

**Policy Forum for Ireland keynote seminar:
Addressing biodiversity loss in Ireland**
Timing: Morning, Thursday, 25th January 2024
*****Taking place online*****



Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Darren O'Rourke TD, Sinn Féin Spokesperson on Climate Action
- 9.05 **Addressing the biodiversity crisis - Ireland's Citizens' Assembly and recommendations for change**
Dr Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin, Chair, Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity Loss
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Immediate actions needed to halt biodiversity loss - assessing the current state of biodiversity in Ireland, strategies for adopting local place-based approaches, and priorities and roles for key stakeholders**
Councillor Noel Connolly, Member, Kildare County Council
Dr Derek McLoughlin, Project Manager, Wild Atlantic Nature Life Integrated Project
Eddie Punch, General Secretary, ICSA
Professor Tasman Crowe, Vice President for Sustainability, University College Dublin
Dr Laura Kehoe, former Biodiversity Officer, Wicklow County Council
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 **Chair's closing remarks**
Darren O'Rourke TD, Sinn Féin Spokesperson on Climate Action
- 10.30 Break
- 10.40 **Chair's opening remarks**
Tiernan Phipps, Lead Researcher, Policy Forum for Ireland
- 10.45 **Facilitating cross-border collaboration and joint working - insights from Scotland's approach to nature restoration**
Lorna Slater MSP, Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity, The Scottish Government
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.10 **Moving toward a biodiversity-rich future - assessing plans for meeting long-term goals and fostering biodiversity net gain, priorities for the next biodiversity strategy, and the resources needed to address and halt biodiversity loss**
Dr Elaine McGoff, Head of Advocacy, An Taisce
Cliona Kimber SC, Member of the Inner Bar and Chair of Comhshaol, The Climate Bar Association
Professor Jill Atkins, Professor of Accounting, Cardiff Business School, Cardiff University
Donncha Madden, Senior Ecologist, ARUP
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.05 **Understanding Ireland's EU and international obligations - balancing the protection of biodiversity with ensuring food security, sharing best practice, and developing a joined-up approach to addressing the biodiversity crisis**
Hans Stielstra, Deputy Head of Unit for Biodiversity, DG Environment, European Commission
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.20 **Key policy priorities for addressing the biodiversity emergency in Ireland going forward**
Malcolm Noonan TD, Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (pre-recorded contribution)
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Ireland closing remarks**
Tiernan Phipps, Lead Researcher, Policy Forum for Ireland