

ervation methods being measured by indicators such as productivity.



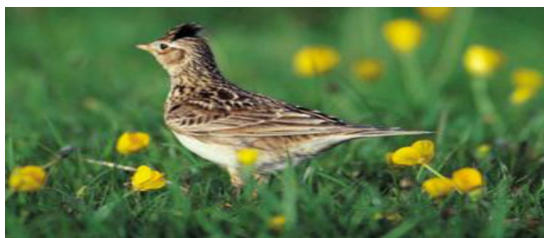
Margins Ensure your management of margins is in line with relevant compliance requirements.

Hedges Where margins are next to hedges, try to provide a number of different species with a range of vegetation heights to provide a range of micro-habitats.



Watercourses Monitor and clear watercourses as appropriate. Avoid clearing ditches during nesting periods.

Birds By carrying out the above measures or additional ones ensure “The Big Three” are provided for farmland birds.



## Step 5 - Enhance existing habitats and populations

Enhance the quality and functioning of your existing efforts and habitats and increase efforts and areas where possible. Ensure this fits with your Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan. Consider innovative ways to further promote biodiversity. Take the same approach to managing your conservation as managing crops. Be innovative and use new techniques.

## Step 6 - Work with others

Work with local and/or neighboring farmers within your catchment to improve water quality and the health of the biodiversity within watercourses. Bordering and local farms can also help you to create larger and more connected habitats for specific species. Large and connected habitats will promote more stable populations and provide benefits that may not have been produced by efforts from a single farm.



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## SIMPLY SUSTAINABLE BIODIVERSITY

Six Simple Steps to help improve  
Biodiversity on your land



DENR PENRO XII-4

QUIRINO DRIVE, KIDAPAWAN CITY

This booklet has been produced to help you develop an effective on-farm management strategy in order to maintain, protect and enhance our valuable biodiversity and to improve the farm's contribution to the environment. It supports you to optimise this valuable resource, to create and improved awareness of the importance of biodiversity and locate those special areas on your farm where there is an opportunity to improve habitats and their quality over time. It is important to remember that landscape and wildlife are like any other aspects of the farm; what is achieved depends on the starting conditions, the capability of the land and the effort and skill invested.

### Step 1 - Identify habitats

The crucial first step of successful biodiversity management is taking stock of what you already have. Identifying and documenting the current habitats on your farm will provide a useful focus for your future actions.

A habitat map can be the easiest way to do this and should include:

- Areas and sites on the farm with statutory protection or designation.
- Areas and sites on the farm where important species or populations are present.

- Lakes, ponds and watercourses.
- Semi-natural habitats (e.g. moorland, wetlands, lowland heath, species-rich grassland, broad-leaved woodland, forest etc.).
- Linear features (e.g. hedges, verges, fence lines, farm borders, field margins, walls, ditches, tracks etc.).
- Point features (e.g. in field trees, ponds etc).

### Step 2- Identify key Species

In addition to mapping the habitats, it is important to monitor the species present across the farm. Following this, perhaps identify four priority species that particularly interest you or where you would like to see population growth, and tailor your conservation efforts around these. Sufficient monitoring will help measure the progress of different practices to help focus efforts more effectively in the future. The types of plants, insects, pollinators and mammals will vary depending on many factors, including where you are geographically, the soil type, previous and present management practices, the type of farm and cropping.



### Step 3– Managed Farmland Sympathetically

Ensuring an Integrated Farm Management (IFM) approach is in place across the farm is crucial to managing healthy populations of biodiversity. Through IFM, biodiversity can be considered in the cropped areas and straightforward but effective measures can be taken to enhance the quality of habitats and number of species. Biodiversity is affected by a wide range of factors. Changes to soil, water and air can have important direct and indirect impacts on species. It is therefore important to manage these resources and minimize any negative impacts from agricultural activities.



### Step 4 - Be pro-active in your management of habitats & species.

It is important to actively manage habitats in addition to preventing negative impacts. Biodiversity should be treated and managed like any other output on the farm, with a view to optimize outputs from inputs. Biodiversity can even be measured in the same way with the success of environmental features and con-