

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



*Draft 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 Break
- 9.35 **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  
**Anne Goggin**, Project Manager, Waters of Life  
**Eddie Punch**, General Secretary, ICSA  
Senior representative, local authority  
Senior academic  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.35 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Darren O'Rourke TD**, Sinn Féin Spokesperson on Climate Action
- 10.40 Break
- 10.50 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Member of the Oireachtas
- 10.55 **Developing an all-island approach to biodiversity and nature conservation**  
Senior representative, all-island
- 11.05 **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  
Senior commentator
- 11.25 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.55 **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
- 12.15 Break
- 12.25 **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  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Ireland closing remarks**  
Senior Member of the Oireachtas  
**Tiernan Phipps**, Lead Researcher, Policy Forum for Ireland