Bunaíodh Suirbhé Geimhridh Chromán na gCearc in Éirinn (IHHWS) i ngeimhreadh 2004/5 chun imscrúdú a dhéanamh ar an gcuid is lú staidéar, ach an chuid is mó de thimthriall bliantúil Chromán na gCearc agus chun Cromán na gCearc in Éirinn a thuiscint agus a chaomhnú níos fearr. Tá sé ar cheann de na suirbhéanna is mó agus is faide ar siúl ar speiceas aonair in Éirinn. Déanann an dréachtphlean forbartha Contae tagairt don dualgas dlíthiúil Cromán na gCearc a chosaint i Limistéir faoi Chosaint Speisialta. Ba chóir a thabhairt faoi deara go bhfuil na réimsí seo freagrach as an séasúr goir (Aibreán-Iúil) ach go bhfuil na 8 mí eile (75%) den bhliain fíorthábhachtach. Tá siad nasctha go bunúsach. Déanfar damáiste do dhaonra an SPA de bharr rioscaí do láithreáin neamhphóraithe. Déanann faraí geimhridh óstáil ar an daonra póraithe i rith an fhómhair agus an gheimhridh agus is gá iad a chosaint. Tá sonraí luachmhara san IHHWS ar féidir le Comhairle Contae Chiarraí úsáid a bhaint astu chun Cromán na gCearc a chosaint de réir oibleagáidí dlíthiúla faoin Treoir maidir le hÉin.

The Irish Hen Harrier Survey (IHHWS) was established in the winter of 2004/5 to investigate the smallest, but most of, the annual Hen Harrier cycle and to understand and conserve the Hen Harrier in Ireland better. It is one of the largest and longest running surveys of individual species in Ireland. The draft County Development Plan refers to the legal obligation to protect Hen Harriers in Special Protection Areas. It should be noted that these areas are responsible for the incubation season (April-July) but the other 8 months (75%) of the year are critical. They are basically connected. The population of the SPA will be damaged by risks to non-breeding sites. Winter roosts host the breeding population during autumn and winter and need to be protected. The IHHWS contains valuable data that Kerry County Council can use to protect the Hen Harrier in accordance with legal obligations under the Birds Directive.

Foclaíocht mholta chun: Rachaidh Comhairle Contae Chiarraí i dteagmháil le sealbhóirí reachtúla agus neamhreachtúla sonraí éiceolaíochta chun eolas a thabhairt d’fhorbairt inbhuanaithe agus féachfaidh siad i dtreo damáiste neamhaireach a sheachaint, go háirithe do speicis Iarscríbhinne.

In áiteanna eile sa phlean forbartha, áit a bhfuil tagairt do Chromán na gCearc, ní mór tagairt shoiléir a dhéanamh don fhíric go bhfuil 8 mí den bhliain lasmuigh den séasúr goir ar gá aird ghéar a thabhairt orthu. Ní miste iarracht a dhéanamh éan a chosaint ar feadh 25% den bhliain má bhíonn sé faoi bhrú suntasach ar feadh 75% den bhliain. Mar shampla, forbraíodh roinnt feirmeacha gaoithe i bhfaraí geimhridh agus cailleadh na faraí sin, rud a chuir isteach ar dhaonra póraithe an SPA. Is saincheist í seo atá aitheanta ag Coimisiún an AE agus atá ábhartha do Chás na nÉan atá oscailte faoi láthair i gcoinne na hÉireann ag Cúirt Bhreithiúnais an Aontais Eorpaigh. Má dhéantar pleanáil roimh ré chun láithreacha fara geimhridh a chur san áireamh, laghdaítear an bhagairt ó ghéarleanúint nuair a mholtar forbairtí ag na suíomhanna íogaire seo.

Suggested wording for: Kerry County Council will engage with statutory and non-statutory holders of ecological data to inform sustainable development and seek to avoid inadvertent damage, particularly to Annex species.

Elsewhere in the development plan, where there is a reference to the Hen Harrier, clear reference must be made to the fact that 8 months of the year are outside the breeding season which require close attention. It is advisable to try to protect a bird for 25% of the year if it is under significant pressure for 75% of the year. For example, some wind farms were developed in winter roosts and those roosts were lost, affecting the breeding population of the SPA. This is an issue recognized by the EU Commission and relevant to the Birds Case which is currently open against Ireland by the Court of Justice of the European Union. Planning in advance to include winter roost sites reduces the threat of persecution when proposing developments at these sensitive sites.