

2021 TJTP Territorial Just Transition Plan

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1. Outline of the transition process and the identification of most negatively affected territories within the Member State

Reference: point (a)(b) of Article 11(2), Article 6

1.1 The expected transition process

Ireland's transition towards a climate-neutral economy has gathered pace in recent years. The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) (CALCD) Act 2021 provides for a transition involving a 51% reduction in carbon emissions (2018-2030) and an objective to achieve a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy by 2050. The Act provides for a just transition, within the wider statutory framework of climate action, enabling increased new employment and opportunities, while supporting those most negatively impacted.

Ireland's Climate Action Plan 2021(CAP21) sets out policy commitments and indicative ranges of sectoral emission reductions, to meet statutory requirements for a 51% reduction in emissions by 2030, including a reduction in electricity sector emissions from 10.6 million (M) tonnes (T) to 2-4MT of CO₂. It outlines how electricity demand from renewable sources will increase up to 80%, where achievable, cost effective and without compromising security of supply. At least 2 GW of additional gas generation capacity will be required by 2030, largely by mid-decade, to ensure security of supply, and underpin increased renewable electricity capacity. Overall, the proportion of electricity generated by natural gas is expected to decline from c.50%-30% by 2030 as renewable generation increases.

Use of peat for electricity generation has fallen – from at one point delivering one third of Ireland's total generation capacity. By 1990 it provided 19% of the energy input into electricity generation, reducing to 1.5% in 2021. By 2024, this figure should be negligible, as peat will not be used in the generation system. Over the same period, renewable generation increased from 1%-23% and gas from 27%-48%. The National Energy and Climate Plan ('NECP') 2021-2030 incorporates policies and measures, to deliver a 30% reduction by 2030 (non-ETS GHG emissions, from 2005 levels).

Peat harvesting activities were sustained by government support via a Public Service Obligation (PSO) which obligated the ESB to purchase a fixed amount of peat-fired electricity until 2019. The sudden closure of 2 peat burning stations in the Midlands in 2020, prevented 2MT of Bord na Móna (BnM) peat being burned, reducing carbon emissions by 51% (avoiding at least 1.25MT of CO₂ emissions) and contributing to a 7.9% reduction in generation emissions. The remaining Midland based station in Edenderry, currently using both peat and biomass, is scheduled to replace peat with biomass from 2024, further reducing emissions.

Measures to achieve a reduction of GHG emissions from peat extraction are being taken through the Enhanced Decommissioning, Rehabilitation and Restoration Scheme (EDRRS), an initiative aligned to Ireland's National Peatlands Strategy (2015-25), which sets out a long-term framework to responsibly manage Ireland's peatlands. Cessation of extraction on EDRRS lands has resulted in carbon savings from peat not being burnt, emissions from the degraded peatlands being halted and protecting existing carbon stores. In the longer term, sequestration capacity will be restored to varying degrees depending on the extent of degradation of each bog. Works have commenced on 35 bogs. Estimated climate benefits from emissions avoided and future sequestration, via the implementation of enhanced rehabilitation measures and rewetting are:

- Carbon Storage versus No Rehabilitation - 62-78MT
- Tonnes of CO2 avoided - 3.3MT

These indicative figures will continue to be updated through the project's carbon monitoring.

Wetlands and Grasslands are reported as separate categories for the Land Use Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector as part of Ireland's national inventory. The LULUCF sector is a net source of emissions in Ireland, unlike the majority of EU countries. There is an imperative that LULUCF emissions are reduced through major peatland restoration and rehabilitation schemes. Recent Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) data indicates that emissions in the Wetlands category (which also includes grasslands and forestry on peat soils) have more than halved from their peak of 4.2 MtCO₂eq (2015) - 2.0 MtCO₂eq (2021), due to the cessation of extraction and rewetting of lands.

CAP21 incorporates an Implementation Plan for the Midlands Region, in response to the recommendations of the Just Transition Commissioner, appointed by Government in 2019. The Midlands Regional Transition Team (MRTT), established by the Midlands local authorities, plays a key role in coordinating regional and local strategic partnerships, supported by the European Commission's Secretariat Technical Assistance to Regions in Transition facility and participation in the EU Just Transition Platform. Other targeted supports include a National Just Transition Fund (NJTF) which is providing up to €22.1M in grant funding bringing €15M in additional funding to the region and supporting an estimated 178 direct and 999 indirect jobs.

These initiatives have ensured that this Territorial Just Transition Plan (TJTP) is built on strong foundations laid by prior national interventions.

Timeline

NECP targets will be updated to align with revised statutory emissions reduction targets for 2030 provided for in the CALCD Act 2021 and EU 'Fit for 55' targets. A Long-Term Climate Strategy will be published in 2022, reflecting Ireland's enhanced statutory climate ambitions. Building on the decarbonisation to 2030 set out in the CAP21, it will identify indicative pathways beyond 2030, towards climate neutrality by 2050, underpinned by analysis of transition options across key economic sectors. This will inform future policy making, business investment decisions and household, community, and citizen action, grounded on just transition principles.

1.2 Territories expected to be the most negatively affected

Achieving net-zero emissions requires transformational change across the economy and society, with impacts more acutely felt in certain sectors.

Economic/ Employment impacts

BnM and the Electricity Supply Board (ESB), were important employers within the Territory, building communities which were economically reliant on the interdependent sectors of agriculture, peat harvesting and the energy industry.

The ESB is a statutory public corporation operating from power generation to supply. While traditionally an important employer in the Territory, direct and indirect employment through peat based power generation has declined for many years. All ESB peat burning stations are now closed. Power stations in Ferbane and Rhode, Co. Offaly, closed in 2003. In 2019, an ESB planning application to transition West Offaly Power Station from peat to biomass from 2020, was rejected. A subsequent review of options for both West Offaly and Lough Ree Power Stations post-2020 revealed no viable business model beyond 2020. Electricity generation ceased there in April 2020 with 68 ESB workers being redeployed.

