

The Irish Environmental Network

Annual Report
2022



Irish
Environmental
Network

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Irish
Environmental
Network

Foreword: Kate Ruddock, Chair of IEN Board of Directors



Working to protect our environment often feels very hard. It hurts to see wild places polluted, animal and bird numbers decline and breeding grounds for fish and insects deteriorate. Tracking the trends of increasing global temperatures and witnessing the ongoing negative impacts of our changing climate on people, on food production, and on nature's ability to thrive, causes a pain that does not go away.

Against this despair, I find hope in the community of those working hard every day to restore nature, prevent climate breakdown and challenge those institutions whose policy and business are causing this environmental harm.

At the Irish Environmental Network, throughout 2022 we maintained our mission to facilitate our members in working individually and jointly to protect and enhance our environment, and to promote the interlinked principles of environmental, social and economic sustainability.

In 2022, we increased core funding by 40% to our 34 member groups to support their good work. And secured

an increase of 19% in annual funding from the Government for our network. We are committed to building on this momentum year on year to ensure a strong network of environmental NGOs can thrive across Ireland.

The core projects of the IEN continued, including the Environmental Pillar, the Environmental Law Implementation Group, and support for the Public Participation Networks. We continued to host the secretariat of Coalition 2030 and the Fair Seas coalition. We continued to support environmental representation on a number of Government stakeholder groups and consultations ensuring a strong voice for the environment at the table of decision makers.

Successes from across our Network in 2022 are plentiful. Notable mention must go to the many member groups that participated in the Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity Loss, providing robust evidence and informed analysis on the state of our biodiversity. In addition, the Fair Seas coalition launched into campaign mode with a wealth of knowledge about our ocean ecosystems, and iconic imagery and clever advocacy. Following on from this, groundbreaking

new legislation commenced in the Oireachtas in 2022 to create a network of Marine Protected Areas covering 30% of the sea area by 2030.

I would like to thank the Directors of 2022 for supporting me and our work throughout the year. I would like to extend special thanks to Eoin Ó Broin, who served as co-chair, and retired along with me at the end of 2022. And to Dermot Tynan, who joined us as Secretary.

This year the IEN completed a review of the Strategic Plan, and updated and modernised our Framework – the guiding principles through which we operate. We continued to implement good governance through our meetings and daily business and again maintained compliance with the Governance Code through 2022.

The Board of Directors is grateful to the staff of the IEN for their ongoing dedication and hard work, led by our CEO Karen Ciesielski, with the support of Justin Byrne COO. The IEN is fortunate to have so many experienced and knowledgeable staff serving our networks and the Board of Directors would like to extend special thanks for their continued hard work and dedication throughout the year.

The Board



Liam Breslin



Donna Cooney



Gary Dempsey



Kieran Flood



Gary Freemantle



Caroline Lewis



Oliver Moore



Elaine Nevin



Eoin Ó'Broin
Vice Chair



Kate Ruddock
Chair



Dermot Tynan

The Board of Directors has a key role in ensuring the IEN is adhering to principles of good governance. During 2022, they worked to ensure the IEN's compliance with the Governance Code for Charities to ensure that the charitable objectives of the IEN are achieved effectively and with integrity. A schedule of meetings for the board was set at the start of the year and they continued to be held remotely.

In 2022, the IEN received a major increase in funding, which the board saw disbursed to members.

The Fair Seas campaign, which is hosted by IEN, was officially launched in 2022 with an ambition to see Ireland become a world leader in marine protection.

This was also the year of COP 27, held in Egypt, where IEN member groups were represented thanks to funding assistance from the IEN.

IEN Directors 2022

Liam Breslin (Joined in November 2022), Donna Cooney (Joined in November 2022), Gary Dempsey (Joined in March 2021), Kieran Flood (Joined in October 2021), Gary Freemantle, Caroline Lewis (stepped down in October 2022), Oliver Moore (stepped down in November 2022), Elaine Nevin (Joined in November 2022), Eoin Ó'Broin (stepped down in November 2022), Kate Ruddock (stepped down in November 2022), Dermot Tynan (Joined in February 2022).

How the Board Makes Decisions

When making decisions, members of the board work to reach consensus and vote on proposals if necessary.

Sub-Committees

The Irish Environmental Network had four active sub-committees in 2022, covering Membership, Human Resources, Governance and Finance, respectively. The work of each sub-committee is set out in its Terms of Reference. Sub-committees carry out vital pieces of work on the IEN's internal policies and processes and regularly report on their progress and make recommendations to the Board.

The Board worked to ensure the IEN's compliance with the Governance Code for Charities to ensure that the charitable objectives of the IEN are achieved effectively and with integrity.

