

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025

www.pollinators.ie

YEAR 3 REVIEW

DECEMBER 2023



An tSeirbhís Páircanna Náisiúnta
agus Fiadhúlra
National Parks and Wildlife Service



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



An t-údarás
BORD BIA
RISH FOOD BOARD

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This is a report to the National Biodiversity Data Centre on progress with delivery of the actions under the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-25. Report compiled by Úna FitzPatrick.

Background

One third of our wild bee species are threatened with extinction from the island of Ireland. We know it is because we have drastically reduced the areas where they can nest and the amount of food our landscape provides for them. In publishing the first All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) in 2015, Ireland became one of the first countries in Europe to address pollinator declines, and the Plan has since gained international acclaim. The first AIPP was developed from the grass roots up, to ensure we have an island that's better for biodiversity; better for pollinators; better for us; and better for future generations. It is a *shared* action plan. Together, we can collectively take steps to restore our pollinator populations to healthy levels.

A 15-member all-island steering group provide oversight of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. The Plan is managed by the National Biodiversity Data Centre, who oversee the implementation.

The 81 actions in the first AIPP for 2015-2020 were delivered. In the first phase we wanted to ensure that everyone understood what pollinators need, and what simple, evidence-based actions they can take to help. Extensive guidelines were developed for everyone from farmers to councils, communities, businesses, schools, sports clubs and gardens. These are all freely available at www.pollinators.ie

- [Final review of the AIPP 2015-2020](#)
- [Working together for biodiversity – Tales from the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020](#)

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025

A new version of the [AIPP for 2021-2025](#) was published in March 2021. It is more ambitious than the first version – with more partners coming together to deliver more actions. Pollinators are better off than they were in 2015, but we still need to do more. The new plan has more than doubled our goals – with 186 actions to help biodiversity. Within the second phase, we need to engage more, monitor more, and manage more land for biodiversity.

The AIPP 2021-2025 identifies specific actions across six objectives. Within each objective, targets have been set and actions have been identified to help achieve that target.

- Objective 1: Making farmland pollinator friendly
- Objective 2: Making public land pollinator friendly
- Objective 3: Making private land pollinator friendly
- Objective 4: All-Ireland Honey bee Strategy
- Objective 5: Conserving rare pollinators
- Objective 6: Strategic coordination of the Plan

AIPP partners

Partner organisations are those who have committed to delivering the 186 actions in the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025. They also include those Councils who have formally signed up to the AIPP and agreed to take actions to support pollinators on the public land they manage.

<https://pollinators.ie/partners/>

Funding partners



National Parks &
Wildlife Service



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



An initiative by
BORD BIA
IRISH FOOD BOARD

Implementation of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 is project managed by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. Dr Úna FitzPatrick, Chief Scientific Officer within the Centre, oversees the initiative. In 2023, it was supported by an additional three project officer positions within the National Biodiversity Data Centre:

- ✓ Kate Chandler - Communities and Engagement Pollinator Officer. This position was funded by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- ✓ Ruth Wilson – Farmland Pollinator Officer. This position was funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine.
- ✓ Sarah Kelly – Agri-business Pollinator Officer. This position was part-funded by Bord Bia (60%). The remaining funding was provided by Natural Capital Ireland (supported by the National Parks and Wildlife Service).

Tracking progress

Tracking progress is a critical component of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. It is addressed in several ways to ensure we track both activity and impact:

- ✓ Each year, an annual review document is made publicly available to indicate progress against each of the 186 actions in the Plan, completed by those organisations who have accepted responsibility for that action. This is the third review document for the second phase of the Plan (December 2023).
- ✓ Two other annual reviews are also produced each December. These can be found at <https://pollinators.ie/aipp-2021-2025/annual-reviews/>:
 - **Council partners: 2023 annual review.** This outlines the key actions taken by each Council partner in support of the AIPP.
 - **Business supporters: 2023 annual review.** This outlines the key actions taken by each company who has signed up as a business supporter of the AIPP.
- ✓ A publicly available online mapping system (Actions for Pollinators) allows all those who take pollinator-friendly actions to log their location and the action(s) taken. This tracks progress through the build-up of food, shelter and safety for pollinators in the landscape. The

biodiversity actions mapping system was developed by the National Biodiversity Data Centre and was released in spring 2017: <https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/>

- ✓ Most importantly, changes in the pollinators themselves will be monitored. This occurs through two citizen science monitoring schemes managed by the National Biodiversity Data Centre – All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme (established 2012) and Flower Insect Timed Counts (established 2019). The need for an additional island-wide monitoring scheme to underpin the AIPP has consistently been flagged. This should annually monitor all pollinators within a fixed network of randomly stratified sites across habitats. In 2021, DAFM and NPWS granted initial funding for this work in RoI. The project began in September 2021 and was rolled out as a National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme pilot in 2022. It is managed by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. The aim is to annually monitor a fixed network of 50 sites encompassing farmland, semi-natural sites, and urban parks. In 2020, Northern Ireland joined the UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme. Both schemes are compatible, allowing island-wide analyses in future years.

AIPP 2023 review

This document briefly outlines key progress in 2023. This is followed by a 2023 update against each of the 186 actions in the Plan, completed by the organisation who accepted responsibility for that action.

An accompanying two-page infographic has also been prepared to summarise key progress in 2023.

For each action, the respective partner was contacted and requested to provide a short update against their action for 2023. They were contacted twice by email. This was not policed. Where a 2023 update was not provided, this is stated. We thank the partners for their incredibly positive engagement with this process.

Key Progress in 2023

- ✓ While only at the end of year three of the second five-year Plan, we are already seeing very positive engagement and real commitment from all our partners. As outlined below, **89%** of the 186 actions in the Plan have been completed for this year or are currently in train.
- ✓ All 42 Councils across the island have now formally partnered with the AIPP and have committed to taking actions on the public lands they manage. Local Authorities have embraced the AIPP and are taking significant actions for pollinators and biodiversity, as evidenced in their 2023 annual review: All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (2023): *Council Partners - Annual Review*. Accessible at: <https://pollinators.ie/aipp-2021-2025/annual-reviews/>
- ✓ Good progress continues to be made with the farming sector. In this second phase, we have been able to engage much more widely with farming stakeholders. This year the Farmland Pollinator Officer launched a new awareness raising campaign – ‘Biodiversity on your Farm’ with one species being profiled each week (total of 40 species). We have also developed an online training module for farm advisors, which will be available in early 2024. The National Biodiversity Data Centre instigated an annual May ‘Festival of Farmland Biodiversity’ which launched in 2021 and is supported by the Farmland Pollinator Officer. A five-year research

project, 'Protecting Farmland Pollinators' managed by the Data Centre, has been completed (2019-2023). This was funded by DAFM through the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) programme. It has developed an evidence-based whole farm scoring system, that allows farmers to assess how pollinator friendly their farm is, and what simple actions could be taken to improve their score. This will be widely promoted going forward.

- ✓ Funded by DAFM and NPWS, a National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme was piloted in ROI in 2022. This scheme is managed by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. In 2023, 36 sites were again monitored across farmland, semi-natural sites, and urban parks. Each site was monitored five times for pollinating insects. The aim is to annually monitor a fixed network of 50 sites. Sites were also monitored in Northern Ireland in 2023, as part of the UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme. These schemes will provide important baseline data. Combined with existing citizen science initiatives (All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme and Flower-Insect Timed Counts), they will allow the impact of the AIPP to be fully assessed into the future.
- ✓ Local Communities continue to carry out inspiring work in support of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. The Local Authority Pollinator Award aims to encourage Tidy Towns groups in ROI to implement pollinator-friendly actions in their towns and villages as part of the Tidy Towns competition. It is coordinated and sponsored by the Heritage Offices and Biodiversity Offices of Local Authorities across Ireland, in partnership with the National Biodiversity Data Centre. To date more than 200 communities have become pollinator friendly through the award. Congratulations to the overall 2023 winner, Raheny Tidy Village Group in Dublin.
- ✓ The Business supporters network continues to thrive. Seventy-four new companies have joined in the past twelve months. In joining, companies commit to taking evidence-based actions for pollinators and reporting on their activities. This brought the total number of business supporters to just over 400. As of 2021, annual reporting plus mapping for Businesses is now mandatory. To maintain the integrity of the network, those who did not submit an update of their 2023 activities in support of the Plan have been removed from the list/website (they can reengage at any point). The adjustment is reflected in the overall figure for November 2023, which now stands at **316 business supporters**. These companies are all taking genuine actions for biodiversity.
- ✓ The first phase of the AIPP for 2015-2020 saw many resources published and made freely available online: 11 evidence-based guideline documents for different sectors and an additional 7 how-to-guides, as well as numerous flyers. In 2023 we published three new How-to guides: on creating and restoring meadows in local communities and gardens; on traditional orchards and fruit trees for pollinators on the farm, and on protecting nocturnal pollinators. We also published a guide to the pollinator-friendly management of solar farms, 'Top Ten Pollinator-friendly Plants for Different Situations', two new signs on meadows in English, bilingual, and editable versions for communities and councils. We released a new flyer on sensory gardens for pollinators, a poster for No Mow May, and an updated bookmark. We finalised updated versions of the guidelines for local communities & businesses, created new flyers on hedgerows, and a short booklet on ecological corridors. We have also collaborated

with the National Parks and Wildlife Service to produce a booklet celebrating semi-natural grasslands. Some of these newly produced resources are being held back for release in early 2024.

- ✓ Work on rare species continues to advance (Objective 5: Conserving rare pollinators). We now have three evidence-based guideline documents identifying actions to protect rare bee species (Northern Colletes, Large Carder Bee, Great Yellow Bumblebee).

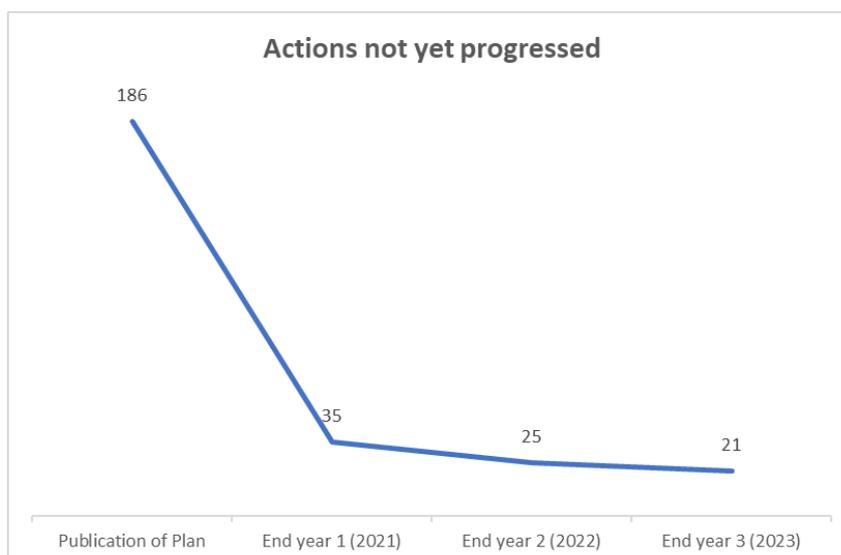
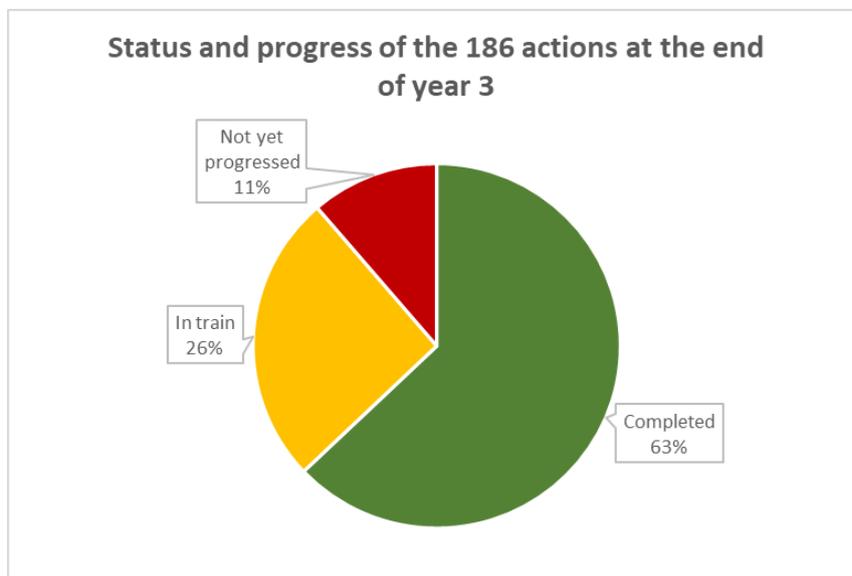
- ✓ 2023 has seen wide-scale promotion of the AIPP both nationally and internationally. We thank all those partners and initiatives who have helped raise the profile of the Plan this year. Particular thanks to An Post, who worked with the National Biodiversity Data Centre to develop a postcard to encourage 'No Mow May'. An Post distributed this postcard to 2.6 million households in the Republic of Ireland.

Actions completed end Year 3 (2023)

The second phase of the AIPP for 2021-2025 launched at the end of March 2021. Of the **186** actions in the Plan; 117 have been completed this year as agreed (63%), 48 are in train (26%) and 21 have not yet been progressed (11%). Some actions are discrete (once-off) while many are annually rolling actions. Many of those not yet progressed have a research component.

	Agreed action has taken place in 2023
	Action has been started and is in train
	Action not yet progressed

Progress towards delivery of all 186 actions in the AIPP 2021-2025:



Progress within each Objective at the of Year 3 is outlined below:



Objective 6 includes 18 research actions, many of which will be funding dependent.

Acknowledgements

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is a *shared plan of action*. It is about all of us coming together to try to create an island where pollinators can survive and thrive. On behalf of the Steering Group, we extend our thanks to all the partners involved in the Plan. Progress to date is entirely due to their support, goodwill, and enthusiasm. We also extend our enormous thanks to all those members of the public – whether in their garden, farm, park, school, local community, faith community or business property – who have expressed their support and engaged with the Plan in its first eight years.

ALL-IRELAND POLLINATOR PLAN 2021-2025: 186 ACTIONS TO HELP POLLINATORS REVIEW OF PROGRESS YEAR 3 (2023)

Updates under each of the 186 actions have been provided by the organisations responsible. Partners were contacted twice by email with a request to provide a short update on progress. This was not policed. The traffic light system to quickly show progress under each action has been added by the Steering Group. Some actions are discrete (once-off), but the majority are annually rolling actions. Where they have been completed for 2023 these are coded green.

	Agreed action has taken place in 2023
	Action has been started and is in train
	Action not yet progressed

OBJECTIVE 1: MAKING FARMLAND POLLINATOR FRIENDLY

Target 1.1 Increase the amount of farmland that is managed in a pollinator-friendly way

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023	
1	Incorporate relevant evidence-based pollinator-friendly actions and prescriptions into agricultural and agri-environment schemes in Republic of Ireland (RoI).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporation of pollinator conservation actions into agri-environment schemes Uptake by farmers 	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	Pollinators are accommodated in the new ACRES agri-environmental scheme through a results-based approach under the Cooperation Projects in High Priority Geographical Areas and through Targeted Actions in the ACRES General. This new €1.5 billion agri-environment scheme is a farmer-friendly scheme to help address biodiversity decline while delivering an income support for farms Ireland. There are currently approx. 45,000 participants. The ACRES General scheme has a wide range of targeted and general biodiversity actions which will benefit pollinators both directly and indirectly (approx. 27,000	

				<p>participants). The ACRES Co-operation approach is a results-based payment design which will reward farmers for farmland habitats which are in good condition and support biodiversity including pollinators (approx. 18,000 participants). Co-operation project areas will also be supported by farm and landscape actions to support target and support priority habitats and species in local areas.</p> <p>As part of the EIP funding stream under the Rural Development Programme, DAFM awarded €1,194,697 to the Protecting Farmland Pollinators EIP (2019-2023). The Pilot Project had 40 farmers signed up to a results-based payment scheme designed to roll-out evidence-based pollinator friendly actions on farms.</p>
2	Incorporate relevant evidence-based pollinator-friendly actions and prescriptions into existing agricultural and agri-environment schemes in Northern Ireland (NI).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporation of pollinator conservation actions into existing agri-environment schemes • Uptake by farmers 	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)	<p>The Environment Farming Scheme (EFS) first opened for applications in 2017. After six tranches, 57 agreements contained the 'Creation of Pollinator Margins – Annual Wildflower' option and 16 agreements contained the 'Creation of Pollinator Margins – Pollen and Nectar' option.</p> <p>Both options, aim to support pollinators.</p> <p>There is no further Tranches of EFS Wider, Tranche 7 opened for EFS Higher Agreements only.</p>
3	Encourage more organic farming (which has been shown to support more pollinators).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the Organic Farming Scheme 	DAFM	<p>As part of the Agri Food Strategy targets, DAFM has committed to 7.5% of utilisable agricultural area to be farmed organically by 2027, with a 10% target by 2030 under the Climate Action plan. In 2022 there were approximately 2,050 organic farmers in OFS (2% of</p>

				<p>UAA under organic production) and in 2023 there are approximately 4,050 farmers (4% of land under organic production). Under the CAP 2023 – 2027 there is a budgetary allocation of €256 m for the Organic Farming Scheme to incentivise and support organic farmers.</p>
4	<p>Establish a network of stakeholders, including agri-businesses who agree to manage their own farms or test sites in a pollinator-friendly way, e.g., DAFM, AFBI, individual agri-businesses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networks of sites identified • Progress reported annually • Sites used to develop case studies which are shared within the network 	<p>AIPP Farmland Officer</p>	<p>This network continues to be developed and will be further progressed in 2024. In the future, it will be linked to the tools being developed within the National Biodiversity Data Centre’s EIP project (2019-2023) on ‘Protecting Farmland Pollinators’. This project has created a simple system to establish a whole-farm pollinator score, based on the habitats present. This is linked to simple management actions to improve the score.</p> <p>Many agri-businesses are currently being supported through the AIPP business supporter’s framework (Action 89). These include companies like Aurivo Co-operative Society Ltd., Carbery Food Ingredients, Kepak, Kerry, McCormack Family Farms, and Pilgrim’s Food Masters. Around 80 agri-food companies are currently business supporters of the AIPP.</p>

Target 1.2 Encourage the sustainable use of agricultural pesticides (insecticides, fungicides, herbicides)

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023
5	Encourage the responsible and sustainable use of pesticides (insecticides, herbicides and fungicides) in RoI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through the National Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides, encourage farmers to minimise the impact of pesticides on pollinators 	DAFM	DAFM have issued guidance notes on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) which provides farmers with a tool to assist them make the most appropriate and environmentally suitable crop protection decisions. Additionally, DAFM a decision support document to support the responsible use of Plant Protection Products (PPP's) use in public, amenity and garden areas. DAFM has also corresponded with all Local Authorities, Distributors, Sports Associations and Leisure, Recreational and Amenity Facilities to help support them on the requirements for the use of PPP's. A template for carrying out a risk assessment for areas of non-agriculture for specific areas is also available on DAFM's website for quantifying the use of PPP's where their use is necessary. This document helps the user decide on whether intervention is necessary or not and if intervention is deemed necessary, it presents the options to solve the pest problem. Additional users, advisors, distributors, and inspectors continue to be trained which all assists in the responsible and safe use of pesticides.
6	Encourage the responsible and sustainable use of pesticides (insecticides, herbicides and fungicides) in NI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through the UK National Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides (Plant Protection Products) and DAERA Integrated Pest Management Guidance, encourage farmers to 	DAERA/Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI)	DAERA/AFBI: Ongoing work. AFBI projects emphasise integrated pest management for pest species with projects on leatherjackets and aphids. For example, use of a suction trap provides an alert for cereal growers as to aphid migration with the intent of avoiding prophylactic insecticide applications.