BnM's portfolio of c.80,000 hectares include over 130 bogs, which mirror the proposed Territory - largely in Laois, Longford, Offaly, Westmeath, as well as parts of adjoining counties of Roscommon, Galway, Tipperary and Kildare. From 2015, BnM had planned an exit from commercial extraction of peat by 2030. However, the sudden decision to close West Offaly and Lough Ree in 2020, resulted in the 380 BnM workers to leave through a Voluntary Redundancy scheme – 210 permanent employees and 170 seasonal employees, with a further 70 retirees/resignations. A focus was placed on reducing the requirement for contractors and where possible and skillsets were transferable, BnM employees were redeployed to displace contract resources. Exact figures are not available to reflect significant indirect impacts on contractors in Laois, Longford, Offaly, Westmeath, as well as parts of adjoining counties of Roscommon, Galway, Tipperary and Kildare, living in the vicinity.

Following the cessation of commercial peat extraction for power generation, the ESB announced that it would develop plans for the use of West Offaly and Lough Ree sites as renewable energy centres, with proposed technologies including synchronous condensers and energy storage capabilities. ESB's Driven to Make a Difference: Net Zero by 2040 strategy sets out a roadmap to achieve net zero emissions by 2040, committing to a target for 2030 for decarbonising operations. BnM announced its Brown to Green Strategy, a move to a climate solutions company, focused on renewable energy, recycling, peatland restoration, habitat management and provision of other low carbon goods and services. While workers have or will be offered redeployment, ongoing restructuring of ESB and BnM activities will continue to have implications for direct and indirect employment in the region. Further winding down of peat-related activities includes planned cessation of peat burning (now 70% of output) at Edenderry from 2024 and closure of the briquette factory at Derrinlough early in 2024. This will impact 76 peat supply and 15 sales operatives who will be redeployed. Wider socio-economic impacts, such as loss of purchasing power within rural communities, loss of seasonal employment and reduced local authority rates will further impact local service provision.

Evidence Base for Most Negatively Affected Territory

Following an objective, evidence-based assessment and analysis, it is proposed that the Territory should include Counties Offaly, Laois, Longford, Westmeath, and Roscommon, as well as five additional Municipal Districts (MDs) Ballinasloe (Co. Galway), Athy and Clane-Maynooth (Co. Kildare), Carrick-on-Suir and Thurles (Co. Tipperary).

This analysis is based on 2 studies.

- The Structural Reform Support Programme (SRSP) funded a study and report - D3 Report on the Transition Process Toward Climate Neutrality. This sets out a territorial analytical methodology to allow an appraisal of the 'most affected' territories. This identified the 'most affected' counties as the Midlands NUTS 3 (Offaly, Laois, Longford, Westmeath) and Roscommon.
- DCEE commissioned an additional statistical analysis by People & Place to provide a more fine-

grained analysis at MD level. While data is not available at sub county level during the transition period since 2020, this analysis allowed a more granular overview of the most 'negatively affected' areas. This was motivated by the need to ensure a 'whole of territory' approach, so the geographical delineation of the transition is commensurate with socio-economic realities, and not the vagaries of administrative boundaries.

The following paragraphs summarise key points from these studies.

- The 5 main industrial installations associated with peat harvesting, are located at county boundaries - Lough Ree (Co. Longford, but borders Roscommon), West Offaly (which borders Counties Galway and Roscommon) and Edenderry Power Station (borders Co. Kildare) and the and Derrinlough Briquette Factories (Co. Offaly, but just 25 kilometres from Co. Galway) and the Littleton Briquette Factory (Co. Tipperary). Most impacted employees resided in counties of Laois, Offaly, Westmeath, Kildare, Roscommon, Longford, Tipperary, and Galway.
- Almost 30% of BnM's peat bogs are located outside the boundary of the NUTS 3 Counties and Co. Roscommon. The CORINE database of Ireland's most significant boglands including the presence of significant peatlands beyond NUTS3 in Eastern parts of Co. Tipperary – from Templetouhy to Killenaule and North and West Kildare – around Prosperous, Allenwood, Timahoe, Carbury, Rathangan and Kilberry. Analysis of economic data highlighted that the geography of these bogs and associated installations, strongly impacted on adjoining MDs, with travel-to-work patterns clearly extending beyond the boundaries of NUTS3 and Roscommon.
- This geographic focus was mirrored by socio-cultural, heritage and community identity characteristics associated with boglands, which were not delimited by administrative regional and county boundaries. Sites classified as having 'very high' sensitivity incorporating Natura 2000, Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)s and Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) also traverse county boundaries, incorporating geographic features such as the Sliabh Blooms; Lough Ree; Lough Ennel; Lough Forbes; and several boglands – most notably in the Ballinasloe MD
- By way of an example, Edenderry Powerplant is almost equidistant from the centre of Edenderry and the border with Co. Kildare (7km), and the second-closest town to it is Rathangan (Co. Kildare), just 12km away. Much of the built environment and the identity of towns such as Rathangan and villages such as Lullymore (Co. Kildare) are closely associated with life on the boglands. The close proximity of parts of East Galway to key peat industrial and manufacturing plants such as the now closed West Offaly peat-fuelled power plant (14km from Ballinasloe) and the significance, for the Thurles and Carrick-on-Suir MDs, of the now closed Littleton Briquette factory add to the body of evidence supporting an approach that transcends administrative boundaries and focus on socio-economic realities in delineating the appropriate territory.
- The People and Place statistical analysis pointed to the appropriateness and usefulness of sub county units, namely MDs, in ensuring the objective, robust and valid designation of the Territory's geographical footprint. Similar or greater levels of socio-economic constraint, incorporating demography, society, wellbeing, economy and ecology, were identified in sub county areas, outside NUTS3 and Roscommon, associated with historical dependence on peat.

The proposed territory comprises 19 MDs, with direct associations with Ireland's traditional peat industry and face similar challenges in transitioning to a post-carbon economy and society. The analysis gives a baseline for the geographical context, informing an evidence-based approach to selection of operations for inclusion in the EUJTF programme.

2. Assessment of transition challenges, for each of the identified territories

Reference: point (c) of Article 11(2)

2.1. Assessment of the economic, social and territorial impact of the transition to a climate-neutral economy of the Union by 2050

Reference: point (c) of Article 11(2)

The labour market impact of the transition presented particular challenges within the proposed Territory, due to pre-existing economic and social disparities. 58.2% of the proposed Territory's population resides in rural areas, over 20% higher than the national average, with a higher age dependency rate, proportion of children under 17, adults over 65 and disability rate than national averages. Most of Counties Roscommon, Longford and Offaly, northern parts of Co. Westmeath, the west of Co. Laois and most of the Carrick-on-Suir MD are classified as disadvantaged. Gross median household income of the Territory is lower than the national average. Business demography data highlights the significance of indigenous employment and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) for the region. Irish-owned firms with less than 10 employees accounting for the vast majority of firms providing employment.