Our Staff

The Irish Environmental Network depends on the hard work of our team to place environmental issues centre stage in Ireland and to strengthen the network of NGOs campaigning to safeguard our climate and biodiversity.



Karen Ciesielski
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Our CEO Karen Ciesielski joined our team in 2019 and has worked for over 20 years in non-profit management, fundraising, communications, advocacy and campaigning. As the head of our organisation, Karen promotes the inter-sectional principles of environmental, social and economic sustainability by supporting our members. She is also the Coordinator of the Environmental Pillar, the advocacy arm of the IEN, and sits on the National Economic and Social Council (NESC).



Justin Byrne
Chief Operating Officer (COO)

Our COO Justin Byrne has been a part of the IEN for over ten years. Previously he worked for KPMG as the IT Operations Manager, and prior to that in management for a division of Unigate PLC in London. He also serves as the Administrator for the Environmental Pillar.



Attracta Uí Bhroin
Environmental Law Officer

As so many matters pertaining to the environment require legal expertise, our Environmental Law Officer Attracta Uí Bhroin helps develop both the IEN and our members' capacity to leverage the law to support core missions. She is also the facilitator for the Environmental Law Implementation Group (ELIG), which is a joint initiative with the Irish Government and An Taisce to support the proper transposition and implementation of environmental law.



Jamie Brunkow
Communications Officer &
Editor of the Green News

Jamie implements IEN's communications strategy in support of our mission, members, and our advocacy arm the Environmental Pillar. Jamie also heads the Green News, a digital news-site for environmental reporting. Jamie has more than 15 years of experience in the environmental NGO sector with a background leading advocacy, restoration initiatives, science communication and public affairs.



Meaghan Carmody
Coordinator of Coalition 2030

Meaghan supports Irish Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to collaborate to bring the Sustainable Development Goals to fruition. She has over 7 years experience building movements for environmental, social and economic policy change, during which time she has developed a wide skill-set in education, facilitation, advocacy, management and communications.



Donal Griffin
Fair Seas Policy Officer

Donal is the marine policy officer for the Fair Seas Campaign. With a strong background in marine biology and ecology, Donal also has a wealth of policy experience from the UK, including coordinating a coalition of environmental NGOs focusing on Marine Protected Areas (MPA) management and implementation.



Fintan Kelly
Agriculture and Land Use
Policy and Advocacy Officer

Fintan works to make Irish agriculture and land-use policies more sustainable for nature and people. He specialises in Environmental Policy, Advocacy and Planning and has been working within the Irish eNGO sector since 2012, having previously worked for BirdWatch Ireland, An Taisce, SWAN and the Irish Wildlife Trust.



Aoife Ní Lochlainn
Policy Officer

With over thirteen years of experience in economic, social, and environmental policy, Aoife Ní Lochlainn is a public policy analyst and researcher who joined our team in 2020. Her work covers the UK Withdrawal agreement as it relates to the environment, as well as broader environmental policy and advocacy work to advance sustainable policy in Ireland on behalf of the NGO sector for both the Irish Environmental Network and the Environmental Pillar.



Aoife O'Mahony
Fair Seas Campaign Manager

Aoife is the Campaign Manager for the Fair Seas campaign, which is working to increase the number of Marine Protected Areas in Ireland (www.fairseas.ie). Aoife has over twenty years of experience in communications and project management working in large multinationals, educational institutions, membership bodies, and start-up organisations in Ireland and Australia.



Catherine O'Toole
Development Officer

As our Local Environmental Development Officer, Catherine is working to increase engagement in the Environmental College of the Public Participation Networks (PPNs). Working with those on the ground for the Irish environmental movement, Catherine works to educate and inspire people in their local communities by providing complimentary training opportunities to environmental representatives.



Alanagh Tennanty
Administrative Assistant

Alanagh works as the IEN's administrative assistant, providing support to all IEN departments. Alanagh has over 5 years working in the Irish NGO sector, with experience in administration, event management, volunteer management and communications. Alanagh is also the Health and Safety officer for the IEN.



Jack O'Donovan Trá
Fair Seas Communications Officer

Jack O'Donovan Trá is the Communications Officer at Fair Seas. Jack is blending the art of good comms with marine science to bring the message of ocean protection to a wide audience in an engaging and impactful way. Jack is a marine biologist by training and moved into comms and campaigns in 2018, and has since worked with many large international environmental coalitions and campaigns across Europe.

Our Work



Our work in 2022 has involved strengthening connections between environmental representatives nationally, and hosting online meet ups every other month to discuss topics of interest.