		<p>minimise the impact of pesticides on pollinators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the UK-wide Voluntary Initiative on Promoting Responsible Pesticide Use 	Ulster Farmers' Union (UFU)	<p>https://eservices.afbini.gov.uk/aphidmonitoring/cereal-aphid.html</p> <p>The recently finished European Innovation Partnership sought to determine an integrated pest management approach to leatherjacket management, emphasising the need for a multi-seasonal preventative strategy, rather than relying on an insecticidal 'cure'. This work was predominantly on pasture but has implications for biodiversity conservation at field margins.</p> <p>The UFU continue to support the UK-wide Voluntary Initiative on Promoting Responsible Pesticide Use.</p>
7	Summarise and publish annual trends in agricultural pesticide use across the island.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarised trends published for ROI • Summarised trends published for NI 	DAFM and AFBI	<p>DAFM: continues to conduct, with technical support from AFBI, pesticide usage surveys in ROI. The most recent reports can be found on DAFM's website at: https://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/sud/pesticidestatistics/</p> <p>Additionally, DAFM publishes the annual pesticide sales data which can be viewed using the same link above.</p> <p>AFBI: Pesticide usage reports are available at: https://www.afbini.gov.uk/articles/pesticide-usage-monitoring-surveys</p>

Target 1.3 Provide clear information and training on pollinators to the farming community

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023	
8	Establish an All-Ireland farming subgroup to advise and steer on pollinator actions for farmland from the farmers' perspective.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish the subgroup Group meeting at least annually, either in person or remotely 	AIPP Project Manager, supported by Farmland Officer	This small subgroup was established in 2021. It currently has 10 members from across farm types and includes members from both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. It has been agreed that the group will advise on one specific pollinator issue every 6 months (where necessary).	
9	Provide comprehensive and freely available online resources for the farming sector at	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up-to-date resources provided on the website To include: evidence-based guideline documents, flyers, videos, blogs, webinars, presentations, case studies, animations All 2015–2020 resources to be updated where necessary 	AIPP Farmland Officer	<p>This website is maintained at https://pollinators.ie/farmland/</p> <p>Two A5 flyers were published in 2023. One on species-rich grassland meadows on farmland and another on pollinator-friendly native trees. Other new resources developed are listed under Action 16.</p>	
10	Establish a knowledge exchange programme for farmers on protecting pollinators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge exchange programme developed and rolled out Farmer participation 	DAFM, Teagasc, College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE)	<p>DAFM: Currently under consideration. An online training module is being developed by the Farmland Pollinator Officer in collaboration with DAFM (this post is funded by DAFM).</p> <p>Teagasc:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40,000 farmer clients through Teagasc client publications (Newsletter and Today's Farm) 10,000 farmers will have undertaken the ACRES Biodiversity training course (ATS) delivered by Teagasc advisors in 2023 	

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers new to Derogation in 2023 undertook a Biodiversity module in Nitrates Derogation Course delivered by Teagasc advisors • Focus on pollinators and biodiversity at Teagasc National Events in 2023: Dairy (Moorepark); Sheep (Gurteen); Beef (Newford); Tillage (Oakpark) • Focus on pollinators and biodiversity at non Teagasc National events in 2023 including National Ploughing Championships; Bloom. • Teagasc organized Hedgerow Workshops with over 100 hedgerow stakeholders including CAFRE in Northern Ireland • Teagasc Hedgerow Week held in September 2023 expanded to incorporate The Heritage Council with a focus on Best Practice Hedge cutting • Biodiversity knowledge exchange to all 140,000 farmers, private advisors and the Agri-environment industry through national and regional print media, tv, radio, podcasts and webinars • Pollinators and Biodiversity featured in ten of the weekly Signpost webinars with 300-400 participants from the Agri Environment industry including AIPP and Pollinator EIP. • The Teagasc Biodiversity modules including pollinators (5 x half hour), one of the 5 Environmental Modules for DAFM FAS CPD continues to be a mandatory undertaking for new FAS (Farm Advisory Service) agricultural advisors. 	
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				<p>CAFRE: Farm management for pollinators is part of the CAFRE delivery to 400 farmers in the Environmental Business Development Groups. Hedgerow management to assist pollinators is part of an ongoing CAFRE information campaign.</p>
11	Agricultural colleges to support training and awareness-raising in RoI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of pollinator-friendly management within college sites as a teaching and awareness-raising tool • Incorporation of material on the identification and conservation of pollinators within relevant teaching programmes 	Teagasc	<p>Biodiversity Plans have been developed for Teagasc agricultural colleges with habitats identified and targets agreed to increase habits and improve biodiversity management practices as a resource for training and awareness-raising of biodiversity, including protecting pollinators. To be reviewed and amended annually.</p> <p>Annual hedge planting on the ten-year demonstration sites continued on Teagasc farms in spring 2023.</p>
12	Agricultural colleges to support training and awareness-raising in NI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of pollinator-friendly management within college sites as a teaching and awareness-raising tool • Incorporation of material on the identification and conservation of pollinators within relevant teaching programmes 	CAFRE	<p>CAFRE farm hedgerow management protocol is now in the 6th winter of a mixed hedge cutting & hedge sapling strategy designed to provide floral opportunity within each field or land block annually. 5 types of arable & grassland margins of use to pollinators are maintained with an ongoing volunteer butterfly monitoring transect to monitor the impact of the margins. Farm management for pollinators is part of the CAFRE Level 3 course.</p>
13	Farming organisations and agricultural networks to promote pollinator-friendly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner organisations to promote pollinator-friendly actions 	Ulster Farmers Union, Irish Organic Association, Organic	<p>Ulster Farmers Union: UFU has continued to promote farmland pollinator actions to members. Information and the Pollinator Farmland Guidance has been shared with members</p>

	actions to their members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those listed under responsibility agreed to this action at time of publication 	Trust, others to agree	<p>through the agricultural press, social media posts and the UFU e-bulletin. The Union published an article in May on farmland pollinators which was featured in the UFU Watch section of Farming Life and also referenced the importance of protecting pollinators in relation to hedges in an article in June also featured in Farming Life. The UFU ran a social media campaign with a particular focus on pollinators and their importance to agriculture on World Bee Day (20th May). Any new information or guidance that is produced by the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan project and is relevant to farmers/farming families is automatically shared with our members on social media and through the UFU e-bulletin.</p> <p>Irish Organic Association: As a partner organisation, the Irish Organic Association continues to promote the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and relevant actions. We do this primarily through informative articles in our magazine Organic Matters magazine which is published twice a year. We also promote the work of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, via our monthly e-newsletter which goes out to all Irish Organic Association member subscribers. Pollinator-friendly related actions are also promoted via our social media channels. Many of our members are practicing farming methods on their farms which enhance and encourage biodiversity. Members are also involved at a community level in a variety of projects and networks that seek to protect and promote our natural heritage. Our support for the</p>
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				<p>All-Ireland Pollinator Plan continues annually and we are delighted to work together to restore and enhance our natural capital. Although not directly to this specific action, the Irish Organic Association was actively engaged in the work of the Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity Loss (recommendations published in April 2023) through written and in-person contributions.</p> <p>Organic Trust: Organic Trust CLG remains committed to making the island of Ireland more pollinator-friendly and the objective of making farmland more pollinator friendly remains at the heart of the farming endeavors which we certify. We aim to ensure crop pollination, wild plant pollination and to continue to nurture the diversity of pollinators on our island as study after study confirms that maintaining pollinator diversity keeps agricultural systems and natural ecosystems resilient – co-dependant from a singularly positive perspective. In this respect the Organic Trust continues to promote pollinator-friendly actions to our members; stresses the importance of the Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 on our website and promotes the Plan to our members within our organic journal Clover and within our monthly E-Newsletter Organic Trust News. We have also addressed the issue of pollinator decline in several pieces of social media throughout 2023.</p>	
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				<p>Mutually beneficial endeavors are still being identified so that the pollinator-friendly actions we promote gain as wide an audience as possible so that the results of our efforts are both robust and effective. Our intention is that this will gain further traction over the life of the Plan. Going forward, we intend to continue our support of the AIPP through the numerous platforms available to us and to strongly encourage our members to actively engage with the proposals contained within the 186 actions of the 2021-2025 Pollinator Plan.</p>	
14	Publish a guideline document outlining evidence-based pollinator actions for forestry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of guidelines for forestry • Dissemination to all relevant bodies 	AIPP Farmland Officer and relevant partners	This guideline is in train. A first draft has been produced and we are currently engaging with others in the sector to get their input	
15	Publish a guideline document that links pollinator/biodiversity actions to their carbon/climate benefits on farmland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collation of all relevant research necessary for this document • Publication when a sufficient evidence base is in place 	AIPP Farmland Officer and relevant partners	This has not progressed yet. It is an active research area, and it has been decided to wait until a more complete evidence base is in place.	
16	Publish other new evidence-based pollinator guideline documents for the farming sector as necessary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate which guideline documents are required and prioritise a programme for their development. May include, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pollinator-friendly management of stud farms (equine industry) 	AIPP Farmland Officer and relevant partners	<p>This action is being progressed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A new how-to-guide on traditional farmland orchards was published in 2023. It was developed in collaboration with Irish Seed Savers and launched at the National Ploughing Championships by MoS Pippa Hackett. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integration of pollinator-friendly guidelines into the Agricultural Catchments Programme • - Development of pollinator-friendly guidelines for archaeological sites on farmland 		<p>https://pollinators.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/AIPP-Orchard-2023-PRINT-1.pdf</p> <p>An interactive learning module on actions to support farmland pollinators is in development. It is aimed at Agri-advisors and will be available in 2024.</p>	
17	Promote best practice in the use of imported bumblebee colonies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant organisations to disseminate the evidence-based guideline document: <i>Guidelines for users of imported bumblebee colonies</i> (AIPP, 2020) 	Teagasc, DAERA	The guidelines are promoted where relevant	
18	Promote the AIPP at key agricultural events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance at the National Ploughing Championship, ROI • Attendance at the Balmoral Show, NI • Attendance at other relevant agricultural events 	AIPP Farmland Officer	<p>The following key events were attended by the Farmland Officer in 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Attended and delivered pollinator and biodiversity information at Teagasc Newford Suckler Open Day, Athenry (23.4.23). Engaged with 200 farmers (estimate). ✓ Attended and contributed to a 2-day Teagasc/DAERA hedgerow workshop at Gurteen College and CAFRE Greenmount. ✓ Attended and delivered face-to-face engagement at Bord Bia Bloom (5.6.2023). ✓ Attended and delivered face-to-face engagement at Teagasc Oakpark, Crops and Cover crop cultivation (21.6.2023). Engaged with 200+ farmers (estimate). 	

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Attended and delivered face-to-face engagement pollinator and biodiversity information at Base Ireland 'Soil Dependence' day, Co Meath, 4.7.23. Engaged with 100 farmers (estimate). ✓ Supported and contributed the Teagasc and Heritage Council National Hedgerow Week. Attended and delivered face-to-face engagement at 2 events – Farm walk and machinery demonstration at Grange Research Centre, Co Meath and at Ballyhaise Agricultural College, Co Cavan. Engaged with 50-60 farmers (estimate). ✓ Attended the National Ploughing Championships. ✓ Support and attend launch (31.10.2023) of the NFGWS 'Orchards for Farmers' initiative, where 80 farmers in the mid Roscommon Group Water Scheme, will plant 5 heritage apples trees on their farm. ✓ Attended the Farming for Nature and Burrenbea Trust, Burren Winterage, 27 to 29.10. 2023. ✓ Attended the BioFarm23, Ireland's Biological Farming Conference, 7 – 8 November. <p>Also included, were the following knowledge exchange events to raise awareness of pollinators and the AIPP:</p>	
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Presented to the Teagasc signpost webinar series on 17/2/23, 'Actions for pollinators on farmland.' approx. 400 tuned in and now available online. ✓ Working with the Agri-business officer, presented farmland actions for pollinators and biodiversity on farmland, to a Bord Bia webinar for processors (24.4.23). Engagement estimate, 50+. ✓ Working with the Agri-business officer, presented actions for pollinators – 'Healthy hedgerows', to a Bord Bia webinar for processors (25.9.23). Engagement estimate, 50+.
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Target 1.4 Raise awareness and celebrate pollinator diversity on Irish farmland

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023
19	Investigate the potential for an All-Ireland farmland meadow competition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scoping study on a potential meadow competition to celebrate the diversity and importance of natural farmland meadows for pollinators/biodiversity • Should link to future agri-environment initiatives where appropriate • Should build on learning from the Save our Magnificent 	<p>Coordinated by AIPP Farmland Officer</p> <p>Needs a funding body/sponsor</p>	Work around this action has spring boarded ahead. In 2022, the NPWS launched a new project to celebrate Irish semi-natural grasslands called ' Great Irish Grasslands ' https://greatirishgrasslands.ie/ This has been supported by the National Biodiversity Data Centre, and addresses many of the progress measures identified under this action. It also creates a foundation to specifically celebrate farmland meadows in the future.

