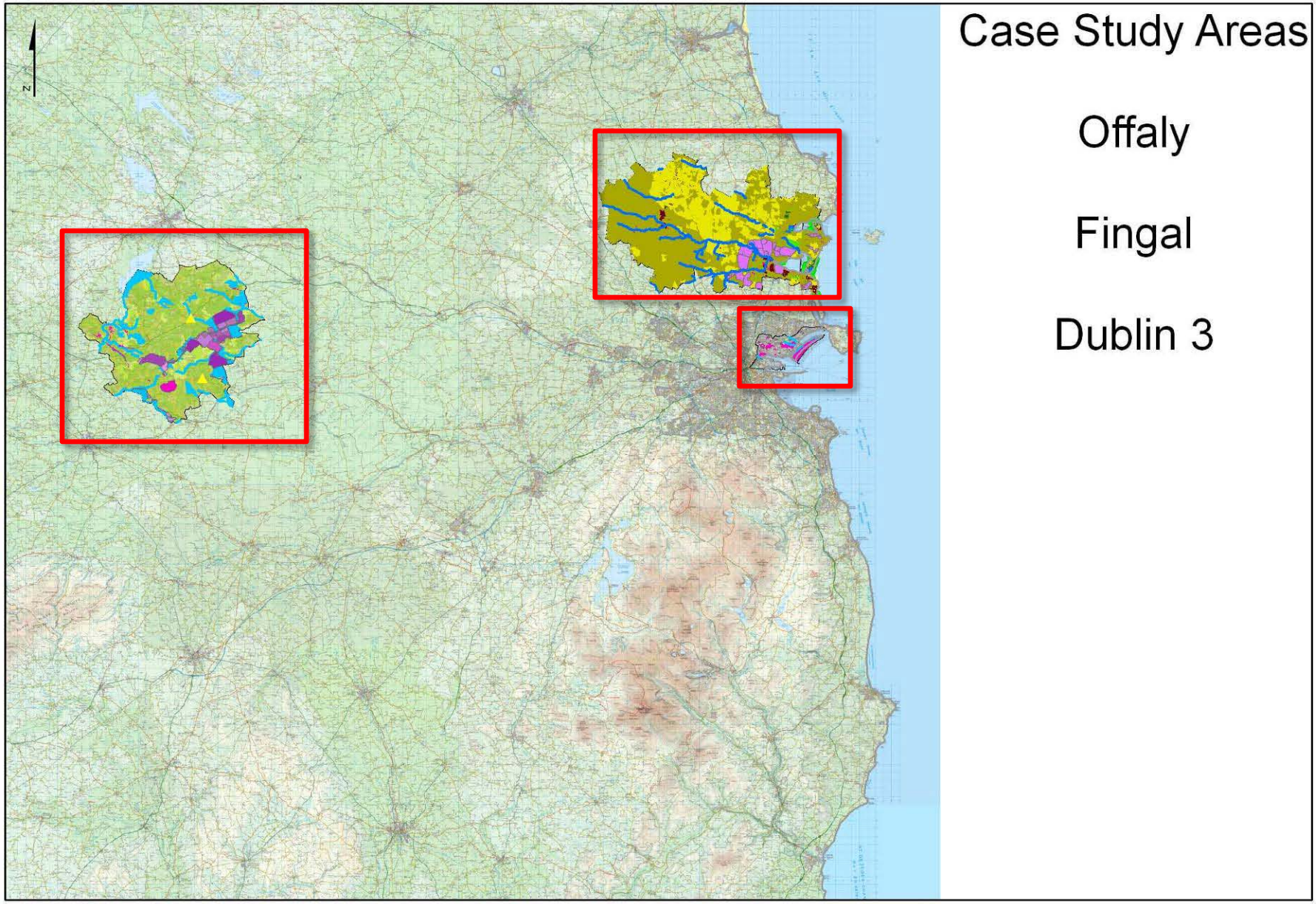
Compass Informatics, Mary Tubridy & Associates