Low levels of education attainment are most prevalent in peat dependent communities as the Industry provided relatively well-paid jobs which did not, in the main, require tertiary education qualifications. 30.6% of the Territory's population did not progress to the senior cycle of second-level education, over 3 percentage points higher than the State level of 27%. Just 27.5% of the population has a third level qualification, 5% below the national average. Older age profiles, low population density and where limited local public transport makes addressing skills deficits challenging.

Economic/ Direct impacts on employment

In 1980 BnM employed 7,100 people, with many others employed in contract work including seasonal peat extraction. This figure declined over time, but according to the 2021 study funded through the SRSP on the Challenges, Needs and Recommended Actions, between Jan. 2019 and May 2021, an estimated 1,000 employees and contractors were directly impacted in BnM. In the period January 2019 to May 2021, a total of 560 employees left or were redeployed in BnM due to closure of the two ESB power plants and the associated peat supply. Prior to these closures, the Littleton Briquette Factory and associated 'home' supply bog had closed with the loss of circa 125 employees, while the closure of BnM coal distribution centres led to the loss of 45 jobs prior to that.

Approximately 350 employees changed roles to the EDDRS, primarily from harvesting roles, however, the longer-term sustainability and requirements of these roles is such that they are deemed less stable and certain than their prior roles with BnM before the transition. BnM has re-entered a growth period, following a period of decline, made possible by restructuring and reshaping business units and re-focusing its business as a climate solutions organisation. This has opened new opportunities and in 2021 plans to create 1,435 jobs in the Midlands by 2026 were announced. 80% of the Bord's operations are now focused on renewable energy production, recycling, peatland rehabilitation, and sustainable product development. BnM operates a landfill gas utilisation facility in Co. Kildare which generates renewable electricity for 8,500 homes.

Plant closures also impacted ESB employees. There were no compulsory redundancies among the estimated 68 staff, as solutions such as voluntary severance, early retirements and transfers were found. The ESB's plans in relation to the development of the sites of the 2 power stations demonstrate a commitment to invest in renewable energy generation and energy storage in the region on a long-term basis.

Indirect Economic Impacts

The wider employment effects on the regional economy of declining commercial extraction and power generation using peat have also had significant indirect impacts. Downstream impacts such as the reduction in indirect employment, business spend and expenditure in the local economy. Indirect employment includes the hiring of external contractors, who were impacted as plants and operations closed. Negative impacts of reduced indirect expenditure in the regional economy were also highlighted during public consultation on the draft Territorial Plan, particularly for retail and hospitality sectors. It was noted that the transition has led to reduced activities across all sectors – agriculture, construction, research and development, social enterprise and transport, posing a real challenge to provide opportunities for sustainable communities for future generations. Respondents highlighted that the nature of peat production meant that many impacted contractors often also farmed marginal holdings, using peat for personal or local use, with many experiencing significant drops in income. Agriculture is an important economic driver in impacted peat dependent rural communities, with almost 8% of households headed by a farmer, higher than the national average. Although, potential interventions to support marginal farmers towards economic diversification and equipping impacted communities to reskill and avail of new and innovative opportunities in the green economy is challenging, due to low population densities and poor local transport, unlocking such solutions will determine the success of EU JTF interventions.

Socio-Economic Impacts

While the primary challenge during the transition out of peat has been the impact on jobs and communities in the impacted region as the labour-intensive peat industries are wound down, public consultees expressed clear concern about the wider socio-economic impacts and the resulting impacts on rural depopulation. In this rural Territory, there are limited alternative local-employment opportunities for workers with highly specific and thus hard to transfer skillsets. Development of local social enterprise, retail and tourism were seen as crucial to provide tangible opportunities for economic growth of direct benefit to impacted communities. Respondents noted that job losses often resulted in role transfers as breadwinners leading to more participation by women.

Traditionally the peat industry, power generation and industrial heritage have been hugely significant for this region – economically, culturally and socially. Wider socio-economic impacts were apparent in the public consultation which highlighted that the peat industry was a huge source of pride, providing an anchor to the community in terms of economic benefits, inter-generational knowledge and skills transfer, attracting new members to the community, providing a sense of cohesion and identity and creating a wide range of supporting technical and soft skills. While providing well-paid employment, other social benefits were provided - supporting local communities and sports clubs. Consultees noted a desire that young people are not forgotten. BnM also funded several housing schemes for employees in the region. The peat industry attracted new members to the community, creating a wide range of supporting businesses and technical and soft skills, providing a sense of cohesion and identity. BnM is exploring new activities to leverage its significant land holdings in the areas of biodiversity and tourism which may bring new spin-off benefits for the Territory

Respondents to the public consultation expressed a desire to avoid the perception that the region is a negative contributor towards carbon emissions, and the intergenerational aspect and long-term effects of this was stated to be a significant concern. There was a strong level of local social cohesion and a desire to address the Just Transition among the responses.

Existing Government/EU Interventions

The EU and Irish government have already supported a number of interventions in the Territory to address these socio-economic impacts, through various initiatives.