On the Ground

Catherine O’Toole heads our effort to increase environmental engagement with the Public Participation Networks (PPNs) and to assist PPN representatives and local environmental networks in building their capacity to operate locally and take part in their PPN. Work in 2022 has involved strengthening connections between environmental representatives nationally, and hosting online meet ups every other month to discuss topics of interest. A monthly newsletter helps share announcements from both local and national groups, while a full day training and networking event was also held in 2022 for environmental reps and the wider public. Catherine also led work on National Biodiversity Week, which grew in 2022 to host 191 events nationwide. The Citizens’ Assembly on Biodiversity Loss took place in 2022, and Catherine’s work on this included communications and assisting with biodiversity webinars.



Environmental Law

Attracta Uí Bhroin, the IEN’s Environmental Law Officer, works on a project whose objective is to protect the environment through environmental law. 2022 was another year of significant and problematic changes to national environmental legislation, particularly in the areas of unlicensed forestry and planning, including major changes to legislation governing An Bord Pleanála. Engagement on these issues included: analysis of changes; attendance at hearings to give evidence before Oireachtas Committees; submissions, and liaison and support of Oireachtas members willing to listen to and address our concerns through the legislative process. There was also increased focus on media engagement with TV and radio appearances, articles and opinion pieces, particularly given changes proposed to rules on Judicial Review.

Further work involved speaking at conferences and engagement with the EU Commission on its Rule of Law Process. Attracta provided support for colleagues on legal issues related to: site specific conservation objectives for Hen Harriers; licensing applications; information requests; and input into amicus curiae cases before the EU Court of Justice. Attracta continued a strong focus on the Aarhus Convention, inputting into

the work of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee on compliance issues and responses. She was heavily involved in the processes to identify and appoint a new Special Rapporteur on the situation for environmental defenders under the Aarhus Convention.

Coalition 2030

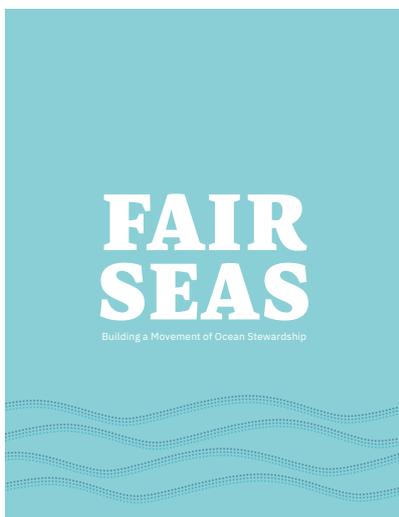


The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agreed to in 2015 as part of United Nations’ Agenda 2030 offer the only universally agreed blueprint for evidence-based policy making that leaves no one behind and reaches the furthest behind first. Coalition 2030 is an alliance of Irish CSOs across the anti-poverty, international development, environmental, and trade union pillars collaborating to ensure that Ireland keeps its promise to achieve the SDGs, both at home and abroad. Coalition 2030 advocates for the SDGs to operate as the overarching framework for policy-making in Ireland, at all levels of Government.

The Coalition 2030 Coordinator is hosted by the IEN. 2022 was a year of energising and re-engaging the membership of Coalition 2030. This involved building rapport with the SDG



Unit, and ensuring the Government’s new plan for the SDGs was sufficiently robust to enable SDG delivery at pace. Coalition 2030 submitted to the consultation on the Plan, developed a ‘7 tests’ document, and called for a launch by all three leaders of the leading Parties, which was ultimately successful (8 other Ministers also launched the Plan). Other 2022 highlights include: attending the Ard Fheis’ of different political parties; meeting with Minister Ryan; running a pre-budget mini-campaign; revitalising the SDG member fund; and submitting to major consultations.



Fair Seas

Fair Seas is a coalition of Ireland’s leading environmental non-governmental organisations and networks seeking to protect, conserve and restore Ireland’s unique marine environment. Our coalition members include the Irish Wildlife Trust, Birdwatch Ireland, Irish Whale and Dolphin Group, SWAN, Coomhola Salmon Trust, Irish Environmental Network, and Coastwatch. Fair Seas is funded by Oceans 5, the Becht Family Charitable Trust, Blue Nature Alliance, and Wyss Foundation. Fair Seas’ overarching vision is to build a movement of ocean stewardship across Ireland that energises and empowers people to campaign for ambitious and robust legislation, and secure a network of effective well-managed marine protected areas.

Fair Seas is hosted by the Irish Environmental Network, and includes three core staff, with additional part time capacity from a number of the coalition partners. Since the official launch in June 2022, the campaign has produced a number of scientific reports, published over 60 online blogs and articles, built a large social media following, submitted evidence to the Joint Oireachtas Committee, and responded to over 10 public consultations. Furthermore, the Fair Seas campaign secured Ireland’s first Irish Hope Spot, The Greater Skellig Coast,

and were the first signatories to the EU Mission Charter to Restore our Oceans and Waters. The current primary focus of the campaign is to ensure Ireland’s new Marine Protected Area legislation is strong, ambitious, fit for purpose, and is enacted as soon as possible.