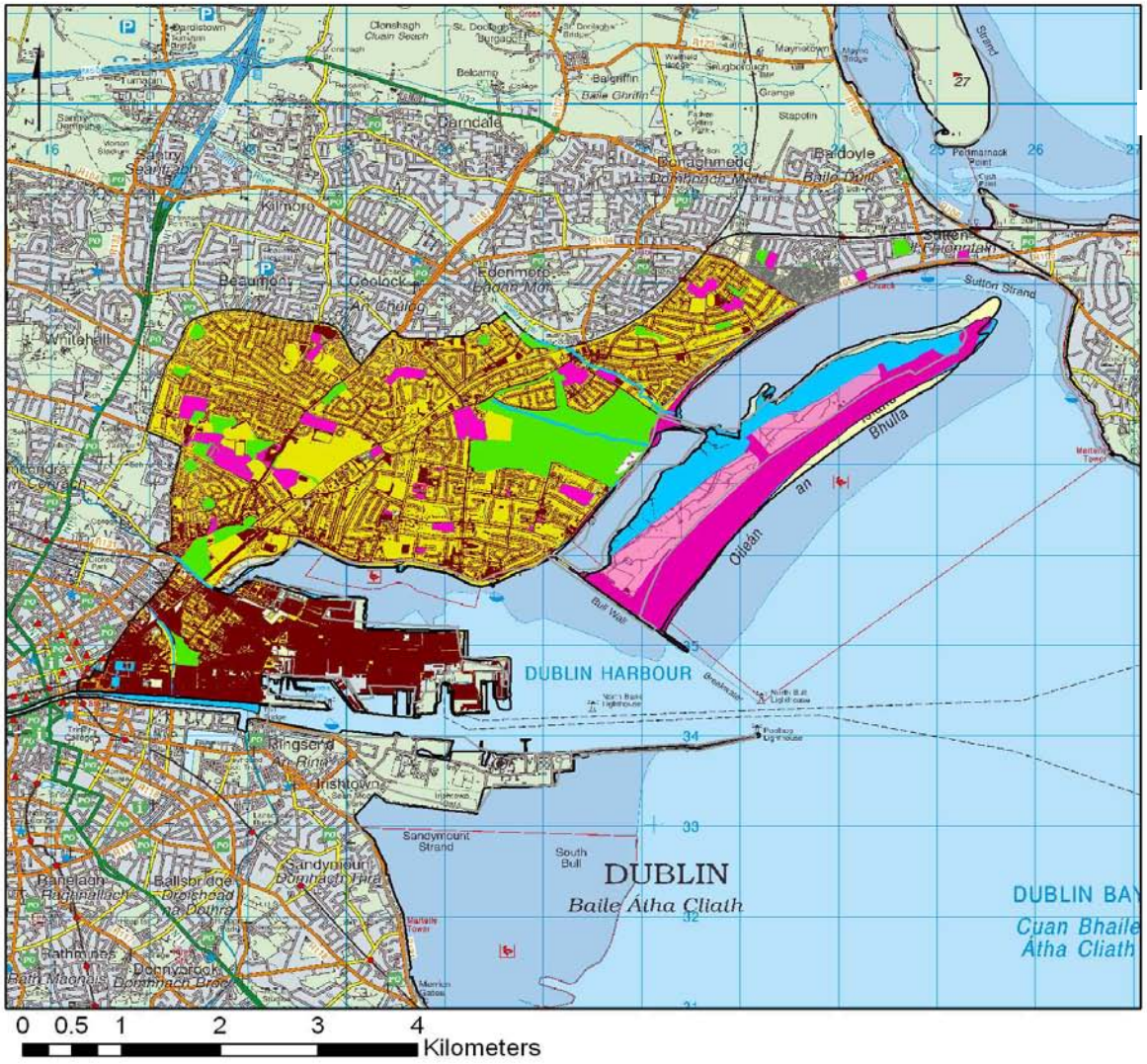
CUNNANE STRATTON REYNOLDS
LAND PLANNING & DESIGN

TVA


N
Water Quality & Flood Attenuation
Recreation & Quality of Life
Designated Areas
MULTI-FUNCTIONAL
GI INFRASTRUCTURE
0
30
60
120
180
240
Kilometers


