



Climate Action Programme 2024 2nd July Nature & Biodiversity









Welcome







Housekeeping

- Auto-captioning
- Chat and Q&A functions
- Webinar feedback
- Recording and slides available post webinar on Arts Council climate action webpage

https://www.artscouncil.ie/Arts-in-Ireland/Climate-action/Arts-Council-resources-and-supports/





Climate Action Programme 2024 2nd July Nature & Biodiversity











Our team today

Megan Best



Catríona Fallon



Brecken Byron



Training webinars

4 June 11am-12pm
Policy development I
Getting Started

11 June 11am-12pm
Policy development II
Getting People on Board

18 June 10-11am
Developing Action Plans
Public-facing buildings
+ bigger energy users

2 July 10-11am Nature & Biodiversity 25 June 10-11am Understanding & Measuring Impacts 18 June 2-3pm
Developing Action Plans
Office-based organisations
+ production companies

9 July 10-11am Buildings Energy 16 July 10-11am Materials & Procurement October date TBC Influencing change

+ Sept-Oct
Festivals training
webinars



If you didn't join the previous sessions (4th, 11th, 18th and 25th June) you can access the recordings and slides at:

https://www.artscouncil.ie/Arts-in-Ireland/Climate-action/Arts-Council-resources-and-supports/





What will we cover?

- The Nature Crisis
- Shifting Baseline Syndrome in the Creative Sector
- Progress to date
- What can we do in our organisations
- Examples & Case Studies
- Tools and resources
- Q&A





What are the aims of this session?

- To give you an understanding of the fragile state of the natural world and what the pressures are..
- To look at what is being done nationally and internationally to protect it.
- To give you guidance on what arts organisations can do to protect nature
- To give you examples of those doing good work
- To give you hope...

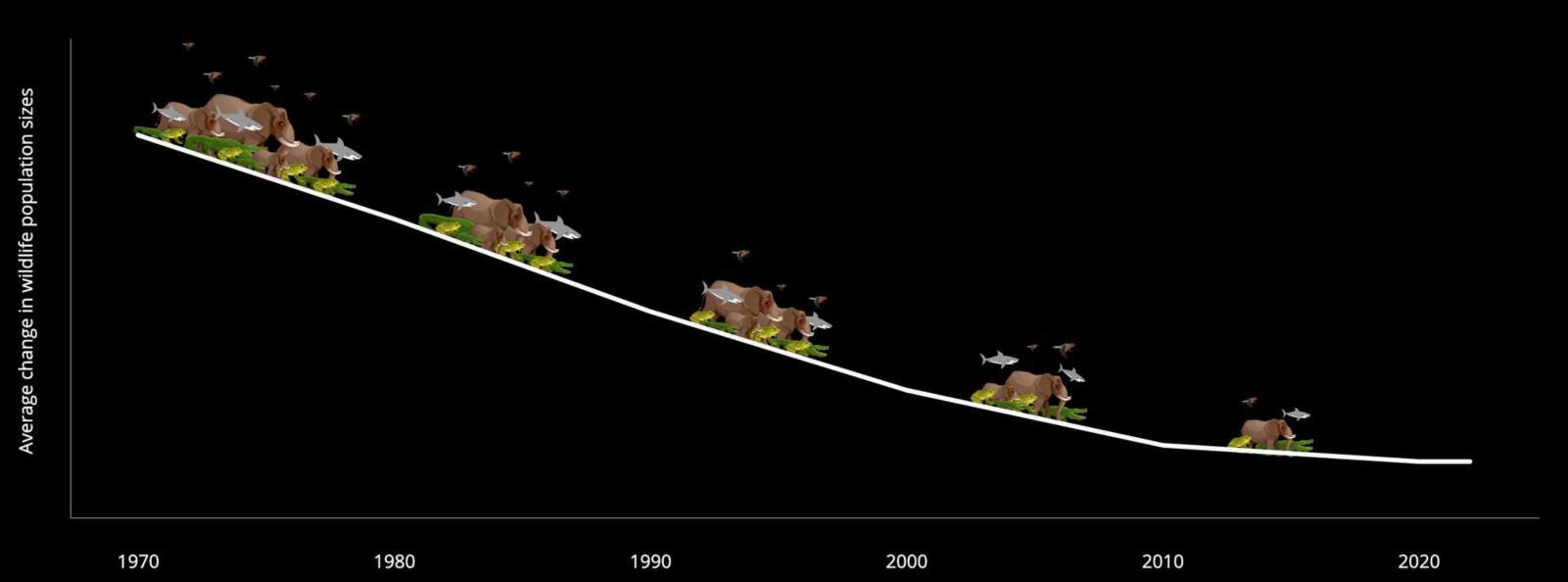




How is the Nature Crisis relevant to the Arts Sector?

- The Nature Crisis affects us all, we all have a role to play
- Arts and creativity can communicate on the Nature Crisis in a powerful way
- Many arts organisations have green spaces which can be improved for biodiversity and draw attention to its significance
- Arts organisations can collaborate with other agencies and groups to heighten awareness of the Nature Crisis the issues and solutions.
- Organisations without green spaces can do a lot - start by looking at water and chemicals.

Decline in wildlife populations worldwide since 1970





Source: WWF for Nature

01. Land/sea use change:

Change in the use or management of land by humans.

This may lead to a change in the quality or extent of natural habitat, which has knock-on effects for ecosystem services.

For example, the conversion of natural forests to agriculture threatens local water supply. In the Amazon area, one third of the rainfall is created by natural processes in the forest itself – rainfall that would be lost if the forest became degraded.



02. Overexploitation of natural resources:

Using natural resources or harvesting species from the wild at rates faster than they can recover.

One example of overexploitation is overfishing: between the 1950s and 1990s, the number of fish caught in the wild quadrupled, putting major pressure on marine ecosystems.



03. Pollution:

Introduction of materials into the environment that harm nature.

Pollution can be of air, water and/or land. A good example is nitrogen pollution - the biggest driver of biodiversity loss on the planet, after habitat destruction and greenhouse gas emissions.

Nitrogen pollution can degrade soils. It can cause the inadvertent fertilisation of trees and grasslands or nitrogen tolerant species to outcompete more sensitive wild plants and fungi.



04. Invasive species:

Species whose introduction by humans threatens biodiversity.

The species will not be native and is described as invasive if it expands into and modifies the ecosystem.

Rhododendron, a shrub native to SW Europe and Asia, was introduced to Ireland in the late 1700s from the Iberian peninsula. It was used as an ornamental plant and for game cover in estate gardens and hunting lodges.