Biodiversity Photographer of the Year

This competition is held each year as part of National Biodiversity Week. Winner of the Biodiversity Photographer of the Year competition: “Flying High” by Daniel Lettice captures a breaching common dolphin in Baltimore—see above.

An Ocean Category was added to the competition in 2022. The winner with a stunning underwater photograph was “Peek-a-Boo Pipefish” by Vanessa Keane—see page 8.

The full shortlist can be viewed at www.biodiversityweek.ie/photo-competitions/shortlist/

Environmental Pillar

Established in 2009, the Environmental Pillar is the advocacy arm of the Irish Environmental Network and it represents 32 national independent environmental non-governmental organisations (NGOs) all of whom are members of the IEN.

It is a National Social Partner and has its own line of funding to support its policy, advocacy, and campaigning work. Karen Ciesielski serves as the Coordinator of the Environmental Pillar. Overseeing its activities is a Steering Committee, made up of eight members who are elected by the members of the Environmental Pillar and serve one year terms. Its members have a huge reservoir of knowledge and expertise. Their work is diverse, covering a broad range of areas, which includes wildlife and habitat protection and restoration, environmental education, forestry, marine issues, waste, circular economy, planning and development, well-being, community resilience, and energy. The Pillar continued its work in 2022 to meet with and put pressure on elected representatives on all matters related to the climate and biodiversity crisis.

Throughout the year, the advocacy group engaged on a number of different issues by meeting with decision-makers, participating in workgroups, providing input through submissions, and publishing recommendations on key environmental policy.

A snapshot of these topics included:

- Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity Loss
- Budget 2023
- National Biodiversity Action Plan
- Climate Action Plan
- Irish Forestry Strategy (2022-2030)
- Coillte Strategic Vision
- FSC Irish National Standard Consultation
- Rewetting targets within the Nature Restoration Law

- NESC Just Transition in Agriculture Working Group
- Public Consultation on Carbon Budgets
- Submission to the Commission on Taxation and Welfare

Linking the Irish Environment

Aoife Ní Lochlainn, Policy Officer, splits her time between working on North-South and East-West environmental cooperation and on wider environmental policy. As part of this post-UK Withdrawal work in 2022, Aoife managed the tendering and production of the research project Linking the Irish Environment, which focuses on improving all-island environmental governance and is scheduled for publication in 2023. She also began her work on the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement Domestic Advisory Group (DAG) as a civil society representative; we are one of only ten civil society groups across Europe to be represented on this important post-Brexit group. As part of her wider environmental policy work Aoife completed her work on the Commission on Taxation, which recommended the introduction of a Site Value Tax, a hastening of the removal of fossil fuel subsidies and the introduction of road/congestion charging and parking charges in urban areas. She also wrote and coordinated the input of member groups into numerous submissions, including the Climate Action Plan and Budget 2023.

Agriculture and Land Use

Fintan Kelly, as our Agriculture and Land Use Policy and Advocacy Officer, continued to support our members throughout 2022 on issues covering

agriculture, forestry, and land use as part of our overarching efforts to address biodiversity loss, climate change, and water protection. He has supported our engagement with key decision makers such as Ministers and European Commission staff, and led in our response to a number of important consultations and campaigns including our work on the Citizens' Assembly for Biodiversity Loss, the National Biodiversity Action Plan, and the Nature Restoration Law. He's also supported our members with work on key issues such as the Common Agricultural Policy and the Forestry Programme. He's helped coordinate our advocacy with NGO partners at an Irish and EU level and worked to improve our engagement with key stakeholders such as farmers.

Featured Pillar Publication

The Environmental Pillar produced, Supporting greater ambition for Ireland's peatlands in the Nature Restoration Law, outlining recommendations to reward farmers for the delivery of synergetic ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration and biodiversity, while delivering a long-term commitment to improved peatland management in Ireland.

<https://environmentalpillar.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Environmental-Pillar-2022-Supporting-greater-ambition-for-Irelands-Peatlands-in-the-EU-Nature-Restoration-Law-Proposal.pdf>



Environmental
Pillar

2022

Supporting greater ambition for Ireland's peatlands in the Nature Restoration Law



Edited by Fintan Kelly
Environmental Pillar
02/12/2022

Supporting greater ambition for
Ireland's Peatlands in the Nature
Restoration Law

Supporting greater ambition peatlands in the Nature Res

Peatland Restoration for Europe

- Under Art 9(4) the NRL should provide separate targets for rewetted peatlands of high intensity and more ambitious rewetted and restored peatlands of low intensity conditions for an active peat forming state.
- More ambitious targets are needed for the rewetted peatlands and the restoration of degraded peatlands. If feasible, targets should include measures on peat extraction sites and the targets for rewetted peatlands should be included which ensure that minimal thresholds are met for rewetted and restoration of drained peatlands in agricultural use.
- The scope of Art 9(4) and the NRL should be expanded to include the restoration and rewetted of drained peatlands under agricultural use. Given the different peatland uses across Member States, targets for all land uses should be included on a level playing field across the EU.