		<p>Meadows project in NI (2014–2017)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To include an investigation of the potential for a green hay exchange • To include an investigation into creating a future donor site map for wildflower seed collection for local restoration projects • If funding is sourced, this should be rolled out on a gradual scale as the first building block in creating a network of flower-rich meadows across farmland 		<p>In collaboration with NPWS, a first Grassland Trail booklet has been developed. It will launch in early 2024. In 2023, the AIPP Steering Group agreed that a ‘Grassland Trail’ would replace the ‘Pollinator Trail’ action (A32). The initial booklet will profile nine semi-natural grassland sites across public and private land. One farmland meadow is included within the initial nine sites. We intend to use this resource to generate interest, with the aim of creating a network of 100+ sites in future years.</p>
20	Investigate the potential for an annual May Hedgerow Festival.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scoping study on a potential Hedgerow Festival to celebrate the uniqueness and value of native hedgerows (Run in May when native hedgerows are in full flower) • Should include biodiversity as well as cultural components and bring in the wider community to celebrate and appreciate farmers as protectors of this vital habitat • Should stress the importance of hedgerows as networks for nature and for carbon capture • Should link with the Teagasc Hedgerow Week in September 	<p>Coordinated by AIPP Farmland Officer</p> <p>Needs a funding body/sponsor</p>	<p>Upon discussion, this action was changed into a wider initiative within the National Biodiversity Data Centre. The <i>Festival of Farmland Biodiversity</i> began in 2021 and will take place across May each year https://biodiversityireland.ie/farmlandbiodiversity/</p> <p>The hedgerow component of the wider Festival continues to be enhanced, in collaboration with key partners such as Teagasc.</p>

		<p>which promotes good hedgerow management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If funding is sourced, this should be rolled out on a gradual scale 		
21	Run a campaign to raise awareness and celebrate pollinator diversity on farmland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness-raising campaign rolled out. This to be largely social media based, but may also include newsletters, blogs, videos, etc. • This to be run in collaboration with an existing National Biodiversity Data Centre project: Protecting Farmland Pollinators EIP 2019-2023 (funded by DAFM through the European Innovation Partnership) 	National Biodiversity Data Centre	<p>This is now largely carried out through the Festival of Farmland Biodiversity (above).</p> <p>A total of 40 native species have been profiled in 2023 as part of a new initiative called 'Biodiversity on your farm'. Each week, the AIPP Farmland Officer helps farmers learn more about the species they are likely to find on their land. There is also a simple tip each week for managing your farm for biodiversity. These are shared on social media by the National Biodiversity Data Centre and DAFM. The 40 species profiled can be found here: https://biodiversityireland.ie/surveys/biodiversity-on-your-farm/</p> <p>Other awareness raising in 2023 by the Farmland Pollinator Officer included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A series of Agriland articles (agriland.ie): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'How can farmers help pollinators' (Jan) - 'Biodiversity on your Farm' project (April) - 'The value of meadows' (June) - 'Traditional orchards for pollinators' (Sept) ✓ Created a 'Hedgerow edition' for Hedgerow Week, 'In your Nature podcast' with Richy Whelan –In Your Nature Ep 41 - Hedgerows + Pollinators (buzzsprout.com)

Target 1.5 Track changes in pollinators on farmland

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023	
22	Publish an annual review of farmland actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of an annual review outlining progress within actions under this objective Publication on AIPP website each December 	Coordinated by AIPP Farmland Officer	This document provides a review of the farmland actions in 2023.	
23	Track progress within the farmland sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open up the online mapping system <i>Actions for Pollinators</i> to the farmland sector https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/ Number of farms logging their pollinator-friendly actions 	AIPP Farmland Officer	This has not yet taken place. Considerations are still being given on how best to open up the mapping system to farmers and how best to integrate with the findings of the 'Protecting Farmland Pollinators' EIP project, run by the National Biodiversity Data Centre (2019-2023). An online tool was tested within the EIP project in 2023. It will enable farmers to generate a score indicating how pollinator friendly their farm is.	
24	Monitor pollinators across a network of farmland sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the framework necessary for a national pollinator monitoring scheme to include sites across farmland, public and protected land. This should be in line with the European Pollinator Monitoring Scheme recommendations (2020) Source funding and roll out this scheme to monitor pollinators across a network of farmland sites 	National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme requires funding	In 2021, DAFM and NPWS granted initial funding for this scheme which is being managed by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. The project began in September 2021 and was rolled out as a National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme pilot in 2022. A total of 36 sites were monitored across farmland, semi-natural sites, and urban parks. Of these, 17 sites were on farmland, 15 are semi-natural sites and 4 are urban parks. These sites were again monitored in 2023, and the hope is to increase the number of sites in the network to 50 in coming years.	

25	Publish annual farmland pollinator index.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the annual data from a National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme, publish annual trends as a farmland pollinator index 	National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme	This index cannot be developed until data begins annually feeding through from the National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme (Action 24 above).	
26	Develop a Citizen Science recording scheme for farmland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the possibility of creating a simple, tailored Citizen Science scheme for farmers to enable them to track changes in common pollinators on their land Pending funding, roll out this scheme nationally 	AIPP Farmland Officer & National Biodiversity Data Centre, Centre for Environmental Data and Recording NI (CEDaR)	<p>Forty native species have been profiled in 2023 as part of a new initiative called ‘Biodiversity on your farm’ (Action 21). Each week, the AIPP Farmland Officer helps farmers learn more about the species they are likely to find on their land, and they are encouraged to submit sightings. The scheme will be reviewed in 2024 to assess levels of interest, and whether it could generate useful citizen science data in the future.</p> <p>In 2022, the National Biodiversity Data Centre piloted a farmer moth monitoring EIP project. Twenty farmers from Kildare and neighboring counties were able to independently operate moth traps and successfully monitor moths on their farms. It was repeated with a second group of farmers in Co Donegal in 2023. This project has shown the general interest and willingness of farmers to engage in and contribute to citizen science. It paves the way for a nationwide and longer-term monitoring scheme whereby the distributions and populational trends of moths on Irish farmland can be accurately monitored. Moths are important nocturnal pollinators.</p>	

OBJECTIVE 2: MAKING PUBLIC LAND POLLINATOR FRIENDLY

Target 2.1 Increase the area of Council land that is managed in a pollinator-friendly way

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023	
27	Increase the number of Councils who formally agree to partner with the Plan and take actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ There are 31 Local Authorities in ROI and 11 in NI. Target of 90% of all Councils formally signed up as partners of the Plan by 2025. 	AIPP Communities Officer	All 42 Councils across the island have now formally partnered with the Plan.	
28	Support relevant sections of Councils to engage with and implement the AIPP. Ensure the AIPP is integrated within relevant Local Authority policy instruments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Plan promoted to relevant sections within Councils, e.g. Environment, Local Enterprise Offices, Parks Dept, Engineers, Strategic Policy Committees (SPC), Public Participation Networks (PPNs), etc. ✓ Integration of the Plan within relevant policy instruments, e.g. County Heritage Plans, County Biodiversity Plans, County Development Plans, Local Economic and Community Plans, Climate Adaptation Plans, etc. 	Coordinated by Heritage and Biodiversity Officer network; Environment Departments	The Heritage and Biodiversity Officer network continue to support Councils in engaging with the AIPP and in integrating pollinator actions within the relevant policy frameworks.	
29	Provide comprehensive and freely available online resources for the Council sector at	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Up-to-date resources provided on the website. To include: evidence-based guideline documents, flyers, videos, blogs, webinars, 	AIPP Communities Officer	<p>This website is continually updated as new resources are developed: https://pollinators.ie/councils/</p> <p>An update of the evidence-based guidelines for Councils is in development and will be published in</p>	

	www.pollinators.ie/councils	<p>presentations, case studies, animations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All 2015–2020 resources to be updated where necessary in consultation with Councils ✓ Council toolkit to be continually expanded to meet needs under the advice of the Heritage and Biodiversity Officer networks. May include, but not limited to: technical guidelines on meadow management, grass disposal, advice on pesticide alternatives, advice on new emerging technologies. ✓ Promote new and innovative ways for Councils to engage with the AIPP, e.g. Promotion of the successful <i>Midleton Pollinator Plan 2020</i> (Cork CoCo) 		<p>2024. A guide on the management of meadows, specifically for Councils, is also in preparation. Both will be released at a Council knowledge exchange conference in Dublin in June 2024. This is being organised in collaboration with South Dublin County Council.</p> <p>Each Council partner is asked to provide a short update of activities to feed into the Council partner’s annual review document. It is published in parallel to this main AIPP Annual Review. The Council partners annual review is used to highlight the positive actions taking place across Local Authorities, but also to assist with knowledge exchange. <i>Council Partners: Annual Review 2023</i> https://pollinators.ie/aipp-2021-2025/annual-reviews/</p>	
30	Provide an ongoing knowledge exchange programme for Council staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Organise annual knowledge exchange event for Council partners ✓ Continue to develop blogs, case studies and newsletters ✓ Training provided to Council staff 	AIPP Communities Officer	<p>In 2023, the Council knowledge exchange event (scheduled to take place in Monaghan in May) was cancelled due to low booking numbers in spring. Postponing made sense, given the flux around new biodiversity officer appointments, as well as new resources that are in development for Councils. The 2024 event will be held centrally to attract as large an audience as possible. It will take place on the 13th June 2024 at the Civic Theatre in Tallaght, and is being</p>	

				<p>organised in collaboration with South Dublin County Council.</p> <p>We have continued to share blogs across 2023 to encourage knowledge exchange e.g., https://pollinators.ie/managing-urban-parks-for-pollinators-and-people/</p>
31	<p>Increase the number of Regional Assemblies who agree to partner with the Plan and support implementation within local government, where appropriate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are three Regional Assemblies in Rol. Each to be approached on supporting the objectives of the AIPP 2021-2025. • Each has a 12 year Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) (made in 2019/2020) containing Regional Planning Objectives (RPOs). These to support implementation of the AIPP 2021-2025 (and vice versa), where appropriate. • Each participates in EU projects which involve sectoral, local, regional and international engagement activities. Where thematically relevant, these to promote the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (e.g. the Interreg Europe PROGRESS project on which the Eastern and Midland 	<p>The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly, others to agree</p>	<p>The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSES) for the three Regional Assemblies promote the aims of the AIPP. The RSES for the North Western Region includes an overarching Environmental Regional Policy Objective for the AIPP as follows: No 2: The Assembly supports the implementation of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.</p> <p>For the Southern Region the strategy includes the following Regional Policy Objective: RPO 128: It is an objective to support the implementation of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-20. Local authorities should incorporate the actions of this Plan when managing their parks, open spaces, roadside verges and all vegetation in a way that provides more opportunities for biodiversity, while being cognisant of the threat of the spread of invasive species.</p> <p>More engagement with the Regional Assemblies is planned for 2024. To date, the most direct engagement has been with EMRA, who have provided an update on their support below.</p>

		Regional Assembly is a partner)		<p>EMRA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMRA has continued to engage with the AIPP team and actively promote the AIPP across regional and international networks. • In November 2022, EMRA facilitated contact between Úna Fitzpatrick and the Horizon 2020 T-Factor project in the production of a podcast on the topic of pollinators. • In 2023, through the Interreg Europe PROGRESS project, EMRA contributed to the development of a number of policy briefs and infographics which feature the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, including “how to” recommendations drawn from the AIPP and its framework. The full range of resources is available on the project website. • By invitation from EMRA, Ms. Bridget Loughlin, Heritage Officer, Kildare County Council participated in a panel session on understanding the need for, and challenges related to the implementation of regional/local pollinator plans at the final event of the Interreg Europe PROGRESS project which took place in Barcelona on March 23rd 2023. Ms. Loughlin outlined the 	
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				<p>experience of Kildare County Council as a partner to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In April 2023, EMRA engaged with the Oireachtas Parliamentary Research Service in relation to engagement around the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. • In June 2023, by invitation from EMRA and in the context of the PROGRESS project, South Dublin County Council participated in an in-person peer review on nature recovery, biodiversity and pollinators for Norfolk County Council issued by Interreg Europe. • Also in June 2023, the EMRA Director shared the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan with the Steering Committee of the Environmental Conference of the Regions of Europe (ENCORE) as a successful action for biodiversity to solve problems of sustainability at a large scale at their meeting in Pilsen, Czech Republic.
32	Develop an All-Ireland 'Pollinator Trail' across public land, composed of a network of sites demonstrating high quality pollinator/biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AIPP to develop criteria for the initiative • Local Authorities to identify suitable publicly owned sites to form part of a trail. • Begin process of developing an All-Ireland network of high-quality sites across different 	<p>Coordinated by Heritage and Biodiversity Officer network and AIPP Communities Officer</p> <p>Requires resources for branding</p>	<p>Following discussions with the Steering Group in 2023, it was decided to change this action slightly. Instead of developing a 'Pollinator Trail' we will work with partners to develop a 'Grassland Trail'.</p> <p>Collaboration with NPWS that began in 2022, has led to a new project to celebrate Irish semi-natural</p>

	-friendly management.	<p>pollinator-friendly actions (meadows, hedgerows, orchards, perennial planting, etc.) that are branded and promoted as a Pollinator Trail and used for knowledge transfer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin with Council sites, but develop a roadmap to expand this to other sectors, e.g. local community examples • Discuss with relevant bodies how this network can be fully promoted to maximise the positive potential for human health and wellbeing and as a tourism initiative • Increase in the number of sites within the Trail 		<p>grasslands called 'Great Irish Grasslands' https://greatirishgrasslands.ie/</p> <p>Within this initiative, we are working to develop a 'Grassland Trail' to identify and promote excellent examples of semi-natural grassland meadows, across public and private land. As meadow sites form the bedrock of important areas for pollinators as well as wider biodiversity, it was decided that this was a more strategic action.</p> <p>The first phase of the initiative has been completed in late 2023, and a booklet has been produced by the NPWS and the National Biodiversity Data Centre. It celebrates nine grassland sites. The plan is to increase the number of sites in coming years, to ultimately create a wide network across the island. It will help celebrate this important habitat and provide opportunities for knowledge exchange on correct management.</p>
33	Encourage the development of 'Pollinator-friendly Parks' on public land, i.e. parks that demonstrate a wide range of pollinator-friendly actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AIPP to provide 'Pollinator-friendly Parks' criteria, including a template of features and minimum standards, e.g. small natural meadow, pollinator-friendly planting, nesting habitats, no pesticide use, mini orchard • Local Authorities to identify suitable areas to be managed/developed as 'Pollinator-friendly Parks' 	Coordinated by Heritage and Biodiversity Officer network, other relevant sections of Councils & AIPP Communities Officer	This has not yet been progressed. It is planned for the first half of 2024.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webpage and branding developed by AIPP to promote the location of these parks • AIPP to provide standardised signage templates for various park features and on pollinating insects • AIPP to develop associated materials and make freely available online: lesson plans and activities for school nature talks; health and wellbeing resources etc. • Where new areas are being developed, Councils to be encouraged to consider locating them within easy reach of schools in socio-economically disadvantaged areas. 			
34	Promote pollinator awards for Council-owned/managed land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to promote and support the pollinator award in the An Taisce Green Flag for Parks initiative in ROI • Investigate the possibility of an equivalent award in the Green Flags for Parks initiative in NI • Investigate existing award structures and the potential to have an annual award to recognize the most pollinator-friendly Council. (ROI and NI) 	An Taisce, AIPP Communities Officer, other partners as relevant	<p>Republic of Ireland:</p> <p>The An Taisce Green Flag for Parks initiative in ROI again included a special pollinator award in 2023. Thanks to Young Nurseries who sponsor the award. Eleven parks entered in 2023, with the standard being extremely high across the board. The three category winners were:</p> <p><i>Country Park:</i> Castletown House & Parklands, Co. Kildare (OPW)</p> <p><i>Town Park:</i> Tralee Bay Wetlands Eco & Activity Park, Co. Kerry</p>	

				<p><i>Community Garden:</i> Ballyglunin Station, Co. Galway</p> <p>The overall winner in the 2023 competition was Tralee Bay Wetlands Eco & Activity Park</p> <p>Three further parks were highly commended for their work: Tymon Park in South Dublin, Ballycroy Visitor Centre, Wild Nephin National Park in Co. Mayo, and St. Anne’s Park in Dublin City.</p> <p>https://pollinators.ie/an-taisce-announces-2023-green-flag-pollinator-awards/</p> <p>Northern Ireland</p> <p>An equivalent pollinator award in the Green Flags for Parks initiative in NI was launched in 2022. This is run by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful.</p>
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Target 2.2 Make transport corridors more pollinator friendly

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023
35	Provide comprehensive and freely available online resources for Transport Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up-to-date resources provided on AIPP website To include: evidence-based guideline documents, flyers, videos, blogs, webinars, 	AIPP Communities Officer	<p>This webpage is kept up to date https://pollinators.ie/transportcorridors/</p> <p>New resources have not been added in 2023</p>

		<p>presentations, case studies, animations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All 2015-2020 resources to be updated where necessary ✓ Toolkit to be expanded to meet needs, under the advice of Transport Authority partners. 			
36	TII to promote pollinator-friendly management of the national road network in RoI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of grassland management and pollinator-friendly planting across all existing motorway service areas • Grass-cutting frequency to move from condition-based maintenance to a specified programme, i.e. reduced number of cuts per year • All new roadside planting to have a significant proportion of 	Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ TII launched in October 2023 their Biodiversity Plan. In this document, under objective 5 a short-term aim is to <i>'Implement actions detailed for TII in the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan guidance document 'Pollinator - Friendly Management of Transport Corridors'.</i> Biodiversity Plan.pdf (tii.ie) ✓ TII launched in October 2023 their Landscape Plan. The results of the implementation of the AIPP guides actions is referenced in this. <i>'Past and current landscape trials, including changed mowing regimes to benefit pollinators, allow informed landscape management decision be made with known benefits and consequences.</i> Landscape Plan.pdf (tii.ie) ✓ The areas of motorway networks under TII's direct responsibility continue to delay the first cut to mid-April and reduce mowing to a 6-week regime. After 3 years of this new regime, we continue to see a wide range of wildflowers emerging. Trials are being carried out to further implement the aims of the AIPP with reduced mowing on selected medians. ✓ The AIPP guide for Transport Corridors continues to be a required reference for all TII landscape schemes. 	