05. Climate change:

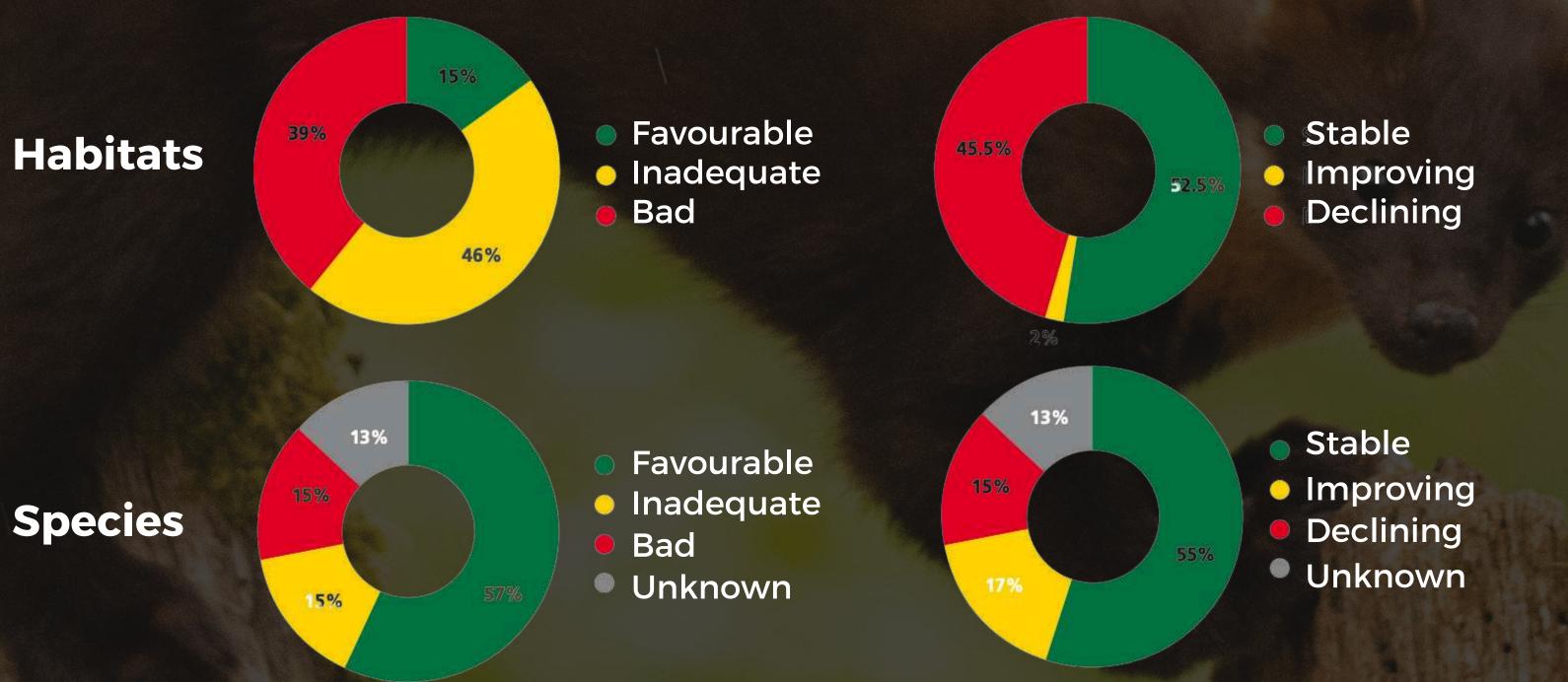
Change in climate attributed directly or indirectly to human activity. When climate conditions are destabilised, ecosystem services are disrupted, and biodiversity is lost.

For example, 50 per cent of the corals in the Great Barrier Reef have died since the 1990s as a result of rising temperatures.

Climate change has already caused 11-16 per cent of all biodiversity loss, and this percentage is fast increasing.



Habitats and species trends in Ireland

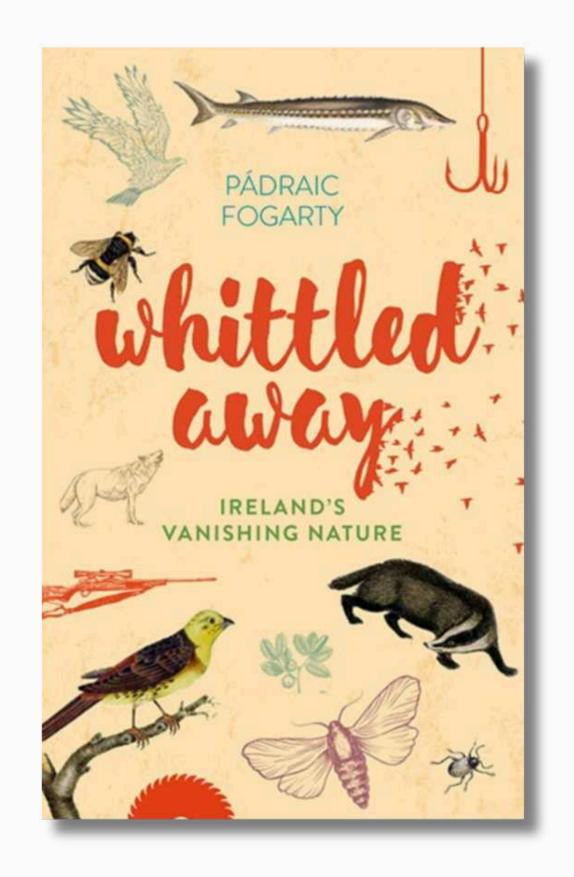




Source: NPWS

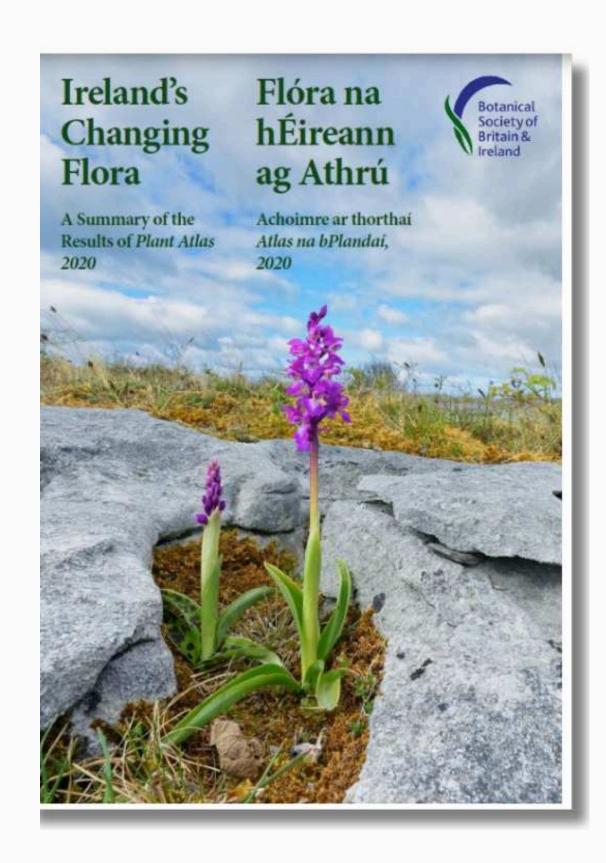
The state of nature in Ireland







Ireland's Flora



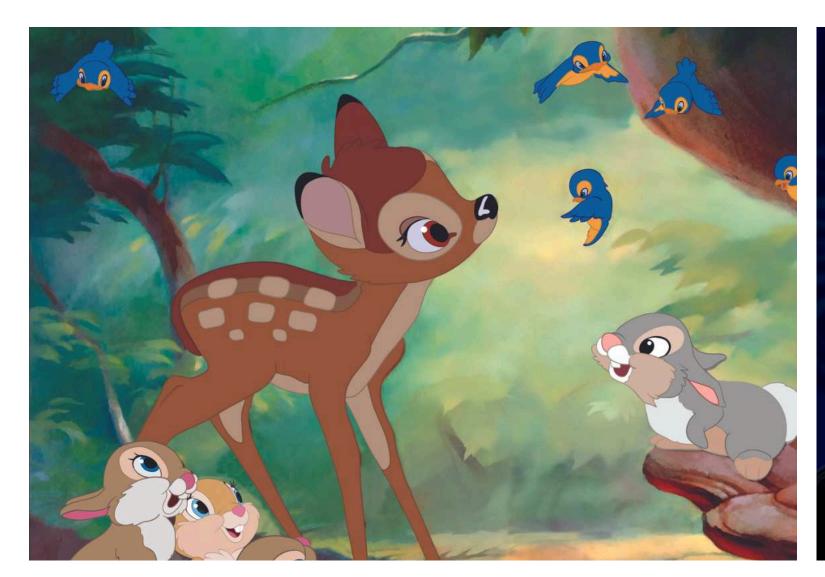
Three main trends emerged from the Irish data.