- A grant of €738,820, has been awarded by the NJTF to develop Rhode Green Energy Park by re-purposing the former Rhode power station into a green energy park to provide serviced sites for energy enterprise with potential for future incubation space and a feasibility study exploring data centre integration with renewable energy and green hydrogen. This incorporates a feasibility study to examine a combination of renewable technologies, carbon abatement technologies including batteries, syngas production (forest residue & feedstock energy crops) and hydrolysis for green hydrogen production.
- The EDRRS scheme optimises climate, environmental, ecological and hydrological benefits to contribute to the well-being of current and future generations. The EU's Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), through the NRRP, is investing in EDRRS to rehabilitate peatlands over BnM bogs, previously used for peat extraction for electricity generation.
- In 2021, €14 million was allocated for peatland conservation, management and restoration measures by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Both EDRRS and LIFE have reskilled workers, mitigating some expected job impacts, providing a transitional role, and sustaining employment lifespan until scheduled completion in 2024. For protected raised bogs the NPWS has significantly accelerated its programme of restoration in recent years. From 2018 to date, with increased funding and resources, restoration measures have been completed on circa. 4000 hectares of designated raised bogs. 8,483 ha is now rehabilitated by EDRRS (mid-June 2022) and will not be available for commercial use. Further works on raised bog SACs and NHAs are underway and planned for 2022 and beyond through NPWS programmes and EU LIFE projects such as LIFE Peatlands and People. These rehabilitation and restoration efforts will assist Ireland in reaching our national conservation target to restore raised bogs within the network to a favourable conservation status. The NPWS has not yet calculated emissions factors (EFs) reductions in relation to this programme of accelerated restoration on the designated raised bog network as the work is currently ongoing.
- The Peatlands and People Project was supported by €10 million through an EU LIFE Programme, to a consortium, led by BnM, to develop a regional Peatlands Knowledge Centre of Excellence, a Just Transition Accelerator, including bioeconomy, Accelerate Green, to support enterprise development in the region, and an immersive People's Discovery Attraction. This project intends to further estimate emissions factors for a fuller suite of cutover habitats. 8 companies were supported by Accelerate Green, in 2022 through provision of tools, advice and mentoring in transitioning to a green economy.
- To address capacity within the retrofit sector, a retrofit loan guarantee scheme under the NRRP and the ESF+ programme. For example, the SOLAS Green Skills Action Programme is funded through the NRRP for 2021 and 2022. It is proposed to build on this through ESF+ on its completion, with provision of future green skills modules as a component of vocational training courses delivered through SOLAS and the ETBs, funded through ESF+ from 2023. The Department of Social Protection, SOLAS and the MRTT have worked together to provide employment support for workers affected by the phasing out of fossil fuel production in the Midlands. This has consisted of engagement sessions, job fairs, education, retraining and employment opportunities, generally in the renewable energy sector. The relevant Education Training Boards (ETBs) provided one-to-one career support to impacted BnM employees. Over €800,000, funded through ESF and the National Training Fund, has supported retraining in a range of areas including IT, retrofit, sustainable agriculture as well as dumper, excavator and telescopic handler courses.
- The NJTF was established in 2020 to support innovative projects that contribute to the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the Wider Midlands region, and have employment and enterprise potential. This supports 56 innovative projects, which includes 16 projects which started project delivery in September 2020 and 40 larger value projects which started project delivery

from June 2021. The Fund has 3 priorities:

1.

1. Employment and enterprise support: to support innovation and investment proposals to generate sustainable employment in green enterprise.
2. Training supports: to retrain and reskill workers to assist local communities and businesses in the Wider Midlands to adjust to the low carbon transition. The Bord na Móna Employee Supports: Training and Upskilling Project has also been established under this Fund to continue work carried out following peat plant closures in 2020, preparing and upskilling workers for other career paths.
3. Community transitioning supports: to support proactive communications with affected communities and other stakeholders in the region, establish best practice sharing networks, and assist in developing local transition plans.

2.2. Development needs and objectives by 2030 in view of reaching a climate-neutral economy of the Union by 2050

Reference: point (d) of Article 11(2)

The EU JTF will contribute to the diversification and modernisation of the Territory by addressing the following development needs.

1. Enhance the Business Environment and Create Employment Opportunities

The EU JTF will complement national initiatives, broadening the economic base into sectors identified in the Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3) and the SRSP report, including clean energy initiatives targeted at peat workers and their local communities, offering tangible, more sustainable alternatives to the 24,000 people leaving the Territory daily for work/study. The Regional Enterprise Development Fund supports enterprise through implementation of 9 Regional Enterprise Plans (REPs). The fund already supports 7 strategic projects in the Territory, with grant approvals of approx. €8m since 2017. The new Green Transition Fund will help businesses implement low carbon business models. The Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine, the EPA and SEAI have funded several bioeconomy related research and innovation projects to build the knowledge base and research outputs suitable for piloting, scaling and demonstration. The EU JTF will explore opportunities for innovative pilot initiatives for the circular & bioeconomy in the region.

Supporting long-term local resilience will sustain EU JTF interventions, driving endogenous sustainable growth, to support impacted peat communities through economic development, while maintaining industrial heritage and community stability. S3 identifies retail & tourism as the most employment intensive sectors in the country, particularly in rural areas such as this Territory. The EU JTF will support SMEs, complementing Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSES), REPs, regional tourism strategies, the national policy statement on the bioeconomy and SME supports provided through the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs). Stakeholder-led initiatives can best identify priorities for investments in human capital and the EU JTF will empower the community and social pillars through funding SMEs and social enterprise.

2. Enhance the Skills Profile

A pro-active approach to skills provision for impacted BnM workers has been taken under existing

Government/EU Interventions, with significant supports being provided this cohort. Sectoral skills for the green economy are being funded through the Solas Green Skills Programme. Action 1.3 of the MREP supports Regional ETB proposals for a National Pilot on Sustainability and a Rural Centre of Excellence in the Territory. This is a key deliverable of the SOLAS strategy for the FET sector and will not rely on support from the EU JTF.

Respondents to the consultation noted that local transport for impacted communities to existing regional training opportunities remains a key challenge. Supported by the NJTF, the BnM Employee Training Supports Project will provide upskilling and retraining support for employees. It is proposed that EUJTF priorities will also support the development of specific skillsets in the Territory in areas such as the bioeconomy, wetlands rehabilitation and boardwalk and trails development on rehabilitated lands.

3. Promoting Environmental Sustainability and Industrial Heritage

Particular environmental challenges are associated with the Territory's traditional reliance on the peat industry. It also has environmental resources and assets, many afforded protections under EU legislation including the Natura 2000 framework. Ecological assets, such as the Sliabh Bloom mountains, show how boglands, if restored, can play an important role in carbon sequestration, counterbalancing impacts of human activity which disturbed and depleted much of the Territory's ecological resource base. NESC's 2021 report 'Addressing Employment Vulnerability as Part of a Just Transition in Ireland' noted the importance of recognising the historical and industrial context of places and communities in a just transition process. Lough Boora is an exemplar site combining environmental sustainability and industrial heritage, new economic opportunities and improved recreational amenities. It has moved from supplying 1,000,000+ T of peat each year to becoming a sanctuary for wildlife, a prime outdoor recreation attraction with walkways, cycle paths, visitor centre and sculptures inspired by the local industrial heritage. The EU JTF will pursue such opportunities for recovery, re-purposing and renewal preserving the Territory's rich heritage, maintaining strong peat community identity and pride of place.