Peatland Restoration for Ireland

- Ireland should advocate for a more ambitious NRL targets and creates a level playing field within the EU.
- Ireland should support increased ambition within the NRL for the restoration of soils and the rehabilitation of peatlands, at the very least, consistent with achieving a 51% reduction in net emissions.

Peatland Restoration for Communities

- It is essential that farmers and rural communities are supported in the measures required under the Nature Restoration Law. Farmers, Communities and landowners must be involved in the implementation of the Law. Sustained engagement. Wherever possible management plans should deliver multiple environmental and social benefits and rural services provided.
- Ireland should be a leader in climate-smart land use. Ireland should develop schemes to reward farmers for the delivery of synergistic ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration and biodiversity.
- Ireland should work with the European Commission to develop a road map for delivering the NRLs targets using all available resources.
- Whatever the mechanism, increased financial support should be provided to deliver long term support compatible with the long term improved land management.

The Environmental Pillar produced, **Supporting greater ambition for Ireland's peatlands in the Nature Restoration Law**, outlining recommendations to reward farmers for the delivery of synergetic ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration and biodiversity...

Member Testimonials

The Irish Environmental Network exists because of, and for, its members, who continued to demonstrate their expertise and commitment to their missions and values throughout their work in 2022



Above Tina Aughney and Aideen Kane of Bat Conservation Ireland checking a bridge for bats during filming of a video about Bats and Heritage Structures

Right Noelia and Ana, two of the many European Solidarity Corps volunteers who experienced a year at Cloughjordan's Community Farm while living in the Ecovillage.





In October 2022, Cultivate and FEASTA hosted an event in Cloughjordan, bringing together community catalysts and creative placemakers to exchange ideas around resilient and inclusive neighbourhoods. The event was part of their project 'Creatively Building Back From Below,' supported by the Environmental Pillar's 'Build Back Better' fund.



Bat Conservation Ireland

In 2022 Bat Conservation Ireland embarked on some new projects and continued to coordinate and manage its highly successful citizen scientist-led annual bat population monitoring surveys. New materials were developed as part of a Bats in Heritage Structures project funded by the Heritage Council. This included filming a live action video as well as producing a matching guidance document to help managers and custodians of Heritage Sites ensure that bats are protected during works.

Thanks to funding from the Community Foundation for Ireland, work continued with University College Dublin on the Bats and Bugs project and BCireland sent sampling kits to almost 200 citizen scientists who are also roost custodians. The aim of this project is to find out more about the ecosystem services bats provide in terms of pest insect consumption. Over 400 volunteers participated in monitoring scheme surveys all across Ireland, north and south of the border. BCireland sponsored a Tidy Towns Special Award for bat mural designs and one of the prizewinners can now be seen in pride of place on Sneem's Tourism Office. In addition to a suite of bat talks and walks during the year by BCireland and Bat Groups, a submission was also made to the Citizens Assembly on Biodiversity in the form of a short animation and YouTube presentation.

batconservationireland.org



Cloughjordan Ecovillage

The year 2022 is characterised as a year of re-connection, collaboration and continued self-improvement for Cloughjordan Ecovillage. Moving out of the covid era, education and research programmes engaged over 1000 visitors in 46 educational events and supported 15 international postgraduate students on topics ranging from agro-ecology to social innovation in intentional communities.

Exciting collaborations with old and new partners generated several projects involving Irish and international groups sharing best practice to create centres of excellence and disseminate learning. Working closely with Cloughjordan Dark Sky group, the local authority and technical specialists led to the granting of planning permission for the installation of an innovative, biodiversity and people friendly street lighting design. This was a positive step towards bringing the next phase of housing development to fruition. Much work on the organisational structures of the ecovillage was completed, with the creation of new sub-committees working well to strengthen and grow capacity to develop and deliver the next phase of the project.

thevillage.ie



Cultivate: The Sustainable Ireland Cooperative

In 2022, Cultivate achieved significant accomplishments promoting sustainable living in Ireland. Cultivate managed the WeCreate Centre in Cloughjordan Ecovillage, and held workshops to build community-led initiatives' capacity to tackle the ecological and climate emergency. A highlight was the completion of a report on Farm Diversification with IEN support that was launched at the Feeding Ourselves conference. Cultivate's 12-day Permaculture course on ecological design was successful.

