

Title: The Future of Swift Research and Conservation

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“Save our Swifts” project at ATU Mayo, Ireland has already provided valuable information about the swifts biology and introduced new methods of monitoring in-nest activities through video recordings. However, the ambitions of this project do not end here. The projects research is looking into the future with a goal to provide data for optimal conservation methods appropriate not only in Ireland but also to other territories.

The presentation will touch on the current achievements and findings of the "Save our Swifts" project but will primarily focus on proposing future research opportunities. The main ambition is to generate data for optimal conservation methods applicable in Ireland and beyond. Firstly, this objective will be achieved through advanced modelling of local swift population dynamics, based on extensive local surveys and data collected from swift boxes. Secondly, DNA analysis will provide a better understanding of the movements of swift populations and help answer the question of the origin of swifts from our studied colonies – whether they originate from local populations or if there is mixing with swifts from other territories. Furthermore, the research aims to apply machine learning and AI technology to enhance in-nest video analysis and population surveying. Ultimately, this research will provide template recommendations for conservation applicable not only to swifts but also to other species of concern.