		<p>pollinator-friendly plants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of pollinator-friendly management mapped on GIS • Reduction in the use of pesticides on the network • Control and manage the spread of invasive plant species. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ TII are developing a soft landscape standard due to be published Q1 2024 for National roads, where the AIPP pollinators guide is listed as a required design doc to be reviewed when designing TII Landscapes. The document will give guidance on the design and management of transport corridor landscape with a focus on biodiversity. ✓ A checklist for Greenways in being developed with the AIPP. ✓ TII published in August 2022 a Rural Cycleway Design Guide where there is text and images references to the AIPP. <i>Efforts should extend to sensitively and beneficially integrating rural cycleways into the environmental context and landscape. In this regard, reference may be had to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and related guidance relating to pollinator friendly management of transport corridors.</i> DN-GEO-03047 (tiipublications.ie) ✓ Mapping of Pollinator areas is linked to a general landscape mapping strategy which is still being progressed by TII and its motorway contractors. ✓ The Luas Light Rail Operators, Transdev, are trailing pollinator planted areas on selected landscape areas along the Green Luas Line and at tram depots. ✓ TII are continuing with its programme of invasive plant control. ✓ Key Motorway Service areas continue to manage their motorway services areas in line with the AIPP.
37	Department for Infrastructure NI to promote	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review DfI Roads' environmental policies to promote 	Department for Infrastructure NI	DfI has revised its policy on roadside verge management (grass cutting), placing a greater emphasis on environmental protection and enhancement. The new policy means less

	<p>pollinator-friendly management of the national road network in NI.</p>	<p>pollinator-friendly practices and to encourage their inclusion on road schemes, where practicable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the outputs from the ‘Don’t mow, let it grow’ pilot project to determine if grass-cutting policy could be changed to help improve the available biodiversity resource • Design of roadside planting on Strategic Road Projects to incorporate pollinator-friendly plants • Areas of pollinator-friendly management to be identified and recorded • Consider alternatives to the use of pesticides on the network 		<p>grass will be cut in order to increase the environmental value of road verges by promoting rewilding and improving the available biodiversity resource. DfI is working with local Councils to further increase the number of ‘Don’t Mow Let it Grow’ sites and take forward biodiversity enhancement projects on the Northern Ireland road network to promote pollinator friendly management of our soft estate. The policy was reviewed and introduced with support from Ulster Wildlife. A copy of the policy can be found using the following link:</p> <p>https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/infrastructure/verge-management-%28grass-cutting%29-dem-193-22.pdf</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to control and manage the spread of invasive plant species 		
38	Iarnród Éireann to promote pollinator-friendly management of the national rail network in RoI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of grassland management and pollinator-friendly planting across all stations • Grass-cutting frequency to move from condition-based maintenance to a specified programme, i.e. reduced number of cuts per year • All new landscaping planting specifications to incorporate AIPP pollinator-friendly planting code • Areas of pollinator-friendly management mapped on GIS • Reduction in the use of pesticides on the network. Commit to 	Iarnród Éireann	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A total of 50 stations will have been planted by the end of 2023 with the database being updated to reflect this. There are ongoing discussions to ensure the target of all stations (145) across the network adopt pollinator plans by 2030 ensuring this can be achieved in a structured way with a goal of completing 20 stations per year. ✓ Earlier in the year the landscaping contract for the Inchicore Depot was renewed with a greater focus on sustainability and pollinator initiatives ensuring these are implemented throughout with a supporting document highlighting the pollinator plan and resources which can be accessed and reviewed. Initiatives such as replacing annuals with more pollinator friendly perennials is being carried out as well as reducing the frequency of grass cutting in areas. Ongoing discussion is required with the newly appointed contractor to identify further areas where Biodiversity and Pollinators can be supported. ✓ There has been great success in the trial of the alternatives to chemical-based weed control with the system now being used across the network in stations and platforms. There are on-going investigations into trialling the boiling foam system on invasive species to determine if it would be suitable in their treatment

		<p>trialing alternatives to glyphosate in station carparks and platforms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control and manage the spread of invasive plant species • Creation of pollinator-friendly habitat on non-operational lands 		<p>and eventual eradication. If successful, this would also help in reducing the usage of pesticides along the rail network.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A new project is being devised to update IÉ's internal GIS mapping system to highlight areas of high ecological value to ensure better management of these sites as well as identifying areas to improve sites for Biodiversity. ✓ The treatment and monitoring of invasive species is still ongoing throughout the network with further technical standards published to reflect additional species of concern to ensure continued staff awareness on identification and best practice regarding treatment is followed.
39	Translink to promote pollinator-friendly management of the national public transport network in NI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the message of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025, and associated guidelines across Translink, stakeholders and contractors • Ensure increasing pollinators is a key facet within the proposed new Translink Biodiversity Strategy – including the improvement of 	Translink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ We have drafted our new 6-year Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. 'Positive Action for Pollinators' forms one of the strategy's 5 central themes, working towards the following target: By 2025, implement and deliver pollinator recording initiatives along our transport corridors, and by 2030 set aside at least 10% of our adjacent landholdings for habitat management practices. Our pollinator theme has 5 priority actions, working alongside partner eNGOs. ✓ We have started to implement a systematic and repeatable annual pollinator monitoring programme (FIT counts) targeting a fixed network of sites, encompassing stations along the Belfast to Bangor rail line during summer 2023. This will provide baseline

		<p>grassland management and pollinator-friendly planting across the Translink estate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a suite of Translink Biodiversity Information sheets focused on pollinators • All new landscaping planting specifications to incorporate AIPP pollinator-friendly planting code • Areas of pollinator-friendly management mapped on GIS • Continue to work in partnership with employees, contractors, local communities, and environmental NGOs to promote pollinator-friendly planting. 		<p>results and will be extended to our other stations in 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ We continue to sponsor Ulster in Bloom awards. We have undertaken an initial review of the station criteria, moving towards pollinator-friendly, more sustainable perennial planting. ✓ At our Lisburn project, Dagger Wood, a total of 14,450 native saplings were planted in late 2022/early 2023 consisting of 8 species of native tree (Scots pine, Alder, Downy birch, Silver birch, Pedunculate oak, Rowan, Cherry and Hazel). 	
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40	Waterways Ireland to promote pollinator-friendly management of the national waterway towpath network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the message of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 within Waterways Ireland and with stakeholders. • Continued rollout of biodiversity-rich grassland management as standalone and through community partnerships. • Grass-cutting frequency to favour pollinators, i.e. reduced number of cuts per year. • Areas of pollinator-friendly management mapped on the AIPP GIS. • Control and manage the spread of invasive plant species. • Continue to ensure biodiversity and pollinator actions are 	Waterways Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Waterways Ireland, as partners to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, place significant focus and resources in the promotion of pollinators through augmented management practices. In 2023 we undertook the following: ✓ Continued to manage a number of sites including Daingean, Clonony, Pollagh, Ticknevin, Dolphins Barn, Meelick, Victoria Lock, Ballinasloe and at our Western Regional offices in Scarriff and our HQ in Enniskillen. ✓ In 2023, additional measures to support pollinators were implemented at the Scariff offices with the establishment of a heritage orchard on the grounds. ✓ A biodiversity enhancement project was completed at Ferns Lock, Royal Canal, Co. Kildare including the establishment of a new pollinator friendly area adjacent the Lock which will be maintained according to a pollinator friendly mowing regime. This also included planting of 50m of native hedging and fruit trees. ✓ Pollinator friendly management is applied throughout the majority of our towpaths and trackways outside the immediate path edge which ensures integrity of path surface with biodiversity management outside this zone. ✓ Waterways Ireland continued to operate 11 battery operated eWeedhex units in 2023 which is herbicide-free and removes the weed, earth and seed content. Being herbicide free means it is not entering our waterways, impacting non-target plants and impacting wildlife, especially pollinators. Also, as battery operated units, they have zero GHG emissions.
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		<p>core elements of the new Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan 2030.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support grant applications that support biodiversity. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ We continue to cosponsor and adjudicate this Tidy Towns Special Award which recognises and rewards the invaluable contribution of the voluntary sector. ✓ Waterways Ireland continues to promote the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan on its social media. ✓ We continued our Service Level Agreement with Kildare County Council and other local authorities to jointly fund research into herbicide free methods of weed control, which will help support pollinators. ✓ Monitoring and management of invasive species (both terrestrial and aquatic) is a core aspect of our work in Waterways Ireland, to ensure the continued ecological health of our waterways. We also sit on the National Invasive Species Action Group being coordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. ✓ In 2023 the Heritage Plan Community Grant Scheme continued to support a wide range of heritage initiatives, including projects focused solely on the protection and/or promotion of biodiversity.
41	Promote pollinator-friendly management of future transport routes, e.g. future greenway cycle routes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guideline document (<i>Pollinator-friendly management of Transport Corridors 2019</i>) to be applied to new projects as relevant, e.g., MetroLink and all future light rail projects • Continue to reach out to new partners 	AIPP Communities Officer and relevant partners	It has been agreed that the Transport guidelines will be updated to include a new section on Greenways. This is in progress and should be available in the first half of 2024.

		<p>and to promote the adoption of the guideline document for new transport routes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop additional resources around pollinator-friendly management of greenways and new cycle routes 			
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Target 2.3 Make schools and educational properties more pollinator friendly

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023	
42	Provide comprehensive and freely available online resources for Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up-to-date resources provided on the website. To include: evidence-based guideline documents, flyers, videos, blogs, webinars, presentations, case studies, animations, etc. ✓ All 2015–2020 resources to be updated where necessary. 	AIPP Communities Officer	<p>This webpage is kept up to date: https://pollinators.ie/schools/</p> <p>It contains comprehensive resources for teachers and pupils. New resources have not been added in 2023.</p> <p>It is our intention to explore developing an online interactive training module for schools with the Department of Education in ROI in 2024. It would be aimed at school caretakers and grounds staff to encourage management changes to better support biodiversity.</p>	
43	Green-Schools to encourage pollinator-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollinators to continue to be promoted within the Green-Schools Initiative 	Green-Schools	The Green-Schools 'biodiversity team' have continued to make support materials and new resources for schools, with specific links to pollinators. These have	

	friendly management of schools in RoI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the numbers of students, teachers, principals and caretakers exposed to pollinator information • Investigate the possibility of schools being awarded a pollinator award upon production and implementation of a School Pollinator Plan. 		<p>all contained information on the AIPP and links to www.pollinators.ie</p> <p>In May 2023, during Biodiversity Week, Green Schools allocated one day as “Pollinator Day”. We hosted a Pollinator Webinar with Kate Chandler, Communities & Engagement Pollinator Officer. 22 school classes attended this webinar with a further 49 classes watching the recording in the following weeks. We also made a “Pollinator Information Card” available to schools which promoted pollinator friendly actions including carrying out a FIT count and setting up a bumblebee monitoring scheme. Over 350 classes engaged with this resource.</p> <p>Green-Schools’ annual Autumn Seminars for the themes of ‘Biodiversity’ and ‘Food and Biodiversity’ included information on pollinators, and links and resources for creating a school ‘Pollinator Action Plan’. 195 teachers, each representing their respective school, attended this training in October 2023.</p>
44	Eco-Schools to encourage pollinator-friendly management of schools in NI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollinators to continue to be promoted within the Eco-Schools Initiative • Increase in the numbers of students, teachers, principals and caretakers exposed to pollinator information • Investigate the possibility of schools being awarded a pollinator award upon 	Eco-Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Biodiversity gardens installed in a further 23 primary schools across Northern Ireland with apple, pear, plum, blackberry, blackcurrant, raspberry, strawberry, blueberry bushes and trees funded by Radius Housing. ✓ Assisted 23 schools in establishing meadow areas.

		<p>production and implementation of a School Pollinator Plan.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 23 schools received a bird box, a bat box and a bug hotel as part of Radius biodiversity garden project. ✓ Orchard planting followed by harvest workshops, where students are taught how to care for plants over winter. Also supported by workshops on biodiversity, site selection, organic gardening practices, composting, healthy eating, taking cuttings, etc. ✓ Online workshop delivered before orchard planting. Workshops also include suggestions for signage with “No Mow” and “No spray” messaging and students make their own signage to display. ✓ Hedgerow Heroes project funded by Moy Park. 11 x schools selected in Oct 2023. Each school will receive a native 20m hedgerow and three workshops to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workshop on tree identification - Native hedge planting workshop (660m of new hedgerow to be planted across NI) - Workshop on birds and pollinators ✓ Discussions ongoing regarding creation of an online nature literacy training programme in partnership with the Field Studies Council. ✓ Schools Pollinator Award scale and ambition – discussions ongoing – important for case 	
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				<p>studies considering the pollinator grant schemes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Trocaire have funded the development of windowsill gardening guides and powerpoints, which were promoted on social media in spring 2023 and are accessible to all.
45	<p>Run a 'Pitches for pollinators' summer campaign to leave school pitches unmown during the summer holidays to provide food for pollinators.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaign to leave unused school pitches unmown from the end of June until mid-August to allow clovers to flower and provide food for pollinators. • Where used, encourage pitch edges to be left unmown for pollinators • Promote this campaign to schools, to include full details on what is being proposed • Increase in the number of schools taking part. 	<p>AIPP Communities Officer</p>	<p>The Pitches for Pollinators campaign ran once again in the school summer holidays of 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A latest news post was shared on the website, and Pitches for Pollinators graphics were shared on social media. ✓ On Twitter, the Pitches for Pollinators post was the top tweet in June, and the third highest performing post on Instagram. ✓ Pitches for Pollinators received good social media engagement in 2023 from other accounts, with independent posts by Limerick City & County Council, and photos of pitches from schools engaging in the campaign. ✓ The AIPP Communities Officer promoted Pitches for Pollinators in two online talks for schools in 2023.
46	<p>Green-Campus to encourage pollinator-friendly management of third level campuses across the island.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase number of third level campuses who have signed up as supporters of the AIPP and agreed to take actions 	<p>Green-Campus</p>	<p>The Green-Campus programme has highlighted the All-Ireland Pollinator via its guidance documents, website, events and blog. We have continued to encourage campuses to sign up to and engage with the plan during our assessment visits and feedback.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the possibility of a 'most pollinator-friendly campus' annual award. 			
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Target 2.4 Organisations with site networks on public land to manage these in a pollinator-friendly way

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023	
47	Maintain a network of partner organisations who agree to manage their public site networks in a pollinator-friendly way.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Each organisation to provide a short annual update on activities as part of annual reporting in December ✓ Facilitate knowledge exchange between groups as appropriate. ✓ Expand the network to bring in new partners where possible 	AIPP Communities Officer	<p>A network has been established (annual reports below). The intention is that we will better facilitate knowledge exchange in future years.</p> <p>Methodology for Biodiversity Net Gain is currently being developed in Ireland (due 2024). We have decided to coordinate knowledge exchange after this is published.</p>	
48	BirdWatch Ireland to adopt pollinator-friendly management within their reserves, where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake monitoring through the Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme at key reserves • Maintain habitats for nesting bees • Incorporate pollinators into reserve management plans (where appropriate and when reviewed) ✓ Support pollinator policy and advocacy work where appropriate through 	BirdWatch Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Monitoring, through the Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme, has continued to be carried out on some of our reserves in 2023. At our Annagh & Termoncarragh Meadows reserves, Co Mayo, nine different true bumblebee species were recorded, including Great Yellow, Red Shanked Carder and Large Carder along with their active nests. Bumblebee numbers, especially those of Great Yellow Bumblebees, were affected by the weather conditions throughout the summer; August usually sees peak numbers 	

		developing and strengthening integrated biodiversity policies and actions.		<p>but only 5 individual Great Yellow Bumblebees were recorded during the August transect (cf 75 individuals in 2022) due to the key foraging plants going to seed earlier than normal presumably in response to the dry conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Habitats for pollinators are maintained on our lands through a variety of management including applying autumn mowing regimes, reducing soil fertility to increase flowering plant diversity, maintaining open structure grass swards, maintaining earthen wall boundaries and retaining areas of ‘tussock’ grass overwinter. ✓ BirdWatch Ireland continues to advocate for pollinators and their ecological requirements in relevant policy documents where appropriate.
49	Bord na Móna to adopt pollinator-friendly management across site network, where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of potential pollinator-friendly habitats on cutaway bogs • Maintain pollinator actions within BnM Biodiversity Action Plans. • Number of participating sites 	Bord na Móna (BnM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Bog restoration and rehabilitation measures have now been implemented across >30 BnM PCAS sites between 2021 and 2023 to encourage re-wetting and development of wet peatland habitats. Over 15,300 hectares have been completed to date (October 2023). Re-vegetating these areas will be positive for some pollinating insects by providing new habitat over the longer term. ✓ Pollinator friendly habitats (e.g. pioneer species-rich grassland) continue to be mapped

				<p>as part of ongoing baseline establishment and monitoring surveys.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Butterflies were monitored on 14 sites (vis bespoke transects) in 2023 as part of the wider PCAS monitoring programme. These surveys continue to identify sites of high pollinator value. ✓ Up to 17 species of butterfly have been recorded as part of recent scheme surveys. New Marsh Fritillary sites were recorded or documented at Clynan and Finnermores Bogs. Narrow-bordered Bee Hawkmoth, Painted lady and Green hairstreak were also recorded for the first time at Clynon Bog. Dingy Skipper was recorded for the first time at Castlegar and Oughter Bogs. Hummingbird hawkmoth was also recorded for the first time at Castlegar bog. Small heath was recorded for the first time at Derryfadda Bog. Large heath was recorded for the first time on Tirrure-Derrymore bog as an incidental record during habitat mapping of the site. Peatland restoration and rehabilitation measures will continue to support such pollinator species. ✓ Pollinator actions continuing to be included in proposed BnM renewable energy developments. Bord na Mona have recently received planning permission for a Velo Rail project within the Lough Boora Discovery Park. As part of this planning application, a Habitat Management and Enhancement Plan was prepared that included actions for the protection of known Marsh Fritillary 	
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				<p>populations in the wider area as well as construction and operational phase actions that would benefit pollinators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In early 2023, BnM also prepared a pollinator focused Habitat Management and Enhancement Plan to accompany a planning application for the proposed Drehid Landfill Extension at Timahoe South. The measures included grassland creation and management for pollinator species. This plan also included an Integrated Constructed Wetland that will also benefit a diversity of pollinators. ✓ Awareness of All-Ireland Pollinator Plan promoted at various BnM Ecology events in 2023. ✓ Pollinator-friendly management (e.g. natural grassy meadows) is still being encouraged at BnM offices. This management is continuing.
50	Coillte to adopt pollinator-friendly management across site network, where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of participating sites 	Coillte	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Nature Trust has afforested 95 hectares on 8 sites with native woodland tree and shrub communities to date, including pollinator friendly shrubs such as holly, rowan, willow and hazel. ✓ Coillte is currently developing a policy wrt native Irish honeybees and beekeeper stakeholder apiaries using a permit system on the Coillte estate. In support of this, an apiary has been established at the Coillte office in Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow which has been registered as a Bee Conservation

				<p>area with the Native Irish Honey Bee Society (NIHBS).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Restoration of circa 13 hectares of sand dune habitat at the Raven, Co. Wexford in partnership with NPWS is ongoing. This will facilitate pollinator species such as the Ivy Bee, primarily through the removal of pine plantations which are being replaced with a diverse dune habitat flora.
51	Environmental Protection Agency to adopt pollinator-friendly management across site network, where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of participating sites 	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	The EPA continues to maintain its grounds at HQ to promote biodiversity and pollinators. This includes reduced mowing regimes, maintenance of a wildflower meadow and planting of native hedgerow and trees. Biodiversity and pollinator awareness is also promoted across the organisation among its employees and contractors through an internal “Green Team” structure with initiatives such as training events and “pollinator walks” organized on a regular basis.
52	Electricity Supply Board to adopt pollinator-friendly management across site network, where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of participating sites • Delivery of pollinator awareness workshops to ESB staff 	Electricity Supply Board (ESB)	While significant progress was reported in 2022, a 2023 update has not been provided.
53	Gas Networks Ireland to adopt pollinator-friendly management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain habitat for nesting bees • Incorporate pollinators into biodiversity strategy and guidance documents 	Gas Networks Ireland	<p><u>Asset Management:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Maintained wildflower meadows through reduced mowing in all offices. ✓ Maintained hedgerows at several sites.