Case Study Areas
Offaly
Fingal
Dublin 3
N
0 5 10 20 30 40
Kilometers

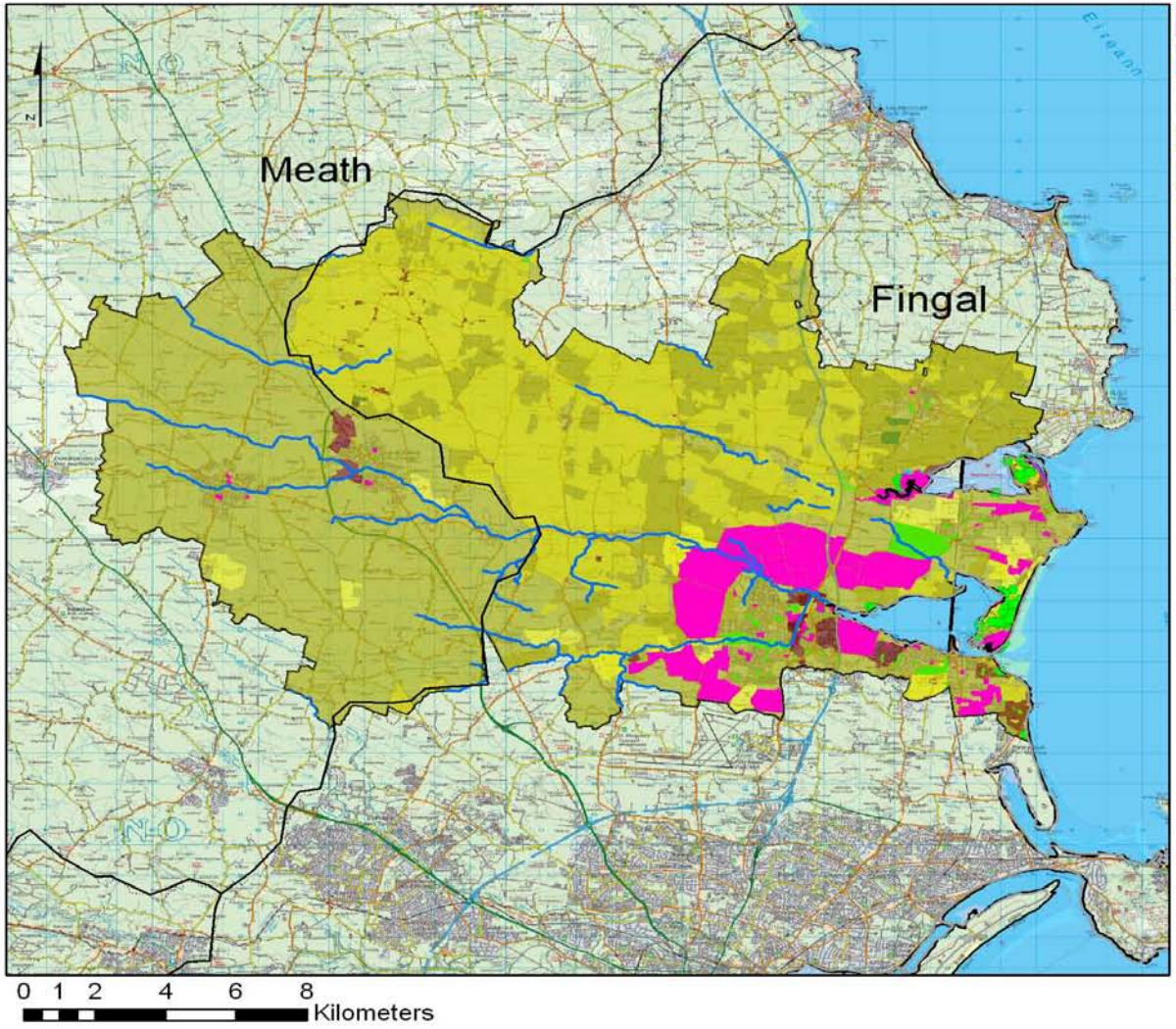
Case Study 1 – Urban Area - Dublin 3



DUBLIN 3
MULTI-FUNCTIONAL
GI INFRASTRUCTURE

GI Opportunities:
Improvement of streams (in Parks) by creation of wetland areas;
Multi-functionality of existing and new green spaces.