- 1. Most Irish native plant species (56%) have declined in range and abundance or both.
- 2. Native grassland plants are those that have **suffered the most**, but many plants of lakes and wetlands have also declined.
- 3. In contrast, the overwhelming majority (80%) of species introduced into Ireland since 1500 have increased. Most of these non-native species are benign **but some have become invasive**, with a negative impact on the native flora.





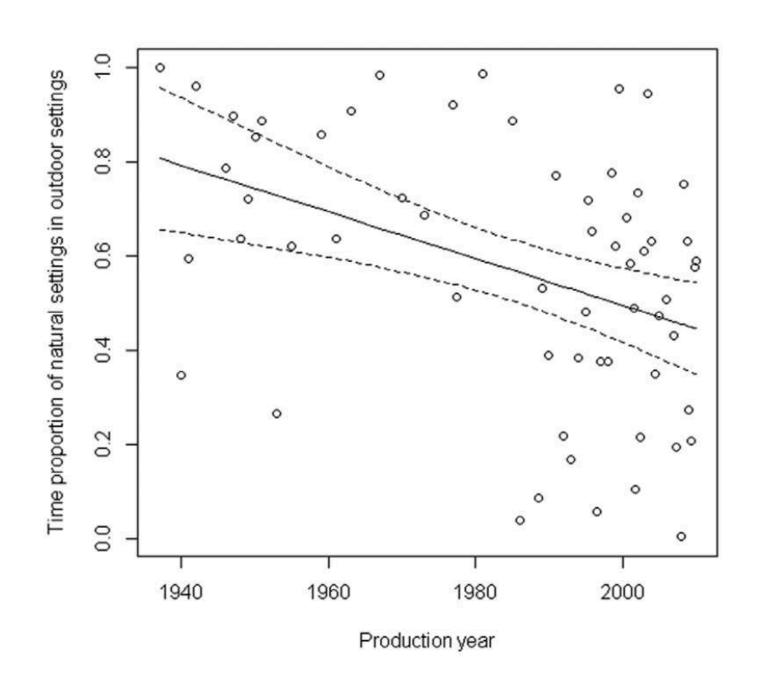
Disney Films Over Time







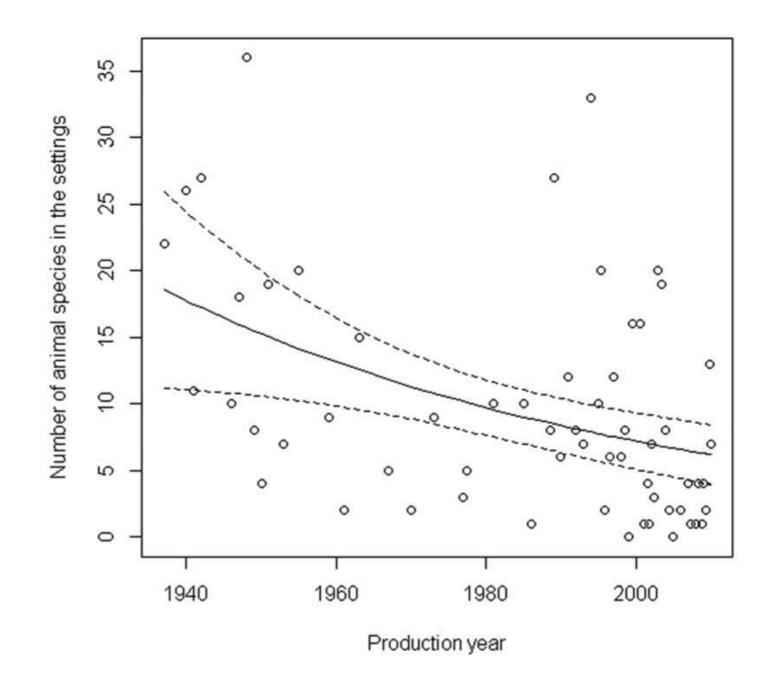
Background Green Spaces







Diversity of Nature













Directives & Regulation

Policy and regulatory pressures

- December 2022: COP15 Global Biodiversity Framework
- Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD)
- Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation
- European Sustainability Reporting Standards

Sustainability standards, frameworks and taxonomies

- Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures
- Science-Based Targets Initiative (SBTN)
- International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB)



The Nature Restoration Law

• The EU Nature Restoration Law was officially adopted on June 17, 2024, after a seven-month delay due to resistance from several EU member states, following the initial agreement in November 2023.

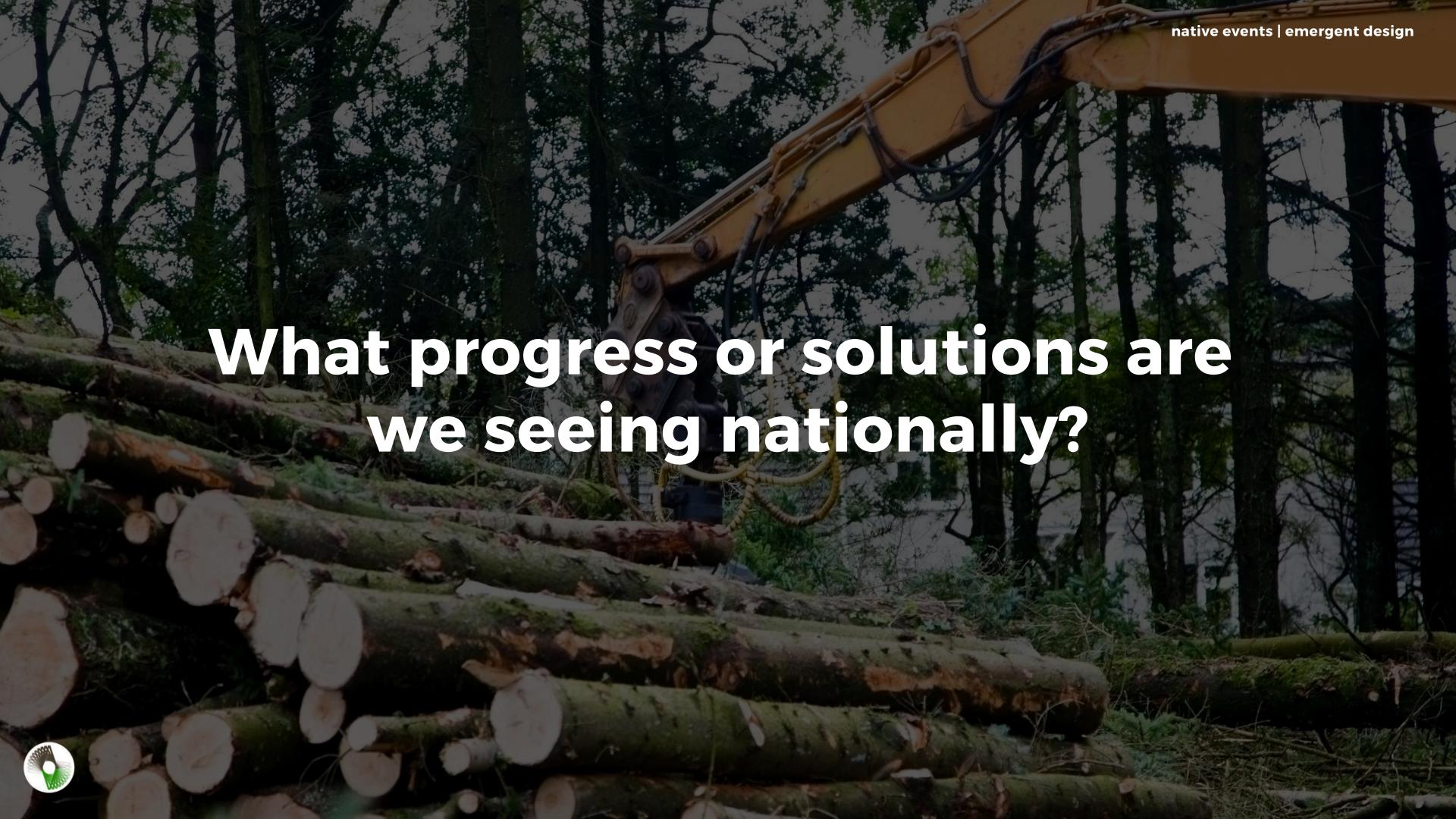
• The law sets legally binding targets for restoring at least 20% of the EU's land and sea areas by 2030, with further goals for 2040 and 2050.