	<p>across site network, where appropriate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting community engagement initiatives promoting biodiversity awareness • Delivery of biodiversity & pollinator awareness training for staff & kids • Adoption of pollinator-friendly management practices in biodiversity guideline procedures 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Planted a fruit orchard in Cork City office, including 24 apple trees, five pear trees and five plum trees. ✓ Planted 15,290 native Irish trees across three sites. ✓ Installed log piles in several sites. ✓ Implemented ‘No Mow May’ across entire network of assets (ROI & NI). ✓ Implemented findings from baseline biodiversity surveys at several sites. ✓ Commenced 2023 cutting season with a reduced grass cutting regime. <p><u>Strategy & Procedures:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Undertook 12 biodiversity baseline surveys at sites around Ireland in 2023. ✓ Ensured that high-value operation and maintenance contractors sign up to the AIPP. ✓ The ‘Landscaping for Biodiversity Guidelines’ for Gas Networks Ireland Sites was reviewed in 2023. ✓ Sustainability Strategy, including a module on biodiversity, presented to 420 staff in 2023. ✓ GNI developed a tool to calculate the tonnage of carbon that would be sequestered by trees where felling is unavoidable. Using native Irish trees, which can be selected from the tool, the user can calculate how many of the chosen tree species, or mix of suitable species, need to
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				<p>be planted to replace the carbon sequestered by the felled tree over a given time period, and to ensure biodiversity net gain. We have found that the tool also supports restoration of Ireland’s native tree cover by replacing non-native species with native species.</p> <p><u>Community:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Continued our anchor sponsorship of the Irish Examiner biodiversity month special ‘Biodiversity in Action’ in May. ✓ Sponsorship of four school biodiversity murals. ✓ Organised a ‘Wildflower Treasure Hunt’ at the <u>Cork City office for a local school.</u> <p><u>Support Staff:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Delivered training to staff and contractors on our environmental planning and assessment tool. ✓ Developed a bespoke GNI training on sustainability including a biodiversity module for all staff. ✓ Biodiversity events in collaboration with Leave No Trace for maintenance and information on planted native species at Baldrumman, and tree planting in Turvey. ✓ Contractors given toolbox talks on biodiversity continuously. 	
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Biodiversity presentation given to procurement team and project delivery team.
54	Irish Water to adopt pollinator-friendly management across site network, where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of participating sites 	Irish Water; now Uisce Éireann (UÉ)	<p>UÉ implements the actions of the Plan through the management of our sites, as outlined in UÉ's BAP. As part of the ongoing biodiversity enhancement and protection measures, surveys of all UÉ sites have been conducted. Combining a mix of managers surveys and ecology surveys, a total of 2,102 sites recorded the implementation of at least one biodiversity enhancement measure, out of 3,725 overall sites. This equates to 56% of sites having an ecological important feature. All UÉ biodiversity enhancement measures are pollinator friendly and are in line with the All - Ireland Pollinator Plan. Additionally, UÉ promote the planting of native species of local provenance across all sites and UÉ delivery projects.</p>
55	National Trust to adopt pollinator-friendly management across network of sites and properties, where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake monitoring through the Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme at key NT properties • Maintain habitats for nesting bees • Incorporate pollinators into property/land use management plans (where appropriate and when reviewed) • Promote Flower-Insect Timed Counts (Citizen Science monitoring scheme) 	National Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Delighted to share that we have 3 new Bumblebee Monitoring transects in 2 of our Belfast sites! Volunteers from the Belfast & District Beekeepers Association received training from Buglife and have started 2 Bumblebee transects at Minnowburn and one at the Cemetery Field at Lisnabreeny (both part of Belfast's Buzzing). ✓ Continued with established Bumblebee Monitoring transects at Slieve Donard, Orlock Farm and Orlock Coastal Path, Castle Ward, Crom, Castle Coole, White Park Bay and Giant's Causeway. ✓ We carry our butterfly surveys under the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (both weekly

				<p>transects and Wider Countryside Butterfly Squares).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ We also carry out moth trapping at a few sites and are very fortunate to have NI's leading Lepidopterist (and moth verifier) trap at Murlough National Nature Reserve on a regular basis. This year brought two new records for Murlough and N. Ireland, bringing the total number of moth and butterfly species at Murlough to 811. ✓ Site management for the Northern Colletes (solitary mining bee) at White Park Bay and Portstewart Strand. MSc project on the Scarce-Crimson and Gold moth at the later in partnership with Butterfly Conservation and Ulster Wildlife. ✓ AIPP actions are now incorporated into all site Management Plans; both ASSI and non-ASSI sites, with Plans completed and signed off. <p>Our countryside teams continue to work together and with our tenant farmers to manage habitats for pollinators. Key actions in 2022/23:</p> <p><u>Meadow management:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Continuing our transition of former lawns / mown grassland to wildflower meadows through late cut and lift at: Crom (35 ha), Castle Coole (25ha), Florencecourt (3.5 ha), Castle Ward, Rowallane (0.5 ha), Mount Stewart (0.4 ha), Derrymore and Glenmona House (Cushendun). 	
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Wildflower meadow management is working like clockwork across Downhill Demense and Walled Garden (35 ha which was formerly sheep grazed and now wildflower rich with local provenance native seed sown in 21/22). ✓ At Crom we continued 'No Mow May & June' areas as well as starting 'No Mow until September' areas and have changed how we work with farmers to include a rotation grazing rather than mowing large areas in July. Also brought in ponies to graze areas we do not want to mow, so they have had a longer wildflower season. ✓ New areas to adopt this regime in 2023: Florence Court (White Walk), Barr Hall orchard, additional areas at Mount Stewart (1.9 ha). ✓ Local seed introduced in autumn 2022 paid off! Kearney (Green and orchard) has herbs established and now managed as meadow – some patches left uncut for hibernating insects and frogs. ✓ Portmuck, Lisnabreeny and Minnowburn all producing good results with baseline habitat surveys to track progress. On many of our Belfast sites meadow management is by traditional scything methods along riverbanks and meadows, including the removal of cut material. <p><u>Wildflower seed harvesting / green hay:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Wildflower seed gathered utilising a brush harvester and sowed (equipment gained 	
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				<p>through DAERA’s Environment Fund) to establish wildflower rich meadows at Florence Court (from Teddy’s acre to parkland) and Castle Coole (seed harvested from 4 areas on the estate and sown in the parkland). Seed harvested from Crom but weather too poor to sow – planned for Spring 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ At the East Down ranger base, lawn was managed through cut and lift with green hay from last year – nice results in terms of plants and fungi. In East Down, we donated batch of seeds to one of our volunteers who is converting private amenity grass for meadow. Same person works actively with community group to improve their green places in local town. ✓ At Springhill, bales of species-rich green hay were spread onto an improved field to help kick start the restoration process after years of reducing fertility through hay meadow management. <p><u>Management of farmland:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Mount Stewart: we have started an innovative regenerative farming technique called bale grazing after a trial period last year, which will see approx. 170 flower-rich bales from one field spread across species poor fields across the estate and existing permanent pastures (31.84ha) moved to Paddock grazing methods (spring and autumn) and No grazing (summer). Another 14ha of herbal leys put in at Mount Stewart, another 5ha of flowering 	
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				<p>beans put in as part of delivering a more sustainable arable rotation with no insecticides being used and 1ha of beneficial insect margins which were monitored through a farmland transect by the site team. A new Orchard was created (2ha / 160 trees) and there is ongoing woodland ride/glade creation (approx. 1.5ha) to increase lower level and herbaceous woodland flora. Further bare earth and earth banks were created via wetland feature creation/restorations for mining bee species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Another 4 ha of herbal leys were put in at the Giant's Causeway and monitored through a farmland transect by the site team. ✓ Through DAERA's Environment Fund we purchased AIPP "Managed for Pollinators" signage to explain our approach to meadow management across our sites. ✓ Rangers have conducted FIT counts and submit casual pollinator records to CEDaR. Several FIT counts carried out on Divis, Belfast Hills. Some properties use FIT counts to engage with visitors through guided walks. ✓ We are very grateful for all volunteers who help with surveys and support ranger teams with pollinator-friendly site management! 	
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56	Northern Ireland Water to adopt pollinator-friendly management across site network, where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of participating sites 	Northern Ireland Water	<p>This year NI Water volunteers surveyed 12 new WwTW sites, equaling a total of 21,273m² mapped. They completed online mapping of these sites, did Flower-Insect Timed counts and described each habitat. The 3 largest sites surveyed this year was Ballygowan WwTW, Roughfort WwTW & Stoneyford WwTW which equaled 10,613m² area being mapped.</p>
57	Encouragement and, where appropriate, adoption of pollinator-friendly management on NPWS property, including Statutory Nature Reserves and National Parks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Number of participating sites 	National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	<p>Statutory Nature Reserves (NR) and National Parks (NP) managed for pollinators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Burren NP Co Clare ✓ Dromore Woods NR Co Clare ✓ Ballykeeffe Wood NR Co Kilkenny ✓ Kyledohir Wood NR Co Killkenny ✓ Garryricken Wood NR Co Killkenny ✓ Ballyteige Burrow NR Co Wexford ✓ Wexford Wildfowl Reserve ✓ Raven Point NR Co Wexford ✓ Owenboy NR Co Mayo ✓ Knockmoyle Sheskin NR Co Mayo ✓ Oldhead Woods NR Co Mayo ✓ Scaragh Bog NR Co Westmeath <p>Management practices include: scrub control, reduced mowing regimes, strimming/mowing along woodland paths, low intensity grazing and restoration of herbaceous dune habitat.</p> <p>Monitoring and surveying projects include: Pollinator monitoring project by NBDC with NPWS support at Ballyteige NR Co Wexford.</p>

				NPWS funded entomology survey at Ballyteige NR Co Wexford.	
58	Office of Public Works to adopt pollinator-friendly management across site network, where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Incorporate Pollinators into Conservation Management Plans at key sites as appropriate ✓ Support the roll out of short- and long-flowering meadows at appropriate locations throughout the country ✓ Maintain and expand on the provision of nesting habitats for solitary bees ✓ Engage with staff and the public in participating in Citizen Science Projects 	Office of Public Works (OPW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The measure is ongoing with biodiversity and pollinator actions being incorporated as plans are being developed and updated across key sites. In addition, 10 site specific biodiversity appraisals have been commissioned for sites countrywide. These will lead to pollinator-friendly management plans. ✓ Significant progress has been achieved with the rollout of this measure. Also, an in-house conference and workshop was organised for all OPW staff promoting best practice in the management of our habitats and flowering meadows. ✓ Solitary bee habitats have been introduced at locations countrywide ✓ Competent staff engage with the public on a regular basis in the promotion of CSP such as butterfly monitoring etc 	
59	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (NI) to adopt pollinator-friendly management within their reserves, where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake monitoring through the Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme at key reserves • Maintain habitats for nesting bees • Incorporate pollinators into reserve management plans (where appropriate and when reviewed) 	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB NI)	A 2023 update was not provided.	

60	The Courts Service of Ireland to adopt pollinator-friendly management across site network, where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of participating sites 	The Courts Service of Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Since 2021, the Courts Service have successfully run rewilding pilots in 4 courthouses: Carrick-on-Shannon, Nenagh, Cork, and Roscommon with further enhanced expansion of the projects adding bug hotels at Nenagh and Carrick on Shannon courthouses. ✓ Taking the ‘no-mow let it grow’ approach we carried out a review of green spaces across our extensive estate to identify rewilding opportunities and from that 6 further projects were initiated at courthouses nationwide in Carlow, Wexford, Waterford, Tullamore, Tralee & Mullingar. ✓ Expanding the initiative at Nenagh Courthouse, we have collaborated with local partners by lifting the grass turf and scattering local seeds to create a wildflower meadow. Collaboration has also taken place with Co. Councils at Limerick Mulgrave Street & Cavan courthouse. ✓ In 2023 we launched a staff survey on our Biodiversity Programme. The survey results will help us gain insight into how we can improve and continuously expand our efforts across our estate nationwide. The survey will be shared across our socials more broadly to allow the public to also participate in providing feedback on our Biodiversity programme. 	
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Target 2.5 Make local communities more pollinator friendly

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023
61	Provide comprehensive and freely available online resources for Local Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up-to-date resources provided on AIPP website. To include: evidence-based guideline documents, flyers, videos, blogs, webinars, presentations, case studies, animations All 2015–2020 resources to be updated where necessary 	AIPP Communities Officer	<p>This website is continually updated as new resources are developed https://pollinators.ie/communities/</p> <p>The Local Community guidelines (published 2016) have been fully updated and will be relaunched in spring 2024. Both English and Irish language versions will be released in parallel. We have also developed a new voluntary scoring system for Local Communities which will be included in the updated guide. It can be difficult for communities to measure their progress or to benchmark themselves. The new scoring weights various evidence-based actions and provides a total score out of 100. It is intended as a self-assessment tool to help communities see how important one action is compared to another, prioritise actions, annually track progress, and have a threshold to aim for when managing their public spaces. This approach will also be rolled out across Councils and Businesses in 2024 to improve transparency within the Plan.</p>
62	Promote pollinator-friendly actions within the Tidy Towns network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to promote pollinator-friendly actions within the national Tidy Towns competition as appropriate Facilitate a special pollinator award (below) 	Tidy Towns Unit	The Tidy Towns Unit have again facilitated the special pollinator award in 2023 (Action 63 below). They have also regularly promoted pollinator-friendly actions to the Tidy Towns network.