Case Study 2 – Broadmeadow River



Recreation & Quality of Life GI

Water Management & Flood Attenuation GI

Biodiversity GI

Class 1

Class 2

Class 3

Class 4

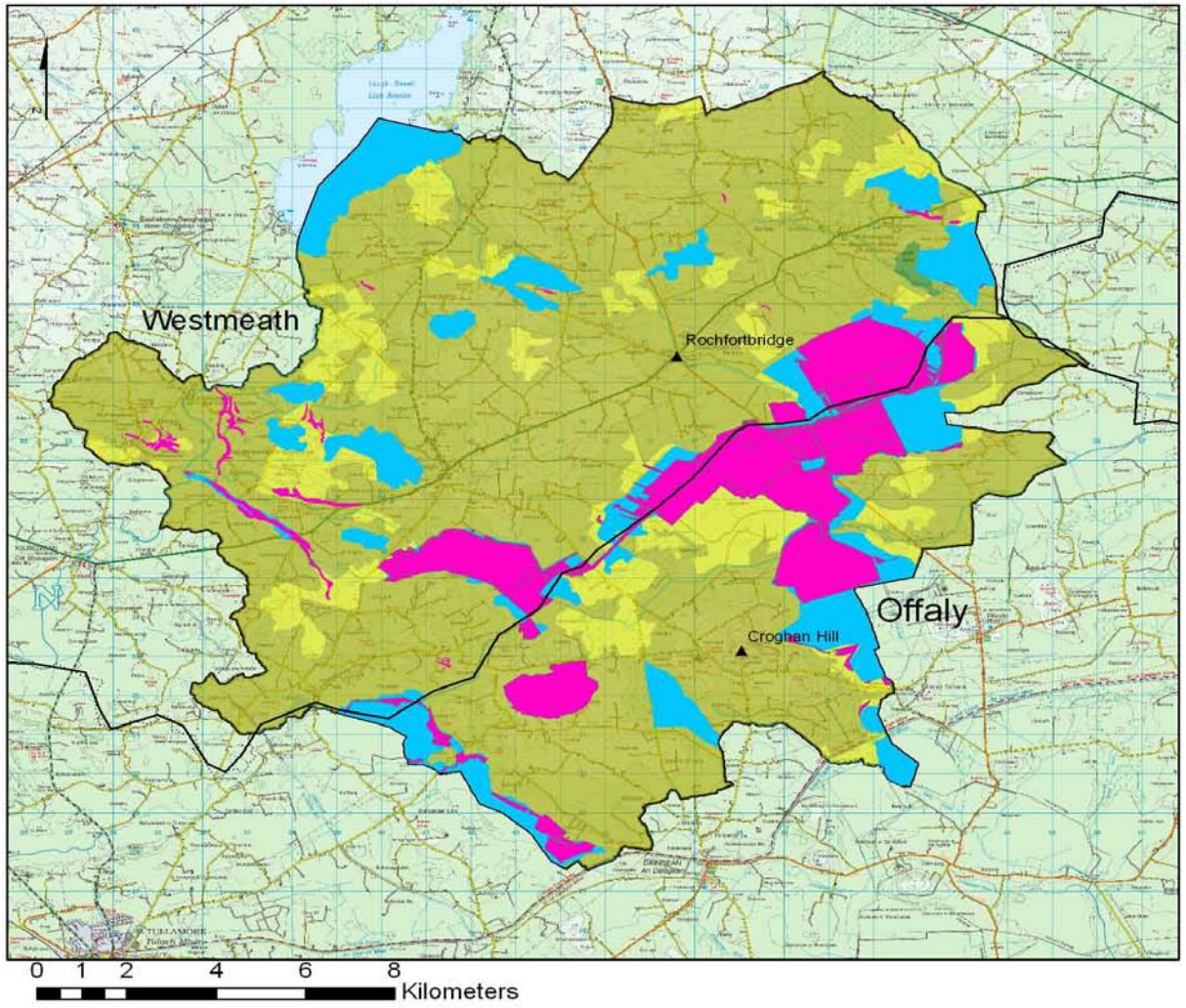
Class 5

FINGAL/MEATH
MULTI-FUNCTIONAL
GI INFRASTRUCTURE

GI Opportunities:

Improve connectivity between rural and urban through recreation networks;
Build on existing biodiversity, river/ riparian corridors to improve water quality;
Recognise and retain valuable networks in rural landscape (hedgerows, drainage).