At the Electric Picnic, Ireland's largest music festival, Cultivate managed the sustainability area where 25 NGO and community groups shared their work. Cultivate progressed work at the European level with ECOLISE and DESIRA projects and led an ERASMUS+ project on Community Climate Coaching. A CCAP application with the Tipperary PPN was successful, which supported Cultivate in co-designing facilitation resources for Community Climate Action and a project website (sustainable.ie).

cultivate.ie



Above
Curlew ringing on Lodge Bog, Co. Kildare as part of the Irish Peatland Conservation Council work with the Curlew Conservation Programme 2022.

Right
Global Action Plan staff on a Park Stewardship outdoor education programme field trip to Bull Island with teachers and pupils from Gaelscoil Bhaile Munna, June 2022. The Park Stewardship programme is funded by Dublin City Council and engages young people with biodiversity issues and the care of local parks.





Leave No Trace Hot Spot Programme with Gas Networks Ireland at Turvey Nature Reserve during Tree Week. The team of tree-planting volunteers is a mix of Gas Networks Ireland staff, local community members, and our Leave No Trace Ireland trainers! It was a truly fantastic morning, seeing everyone work together to plant 600 trees in one day!



Global Action Plan

During 2022, Global Action Plan (GAP) worked with more community groups, schools and businesses than ever before. With the support of IEN and many governmental, corporate and private donors, GAP was able to help people all over Ireland discover their potential to make a difference.

Throughout the year, GAP expanded their work with community groups, helping participants to understand local challenges through a global perspective, and assisting them in translating this knowledge into action and initiatives that promote behaviour change. GAP also trained over 100 teachers, helping them to incorporate climate action and global justice themes into their lessons, and GAP supported 2,000+ students, in 23 schools all over the country, to learn about environmental issues. Furthermore, GAP helped businesses engage their employees in sustainability initiatives, and provided space for people to learn about organic food production in community gardens.

globalactionplan.ie



Irish Peatland Conservation Council

2022 marked forty years of the Irish Peatland Conservation Council (IPCC) taking action for, and giving a voice to, Irish peatland habitats and their associated ecosystem services through the Save the Bogs Campaign. The IPCC undertook several peatland research projects including 'Reviewing the conservation status of peatland species'. Supported by volunteers, peatland site and species monitoring were completed on IPCC's network of nature reserves.

The IPCC responded to nineteen site issues and made submissions on seven policy documents. The IPCC worked in partnership on two European projects, Wild Atlantic Nature LIFE IP and Interreg North-West Europe Care-Peat. The IPCC welcomed groups and visitors to the Bog of Allen Nature Centre and delivered outreach peatland talks, walks and hosted information stands with schools and community groups nationwide. The IPCC also represented peatlands at the National Biodiversity Conference, The Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity Loss, Environmental Pillar, and Ramsar Wetlands Committee.

www.ipcc.ie



Leave No Trace

Leave No Trace Ireland continues to work with its partners in driving effective responses and solutions to outdoor recreation issues and environmental impacts through the delivery of rapidly expanding national and community programmes, education initiatives, policy development, and the raising of public and media awareness, reaching over 5 million in 2022. The organisation's membership doubled in 2022 and it firmly established its new Core Member Network. Comhairle na Tuaithe and the sector has come together in the development of the National Outdoor Recreation Strategy, with a key role identified for Leave No Trace in the strategy.

Through funding from the Heritage Council, the Croagh Patrick Ambassador Programme was launched in 2022, in collaboration with the Croagh Patrick Stakeholders Group and Mayo County Council. The programme recruited twelve official volunteer ambassadors, tasked with engaging with visitors on the mountain about how to protect Croagh Patrick's sensitive habitat.

leavenotraceireland.org

A roost built as part of the lesser horseshoe bat project in east Limerick, funded by the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) through DAFM. It is one of the six new structures VWT built on farms as roosts for the lesser horseshoe bat.



Streamscapes

In the 1980’s, Ireland had over 500 water bodies in pristine condition. By 2022, that number had been reduced to twenty. The Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage has launched, through LAWPro, the ‘Blue Dot’ initiative to conserve and restore High Status Waters. During 2022, IEN member ‘StreamScapes’, an environmental NGO specialist who pioneered Community Engagement in Aquatic & Biodiversity issues since 1989, was asked to develop a template for ‘Blue Dot’ publications.