63	Support Tidy Towns groups to be pollinator friendly through the Local Authority Pollinator Award in the National Tidy Towns competition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to annually fund and administer the special pollinator award in the national Tidy Towns competition • Continue to provide support and advice to Tidy Towns groups in helping pollinators • Monitor the engagement with and standard of entries to the award • Publication and dissemination of an annual newsletter celebrating the work of Tidy Towns groups to support pollinators 	Heritage and Biodiversity Officer network, with support from AIPP Communities Officer	<p>The Local Authority Pollinator Award was successfully run within the Tidy Towns competition in 2023. Every year, the standard of entries improves and the committee behind the award continue to be inspired by what is being achieved.</p> <p>In addition to the overall winner, this award identifies large and small-town winners within each of the four Tidy Towns regions. Since 2021, we have also introduced an award for the best newcomer.</p> <p>Congratulations to Raheny Tidy Village Group in Co Dublin who won the overall award in 2023.</p> <p>All winners were as follows:</p> <p>National winner: Raheny Tidy Village Group Best newcomer: Dalkey Tidy Towns</p> <p>Large town winners: Midlands & East – Raheny Tidy Village Group, Co. Dublin South & Mid West – Cobh Tidy Towns, Co. Cork South East – Clonmel Tidy Towns, Co. Tipperary North West West – Buncrana Tidy Towns, Co. Donegal</p> <p>Small town winners: Midlands & East – Athboy Tidy Towns, Co. Meath South & Mid West – Sneem Tidy Towns. Co. Kerry South East – Tullahought Community Development Ltd., Co. Kilkenny North West West – Belmullet Tidy Towns/ Baile Slachtmhar Bhéal an Mhuirthead, Co. Mayo</p>
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				<p>The following towns were highly commended: Abbeyleix Tidy Towns, Balbriggan Tidy Towns, Castlegregory Tidy Towns, Skerries Tidy Towns, Tyrrellspass Tidy Towns, Woodford Parish Development.</p> <p>https://pollinators.ie/tidy-towns-pollinator-award-winners-2023/</p>
64	Promote pollinator-friendly actions within the Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to promote pollinator-friendly actions within the Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful initiative, as appropriate Investigate possible mechanisms for a pollinator award within the Live Here Love Here Volunteer Award 	Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 3 x online Q & A sessions hosted for Live Here Love Here pollinator grant recipients (schools and communities). Two of the three Q & A sessions included an introduction to the AIPP and resources accessible to schools and communities on the AIPP website. ✓ One Q&A session recorded and uploaded to Live Here Love Here YouTube channel for future reference: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dN-PJv35Bpl&t=1118s ✓ Waringstown Primary School video uploaded to YouTube to inspire others to make a pollinator friendly outdoor classroom: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V93N3nVNXbw&t=42s. ✓ Fleming Fulton School video uploaded to YouTube about pollinator grant work, and benefits to wildlife and students: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CoTsA6myK5c ✓ LHLH volunteering video uploaded to YouTube to provide a brief overview of what it's like to volunteer with LHLH, including 'restoring our cherished wildlife': https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SBMvn3RBfRE ✓ Live Here Love Here Schools Pollinator Grant scheme (funded by DAERA) – opened 4th April 2022, closed 28th April 2022 with a total of £2,388,832.65 awarded to 300 schools. The pollinator grant didn't run in 2023, however, the 300 pollinator gardens were completed during 2023, providing 300 new spaces for pollinators across schools.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Judging for the Small Grants scheme occurred in summer 2023. There were 450 applications, of which 249 were new community groups. 116 groups were successful in their Small Grants applications, totaling funding of £163,883.35. ✓ Pollinator Garden signs were provided to 300 schools in June 2023 at Eco-Schools Green Flag awards or delivered personally. ✓ All Live Here Love Here grants promote and only fund peat-free compost products. Grants also actively discourage negative environmental practices, such as use of pesticides. ✓ Video content created to support individuals and communities to make the most of their kits and uploaded to You Tube: Food growing tips video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QNrE17f4ZgA Planting for pollinators https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jo_NfQjH5Zs ✓ Live Here Love Here Adopt A Spot Kits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 189 wildlife and FFT kits requested in 2023. - 166 wildlife and FFT kits delivered in 2023. ✓ Pollinator award not funded in 2023 but hope to fund in future years. ✓ Posters available to download under license for community groups and schools to use to encourage engagement in identification projects: https://livehereandlovehere.etinu.net/livehereandlovehere/documents/008811.pdf ✓ LHLH Biodiversity page created in 2023. Contains useful links and advice (including links to AIPP resources), information on local organizations and suppliers. Also features a resource on guidance for installing wildlife homes: https://www.livehereandlovehere.org/cgi-bin/generic?instanceID=20 ✓ Big Butterfly Count promoted annually on social media. ✓ No Mow May encouraged through LHLH networks and social media.
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65	Deliver community-based training on Ireland's bees, bee monitoring and bee-friendly habitat creation through the IWT <i>People for Bees</i> initiative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to provide introductory training to support local communities and members of the public in helping pollinators • Number of workshops delivered 	Irish Wildlife Trust (IWT)	<p>In 2023, the Irish Wildlife Trust delivered 2 workshops on wild bee identification, recording and conservation. Both events were delivered to the general public in the National Botanic Gardens in Dublin on World Bee Day 20th May.</p> <p>The IWT Kerry Branch took part in the Wild Bee Festival on the 12th and 13th of August, Tralee supporting the delivery of an ecological corridors walk. To complement our workshops, we also published an article in the spring issue of our magazine to raise awareness of the AIPP. The article was "Pledge Your Garden for Pollinators" by Kate Chandler.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 workshops • 1 guided walk • 1 article
66	Support additional communities in coming together to protect pollinators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the possibility of using the ChangeX platform to support wider implementation of the Plan at the community level 	ChangeX	ChangeX, the social innovation platform which draws together excellent social innovations, funding partners (e.g., Accenture, AWS and Greencoat Renewables), and community/volunteer groups, is now partnered with the AIPP.
67	Better promote pollinator-friendly land management to Residents' Associations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated resources for Residents' Associations developed and added to AIPP website 	AIPP Communities Officer	A short new resource was launched for Residents' Associations in 2023: https://pollinators.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Residents-Association-booklet-2022-WEB.pdf

68	Promote the AIPP to other community volunteer networks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore possibility of providing training to Rural Social Schemes and other similar initiatives. • Connect with relevant networks and ask them to inform members about the AIPP, e.g. Men's Sheds, University of the Third Age, Volunteer Now, etc. 	AIPP Communities Officer	This action continues to be progressed. In 2023, we have engaged with Men's Sheds to explore whether mutually beneficial projects can be established.
69	Recognise those towns/villages that are helping pollinators through eliminating pesticide use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain an online list of towns/villages that have decided to go pesticide free (herbicide, fungicide and insecticide) 	AIPP Communities Officer	This action has not yet been progressed but is scheduled for 2024.

Target 2.6 Manage protected land in a pollinator-friendly way where appropriate

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023
70	Encourage pollinator-friendly management of State and public-owned Nature Reserves and National Parks and, where appropriate, Natura 2000 and nationally designated sites in NI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uptake where appropriate on a site-by-site basis • Develop demonstration/example sites on NIEA properties and use for education and knowledge exchange 	Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)	<p>Continued AIPP actions by NIEA regional teams include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New areas and sites created for pollinator use, with appropriate planting/reseeding/management: at Roe Valley CP, Scrabo CP, Castle Archdale CP and Peatlands Park. • Increased number of hedgerows managed for pollinators: Peatlands Park • CAFRE Greenmount run Hedge Management and Hedge laying courses. Also cover habitat creation and have developed a biodiversity assessment tool CAFRE Farm BioTool Dairying Technical Support - CAFRE • Under NIEA grant aid, Butterfly Conservation carried out Marsh Fritillary monitoring of relevant ASSI's.
71	Incorporate pollinator-friendly management on designated land in Natura 2000 and nationally designated sites in ROI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uptake where appropriate on a site-by-site basis 	National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	<p>Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed National Heritage Areas (pNHAs) managed for pollinators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ River Little Brosna Callows SPA Co Offaly ✓ Castlesampson Esker SAC Co Roscommon <p>Sites in Co Kilkenny</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Cullahill Mountain SAC ✓ Spa Hill/Clomantagh Hill SAC

				<p>Sites in Co Mayo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Enniscoe grasslands ✓ Ballycroy Visitor Centre ✓ Clare Island SPA <p>Sites in Co Donegal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Horn Head and Rinclevan SAC ✓ Donegal Bay(Murvagh) SAC ✓ Sheephaven SAC <p>Sites in Co Westmeath</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Garriskil Bog SAC/SPA ✓ Ballynafid Lake and Fen pNHA ✓ Lough Iron SPA ✓ River Boyne & Blackwater SAC/SPA ✓ Lough Derravaragh SPA/NHA ✓ Lough Ree SAC ✓ Royal Canal pNHA ✓ Split Hill and Long Hill Esker SAC ✓ River Shannon Callows SAC <p>Management practices include: scrub control, reduced mowing regimes, strimming/mowing along woodland paths, low intensity and winter grazing, no fertilizer or herbicide usage and restoration of herbaceous dune habitat. Some sites are specifically managed for Marsh Fritillary.</p> <p>Some sites include private lands which are managed through the NPWS Farm Plan Scheme with specific measures for pollinators and invertebrates.</p>
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Target 2.7 Make healthcare sites more pollinator friendly

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023	
72	Publish guidelines for pollinator-friendly management of hospital grounds, clinics and nursing homes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of guidelines that also stress the additional benefits of pollinator actions to human health and wellbeing • Dissemination to all relevant bodies • Develop a new section of the website to provide resources for healthcare sites 	AIPP Communities Officer	This guideline is in the early stages of development. It is planned for release in 2024.	
73	Investigate a potential nature campaign for healthcare sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss with relevant bodies the possibility of a pilot scheme 	AIPP Communities Officer	This will not be progressed until Action 72 above is completed.	

Target 2.8 Complete policy investigations

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023	
74	Carry out a critical review of how some countries established a roadside verge cutting decree (e.g. the Flemish Roadside Act '1984' means roadside verges must be left uncut until after a certain date).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish as a scoping study • Include a public consultation element 	AIPP team and relevant partners	This action has not formally progressed. However, there have already been changes to policy on the island. In late 2022, a Northern Ireland policy review on roadside verge cutting was publicised through a ministerial announcement which was covered by local media and can be viewed on the links below. This will result in more biodiversity friendly management of the 45,000km of verges in NI.	

				https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/news/odowd-announces-new-approach-road-verge-management-protect-environment https://www.belfastlive.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/minister-john-odowd-announces-major-25158027
75	Create a roadmap towards eliminating pesticides on certain public lands (schools, hospitals, playgrounds).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critically review the evidence-base for this approach • Publish roadmap in collaboration with relevant partners • Consider roll out as a small pilot – supported by information on alternatives, monitoring of impacts and social attitudes, etc. 	AIPP team and relevant partners	This action has not yet been progressed, but it will be explored in 2024.

Target 2.9 Strengthen links between the AIPP and other national initiatives

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023
76	Strengthen links between the AIPP and Climate Adaptation Plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of a guideline document linking pollinator/biodiversity actions to their carbon/climate benefits on public land. Active research area so timing of guideline document should be as appropriate 	AIPP team and relevant partners	This has not yet been progressed. Local Authority Climate Action Plans in RoI are due to be published in 2024. An assessment of how to progress this action will be made after that.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish appropriate AIPP actions as tools in nature-based climate change mitigation actions within Local Authorities – repackage actions in this context so that they can easily slot into Climate Adaptation Plans (or County Development Plans, Local Economic and Community Plans, etc.) • Liaise with Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO) and link with Local Authority Climate Action Officers. 			
77	Explore and strengthen links between the AIPP and Green Infrastructure Planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of a guideline document linking pollinator/biodiversity actions to their Green Infrastructure benefits • Repackage pollinator actions in this context so that they can easily slot into Local Authority Green Infrastructure Plans 	AIPP team and relevant partners	This action has not yet progressed, although we have liaised with Green Infrastructure planning initiatives, to better understand what is required.	
78	Strengthen links between the AIPP and health and wellbeing initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of a guideline document linking pollinator/biodiversity actions to their health and wellbeing benefits • Repackage pollinator actions in this context so that they can easily slot into Local 	AIPP team and relevant partners	This action has not yet been progressed. It is prioritised for 2024 in line with Target 2.7.	

		<p>Authority community wellbeing initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a working relationship with relevant bodies such as Healthy Ireland, Sports Ireland 			
79	Strengthen links between the AIPP and existing tree planting initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links created with 2020 DAFM scheme – Woodland Creation on Public Lands • Establishment of working relationships with other existing tree planting initiatives, e.g. Tree Council of Ireland, Native Woodland Trust, Crann, Trees on the Land, Easytreesie etc. • Encourage a proportion of trees planted to be pollinator-friendly and report on numbers planted • Pollinator-friendly tree guide published in collaboration with relevant partners 	AIPP team and relevant partners	A short flyer on planting trees for pollinators (right tree, right space, right place) has been produced in collaboration with DAFM, The Tree Council of Ireland, The Native Woodland Trust and Trees on the Land. It was promoted across 2023.	

Target 2.10 Track changes in pollinators on public land

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023	
80	Publish an annual review of public land actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of an annual review outlining progress within the actions under this objective Publication on AIPP website annually each December 	Coordinated by AIPP Communities Officer	This document provides a review of the public land actions in 2023.	
81	Track progress within the public sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of public land sites logging their pollinator-friendly actions on <i>Actions for Pollinators</i> mapping system, https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/. 	Coordinated by AIPP Communities Officer	As of the end of November 2023, 1,885 public land sites are logged on 'Actions for Pollinators'. Councils (422), Schools (199), Local Communities (1,264). https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/	
82	Monitor pollinators across a network of public sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the framework necessary for a national pollinator monitoring scheme to include sites across farmland, public and protected land. This should be in line with the European Pollinator Monitoring Scheme recommendations (2020) Source funding and roll out this scheme to monitor pollinators across a network of public sites 	National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme requires funding	<p>In 2021, DAFM and NPWS granted initial funding for this scheme which is being managed by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. The project began in September 2021 and was rolled out as a National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme pilot in 2022. A total of 36 sites were monitored across farmland, semi-natural sites, and urban parks. Of these, 15 are semi-natural sites and 4 are urban parks.</p> <p>All 36 sites were again monitored in 2023, including the 4 urban parks. The hope is to increase the number of sites to 50 in the network in coming years.</p>	
83	Continue to manage and support Citizen Science monitoring schemes that track changes in pollinators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme transects being carried out on public land. 	National Biodiversity Data Centre, CEDaR	Both the All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme and FIT Counts were managed and promoted by the National Biodiversity Data Centre in 2023. CEDaR also promoted both schemes.	

	<p>across all land types, including public land.</p>	<p>This is an expert-level Citizen Science scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the number of regular Flower-Insect Timed Counts (FIT Counts) being completed on public land. This is a beginner-level Citizen Science scheme. • Publication of annual reports on the findings of both schemes 		<p>Data submission within the Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme continues until 31st December each year. Annual reports are produced in the following year to update the trends. The 2012-2022 report is available here: https://biodiversityireland.ie/app/uploads/2023/11/Bumblebee-Monitoring-Scheme-Annual-Report-2012-2022.pdf</p> <p>Data submission with the FIT Count Scheme continues until 31st December each year. Currently ~840 FIT Counts have been submitted for 2023.</p> <p>New Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme transects have been established on public land in 2023. Many FIT Counts have taken place on public land.</p>	
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OBJECTIVE 3: MAKING PRIVATE LAND POLLINATOR FRIENDLY

Target 3.1 Increase the number of gardens that are pollinator friendly

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023
84	Provide comprehensive and freely available online resources for gardeners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up-to-date resources provided on AIPP website To include: evidence-based guideline documents, flyers, videos, blogs, webinars, presentations, case studies, animations All 2015-2020 resources to be updated where necessary Investigate sustainable signage options that the public can use to indicate that they are making their garden pollinator friendly. 	AIPP Communities Officer	<p>This website is kept up to date: https://pollinators.ie/gardens/</p> <p>Two new how-to-guides of relevance to gardens were added in 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ One is aimed at creating and restoring meadows in local communities and gardens https://pollinators.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Meadow-Guideline-2023-WEB.pdf ✓ And a second, is aimed at encouraging gardens and local communities to help nocturnal pollinators: https://pollinators.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/AIPP-Nocturnal-Guide-2023-WEB.pdf <p>A flyer on creating a pollinator-friendly sensory garden was also developed in 2023 https://pollinators.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Sensory-Garden-A5-flyer-web.pdf</p>

85	An Taisce to promote pollinator-friendly garden actions within their Green Communities network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion to members • Uptake by community groups 	An Taisce	An Taisce Green Communities continued to support the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 in 2023 by promotion upon the programme’s social media channels. Events and activities relating to the plan were also circulated via the Green Communities/Green Flag Award news bulletin to approximately 1,800 email recipients.
86	Community Gardens Ireland to promote pollinator-friendly garden actions within their network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion to members • Uptake by groups 	Community Gardens Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In 2023, Community Gardens Ireland have continued to support new allotments and community gardens getting established in Ireland by providing them with advice that are pollinator friendly. ✓ At our online gathering in March 2023 (organised jointly with Social Farms & Gardens Northern Ireland) we asked gardens from all over the island of Ireland to present on their activities in the previous year. The presentations included references to how the gardens are helping local biodiversity. ✓ In June 2023, Community Gardens Ireland met with Minister Malcolm Noonan and Minister Kieran O’Donnell and highlighted in this presentation the positive benefits that come from community growing spaces, including those for biodiversity and climate change actions. ✓ Community Gardens Ireland have made over 20 submissions to consultations in 2023. Throughout each submission we have referenced how allotments and community gardens are pollinator

				<p>friendly spaces by including references to bodies such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Working Group III report. This report highlighted how urban agriculture initiatives such as community gardening assist with reducing greenhouse gases, improving urban food security, improving biodiversity and adapting to climate change impacts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Community Gardens Ireland made a detailed submission to the Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity Loss in the last year, and we were delighted when the following was added into the final report: <p>51. The State must ensure the expansion of community gardens and allotments through local authority initiatives in conjunction with private landowners, in both urban and rural communities. https://citizensassembly.ie/wp-content/uploads/Report-on-Biodiversity-Loss_mid-res.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In October 2023, Community Gardens Ireland held the first ever National Allotments and Community Gardens Week. The 2023 theme for the week was “Growing with Nature” and we asked community gardens and allotments from all over Ireland to highlight how they are growing with nature locally, and post images or videos about their spaces and how it helps local biodiversity. 	
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ National Allotments and Community Gardens Week kicked off in Cork City on the 14th October where we had a seed sharing table. ✓ We will be continuing our work to promote pollinators friendly & community friendly actions as part of our plans for 2024!
87	GIY to promote pollinator-friendly garden actions within their network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion to members • Actions adopted at GIY HQ and used for demonstration purposes • Training courses offered at GIY HQ as appropriate 	Grow It Yourself (GIY)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ AIPP actions included in GIY GROWCircle Programme, reaching ≤800 people. ✓ AIPP actions included in all GIY newsletters, reaching ≤2500 people. ✓ AIPP actions at GROWHQ, Waterford City, Co. Waterford: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of grass areas to maximise habitat for pollinators i.e. leaving most areas to form informal meadows with cutting in July post-flowering. • Ensuring any ornamental areas are planted with pollinator-friendly plants. • Managing productive areas with no spraying of agro-chemicals (even ones permitted under the organic standards). • Leaving vegetable plants to flower (particularly brassicas) where possible. • Leaving hedge bottoms with rough vegetation to provide nesting areas. • Weekly garden walk and talks through the Summer on how to manage a garden to maximise benefit to pollinators. ✓ 32 schools participating in the pilot GROW at School programme from 2018-2021 received educational resources with one lesson dedicated to biodiversity. The in-person 'How to Create a

				School Garden' teacher training course allocates one of five training days to increasing biodiversity through the school garden. GIY will be creating an online version of this course to be available by August 2023.
88	Raise awareness to discourage the importation of wild pollinators into gardens, e.g., Red Mason Bee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short guideline document developed explaining the dangers of imported pollinators to the health of our native species • Social media campaign to discourage gardeners from buying non-Irish Red Mason Bee colonies online 	AIPP team	This doesn't appear to be a significant problem currently, and a decision was made not to draw attention to the issue on social media. The short guideline document has not been progressed, but the situation will be further assessed in 2024.