The Nature Restoration Law

- It includes specific measures for different ecosystems, such as reducing marine noise pollution and restoring peatlands and free-flowing rivers.
- Member states must allocate budgets, develop national restoration plans, and regularly monitor and report progress based on EU biodiversity indicators.
- The European Commission will review the regulation's application and impact by 2033, ensuring continuous assessment and adaptation.





Ireland's Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity Loss

- Formally established in February 2021
- 100 randomly selected members
- Final meeting January 2023
- 159 recommendations across 19 focus areas



Recommendations Summary

- Urgent State Action and Leadership
- Clear Accountability and Enforcement
- Community and NGO Involvement
- Global and EU Commitments
- Incentives and Sustainable Practices











Home About V Awards V Resources V Forum Events V Your Farm V











Boyd Brice, Brigid O'Connor, Bruce Thompson

Farming For Nature Ambassadors





European Innovation Partnerships

Community groups and initiatives throughout the country





Local Authority Biodiversity Officers



Working for a sustainable future

32 Membership Organisations (Birdwatch Ireland, Friends of the Earth, Hedgrows Ireland)





What Can We Do?

- Reduce food waste and eat a more plant-based diet
- Address climate change climate change compounds biodiversity loss and biodiversity loss compounds climate change
- Significantly reduce marine plastic pollution and nitrogen pollution from agriculture
- Eradicate invasive species
- Restore natural habitats, particularly water courses
- Reduce or eliminate pesticides and herbicide use



What is Nature-Positive?

- Businesses, governments and others act at scale
- Reduce and remove the drivers and pressures fuelling the degradation of nature
- Work to actively improve the state of nature and ecosystem services

- Nature-positive halting and reversing the loss of nature
- Species and ecosystems begin to recover
- A new operating model based on restoration, regeneration, resilience and circularity
- Rather than unlimited extraction, destruction and pollution



Science-based targets for Nature (SBTN)

- SBTN equips companies with a holistic and rigorous science-based framework
- Assess and prioritise their impacts on:
- Freshwater, land, ocean, biodiversity, and climate
- Take on-the-ground action accordingly through targets
- Taking the right actions, in the right places, at the right time
- Across value chains beginning with direct operation and priority upstream activities



The Framework

Review

Monitor progress, and further the nature- positive agenda within your organisation.

Phase Activities:

5.1 Monitoring KPIs, goals and targets,

5.2 Expand institutional knowledge,

5.3 Review existing support,

5.4 Stay informed,

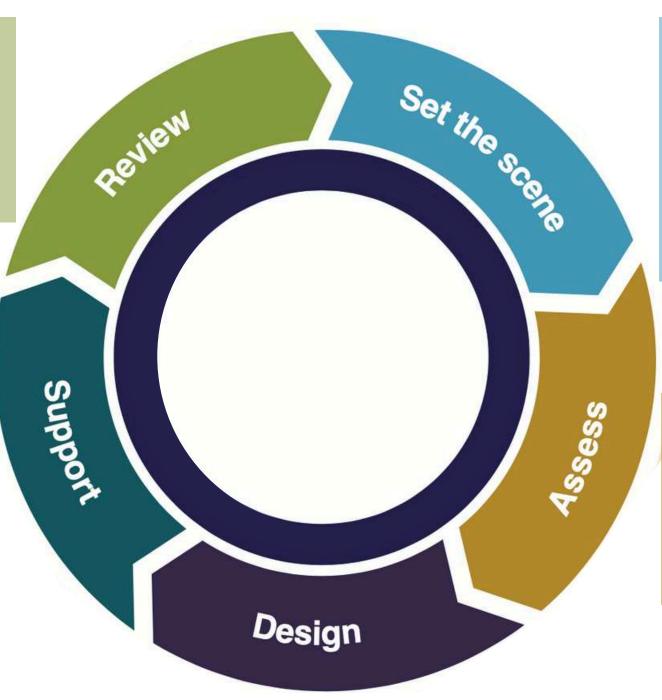
5.5 Provide updates and advocacy.

Support

Structure solutions that support the nature-positive transition of your organisation.

Phase Activities:

- **4.1** Identify current commitments,
- 4.2 Internal design and innovations,
- 4.3 Embed metrics and targets,
- 4.4 Internal offering evolution and scaling,
- **4.5** Identify potential partners.



Design

Support your organisation to design a clear transition plan, highlighting resource implications and climate and nature related impacts.

Target outcomes:

3.1 Identify metrics and KPI needs,

3.2 Linking to expertise and support to create nature transition plan,

3.3 Identify resource and financing needs,

3.4 Identify sector or collective efforts.

Set the scene

Open the dialogue by expanding climate-related conversations to include nature and establishing your organisation as embarking on nature-positive journey Phase Activities:

- **1.1** Organisational position and (if available) understanding of exposure to nature-related risks and impacts,
- 1.2 General topic awareness,
- **1.3** Desk research.
- 1.4 Sector research,
- **1.5** Regulation and policy awareness

Assess

Assess your organisation's current position on nature and ambitions for the future.

Phase Activities:

- 2.1 Leveraging existing climate efforts,
- **2.2** Assess your organisation's relationship with nature.
- **2.3** Expand nature assessment,
- 2.4 Explore value chain implications,
- 2.5 Existing actions or strategy.



Closer to home: The Biodiversity Data Centre

- Biodiversity Maps and reports for your local area
- Submitting sightings and records, citizens science surveys
- Biodiversity action plans
- The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

Invasive Species









Dataset

 E Species





0

Help







Biodiversity Maps is a national portal that compiles biodiversity data from multiple sources and makes it freely available on-line.

Species Search

Species name

D

Search

Recently updated datasets	Records added	
Butterflies of Ireland E	4,751	

Number of records 4,092,292 Number of species

15,948

Number of datasets

143

Last updated

08/03/2018



B

Protected Species

- Species: 681





Threatened Species

- Species: 972



Invasive Species

- Records: 162,765
- Species: 425



Higher plants

- Species: 2,709



Mammals

- Species: 80



Birds

- Species: 410



Fishes

- Records: 48,241
- Species: 306



Invertebrates - marine and estuarine

- ☆ Species: 1,692



Invertebrates - terrestrial and freshwater

- **Species**: 5,707









The National Biodiversity Data Centre is an Initiative of the Heritage Council and is operated under a service level agreement by Compass Informatics. The data centre is funded by the Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht and the Heritage Council.



