

**Terms of Reference**  
(Final version - Nov. 2012)

**Working Group on Future National Upland Rural Development Measures**

**Name:** Working Group to develop proposals on future National Upland Rural Development Measures for Ireland

**Goal:** That this working group would work in a spirit of partnership to develop, coordinate, and present detailed proposals to the Department of Agriculture, Food & Marine, on future National Upland Rural Development Measures to be implemented in the Common Agricultural Policy Programme 2014 to 2020.

**Terms of Reference – Working Group To Develop National Upland Rural Development Measures**

1. That the working group will be made up of one representative from each of the following organisations:
  - i. Irish Farmers Association, ii. Teagasc, iii. European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism, iv. BirdWatch Ireland, v. IT Sligo, vi. Dept of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (National Parks & Wildlife Service) & vii. Mountaineering Ireland\*
2. That the working group would establish a clear vision for the sustainable management of the Irish uplands with farming at its core, highlighting the role of upland farmers as landscape managers protecting the natural, built and cultural heritage of Ireland's Uplands.
3. That the working group would co-ordinate the development of costed proposals for National Upland Rural Development Measures for submission in draft form to the Department of Agriculture, Food & Marine.
4. That the working group would develop a clear route map with realistic timeframes to deliver its goal, outlining areas requiring financial / technical support as necessary.
5. That the working group would co-ordinate the input of relevant bodies into its proposals including, but not limited to, the following:
  - a. Landowners / farmers – through the following representative bodies: the Irish Farmers Association; Irish Cattle and Sheepfarmers Association; Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association; Irish Landowners Organisation; Macra na Feirme and the Wicklow Cheviot Sheep Owners Association
  - b. Recreational Users – Mountaineering Ireland and National Association of Regional Game Councils
  - c. NGOs - European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism, Burren Farming for Conservation Programme, BirdWatch Ireland, Irish Uplands Forum, Golden Eagle Trust, Irish Peatland Conservation Council, Wicklow Uplands Council
  - d. Academic / Consultants – BEC Consultants, IT Sligo
  - e. Government Departments / Agencies – Teagasc, Department of Environment, Community & Local Government, Heritage Council, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Irish LEADER Network
6. That the working group would recommend monitoring activities for proposed National Upland Rural Development Measures.
7. That the working group would work to support sustainable farming in the Irish uplands together with measures which would attract younger farmers to hill farming.
8. That the working group would seek to develop an integrated communication and consultation strategy to promote its proposals for National Upland Rural Development Measures,
9. That the working group will carry out its work as efficiently as possible, meeting face-to-face as required, with work conducted via email and conference calls between meetings.
10. The quorum for a meeting of the working group (face-to-face or conference call) shall be five members present.

\* Second MI representative to provide secretarial support to working group