Supports will target improvements in the status of degraded protected habitats, supporting national and EU biodiversity/climate aims, while boosting economic activity, focused on small/medium sized contractors. Retraining and upskilling can enable former peat workers to undertake restoration work, construction of amenities such as boardwalks, creating positive links between interventions and their communities. Complementary activities involving community engagement, education/awareness activities and provision of amenities will encourage communities to imagine new sustainable uses for bogs.

Supporting the delivery of actions identified under the Local Authority Climate Action Plans developed in the Territory will contribute to national climate targets, enabling local authorities to mitigate adverse impacts on the environment, support climate change adaptation and strengthen the alignment between national climate policy and the delivery of effective local climate action.

4. Enhancing potential of region as a place to live, work, invest and visit

As a result of the transition, the Territory needs reliable, clean, local transport solutions, connecting people to more opportunities to work, (re)train, do business, meet and visit. Sustainable local mobility for impacted communities was identified as a problem by the SRSP funded analysis and particularly during the youth consultation, underlying the need for provision of carbon neutral local transport infrastructure to support sustainable employment and access to innovation/remote working hubs and training & education opportunities in the Territory. Such sparsely populated areas rely more heavily on personal private transport, with greater reliance on fossil fuels and lower electric vehicle (EV) uptake. A shift toward zero-emissions transport is an essential part of the transition for citizens within the Territory. The Midlands REP provides a strong focus on amenity and recreation use, and potential for sustainable tourism and strategic trails development, to unlock the regenerative and commercial potential within the Territory. Regional resilience for the next generation within peat communities depends on retaining and attracting

young skilled workers. This is fundamental to a successful transition. Improved, sustainable local public transport links will increase economic competitiveness, creating better places to work and live for impacted communities.

2.3. Consistency with other relevant national, regional or territorial strategies and plans

Reference: point (e) of Article 11(2)

National Smart Specialisation Strategy for Innovation 2022-27

S3 will focus on driving enterprise success through enterprise-led research, development & innovation start-ups, competitiveness, productivity and high economic performance, contributing to Ireland's economic and societal resilience and transformation. Sectors with high employment and innovation capability include advanced manufacturing, creative, bioeconomy/renewable energy, biopharma & life sciences, financial service/FinTech, food/agritech and ICT. S3 notes opportunities to develop capacity in the Low Carbon Economy and supports tourism initiatives noting Retail and Tourism sectors are key employment generators for Ireland, particularly for rural locations. S3 supports the goals of Our Rural Future Rural Development Policy 2021-2025 through maximising our resources and strengths in the Green Economy to support employment opportunities for rural communities in areas such as renewable energy, sustainable tourism, energy retrofitting, the Bioeconomy and the Circular Economy.

Rural Development Policy: Our Rural Future 2021-2025

The EU JTF aligns with the challenges and opportunities facing rural Ireland are driven by trends such as ageing populations, urbanisation, the rise of emerging economies, climate change, environmental pressures, increased globalisation and technological breakthroughs.

National Policy Statement on the Bioeconomy

The Government's vision aims towards global leadership in the bioeconomy, moving beyond a compliance and carbon mitigation focus to integrating sustainable economic development into our economic model as we transition to a low carbon & circular economy.

The EU JTF aligns with this by promoting bio-circularity through identifying, assessing and balancing policy targets on climate action, innovation, rural & sustainable development and prosperity and welfare and competing uses of land and biomass to optimise the use of material (food, fibre, bio-based materials, energy) and non-material (clean air and water, biodiversity, climate mitigation and adaptation, recreation) resources, products, processes and services, including ecosystem services. This approach will ensure supported activities respect local ecological boundaries, protect and enhance biodiversity & ecosystems services and demonstrate the potential of bio-based solutions in terms of climate and environmental performance and circularity.

People, Place and Policy: Growing Tourism to 2025 - Regional Tourism Strategy for Ireland's Hidden Heartlands 2022-2026

Tourism is at the heart of the Government's overall economic strategy and Tourism Strategy People, Place and Policy: Growing Tourism to 2025 aims to increase the tourism's economic contribution across local communities. This Strategy is executed through regional experience brands and strategies which aim to increase tourism's economic impact, making the Territory one of Europe's leading regenerative tourism destinations.

Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies

Ireland's 3 regional assemblies have each adopted a RSES which sets out the long-term spatial, economic and climate policies for the region to 2030. The RSES for the Eastern and Midland Region includes Counties Laois, Longford, Offaly, Westmeath and Kildare. Co. Galway and Roscommon are included in the Northern and Western RSES and Co. Tipperary is within the Southern RSES. All have economic development, climate action and improving quality of life at their core, consistent with the EU JTF's single specific objective.

Regional Enterprise Plans

Developed by regional stakeholders, REPs focus on collaborative initiatives to realise enterprise growth and job creation. These 'bottom-up' plans complement and build on core strategies of the Enterprise Agencies, the LEOs and other agencies involved in supporting enterprise development. The TJTP is aligned to the strategic objectives of the Midlands (Laois, Longford, Offaly, Westmeath), West (Galway, Roscommon) and Mid-West (Tipperary) REPs to 2024.

Local Economic and Community Plans

The EUJTF will support the implementation of the LECPs within the Territory where interventions address the social, employment, economic and environmental impacts of the transition. New LECPs, covering a 6-year period, are expected to be in place in 2023, setting out objectives and actions to promote and support economic, local & community development, both by local authorities alone and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders. LECPs are the primary mechanism to bring forward relevant actions arising from national and regional strategies and policies with a local remit. LECPs should build on the objectives of the REPs and the RSES. The LECPs will also be a critical pre-requisite for new programmes and funding, including Just Transition Funding in relevant areas.

Transport

National policy supports a move towards a zero-emission public transport fleet and proposed EU JTF actions align with national plans & strategies that seek to enhance sustainable and public transport services in the Territory, including the Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan, Sustainable Mobility Policy, CAP21, Our Rural Future, the TFI Local Link Rural Transport Programme and the National Disability Inclusion Strategy. The Sustainable Mobility Action Plan 2022-2025 Goal 2 focuses on decarbonisation of local public transport and includes Action 15 decarbonising Local Link buses. EU JTF funding will allow for expedited implementation of projects, providing better local connections in the Territory to access opportunities to work, (re)train & do business.