Ireland's Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) Node



















Active Layers Legend Reports Add a new species Admin Boundaries National Grids **Habitats** Bat Landscapes Birdwatch Ireland ☐ Forestry Protected Areas Geology









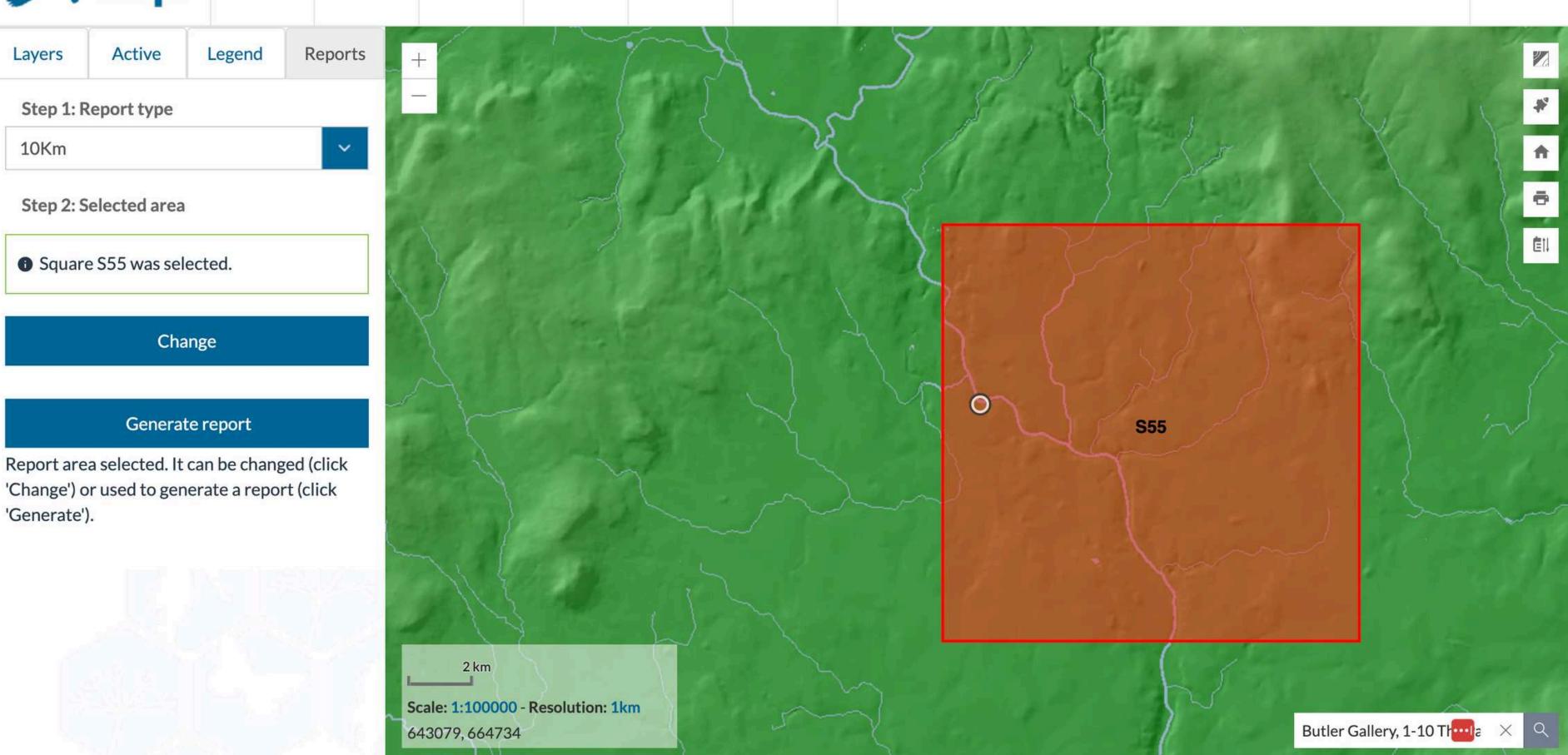












	A	В	С	D	E	F	G
1 Gr	id square	Species group	Species name	Record count	Date of last record	Title of dataset	Designation
Cu 2	stom	insect - hymenopteran	Andrena (Andrena) praecox	3	26/04/2005	Bees of Ireland	Threatened Species: Vulnerable
Cu 3	stom	insect - hymenopteran	Andrena (Cnemidandrena) denticulata	1	09/08/2004	Bees of Ireland	Threatened Species: Vulnerable
Cu 4	stom	insect - hymenopteran	Andrena (Melandrena) nigroaenea	4	24/06/2005	Bees of Ireland	Threatened Species: Vulnerable
Cu 5	stom	insect - hymenopteran	Neat Mining Bee (Lasioglossum (Evylaeus) nitidiusculum)	2	30/04/1936	Bees of Ireland	Threatened Species: Vulnerable
Cu 6	stom	insect - hymenopteran	Red-tailed Carder Bee (Bombus (Thoracombus) ruderarius)	1	20/04/1925	Bees of Ireland	Threatened Species: Vulnerable
Cu 7	stom	insect - mayfly (Ephemeroptera)	Rhithrogena germanica	1	31/12/1947	Mayflies (Ephemeroptera) of Ireland	Threatened Species: Vulnerable
Cu 8	stom	mollusc	Blind Snail (Cecilioides (Cecilioides) acicula)	3	19/04/1982	All Ireland Non-Marine Molluscan Database	Threatened Species: Vulnerable
Cu 9	stom	mollusc	Brown Snail (Zenobiella subrufescens)	2	31/12/1940	All Ireland Non-Marine Molluscan Database	Threatened Species: Vulnerable
10 Cu	stom	mollusc	English Chrysalis Snail (Leiostyla (Leiostyla) anglica)	1	30/09/1931	All Ireland Non-Marine Molluscan Database	Threatened Species: Vulnerable
Cu 11	stom	mollusc	Heath Snail (Helicella itala)	2	08/08/2000	All Ireland Non-Marine Molluscan Database	Threatened Species: Vulnerable
Cu 12	stom	mollusc	Lake Orb Mussel (Musculium lacustre)	2	19/04/1982	All Ireland Non-Marine Molluscan Database	Threatened Species: Vulnerable
13 Cu	stom	mollusc	Marsh Whorl Snail (Vertigo (Vertigo) antivertigo)	3	31/12/1940	All Ireland Non-Marine Molluscan Database	Threatened Species: Vulnerable
Cu 14	stom	mollusc	Moss Bladder Snail (Aplexa hypnorum)	2	31/12/1940	All Ireland Non-Marine Molluscan Database	Threatened Species: Vulnerable
15 Cu	stom	mollusc	Point Snail (Acicula fusca)	1	31/12/1940	All Ireland Non-Marine Molluscan Database	Threatened Species: Vulnerable
Cu 16	stom	mollusc	Smooth Grass Snail (Vallonia pulchella)	1	31/12/1940	All Ireland Non-Marine Molluscan Database	Threatened Species: Vulnerable
	stom	mollusc	Tree Snail (Balea (Balea) perversa)	1	31/12/1940	All Ireland Non-Marine Molluscan Database	Threatened Species: Vulnerable
Cu 18	stom	moss	Beric Beard-moss (Leptobarbula berica)	3	21/02/2010	Bryophytes of Ireland	Threatened Species: Vulnerable
Cu 19	stom	moss	Shady Beard-moss (Didymodon umbrosus)	3	21/02/2010	Bryophytes of Ireland	Threatened Species: Vulnerable