Case Study 3 – Offaly/ Westmeath



Recreational GI

Water Quality & Flood Attenuation

Biodiversity GI

Class 1

Class 2

Class 3

Class 4

OFFALY/WESTMEATH MULTI-FUNCTIONAL GI INFRASTRUCTURE

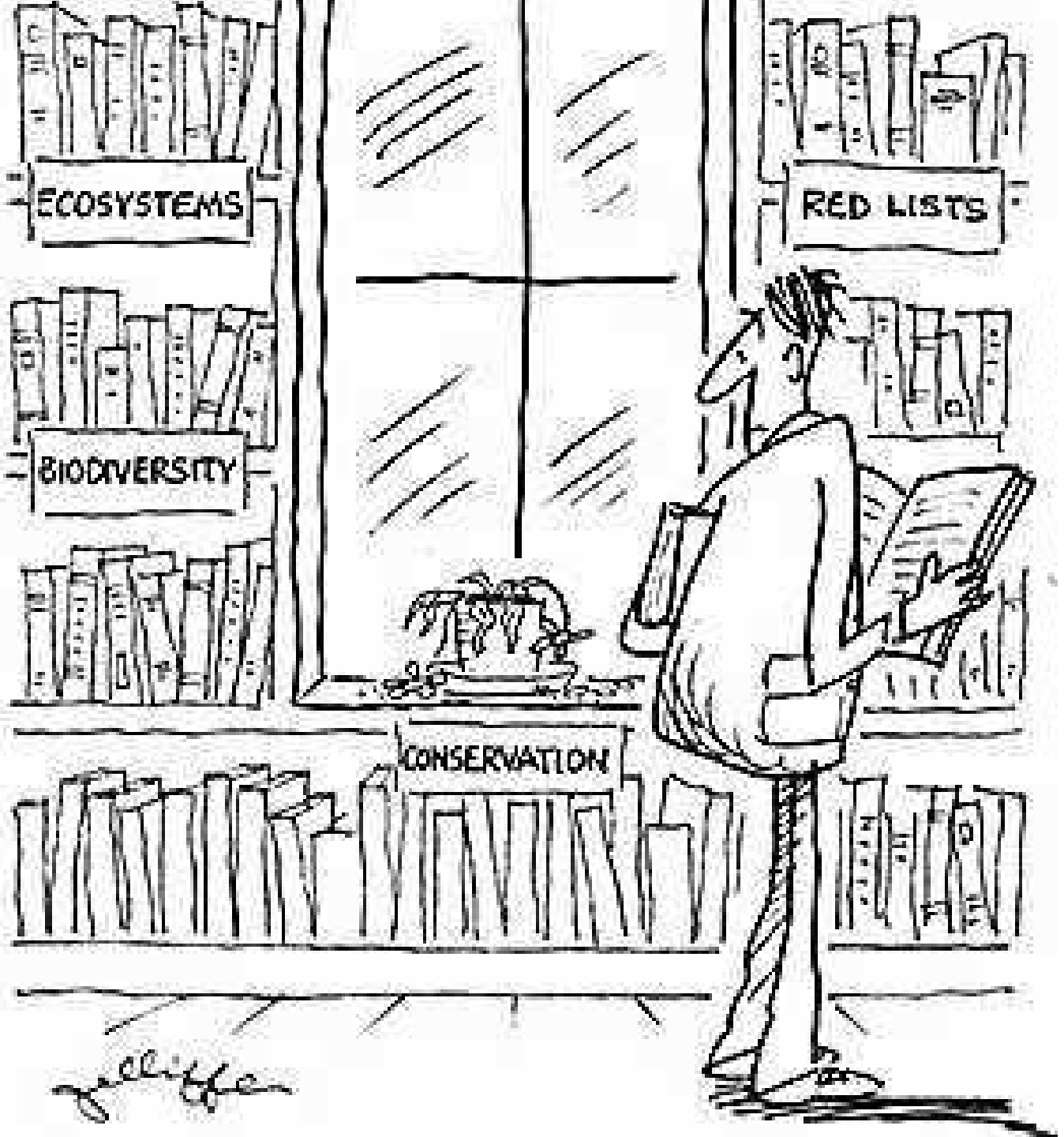
GI Opportunities:
Sustainable energy generation/ production;
Tourism potential;
Ease of involvement of landowners – Bord Na Mona/Coillte;
Development of GI network.

Comhar SDC conclusions on GI

- GI approach is strategic and offers potential ways of effectively integrating biodiversity into spatial planning and sectoral considerations.
- Policy context is fragmented – but opportunities exist with revision of NSDS, NBP, NAP, P&D Amendment Bill
- GI emphasizes management and can help meet requirements of EU Directives – Birds, Habitats, Water Framework and Floods
- Supports EU Environment Ministers conclusions on options to protect Biodiversity after 2010

Comhar SDC Recomendations

- Further develop **National Framework GI Map**
- **Regional Framework GI maps** & guidance to support local initiatives and build on best practice
- Include as a key mechanism in new **NBP and NAP**
- Future **revision of NSS** should consider incl National Framework Map
- Consider enabling provisions in **P&D Bill** to alow for development contributions to support GI
- **Landscape Character Assessment** should incorporate GI by mapping landscape funtions; should be supported by strengthened legislation and guidleins


ECOSYSTEMS
RED LISTS
BIODIVERSITY
CONSERVATION

Further information

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