Local Authority Climate Action Plans

Under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, local authorities are required to submit a plan detailing how mitigation & climate adaptation measures will be delivered at local and community levels. Each local authority is required to reduce GHG emissions from across its own assets and infrastructure, whilst also taking on a broader role of influencing and facilitating local stakeholders to meet their own targets.

Projects implemented under Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LACAPs) are designed to contribute to the climate objectives outlined in Ireland's Climate Action Plan and improve the quality of life for local residents. All 31 local authorities adopted their LACAP in 2024, having gone out to public consultation and following adoption by their elected members.

The National Adaptation Framework outlines the principles guiding adaptation and resilience planning in response to climate change and how various sectors and local authorities can implement adaptation measures to minimise Ireland's vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change while taking advantage of any beneficial impacts. The NAF emphasises the importance of integrating adaptation strategies into all levels of policy making, infrastructure development and local planning.

2.4. Types of operations engaged

Reference: point (g-k) of Article 11(2) and Article 11(5)

The EU JTF objectives shall be pursued in line with the objective of promoting sustainable development as set out in Art.11 TFEU, considering the UN SDGs, the Paris Agreement and the "do no significant harm" principle. As per Sections 1 & 2 of the TJTP, the EU JTF shall target alleviating transition impacts, helping the communities directly affected and supporting the transition throughout the Territory. The following operations, through 4 complementary priorities, will diversify and modernise the economic base of the Territory.

Priority 1 Generating employment for former peat communities by investing in the diversification of the local economy

Operations which:

- Foster the economic diversification of the EU JTF Territory through supporting productive investments in SMEs (incl. microenterprises and start-ups) entrepreneurship and investments in the creation of new firms, particularly in emerging low carbon, circular economy and bioeconomy sectors and providing services to businesses
- Support economic, social and local/community development within relevant Local Authority areas through the implementation of local and regional development strategies to address the social impacts of the transition
- Invest in RD&I, cooperation and demonstration activities that contribute to the development of the circular economy of the Territory, incl. the bioeconomy. This will include enabling activities such as communication, coordination and alignment with education, training and skills to support productive investments in relevant actors in key sectors including SMEs and Industry for the development of new business models, value chains, products and services in a multi-sectoral approach

Priority 2 Supporting the restoration and rehabilitation of degraded peatlands and regeneration and repurposing of industrial heritage assets

Supported activities may include:

- Preparation measures e.g., feasibility and design studies including restoration/rehabilitation plans and action plans
- Stakeholder engagement activities which could include landowner negotiations (incl. incentive payments and/or land purchase)
- Implementation of measures to enable and monitor restoration & rehabilitation of degraded peatlands across multiple project sites including fens, raised bogs and other peatland types
- Implementation of regeneration & repurposing measures to include investments in the upgrade of existing industrial heritage assets for amenity and investments in new amenity assets such as walking trails, cycle paths, signage/notice boards, seating, boardwalks and bog bridges

- Education, awareness-raising and community engagement activities presenting the benefits of the restoration measures to the wider public

These actions will complement the activities under P1 by providing employment for impacted workers and communities and by making the Territory a more attractive place to live, work & visit. Attracting visitors to the Territory by providing first-rate amenities and restored landscapes will support new and existing SMEs by creating a market for additional goods and services. The rewetting and restoration works will require the expertise of workers and contractors formerly involved in peat extraction. The research, education, community engagement and knowledge transfers will also increase the skills base of impacted communities, supporting the potential for further productive activities.

Priority 3 Providing former peat communities with smart and sustainable mobility options to enable them to benefit directly from the green transition

Enhancing sustainable and clean mobility in the Territory by supporting the decarbonisation of local transport to provide clean solutions to the people working, (re)training and doing business in the Territory. This will include the following activities:

- Decarbonisation of public local rural bus route(s) including scoping, installation of electric charging points and purchase of electric buses
- Support to private bus operators in the territory to move to electric vehicles including consultancy support and support for specific aspects of electrification

This priority is key to the success of P1, ensuring the Territory's population is able to access jobs and training in order to participate in the economic and community diversification activities. Actions supported under this Priority will build more resilient communities by allowing earlier adoption of zero-emissions mobility options, providing workers with better access to local jobs, training and education opportunities. The creation of local sustainable transport solutions will better connect towns, remote working hubs and educational institutions in the Territory, better serving employees.

Priority 4 Enabling a resilient and sustainable climate transition of the territory

The EU JTF will provide grant funding to Local Authorities to support the delivery of strategic actions identified within their Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP). Local authorities are key drivers in advancing climate policy at community level through regulatory and strategic functions and relationships with local stakeholders. This funding will assist Local Authorities to address mitigation and adaptation in an integrated way, providing environmental, economic and social benefits across the Territory.

To achieve the national target of reducing GHG emissions by 51% by 2030 (and achieving climate neutrality by 2050), the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 consolidates efforts towards reducing emissions and introduces a requirement for each Local Authority to prepare a LACAP to reduce emissions in their area.

Supporting the delivery of strategic actions in the LACAPs will strengthen alignment between climate policy and the delivery of effective climate action at local and community levels.

Economic diversification through these 4 complementary priorities will enhance the regional economy, addressing existing deprivation and rural depopulation and placing it on a path to a more diverse and resilient economy based on climate neutrality.

Complementarities with other EU programmes to address identified development needs

Particular attention has been given to examining potential synergies and complementarities with other funds as well as preventing any overlap between interventions and duplication of funding. There are clear potential synergies between EU JTF supports, ERDF and ESF+ priorities and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). EU JTF support will complement ERDF priorities on developing smarter, more competitive regions and creating greener, more energy efficient regions. Local economic and community activities in

sectors of relevance to the Territory will complement ERDF supports. The JTF will complement existing ERDF measures such as the co-funded Better Energy Warmer Homes Scheme which offers free energy upgrades for eligible homeowners who are most at risk of energy poverty.

The ESF+ focus on employment and skills is aligned with the EU JTF objective to address social impacts of the transition. EU JTF skills and training support will focus on those who have been most impacted by the transition in sectors of relevance to the just transition process such as land restoration.