A	Α	В	С	D	E	F	G
1	Grid square	Species group	Species name	Record count	Date of last record	Title of dataset	Designation
2	Custom	flowering plant	Cherry Laurel (Prunus laurocerasus)	3	31/07/2022	Vascular plants: Online Atlas of Vascular Plants 2012 Onwards	Invasive Species: Invasive Species Invasive Species: Invasive Species >> High Impact Invasive Species
3	Custom	terrestrial mammal	Feral Ferret (Mustela furo)	1	31/03/2007	National Feral Ferret (Mustela putoris furo) Database	Invasive Species: Invasive Species Invasive Species: Invasive Species >> High Impact Invasive Species
4	Custom	terrestrial mammal	Eastern Grey Squirrel (Sciurus carolinensis)	35	18/08/2018	Mammals of Ireland 2016-2025	Invasive Species: Invasive Species Invasive Species: Invasive Species >> High Impact Invasive Species Invasive Species: Invasive Species >> EU Regulation No. 1143/2014 Invasive Species: Invasive Species >> Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)
5	Custom	flowering plant	Canadian Waterweed (Elodea canadensis)	5	06/09/2007	River Biologists' Database (EPA)	Invasive Species: Invasive Species Invasive Species: Invasive Species >> High Impact Invasive Species Invasive Species: Invasive Species >> Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)
6	Custom	flowering plant	Giant Hogweed (Heracleum mantegazzianum)	13	22/05/2023	Vascular plants: Online Atlas of Vascular Plants 2012 Onwards	Invasive Species: Invasive Species Invasive Species: Invasive Species >> High Impact Invasive Species Invasive Species: Invasive Species >> Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)
7	Custom	flowering plant	Giant-rhubarb (Gunnera tinctoria)	2	09/08/2017	National Invasive Species Database	Invasive Species: Invasive Species Invasive Species: Invasive Species >> High Impact Invasive Species Invasive Species: Invasive Species >> Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)



Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*) is a common migrant into Ireland with large influxes occurring some years, resulting in what are known as Painted Lady years

Butterfly monitoring

Butterflies are important indicators of the health of Ireland's environment. They are an ideal insect group to monitor as there is a small number of species, have strong associations with foodplants and vegetation types, respond quickly to changes in weather. The National Biodiversity Data Centre operates a number of different butterfly monitoring schemes, each with a different focus. All require counting the number of butterflies seen structured around a standard methodology so that any statistically significant population trends can be detected.

Irish Butterfly Monitoring Scheme

Five Visit Monitoring Scheme

Garden Butterfly Monitoring Scheme







The threat of Invasive Species to Ireland





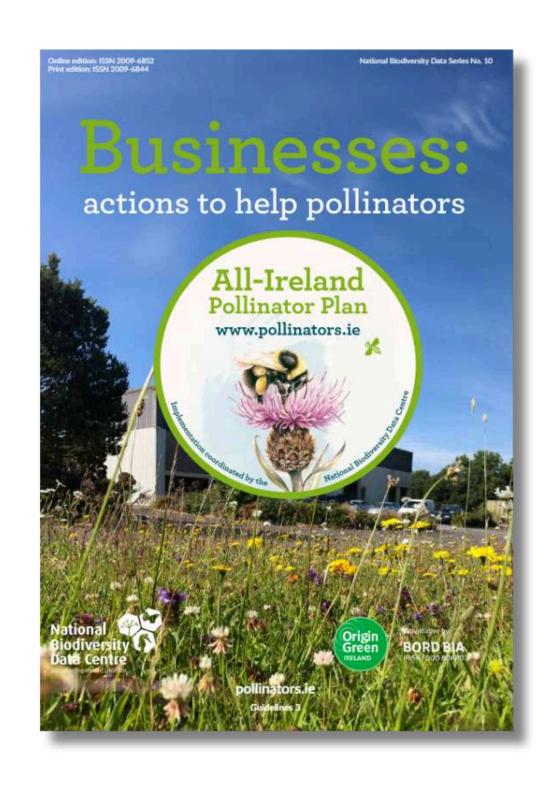


The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan - For Businesses

Your business can help pollinators by becoming a Business Supporter of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.

Business Supporters are a network of organisations, big and small, who have pledged to take action for pollinators.

It is an entry-level scheme for biodiversity action which gives you all the tools you need,





The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan - For Businesses

This guide really provides small and medium businesses with much of the guidance they need to ensure that any green areas around their building are nature-friendly. Actions to support pollinators are also actions to support nature generally.

Where there are flowering trees and shrubs, and these are pollinated, they will provide berries for birds. Where grass is allowed to grow at the base of a hedge, it can potentially supply shelter and food for hedgehogs and frogs as well as nesting spaces for bees.

Providing shade, avoiding spraying weedkiller, longer grass etc, all support nature.



The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan - For Businesses







If you have a green area:

- Adopt 'No Mow May' or leave areas of grass uncut entirely to allow ground nesting bees and others to find refuge
- Stop spraying herbicides....
- Use the All Ireland Pollinator plan for Businesses, and the Gardening for Biodiversity booklet to advise you on next steps. Remember to consult with stakeholders!

Set aside an area for nature and ensure that it is visible...



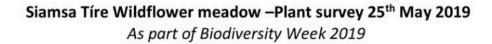


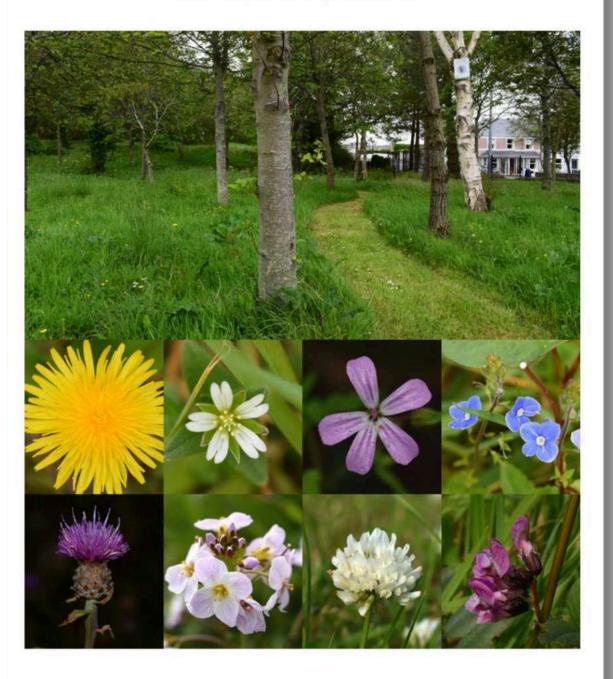
Install bird, bat or swift boxes where appropriate (ensure they're correctly placed)





Conduct a Plant Audit





Since the plant survey that took place in 2018, the number of species recorded has increased by 3. (2018 = 41, 2019 = 44).

See following page for list of species recorded in 2019.