Target 3.2 Increase the network of AIPP business supporters

	Action	Progress measures	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023
89	Fully support and grow the network of business supporters. Currently stands at 283 (end 2020).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increase the number of business supporters of the AIPP ✓ Provide day-to-day support to the large network of business supporters ✓ Organise and run an event for businesses ✓ Provide training courses for businesses 	AIPP business officer (funded by Bord Bia from June-Dec 2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Since inception, the number of AIPP businesses supporters has increased year on year. ✓ An increase of 74 new businesses, in the period 1st November 2022 – 31st October 2023 from 335 supporters to 409 was experienced. ✓ With the new 2021-2025 phase requirement for businesses to submit an Annual Review report and map actions on 'Actions for Pollinators', 93 have not submitted a 2023 report and will be removed from the business

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Organise an annual pollinator award for businesses ✓ Run a regular webinar series for businesses ✓ Monthly digital newsletter for businesses ✓ Regularly promote the network through mainstream and social media 		<p>supporters list. N.B. They may re-engage at any point. This is a mandatory requirement to support the integrity of the network.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 59 of Bord Bia Origin Green’s verified member companies have reported. This number of verified member companies is confirmed by Origin Green. ✓ As of the end of November 2023, 316 (409-93) businesses across the island are supporting the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 through actions for pollinators-biodiversity. See what actions each of these companies have taken in the 2023 Business Supporter Annual review https://pollinators.ie/aipp-2021-2025/ ✓ Day to day support to the business supporters’ network has included: registering new members and short online presentations to provide a ‘snapshot’ of good practice from Day 1. Also help in data mapping on the ‘Actions for Pollinators’ unique data-mapping portal. ✓ Three webinars were delivered to Origin Green companies in collaboration with Bord Bia. ✓ The Agri-business officer also delivered numerous webinars to the larger corporates seeking to provide educational webinars for employees on pollinators-biodiversity. ✓ A monthly digital newsletter has been issued each month to AIPP business supporters. ✓ Key updates have been posted on Twitter/Facebook/Instagram/LinkedIn. 	
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90	Provide comprehensive and freely available online resources for businesses at	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up-to-date resources provided on AIPP website To include: evidence-based guideline documents, flyers, videos, blogs, webinars, presentations, case studies, animations All 2015–2020 resources to be updated where necessary 	AIPP business officer (funding dependent)	This website is continually updated: https://pollinators.ie/businesses/	
91	Disseminate relevant resources to the business community through existing networks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dissemination of information through existing networks 	Bord Bia, Business in the Community	Both partners have promoted the AIPP business framework in 2023. The AIPP has strengthened its alliances through Bord Bia’s Origin Green food sustainability programme – the AIPP is now aligned as ‘pollinator actions’ within members biodiversity targets. It is also aligned with Business in the Community (Ireland) within its ‘Biodiversity Handbook for Business’.	
92	Establish a dedicated framework for Garden Centre supporters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish framework/charter whereby garden centres can sign up as a supporter of the AIPP Increase the number of garden centre supporters who sign up and promote the AIPP, pollinator-friendly plants, and the pollinator-friendly pesticide code. 	AIPP business officer (funding dependent)	This action has not yet been progressed but will be explored in 2024.	
93	Publish new guideline documents with evidence-based	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate which guideline documents are required and 	AIPP team and relevant partner organisations	Guidelines for Wind Farms were published in 2021: https://pollinators.ie/wp-	

	pollinator actions that are industry-specific.	<p>prioritise a programme for their development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish these industry-specific documents. May include, but not limited to: Agri-food businesses, Developers, Wind farms, Solar farms, Quarries. 		<p>content/uploads/2022/12/Wind-Farm-Pollinator-Guidelines-2022-WEB.pdf</p> <p>Guidelines for Solar Farms were published in 2023: https://pollinators.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/AIPP-Solar-Farms-2023-WEB.pdf</p> <p>Resources for Aviation & Quarries are also being considered.</p>	
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Target 3.3 Increase the number of sports clubs that are pollinator friendly

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023	
94	Provide comprehensive and freely available online resources for Sports Clubs at	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guideline document (<i>Pollinator-friendly management of sports clubs, 2020</i>) distributed to clubs • Promotion and dissemination 	AIPP Communities Officer	This website is kept up to date: https://pollinators.ie/sports-clubs/	
95	Golf Course Superintendents Association Of Ireland (GCSAI) to encourage golf courses to become more pollinator friendly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guideline document (<i>Pollinator-friendly management of golf courses, 2019</i>) promoted to network • Uptake by golf courses 	GCSAI	The guideline has been promoted and the action will be further progressed in 2024	

96	Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) to encourage clubs to become more pollinator friendly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Clubs encouraged to become more pollinator-friendly within the Green Club programme ✓ Uptake by clubs 	GAA	<p>In March 2023, the GAA launched Phase 2 of its Green Club Programme, with 200 clubs from across the island of Ireland committing to sustainability action in their grounds, operations and communities.</p> <p>Actions taken by Green Clubs this year include native tree planting, pollinator-friendly planting in club colours, developing rain gardens, running biodiversity awareness events, managing ‘no-mow’ areas for biodiversity, creating community gardens, planning and managing club walkways for biodiversity, reducing and eliminating herbicide use and creating & protecting habitats for pollinators and birds.</p> <p>The GAA has also worked with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPro), RSPB NI and local authorities across the island to run online and in-person biodiversity engagement and education events and to support Green Clubs in their biodiversity planning and action.</p> <p>The GAA continues to promote its open access biodiversity toolkit (https://learning.gaa.ie/GreenClub/Biodiversity) to its members and units so they can take simple and effective action in their own clubs and communities.</p>
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Target 3.4 Increase the number of faith communities that are pollinator friendly

	Action	Progress measures	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023
97	Eco Congregation Ireland to promote pollinator-friendly actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guideline document (<i>Faith Communities: actions to help pollinators</i>, 2018) promoted to members 	Eco Congregation Ireland	We continue to include the All-Ireland Pollinators plan in our bimonthly email newsletter and regularly refer to it on our social media platforms. It is also a central part of the many talks and seminars that we give to parishes all over Ireland. We also provide a link to the Faith communities document on our website and in our guidelines for churches who are getting started.
98	Provide freely available online resources for faith communities at	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up-to-date resources provided on AIPP website. To include: evidence-based guideline documents, flyers, videos, blogs, webinars, presentations, case studies, animations All 2015–2020 resources to be updated where necessary. 	AIPP Communities Officer	<p>This website is kept up to date: https://pollinators.ie/faith-communities/</p> <p>New blogs have been added in 2023 e.g., https://pollinators.ie/helping-biodiversity-at-lacken-church/</p> <p>The AIPP has been supporting a 2023 initiative by Catholic Bishops that aims to ensure 30% of church grounds become biodiversity friendly.</p>
99	Publish a guideline document outlining evidence-based pollinator actions for graveyards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of guideline document Publication and dissemination Uptake by sites. 	AIPP Communities Officer & partner organisations	This action will be progressed in future years. Laois and Offaly County Councils are delivering a Just Transition project <i>Conservation and Pollination - Medieval Churches Laois and Offaly</i> during the years 2021 to 2023. The guideline document will be developed as part of this project.

3.5: Increase the number of Group Water Scheme sites that are pollinator friendly

	Action	Progress measures	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023	
100	National Federation of Group Water Schemes (NFGWS) to encourage all Schemes to manage their sites (sources, reservoirs, treatment plants) in a pollinator-friendly way.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Guideline document (<i>Pollinator-friendly management of Group Water Scheme Sites, 2018</i>) distributed to Schemes ✓ Uptake by Schemes ✓ Promotion of biodiversity to wider drinking water catchments through dedicated initiatives with rural communities e.g. 'I've planted a tree and gone pesticide free' campaign ✓ Establishment of a dedicated biodiversity category in a future Group Water Scheme excellence awards programme 	National Federation of Group Water Schemes (NFGWS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 14 Integrated source protection plans (ISPP's) were finalised in 2023 under the MARWP, with many measures being implemented with assistance financial support from DAFM. These measures are developed with habitat retention and creation in mind and also serve to protect or improve the GWS water source quality. ✓ The Group Scheme excellence awards programme continued in 2023. 3 GWS achieved excellence in the biodiversity section, with schemes being announced at the annual rural water conference on 7th September 2022 ✓ A Climate Action and Biodiversity work programme, known as the BECA project, which now involves 36 GWS is currently underway. This is focusing on making GWS both biodiversity and climate friendly, not only in their own operations, but in the wider catchment. Key objectives include reduction of carbon footprint, management of sites in a biodiversity friendly manner, an elimination of pesticide usage in GWS operations as well as providing appropriate training for GWS personnel. 65% of GWS in the project have 	

				<p>made their sites pollinator friendly and 76% no longer use any pesticides when managing their infrastructure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Interaction continued GWS managers and NFGWS staff with men's sheds across a series of catchments. Some of these sheds work closely with people with disabilities, who have built over hundreds of insect hotels for members of the GWS communities. ✓ A presentation was made to the environment Ireland conference in September on the progress of the GWS sector on implementing actions for biodiversity. ✓ An Orchards for farmers initiative was launched on Halloween 2023 in Co. Roscommon. This is an initiative around linking food production, natural heritage, pollinator friendly planting and ceasing pesticide usage, with the overall aim of protecting our drinking water sources. 	
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3.5: Track changes in pollinators on private land

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023	
101	Publish an annual review of private land actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of an annual review outlining progress within the actions under this objective Publication on the website annually each December 	Coordinated by AIPP Communities Officer	This document provides a review of the private land actions in 2023.	
102	Track progress within the garden sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of garden sites logged on the mapping system <i>Actions for Pollinators</i> https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/. 	Coordinated by AIPP Communities Officer	As of the end of November 2023, 915 garden sites are logged on 'Actions for Pollinators' https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/	
103	Track progress within the business sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of an annual report on the actions taken by the business supporter network Publication of this annual report on AIPP website each December Number of business sites logged on the mapping system <i>Actions for Pollinators</i> https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/ 	Coordinated by AIPP Business Officer (funding dependent)	The 2023 Annual Review of actions taken by business supporters is available here: https://pollinators.ie/aipp-2021-2025/ As of the end of November 2023, 1,180 business sites are logged on 'Actions for Pollinators'. Some business supporters will log multiple sites https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/	
104	Track progress within the sports club sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of sports club sites logged on the mapping system <i>Actions for Pollinators</i> https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/ 	Coordinated by AIPP Communities Officer	The 'Actions for Pollinators' mapping system was opened to sports clubs in 2023. As of the end of November 2023, 14 sports club sites are logged https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/	

105	Track progress within the faith community sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of faith community sites logged on the mapping system <i>Actions for Pollinators</i> https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/ 	Coordinated by AIPP Communities Officer	As of the end of November 2023, 25 faith community sites are logged on 'Actions for Pollinators'. The system has not yet been actively promoted to the sector. https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/
106	Track progress across Group Water Scheme sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Group Water Scheme sites logged on the mapping system <i>Actions for Pollinators</i> https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/ 	Coordinated by AIPP Communities Officer	As of the end of November 2023, 34 Group Water Scheme sites are logged on 'Actions for Pollinators' https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/
107	Continue to manage and support Citizen Science monitoring schemes that track changes in pollinators across all land types, including private land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme transects being carried out on private land. This is an expert-level Citizen Science scheme Increase in the number of regular Flower-Insect Timed Counts (FIT Counts) being completed on private land. This is a beginner-level Citizen Science scheme Publication of annual reports on the findings of both schemes 	National Biodiversity Data Centre, CEDaR	<p>Both the All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme and FIT Counts were managed and promoted by the National Biodiversity Data Centre in 2023. CEDaR also promoted both schemes.</p> <p>Data submission within the Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme continues until 31st December each year. Annual reports are produced in the following year to update the trends. The 2012-2022 report is available here: https://biodiversityireland.ie/app/uploads/2023/11/Bumblebee-Monitoring-Scheme-Annual-Report-2012-2022.pdf</p> <p>Data submission with the FIT Count Scheme continues until 31st December each year. Currently ~840 FIT Counts have been submitted for 2023. New Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme transects have been established on private land in 2023. Many FIT Counts have also taken place on private land.</p>

OBJECTIVE 4: ALL-IRELAND HONEY BEE STRATEGY

The 2023 All-Ireland Honey bee Strategy annual report was compiled by Dr Archie Murchie

Target 4.1 Education and Knowledge Transfer

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023	
108	Conferences used as a means of disseminating good practice to beekeepers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conferences organised and used as a means of disseminating good practice 	UBKA, FIBKA, INIB, IBA CLG, NIHBS	The beekeeping organisations have a good series of conferences, exhibits, summer schools, workshops, honey shows and online talks.	
109	Expand beekeeping qualification courses to cover other environmental issues, including impacts of beekeeping on native pollinators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Courses expanded and participants informed about other environmental issues Relevant fact sheets produced 	UBKA, FIBKA, INIB (via BBKA), IBA CLG	The beekeeping organisations have agreed to include greater awareness of all pollinators within their courses.	

Target 4.2 Communication

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023	
110	Establish a Steering Group to oversee the All-Ireland Honey bee Strategy 2021–2025.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Honey bee Strategy Steering Group established Twice-yearly meeting to discuss progress and share expertise Group to promote the Strategy. 	Honey bee Strategy Steering Group	The Steering Group meetings have taken place in May and November 2023. The Group has agreed to promote the AIPP Honey bee Strategy at appropriate opportunities.	

111	Beekeeping associations to promote the aims of this strategy and the wider All-Ireland Pollinator Plan to members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy promoted via conferences • Strategy promoted via roadshow and workshops • Strategy promoted via teaching/mentoring activities • Strategy promoted in Beekeeping publications and newsletters 	UBKA, FIBKA, INIB, IBA CLG, NIHBS	All beekeeping organisations continue to promote the AIPP and Honey bee Strategy. Specific presentations on the AIPP were given at the UBKA and NIHBS annual conferences.	
112	Honey bee Strategy Steering Group to provide evidence-based guidelines to stakeholders as necessary to ensure healthy Honey bees and effective beekeeping.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree communication strategy and provide evidence-based guidelines to relevant organisations as appropriate (e.g. Farming Unions) 	Honey bee Strategy Steering Group	<p>This action was discussed at the Steering Group meeting in May and it was decided that it was too expansive and not sufficiently defined for the Group to take forward in any meaningful way. The Associations themselves are involved in many educational and knowledge transfer activities to ensure healthy honey bees and effective beekeeping. It was requested that this action was refocused to a more specific requirement.</p> <p>The agreement at the November 23 meeting was to provide details for a webpage on the pollinator.ie site, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links to beekeeping associations on the website • Map with association locations • Links to Coloss and ongoing bee health surveys 	

113	Beekeeping associations to continue to promote and support the wider All-Ireland Pollinator Plan in public engagement activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associations to promote the AIPP as relevant 	UBKA, FIBKA, INIB, IBA CLG, NIHBS	Representatives of the beekeeping organisations have agreed in principle to support and promote the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan within their education and outreach activities.
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Target 4.3 Surveillance and Biosecurity

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023
114	Prepare a paper to establish the need for Honey bee Inspectors in Rol.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of a paper establishing the need and remit for seasonal bee inspectors to support beekeepers 	Honey bee Strategy Steering Group	The incorporation of bees into Regulation (EU) 2016/429 on transmissible animal diseases ("Animal Health Law") coupled with capacity pressures on the DAERA inspectorate following implementation of the Windsor Agreement have meant that this action has not progressed as fully as intended.
115	DAERA to circulate the agreed NI Bee Health Contingency Plan and updated Strategy for the sustainability of the Honey bee when completed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan circulated 	DAERA	<p>The NI Bee Health Contingency Plan is available on the DAERA website under bee health (www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/bee-health). The plan is reviewed and tested each year. The current version has been updated in draft but needs to be uploaded to the website.</p> <p>The Strategy for Sustainability of the Honey bee is now unlikely to be updated until issues with Animal Health Law and EU-exit/transition are sorted.</p>

116	DAERA and DAFM to coordinate surveillance and share information on bee health, invasive species, and plant health (where relevant to bee health, e.g. pathway analyses).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North-South meetings to maximise cooperation 	DAFM, DAERA	Meetings continue at an individual level, but high-level formal meetings are currently paused due to EU-exit/transition and suspension of the NI Assembly	
117	Voluntary registration to be encouraged in ROI prior to new EU legislation, which may make registration compulsory.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisations to actively encourage members to register 	FIBKA, IBA CLG, NIHBS, DAFM	Agreed in principle. There have been discussions on the mechanism for voluntary registration. Some beekeepers are resistant to registration.	
118	Voluntary registration to be encouraged in NI through the 'DataBees' platform.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisations to actively encourage members to register 	UBKA, INIB, NIHBS, DAERA	This is ongoing. 'DataBees' continues to be promoted to beekeepers in NI.	
119	Data on overwintering losses and disease prevalence from the COLOSS survey to be shared at an island-wide scale.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information shared across the island Disseminated by beekeeping organisations 	AFBI, DAFM	<p>ROI COLOSS survey data published in An Beachaire.</p> <p>AFBI annual survey started in 2009 and published annually on the AFBI website.</p> <p>www.afbini.gov.uk/publications/honeybee-husbandry-survey-report-2022-2023</p> <p>Composite data are normally published in the Journal of Apicultural Research as open access papers.</p>	