NRRP priorities advancing the green transition, social and economic recovery and job creation align with EU JTF objectives. The RRF is funding the EDRRS which uses bog rehabilitation to deliver climate benefits, while also helping BnM workers retrain and upskill in the field of bog rehabilitation. There will be synergies between the EU JTF and the RRF in relation wetlands rehabilitation, primarily focused on Natura 2000 sites in the Territory, which are different and complementary to the peatland rehabilitation project support by the RRF. The RRF will fund an extensive national programme of recovery skills, incl. green skills. The JTF will complement this by targeting upskilling opportunities on land restoration.

The EU LIFE Peatlands and People Programme is developing a regional Peatlands Knowledge Centre of Excellence, a Just Transition Accelerator, Accelerate Green, to support enterprise development in the region and an immersive People's Discovery Attraction. EU JTF supports to rural SMEs and wetlands restoration is complementary to the EU LIFE programme. The actions revolving around wetlands restoration supported by the JTF, including restoration measures and research activities on carbon sequestration can add value to the work carried out by the EU LIFE project.

The development of the Agricultural Knowledge & Innovation System under Ireland's CAP Strategic Plan is complementary to the EUJTF.

Proposed operations will be reviewed on approval to ensure they demonstrate complementarities with EU programmes under the Investment for jobs and growth goal (supporting the transition process) and other financial instruments to address the identified development needs. The respective Managing Authorities will continue to explore ways in which synergies and complementarities can be developed between EU funding programmes during their lifetime, through participation in the Partnership Process Steering Group (PPSG), Partnership Agreement Working Group (PAWG), Partnership Agreement Monitoring Committee (PAMC) and mutual representation of Managing Authorities on Programme Monitoring Committees.

Complementarities with planned support from the other pillars of the Just Transition Mechanism

The JTF is one of 3 pillars of the Just Transition Mechanism which provides an overall framework for the EU to support regions most exposed to transition challenges. Investments under the JTF may be complemented by a combination of grants and loans to private sector entities under a dedicated window of the EU's InvestEU instrument (Pillar 2) and through a specific Public Sector Loan Facility (PSLF) managed by the EIB (Pillar 3). Proposed investments in larger projects, for example, in relation to transport, renewable energy, energy efficiency or retrofitting, may be better suited to seeking support from these pillars, particularly if sponsored by larger private sector entities or by public bodies. These Pillars can be used to assist in addressing the development needs of the Territory, such as, enhancing the business environment, creating employment opportunities, enhancing the skills profile, promoting environmental sustainability & industrial heritage and enhancing the potential of the region as a place to live, work, invest and visit.

Under Pillar 2, the InvestEU Just Transition Scheme will provide a budgetary guarantee under the InvestEU programme and the InvestEU advisory hub acts as a central entry point for advisory services. It

will provide around €1.8 billion from the EU budget and is expected to mobilise €45 billion in mostly private sector investments across the EU. It could include projects for decarbonisation, economic diversification of the regions, energy, transport and social infrastructure. The InvestEU Just Transition Scheme may enable investments in a wider range of projects than the JTF, in line with the InvestEU Regulation and the InvestEU Investment Guidelines, in the areas of:

- Sustainable infrastructure (e.g. projects in sustainable energy, digital connectivity, transport & circular economy)
- Research, innovation & digitalisation
- SMEs
- Social investment and skills (e.g. projects in education and training, social housing & healthcare).

To be eligible, InvestEU projects must:

- Address market failures or investment gaps and be economically viable
- Get EU backing in order to get off the ground
- Achieve a multiplier effect and where possible crowd-in private investment
- Help meet EU policy objectives

Support under Pillar 2 can be guided by Ireland's S3 e.g., the following sectors overlap with InvestEU thematic areas:

- Digitalisation & digital transformation
- Innovation diffusion
- International collaboration on RD&I
- Improving the national enterprise research & innovation system.

Under Pillar 3, a new PSLF aims to provide subsidised financing to public sector projects for the benefit of the regions concerned, targeting projects which do not generate sufficient revenue and would otherwise not get financed. For example, the PSLF can support investments in energy and transport infrastructure, district heating networks, digitisation, renovation or insulation of buildings, environmental infrastructure for smart waste and water management, transition to a circular economy, land and ecosystem restoration and decontamination up-skilling, re-skilling, training and social infrastructure including care facilities and social housing. Grant funding awarded to smaller-scale projects under P4 of the EU Just Transition Fund will complement the local climate change mitigation and adaptation measures eligible for support under the PLSF. The PSLF is administered by DG Regio and managed by the European Climate Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). Potential beneficiaries (incl. public law bodies and private law bodies with a public service mission) can apply for advisory support on the InvestEU Advisory Hub website. Applications need to contribute to the development needs and priorities identified in the TJTP.

Public consultation responses indicated general interest in the wider supports to private investment projects for economic diversification in the area, stressing accessibility of low cost loans for public sector, SMEs and entrepreneurs. The public consultation identified Pillars 2 & 3 as opportunities for private investment and projects for decarbonisation, economic diversification, energy, transport, digitisation, social infrastructure, renewable energy generation & storage projects, circular economy, social infrastructure upskilling and training, food, manufacturing, construction, tourism and for the development of sites for business workplaces, remote working hub facilities and community facilities.

3. Governance mechanisms

Reference: point (f) of Article 11(2)

3.1 Partnership

Development of this Plan leveraged existing key relationships within the impacted Territory, developed during the initial national response to cessation of commercial peat extraction, particularly, the work of the Just Transition Commissioner, the MRTT and establishment of the NJTF. In accordance with Art. 8 of the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) and the partnership principle, the development, implementation and monitoring of the EU JTF, has and will continue to benefit from the involvement of a range of key stakeholders including the public, agencies of the state at local, regional and national level, impacted businesses, key social partners and research bodies. Consultation on the draft TJTP has refined the potential types of operations to be supported, ensuring the evolution of requirements following national interventions.

Engagement with relevant partners during the programme preparation stage has been transparent and effective. Documentation was circulated to members of the PPSG and the PAWG, notices of public consultation and consultation reports have been published on the government website with links to the www.eufunds.ie and EMRA's websites. The output of partnership actions has informed and shaped the programme and was integral in feedback during preparation and amendments to the programme as appropriate. Timely, transparent and effective communication will be key to maintaining continued successful partnership engagement and ensuring public visibility.