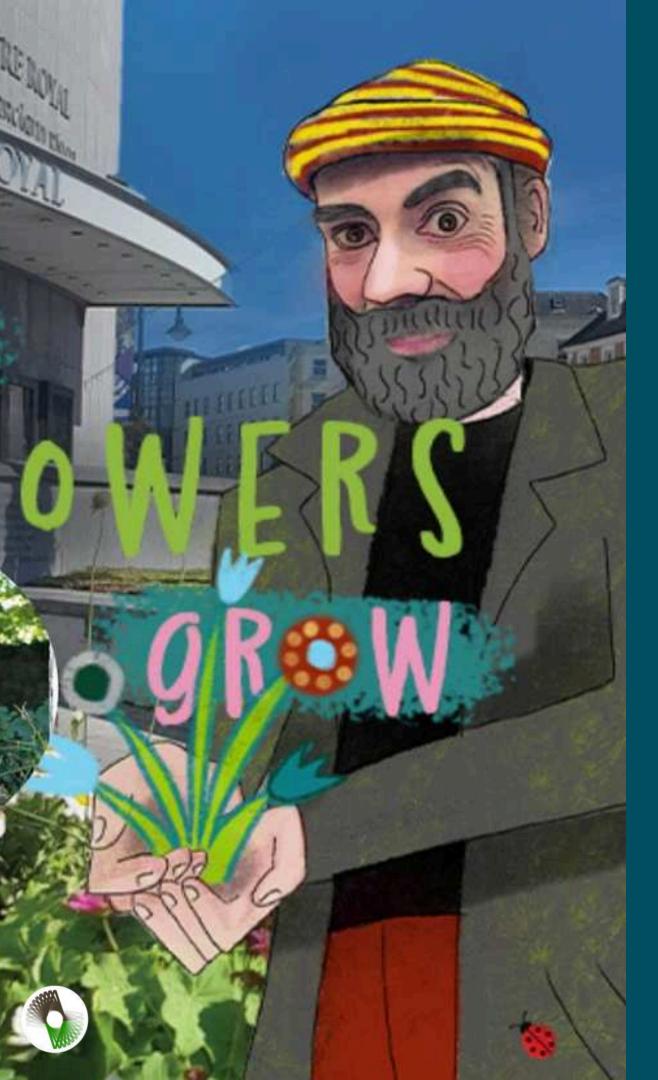




What Can Arts Organisations Do?

If you have no green areas adjacent to your building:

- Create a micro biodiversity hot spot a large planter with perennial pollinator friendly plants, herbs, or vegetables - install a water butt.
- Whether you have green spaces or not, you can sign up to the All Ireland Pollinator Plan for Businesses.
- Host events which inform and inspire audiences to care for nature.



What Can Arts Organisations Do?

If you have no green areas adjacent to your building (Contd.):

- Can you work with your local authority
 Biodiversity Officer to deliver a creative project
 which addresses biodiversity and biodiversity loss
- Develop a residency with a nature theme (for example, Where Wildflowers Grow, Theatre Royal)
- Host non-arts events with experts nature based themes, such as the All Ireland Pollinator Plan, or Bird Watch Ireland events.
- Support other organisations and agencies in your community such as Tidy Towns.



All Arts Organisations can:

Raise awareness within the wider staff team. Take a field trip to an area where biodiversity can be studied, or take part in events during Biodiversity Week in May.

Post on Social Media: You can raise awareness with your audiences and supporters by tweeting or posting on social media about events such as Biodiversity Week, National Tree Day, World Bee Day etc

Reduce your Impacts: Consider your use of chemicals and cleaning materials – clean water is critical for insect life. Do you have excessive outdoor lighting? This is bad for insect life, can it be reduced or turned off?

AN DOSAEN SALACH The Dirty Dozen

Níor chóir na rudaí seo a shrughlú síos sa leithreas go brách These items should NEVER be flushed down the toilet



Cuir na rudaí seo sa bhosca bruscair seachas síos sa leithreas

Help to beat _____

THE DIRTY DOZEN
and support Think Before You Flush

Think before **YOU** flush



is é clár Clean Coasts An Taisce a oibríonn Smaoinigh Sula 1. Org Sruthlaíonn Tú agus tugann Uisce Éireann tacaíocht dó

All Arts Organisations can:

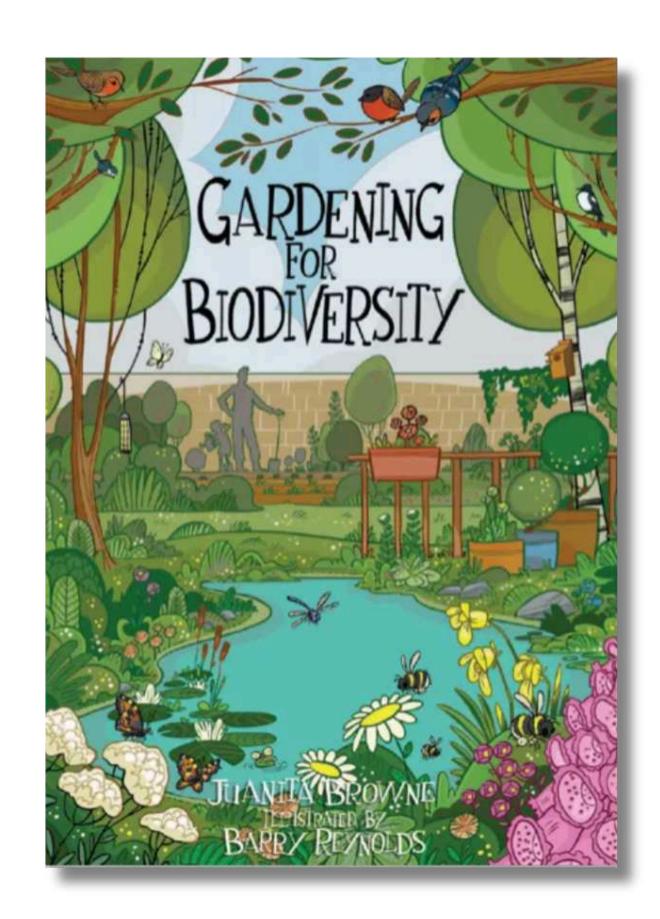
Implement the THINK BEFORE YOU FLUSH and THINK BEFORE YOU POUR campaign initiated by Clean Coasts (An Taisce) and Uisce Eireann.

REMEMBER - everything you flush down your toilet, or wash down your sink is going into our water systems and eventually out to sea...

REMEMBER - every chemical you use in your building (air fresheners, cleaning agents,) or outside your building (drain cleaners, herbicides, pesticides, slug tox) is damaging the natural world

Install signage to alert your audiences and visitors to the damage done by flushing items and pouring pollutants down drains.





Another great resource:

Gardening for Biodiversity by Juanita Browne

A guide to assist everyone to help wildlife in their gardens, no matter how big or small, has been launched.

Taking a very practical approach, the book details projects to help wildlife of all kinds under a range of headings, with tasks suitable for everyone from the total beginner to the more ambitious DIY enthusiast.

The brainchild of Juanita Browne, the booklet was produced by Laois County Council with the assistance of Local Authority Heritage Officers across Ireland, with support from the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Heritage Council.



Examples - Nature and Biodiversity as a creative theme...



'Take Me To The River - A collaborative vision between Solstice Arts Centre and architectural practice Cineál Research & Design. This is a creative public engagement project bringing communities together in the fostering and long-term preservation of local waterbodies

A guided walk of UCC's biodiversity trail as part of the Glucksman's exhibition Groundwork: Climate awareness in the UCC Art Collection.



Tern the Tide is a creative climate action project, lead by artists Marie Gordon and Laura McMahon, which celebrates and raises awareness of the NSPW Little Tern conservation work in Kilcoole.

Creating Biodiversity is a project based in Limelight in Oranmore, Co. Galway. The young adults worked with artist Amy Brannigan to create a visual art exhibition of the indigenous species in the area.