This first Blue Dot booklet, on the Coomhola River in County Cork, was launched by Christopher O’Sullivan TD to great acclaim during National Heritage week, and went on to win the National Heritage Council 2022 ‘Water Heritage Award’. In 2023, StreamScapes will work with LAWPro to develop further publications in Donegal and Connemara, among other place-based publications.

streamscapes.ie



Vincent Wildlife Trust Ireland

In 2022 the Vincent Wildlife Trust co-authored with NPWS a Species Action Plan for the Lesser Horseshoe Bat that was launched by Minister Malcolm Noonan. Following the first meeting of the plan’s steering group, several of the actions commenced. VWT undertook two projects on the species in east Limerick working with six farmers to build new roosts on their farm with funding under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. VWT surveyed Glenstal Woods under the NPWS Small Recording Grants Scheme, recording the species there for the first time.

VWT organised the 3rd All-Ireland Pine Marten Symposium as a hybrid event involving 20 speakers from seven countries and presented results of their Irish stoat research at the virtual European Mustelid Colloquium. VWT managed and monitored their 12 horseshoe bat reserves that contained 4,100 bats and commenced a second Native Woodland Conservation Scheme at one of these.

vincentwildlife.ie



VOICE

VOICE is the leading NGO expert on waste reduction and the circular economy and as such one of their major goals was for Ireland to have its own deposit return scheme. After years of campaigning VOICE was delighted that a take-back scheme for bottles and cans will be introduced in 2023. Picker Pals, VOICE’s primary schools program, has now reached over half of the primary schools in Ireland with over 60,000 children across the island taking part in 2022. Their Conscious Cup Campaign achieved its goal to have almost every café in Ireland accept reusable cups.

In 2022, VOICE took part in the first-ever European-wide analysis of packaging in supermarkets. They analysed the top five Irish supermarkets and ranked them according to their ambitions on packaging reduction. VOICE was chosen by SECAD to run the sustainable communities training program in west Cork and they successfully worked with eight community groups and helped them to develop a practical and sustainable roadmap for their town/village. VOICE works with all stakeholders to bring about change, through awareness-raising, training, and campaigning for more sustainable practices. Looking back on 2022, VOICE is incredibly proud of these achievements.

voiceireland.org

A full listing of Irish Environmental Network members with links to learn more about them is available at ien.ie/our-members



Above Celebrating Voice Ireland 25th Anniversary in Blas Cafe. Left to Right: Abi O'Callaghan-Platt, Leonard Dowling, Mindy O'Brien (retired), Patrick Jackson (Picker Pals Founder and dear friend/collaborator), Colin O'Byrne, Lyndsey O'Connell, Angela Kenny and Tad Kirakowski (our new CEO).

Left Christopher O'Sullivan TD performs the launch of the 'Blue Dot Coomhola River' publication at a StreamScapes community event near Bantry, County Cork. The booklet, a collaboration between IEN member 'StreamScapes', LAWPRO, Cork County Council, and EPA Catchments Unit, won The Heritage Council's 'Water Heritage Award'.

Funding Statement by Justin Byrne, Chief Operating Officer



The majority of the work of the IEN is supported by a grant from the Department of the Environment Climate and Communications (DECC). In 2022 we received €2,100,000 which was an increase of €336,000. The total funding that we received was €2,595,363.

We are very grateful for the funding and work hard to ensure that the money is used as efficiently as possible. As part of our governance efforts, we use independent assessors to decide on any large funding grants that we provide to support our members work. This funding includes funding for Coalition 2030 and the Fair Seas project.

In 2022, our outgoings were €2,202,128, leaving us with a surplus of €393,244. The surplus is due to the lateness of our receiving our funding and the delayed start of some funding lines.

Most of our funding is distributed to our members. In 2022 76% of our outgoings were shared with our members. The majority of this was Core Funding for our members.

We also provided support for members traveling to intergovernmental conferences such as COP 27 or the High Level Political Forums, as well as other national and international events. It is vital that environmental voices are heard at these meetings and we are grateful for the support that the Government gives us in attending these conferences. The IEN

encourages slow and low carbon travel whenever possible although this is much more costly than air travel.

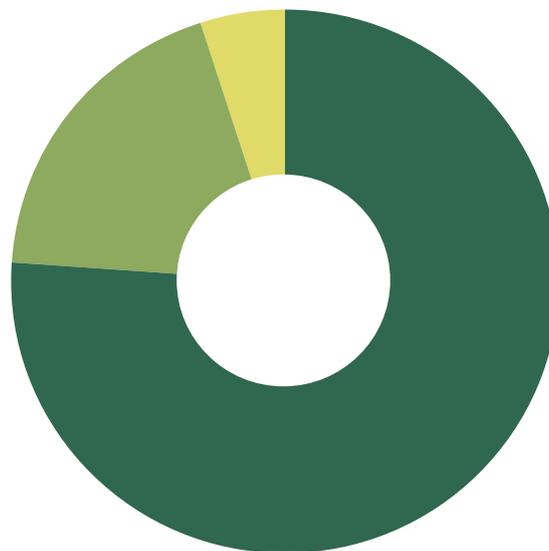
The IEN's finances are healthy and we are in a good position to help our members grow and succeed in the coming year.