3.2 Monitoring and evaluation

A key monitoring mechanism for implementation will be a Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC), to be set up within 3 months of the date of the approval of the Programme, meeting at least once a year to review progress. Reflecting the partnership principle and the European Code of Conduct on Partnership, membership will include representatives of the managing and national authorities, audit authority, intermediate bodies, regional and local stakeholders, representatives of economic and social partners and civil society bodies, and other EU funds. Partners and stakeholders will be directly involved in delivering the performance framework and monitoring of progress.

Programme contributions to Ireland's country-specific recommendations and actions will be tracked by the PMC to fulfil enabling conditions and progress administrative capacity-building for public bodies, partners and beneficiaries. The PMC will monitor progress in achieving milestones and targets, consider any required amendments to the programme and track evaluations and any follow up findings/actions. A programme evaluation plan, outlining implementation reporting, will be submitted to the PMC by EMRA within a year of Programme approval. A mid-term evaluation will take place in 2025, to track progress made in achieving milestones for output indicators delivered.

3.3 Coordination bodies

Two groups were established by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform to assist in the development of EU-funded programmes covered by Ireland's Partnership Agreement, including the EU JTF, and to promote complementarity between EU Funds and national instruments. These structures will remain in place for implementation.

- The Partnership Process Steering Group of the Funds (PPSG) includes representatives from relevant Departments, CPR funds, economic and social partners, representatives of marginalised groups, disability, gender equality and non-discrimination, civil society bodies, the CAP, the Recovery & Resilience Plan and the Brexit Adjustment Reserve. It assisted programme authorities in developing a Partnership Agreement, and identifies and establishes mechanisms to address synergies, complementarities and enhance cooperation across programmes.
- The Partnership Agreement Working Group (PAWG) coordinated the preparation of the Partnership Agreement, ensuring complementarities between the funds and with other EU instruments, developing a common approach to the horizontal principles.

In relation to horizontal enabling conditions, the Fund works closely with the Irish Human Rights Equality Commission to strengthen the institutional capacities of partners in advancing equality and human rights during programme implementation. The EU JTF sits on the National Communications Committee, which coordinates EU-funded programmes communications activities.

3.4 Public Consultation

Public consultation on the TJTP took place from December 2021 - March 2022, including an online survey, portal for written submissions, and 3 workshops focused on the development needs of the region. 240 respondents from a broad range of organisations engaged - 57 online workshop participants, 82 online survey responses and 40 written submissions. A youth workshop (Age 16–24) was also held. A consultation report is publicly available.

Findings reflected a desire that economic transition and community networks be supported to a sustainable future, as a new, collaborative model for development, building on existing assets and emerging opportunities is needed. Respondents identified a need to focus on employment and socio-economic impacts on communities, not just on peat workers. The need to attract families to the area at the family formation stage, addressing low population densities, and making the Territory an attractive place to live, work and visit was a clear message from the consultation. Bottom up and community based approaches were favoured, with a focus on microenterprises, eco-tourism and building new green skillsets, through accessible, local opportunities.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment of the EU JTF intervention also incorporates statutory public consultation.

4. Programme-specific output or result indicators

Reference: Article 12(1) JTF Regulation

Justification for the necessity of programme-specific output or result indicators based on the types of operations envisaged

Most of the indicators to be used to monitor the progress and results of the Programme are EU JTF common indicators as provided in Annex III of the Regulation.

To fully report on the expected impact of the Programme, it is however necessary to develop programme-specific indicators that are tailored to the operations that the Programme will support. Overall, the Programme will use two programme-specific output indicators and two programme-specific result indicators.

PSO1 and PSR1 (see tables) have been specifically designed to monitor and report on action 1.2 under Priority 1 “Generating employment for former peat communities by investing in the diversification of the local economy”. This action aims at supporting the implementation of local and regional economic strategies that have been or will have been adopted through a bottom-up democratic process involving key local stakeholders. As the strategies will not all be adopted at the time of Programme launch and to account for the fact that will all be somewhat different to cater for local specificities, as none of the existing common indicators were deemed suitable to capture the intended outputs and results of the expected operations. The programme-specific output indicator will therefore capture the number of those identified strategies that have been supported by the Programme and the programme-specific result indicator will monitor the population covered by the strategies implemented through the supported projects and therefore benefitting from those operations that will be aligned with the transition priorities and key local needs.

PSR2 has been specifically developed to capture the expected results from actions 2.1 and 2.2 under Priority 2 "Supporting the restoration and rehabilitation of degraded peatlands and regeneration and repurposing of industrial heritage assets". This indicator will measure how these actions participate in the restoration and rehabilitation of land in order to protect and restore biodiversity and ecosystems, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve hydrological status. This indicator was built on the model of RCR 52 and was made necessary as RCR52 did not allow to capture restoration and rehabilitation of land that was not destined for social or economic use.

PSO2 (see table) has been developed to monitor and report on activities supported as part of Priority 3 “Providing former peat communities with smart and sustainable mobility options to enable them to benefit directly from the green transition”. Under this priority, the Programme will support the installation of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points in key locations in the Territory. To report as accurately as possible on these operations, the choice was made to use a programme-specific output indicator which is the exact same as RCO 59 on the list of ERDF indicators. This will enable the Programme to report on the number of EV charging points being installed in the Territory.

Finally, one indicator has been created for Priority 4 (see table): PSO3 is the same as the ERDF indicator RCO27: National and sub-national strategies addressing climate change adaptation. This indicator will enable the Programme to report on the number of Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LACAPs) which are implemented through projects supported under Priority 4. The LACAPs are sub-national strategies which provide a framework for activities leading to mitigation and adaptation to climate change in local

areas.

Table 1. Output indicators

Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
JSO8.1	PSO1	Local and regional economic strategies supported	Number of local or regional economic strategies implemented	1.00	8.00
JSO8.1	PSO2	Alternative fuels infrastructure (refuelling/ recharging points)	Refuelling/Recharging Points	16.00	2.00
JSO8.1	PSO3	National and sub-national strategies addressing climate change adaptation	strategies	0.00	6.00

Table 2. Result indicators

Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference Year	Target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
JSO8.1	PSR1	Population covered by local or regional economic strategies supported	No of inhabitants	0.00	2022 -	553,337.00	Supported projects	
JSO8.1	PSR2	Rehabilitated land used to support the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and/or improve hydrological status	Hectares	0.00	2022 -	2,400.00	Supported projects	