



15 LIFE ON LAND



## SDG 15: LIFE ON LAND

### THE GLOBAL GOALS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

As part of her work with CoDesRes on the Iveragh Peninsula Eleanor Turner has been investigating how local communities themselves can engage with sustainable development goals. Eleanor's specific focus has been directed at Life on Land.

Through her detailed work Eleanor has, and will be, out on the ground this coming spring meeting some of the community members already active in this area and showcasing the great work our communities have already achieved in protecting and conserving many important habitats and the biodiversity of the locale. Eleanor told us all about SDG 15, to give it its abbreviated term, and what it really means for all of us.

"SDG 15 Life on Land focuses on the conservation of mountain ecosystems, the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, reducing the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and taking urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitat", she said.

But what do you think when you read those three words? "Life on Land."

Eleanor continued, "It's easy here in our beautiful part of the world - the Iveragh Peninsula - to conjure up images of mystical fog covered mountains, sandy beaches, fast flowing mountain streams, birds, bees, trees and those things you find outdoors that make you stop and stare in wonder. But I don't want anyone to think of all those things for now, I would ask you to just look in the mirror.

Take a good look at what you see. A human being, a living breathing being, YOU are Life on Land!

"Yes, the UN breaks SDG 15 down into objectives and targets. Water quality of freshwater ecosystems, restoration of upland habitats, afforestation and desertification are priorities they discuss. It's hard in all that language to see yourself, but if you look closely, you are there. You, in fact, are the most important part." The SDG's provide a roadmap towards a better future for governments to signpost with directives and policies and deal with insufficient funding, but you are the one that will walk that road.

"Don't believe me."

"Think for a moment about the people you know in your family, your townland, your parish. How many farmers or fisherman do you know? Who organises your environmental group or Tidy Towns group? Maybe it's you. Now, tell me who does the work for them that impacts on the SDG targets we talked about early? That's right, largely you do it yourselves.

As we mentioned before as part of her work on WF3- Community Transition for CoDesRes Eleanor is focussing on SDG 15 and she will be working with communities around the Iveragh Peninsula to identify how they are addressing global targets on a local scale and how they can implement actions for better outcomes in some of these areas. In her own village of Caherdaniel she has already been working with the Caherdaniel Japanese knotweed group. And, in Waterville she has worked with the Waterville Lakes and Rivers Trust.

As Spring arrives and work outdoors begins again in earnest she will be keeping you up to date through the pages of your South Kerry Advertiser and on the CoDes blog at [www.codesres.ie](http://www.codesres.ie). If you feel you want to know more about the subject or indeed you want to become more actively involved, you can get in touch with Eleanor or anyone else at team CoDes by emailing [codesres@gmail.com](mailto:codesres@gmail.com)