Nature & Biodiversity - Do's:

- Remember that humans have the biggest negative impact on other living things - be mindful!
- Turn off or down any external lighting as it impacts birds and insects
- Stop generating plastic waste

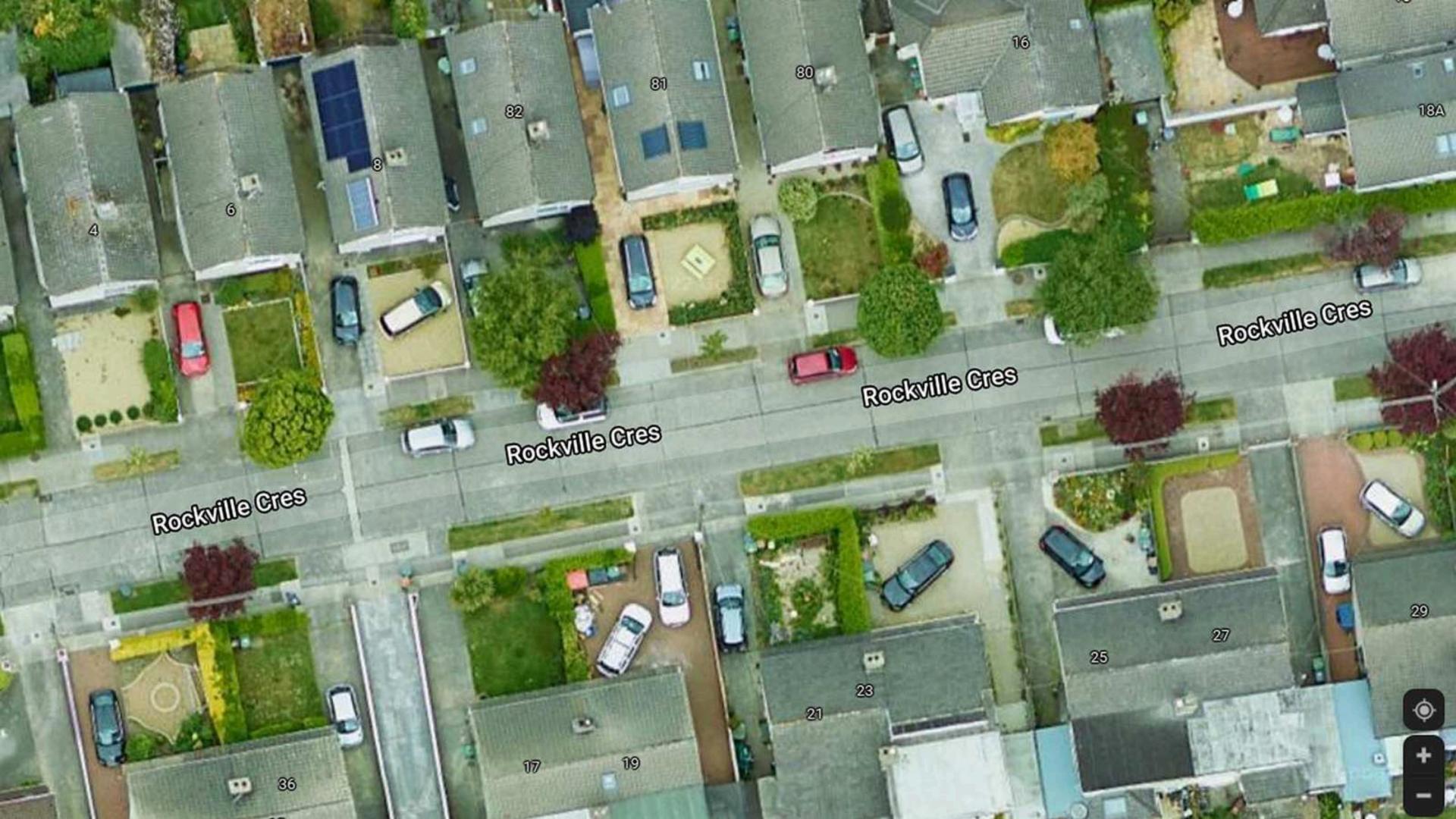
 it's more likely to end up in
 ditches and rivers or to be
 incinerated than recycled

 (28% recycled in 2021)

Nature & Biodiversity - Dont's:

- Don't use packets of wildflower seeds or seed bombs
- Don't feel tempted to install a hive of honey bees
- Don't use chemical cleaning products, particularly air fresheners
- Don't spray herbicides
 (weedkiller) or pesticides
- Don't flush or pour toxins or waste into sewers and drains





Case Study

VISUAL in Carlow - Derek Blanche



What next?

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Policy development I
Getting Started

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Getting People on Board

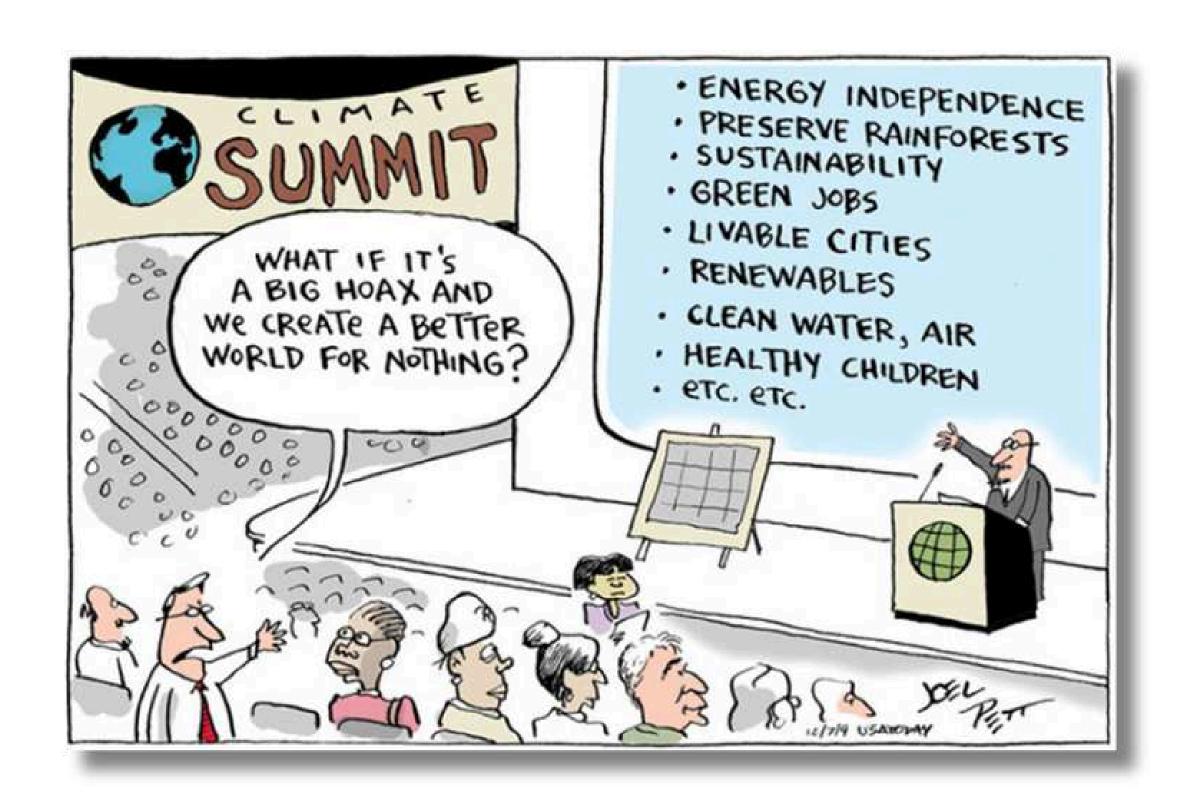
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+Nov-Dec
Some group and 121
support on policies
and plans





Thank you for joining us today
Over to you for Q&A....