Some highlights of the 2022 audited accounts can be found on page 20 of this report. The full accounts are available on www.ienv.ie.

Main Outgoings

Core Funding.....	1,011,250
Support for Policy Submissions	29,514
Travel (including COP 27 support).....	50,087
Rent, rates, office costs, professional fees	80,711
Support for participation in Government Bodies.....	36,350
Wages and salaries	319,265
Training for members	24,369

Expenditure



Funding to Groups
€1,319,506

Wages
€319,266

Establishment Costs
€80,711

76% of our outgoings
 were shared with our members.
 The majority of this was Core Funding.

Statement of Financial Activities

(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

	Notes	Restricted Funds 2022 €	Total 2022 €	Restricted Funds 2021 €	Total 2021 €
Income					
Charitable activities					
—Grants from governments and other co-funders	4.1	2,595,363	2,595,363	2,703,756	2,703,756
Other income	4.2	9	9	12	12
Total Income		2,595,372	2,595,372	2,703,768	2,703,768
Expenditure					
Charitable activities	5.1	2,202,128	2,202,128	1,603,828	1,603,828
Net Income / (expenditure)		393,244	393,244	1,099,940	1,099,940
Transfers between funds		—	—	—	—
Net movement in funds for the financial year		393,244	393,244	1,099,940	1,099,940
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds beginning of the year	15	1,506,093	1,506,093	406,153	406,153
Total funds at the end of the year		1,899,337	1,899,337	1,506,093	1,506,093

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the financial year. All income and expenditure relate to continuing activities.

Statement of Cash Flows

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

	Notes	2022 €	2021 €
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net movement in funds		393,244	1,099,940
Adjustments for:		5,007	4,722
Depreciation		(9)	(12)
Interest receivable and similar income			
		398,242	1,104,650
.....			
Movements in working capital:			
Movement in debtors		(9,153)	(11,689)
Movement in creditors		(10,055)	(372,129)
Cash generated from operations		379,034	720,832
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received		9	12
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets		(3,295)	(10,565)
Net cash used in investment activities		(3,286)	(10,553)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		375,748	710,279
Cash and cash equivalents at at the beginning of the year		1,499,685	789,406
Cash and cash equivalents at at the end of the year	11	1,875,433	1,499,685

Supplementary Information Relating to the Financial Statements Operating Statement

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

	Schedule	2022 €	2021 €
Income			
Core Funding		1,075,000	769,956
Specific IEN Strands and Projects		502,500	524,276
Environmental Law Implementation Group		90,000	153,483
Environmental Pillar		322,500	456,393
Coalition 2030		110,000	150,459
Other Grants		33,200	234,004
DEAR Project		—	52,845
Rockerfeller Philanthropic Foundation		320,000	320,000
Conservation International		42,365	42,340
Becht Family Charitable Trust		99,798	—
		2,595,363	2,703,756
Charitable activities and other expenses	1	(2,202,128)	(1,603,828)
		393,235	1,099,928
Miscellaneous income	2	9	12
Net Surplus		393,244	1,099,940

The supplementary information does not form part of the audited financial statements.

Supplementary Information Relating to the Financial Statements Schedule 1: Charitable Activities and Other Expenses

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

	2022 €	2021 €
Expenses		
Wages and salaries	490,692	279,754
Social security costs	53,649	32,453
Staff defined contribution pension costs	21,434	27,021
IEN: Training	20,757	4,968
IEN: International NGO meetings	27,434	25,712
IEN: Participation Government Bodies	10,112	3,565
IEN: Policy Subs	29,514	32,604
IEN: Fundraising Capacity Building	—	28,633
IEN: Office expenses	17,658	6,633
IEN: PPN Project	—	2,189
IEN: Covid Adaption fund	22,236	44,369
IEN: MPA Project costs	—	44,490
Biodiversity awareness project	25,200	18,195
Citizens Assembly Project	36,796	—
Pillar expenses	66,643	86,364
ELIG expenses	36,473	18,026
Coalition 2030	36,679	23,696
Core Funding	1,006,832	845,054
Core Funding Capacity Building	3,700	25,000
CFI SDG Project	—	15,000
Rent payable	7,064	7,026
Rates	2,147	1,613
Insurance	1,972	1,836
MPA (Fairseas) Project	231,752	5,535
Telecoms and internet	17,339	6,466
Legal and professional	21,655	4,566
Auditor's remuneration	7,011	7,011
Bank charges	1,570	372
General expenses	802	955
Depreciation	5,007	4,722
	2,202,128	1,603,828

The supplementary information does not form part of the audited financial statements.



**Irish
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Network**

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