				Gray et al. 2022. Honey bee colony loss rates in 37 countries using the COLOSS survey for winter 2019–2020: the combined effects of operation size, migration and queen replacement. Journal of Apicultural Research: 1-7. doi 10.1080/00218839.2022.2113329.
120	Honey bee Strategy Steering Group to bring associations together to discuss and agree a common policy on importations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify current rules and regulations • Agree principles to be published and promoted by Beekeeping Associations 	Honey bee Strategy Steering Group, DAERA, DAFM	<p>Ongoing. The beekeeping organisations agree that sustainability of locally produced Honey bees is the correct strategy, which will be achieved through education, discouraging excessive imports and supporting local queen rearing.</p> <p>However, there are differences of opinion amongst beekeepers with respect to importation. NIHBS, for example, would prefer no importation to protect the genetic integrity of the Irish black bee; whereas others see importation of new stock as a valuable asset to their beekeeping.</p> <p>However, on July 24th 2023 all Irish beekeeping associations released a joint statement calling for the cessation of imports. This was signed by:</p> <p>Loretta Neary, Chairperson - Native Irish Honey Bee Society, NIHBS John Donoghue, CEO/President - The Federation of Irish Beekeepers' Associations, FIBKA Damien Mac Aodha, Chairperson - Irish Beekeepers Association, IBA John Hill, Chairperson - Ulster Beekeepers Association, UBKA Michael Young, Chairperson - Institute of Northern Ireland Beekeepers, INIB</p>

121	Complete and publish all-Ireland pest risk assessments for invasive pests and pathogens of Honey bees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disseminate DAERA Asian Hornet contingency plan Publish All-Ireland risk assessments for invasive pests and existing pathogens Publish All-Ireland risk assessments for unknown but emerging pests and pathogen 	AFBI, DAFM, DAERA NIEA (invasive species)	<p>The Northern Ireland Rapid Response Contingency Plan for Asian Hornet is available on: http://invasivespeciesireland.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Northern-Ireland-AH-RR-Contingency-Plan-minus-contacts-details.pdf</p> <p>Draft risk assessments for some pests have been produced by AFBI but are not yet publicly available.</p>	
122	Investigate the feasibility of a unified approach to managing Foulbrood on the island of Ireland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarify statutory rules North and South Recognition of the diseases' importance and management options explained Honey bee Strategy Steering Group to agree principles Disease ID sheets on the AIPP website for both forms of Foulbrood Education events to focus on foulbrood Association questionnaire for options re foulbrood (South) 	AFBI, DAFM, DAERA	<p>Ongoing work. Foulbrood cases in NI and ROI are published on the DAERA and DAFM websites respectively along with statutory rules: www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/bee-health www.gov.ie/en/publication/9e1ff-beekeeping-honey/#bee-health</p>	

Target 4.4 Conservation of the native Honey bee strain, *Apis mellifera mellifera*

Research has shown that Ireland has a pure population of *Apis mellifera mellifera*, the native Irish black bee. Elsewhere in Northern Europe, the original home of *Apis mellifera mellifera*, it has been severely hybridized. Ireland has a duty to conserve this genetic resource.

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023	
123	NIHBS to continue to promote the conservation of the native Irish Black Bee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued activities of the NIHBS 	NIHBS	Work is ongoing (please see www.NIHBS.org). NIHBS are currently focused on 3 main projects- the 'Protection of the Native Irish Honey Bee Bill' that is progressing through the Seanad (currently at stage 4), the support of queen rearing group schemes and the establishment of conservation areas all of which are progressing well. Progress on the legislative front has stalled on the basis of lack of scientific evidence. Work has been commissioned from NUIG.	
124	Beekeeping sector to encourage an education process on the merits of the subspecies/strains of Honey bee including the Irish Black Bee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This to include identification of subspecies, issues of local provenance and climatic suitability across the island of Ireland The Irish strain of <i>Apis mellifera mellifera</i> encouraged where appropriate 	FIBKA, UBKA, INIB, IBA CLG, DAFM, DAERA	<p>Ongoing work. The beekeeping associations agree in principle to this target and there are examples of educational events on the suitability of different bee subspecies/strains, including <i>A.m.m.</i></p> <p>FIBKA voted to include conservation of the native honeybee in their constitution.</p>	
125	Publication of an agreed management strategy for <i>Apis mellifera mellifera</i> on the island of Ireland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of the strategy. To include development of a roadmap towards the island of Ireland being recognised as a 'stronghold' for <i>Apis mellifera mellifera</i> 	NIHBS, NUI Galway	<p>Ongoing work. Steering Group discussions have been on developing a strategy to recognise Ireland (or areas) as a special conservation area (stronghold) for <i>A.m.m.</i></p> <p>NIHBS have published a book "The Native Irish Honey Bee, <i>Apis mellifera mellifera</i>" with practical 'How-to' sections on bee improvement, plus real-life stories from commercial beekeepers.</p>	

				<p>Various strategies are being developed on several fronts. Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative • Approaches to Europe • Educational • Conservation areas 	
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Target 4.5 Data sharing

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023	
126	DAFM and AFBI to make results of pesticide surveys publicly available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results of pesticide surveys made available in RoI • Results of pesticide surveys made available in NI 	AFBI, DAFM	<p>NI pesticide usage data available on: www.afbini.gov.uk/articles/pesticide-usage-monitoring-reports</p> <p>RoI pesticide usage data at: https://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/sud/pesticidestatistics/</p>	
127	Promote <i>BeeConnected</i> in NI as a mechanism to connect beekeepers and farmers so that beekeepers can be kept informed about spraying events in their vicinity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beekeeping Associations to encourage members to register • <i>BeeConnected</i> promoted to farmers by the Ulster Farmers Union 	UBKA, INIB, UFU, NIHBS	BeeConnected (https://beeconnected.org.uk) is an up and running app supported by the beekeeping associations and the Ulster Farmers Union. The scheme was launched in NI in 2017 and continues to be promoted.	
128	Investigate possible mechanisms linking farmers and beekeepers so that	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible mechanisms identified 	Honey bee Strategy Steering Group	Ongoing work. Literature on BeeConnected needs to be updated to link in with AIPP.	

	they can be notified of spraying events in RoI.			The Steering Group still need to confirm the status of BeeConnected in RoI and whether it can be promoted here.	
129	Honey bee Strategy Steering Group to develop a roadmap towards a system to capture hive density per hectad (10km ²).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road map developed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - enable management of the overall pollinator resources across the island - enable implementation of alerts and action plans against new pests/pathogens - avoid selling non-native Honey bees into Voluntary Conservation Areas. Explore the possibility of testing in one specific region (e.g. Enniskillen). 	Honey bee Strategy Steering Group, UBKA	<p>Work in progress. DAERA's 'DataBees' allows apiaries to be mapped but not hives and subject to GDPR restrictions.</p> <p>NIHBS have established <i>A.m.m.</i> conservation areas in almost 140 areas including the Fermanagh Beekeepers Association.</p> <p>A heat map of apiary density can be produced for NI.</p>	

Target 4.6 Tracking progress

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023	
130	Publish an annual review of the All-Ireland Honey bee Strategy 2021–2025.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual review published outlining progress against each of the actions Annual reviews made available via beekeeping organisation websites. 	Honey bee Strategy Steering Group	This document fulfils this action.	

All-Ireland Honey bee Strategy Steering Group 2023

Member	Affiliation
Archie Murchie (Chair)	AFBI (deputy Ivan Forsythe)
Susie Hill	UBKA
Mary Montaut	FIBKA
Vacant	INIB
Aoife Nic Giolla Coda	NIHBS
Caroline McDonald	IBA CLG
Thomas Williamson	DAERA (chief bee inspector NI)
Mary Coffey	DAFM
Úna FitzPatrick/Jane Stout	All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Steering Group

Acronyms			
AFBI	Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute	INIB	Institute of Northern Ireland Beekeepers
BBKA	British Beekeepers Association	NIHBS	Native Irish Honey Bee Society
DAERA	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs	NUI Galway	National University of Ireland, Galway
DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine	UFU	Ulster Farmers' Union
FIBKA	Federation of Irish Beekeepers' Associations	UKBA	Ulster Beekeepers Association
IBA CLG	Irish Beekeepers' Association CLG		

OBJECTIVE 5: CONSERVING RARE POLLINATORS

Target 5.1 Ensure rare pollinators are protected by legislation where appropriate

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023	
131	Protect rare pollinators through the Wildlife Act in RoI when warranted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Species added to Schedule 5 of Wildlife Act 	National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	All critically endangered bees have been proposed for legal protection together with <i>Bombus distinguendus</i> . This will be prepared as part of the new Wildlife Act which is in early stages of drafting.	
132	Ensure rare pollinators are protected by legislation in NI where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included on Priority Species list, under The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act 	Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), Centre for Environmental Data and Recording NI (CEDaR)	<p>First Tranche of the NIPS Review implemented Feb 2023: includes Bees (14), Macro-moths (66) and Wasps (no species met criteria, but 10 species identified as Data Deficient).</p> <p>Second Tranche currently going through internal review process before presenting to CNCC. This tranche includes Butterflies (11), Micro-moths (46), Sawflies (26), Soldierflies and Allies (3).</p>	

Target 5.2 Raise awareness of rare pollinators

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023	
133	Work to develop initiatives to assist recovery of the endangered Great Yellow Bumblebee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guideline document (<i>Protecting rare pollinators: Great Yellow Bumblebee</i>, 2019) promoted and distributed to all relevant stakeholders 	National Biodiversity Data Centre, NPWS, BirdWatch Ireland, Mayo County Council, Belmullet Tidy Towns,	BirdWatch Ireland: The management of our reserves on the Mullet Peninsula continues to be sympathetic to the ecological needs of the Great Yellow Bumblebee. Using this knowledge, and working closely with Belmullet Tidy Towns, Mayo County Council, UCD and others, then the Great Yellow	

	<i>(Bombus distinguendus).</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness raising within local communities in remaining Great Yellow Bumblebee strongholds (Mullet Peninsula, Mayo) • Development of a species recovery plan for the Great Yellow Bumblebee • Continued management of BirdWatch Ireland reserves in the Mullet Peninsula to also support the Great Yellow Bumblebee. • Investigation into funding mechanisms to increase the area of land that is managed to support the Great Yellow Bumblebee. 	University College Dublin (UCD)	Bumblebee Conservation Group was formed. The Group successfully received funding, through the European Innovation Partnership, to develop a pilot results-based project which was implemented across the Mullet Peninsula and Erris mainland, Co. Mayo during 2022.	
134	Work to develop initiatives to assist recovery of the near threatened Large Carder Bee (<i>Bombus muscorum</i>).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to monitor its status - data from the All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme (2012-2019) shows an ongoing decline. • Identify a network of key locations where healthy populations remain • Work with local authorities and local communities to raise awareness of the Large Carder bee in these areas and to encourage pollinator-friendly actions to support it 	AIPP team in collaboration with relevant partners	<p>The 2012-2022 All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme data continues to show the Large Carder Bee in strong decline.</p> <p>Work has been ongoing with local communities who have populations of this bee within their local area. To date these have mainly focused on Skerries (Co Dublin) and Tramore (Co Waterford). In both cases, the communities have worked with the relevant Local Authorities to create new habitat corridors. In 2023, the bee was observed to have expanded its range in both towns.</p>	

				<p>The National Biodiversity Data Centre ran a weekend ‘wild bee festival’ of workshops and walks in Tralee in collaboration with Kerry CoCo (August 2023). The event was focussed on how local communities can support the Large Carder Bee. As a result, Fenit have started taking action to protect the bee in their area.</p> <p>Work is ongoing to identify a network of other communities across the island who could be encouraged to take similar action around the Large Carder Bee in future years.</p>	
135	Develop resources on rare pollinators and make freely available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As resources are developed, all collated and added to the website: https://pollinators.ie/helping-endangered-pollinators/ 	AIPP team in collaboration with relevant partners	<p>Resources, including poster and signage templates, continue to be developed and added to the website: https://pollinators.ie/helping-endangered-pollinators/</p> <p>We currently have evidence-based guidance documents on three rare bee species (Great Yellow Bumblebee, Large Carder Bee, Northern Colletes). It is hoped to add a rare non-bee pollinator in 2024.</p>	
136	Promote rare pollinator species through social media campaigns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social media campaign to raise awareness on the status, identification, and ecology of one rare pollinator species each year Great Yellow Bumblebee, Large Carder Bee and Northern Colletes bee to be prioritised initially. Others to be finalised in future years. 	AIPP team in collaboration with relevant partners	Rare species are promoted on social media at appropriate times to raise awareness and encourage positive action. Additional species will be included in future years, once evidence-based resources are available.	

Target 5.3 Publish best practice information on protecting rare pollinators

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023	
137	Publish how-to-guides on protecting rare pollinator species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New species-specific guides published within the <i>Protecting rare pollinators</i> series when a sufficient evidence-base is available. 	AIPP team in collaboration with relevant partners	<p>Three evidence-based guidance documents on rare bees are now available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting Rare Pollinators: Great Yellow Bumblebee https://pollinators.ie/helping-endangered-pollinators/great-yellow-bumblebee/ This was in collaboration with BirdWatch Ireland. Protecting Rare Pollinators: Northern Colletes https://pollinators.ie/helping-endangered-pollinators/northern-colletes/ This was in collaboration with the National Trust. Protecting Rare Pollinators: Helping the Large Carder Bee in your local community https://pollinators.ie/helping-endangered-pollinators/large-carder-bee/ This was in collaboration with Sustainable Skerries and Fingal County Council. 	

Target 5.4 Publish and update All-Ireland conservation assessments for pollinating groups (Red Lists)

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023	
138	Publish an All-Ireland Hoverfly Red List.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of an All-Ireland Red List outlining the conservation status of Ireland’s hoverfly species. 	NPWS, NIEA	This is being drafted at present – all-Ireland database has been created and first iteration of the list is completed with all Least concern species identified.	
139	Develop a roadmap towards updating the All-Ireland Bee Red List (2006).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of an updated checklist of Irish Bees Development of a roadmap outlining necessary data collection that would allow updating of the 2006 Bee Red List. 	NPWS, NIEA, National Biodiversity Data Centre, CEDaR	<p>Preparatory work is ongoing to publish an updated checklist of Irish Bees. Currently there are 102 bee species in Ireland. Two species were recorded for the first time in 2022: <i>Anthophora plumipes</i> (Hairy-footed Flower Bee) and <i>Nomada lathburiana</i>.</p> <p>The National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme (Action 24) will generate an important new dataset that can contribute towards updating of the Bee Red List over the coming years.</p>	

Target 5.5 Track change in rare pollinators

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023	
140	Conduct dedicated surveys to establish the status and distribution of the Northern Colletes bee and the Red-shanked Carder bee in NI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NIEA to investigate whether surveys could be delivered through grant funding by partner organisations, e.g., Buglife Surveys successfully completed. 	NIEA and funded partners	<p>Both Butterfly Conservation and Buglife have successfully secured NIEA grant funding for 5-year projects.</p> <p>The Buglife Coastal Invertebrates project will include site surveys for these rare and threatened bees.</p>	

141	Attempt to increase the number of volunteers tracking rare species within the All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring scheme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pending resources, identification workshops on the following rare bumblebee species, run in areas where they occur: Great Yellow Bumblebee, Shril Carder Bee, Mountain Bumblebee • Attempts made to encourage Citizen Science volunteers to walk specific routes to monitor these rare bumblebees. 	National Biodiversity Data Centre	This year's 2-day 'Wild Bee Festival' took place in Tralee in August 2023. It was held in collaboration with Kerry County Council. It focused on the declining Large Carder Bee (<i>Bombus muscorum</i>) and actions that can be taken to protect it. The event included a full workshop on the All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme and attempted to encourage new volunteers to walk routes to monitor this species within the scheme.	
142	Organise field meetings with volunteer recording networks to search for rare species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rare species hunts organised in appropriate areas, where funding allows. This will have to be limited to species that can be easily identified in the field. 	National Biodiversity Data Centre, CEDaR, BugLife	<p>In 2023, a dedicated rare species event was organised around the Hairy-footed Flower Bee. This solitary bee was recorded for the first time in Ireland in spring 2022 in Harold's Cross (Dublin). A two-day event was held with the local community in April 2023. The Hairy-footed Flower Bee was re-found in the area, but it doesn't seem to have expanded its range yet.</p> <p>Volunteers were again encouraged to look for the Ivy Bee. This species was spotted for the first time in Ireland at the Raven Nature Reserve in Wexford in September 2021. In 2022, a dedicated rare species survey organised by the National Biodiversity Data Centre, showed that it had expanded its range as far north as Brittas Bay in Wicklow. It has again expanded its range in 2023. In late September, it was recorded at St Mullin's in Co Carlow.</p>	

OBJECTIVE 6: STRATEGIC COORDINATION OF THE PLAN

Target 6.1 General awareness raising

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023	
143	Continually maintain and update AIPP website to provide stand-alone toolkit for those who want to help.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued management and updating of website pollinators.ie 	AIPP team	https://pollinators.ie/ continues to be maintained and regularly updated	
144	Maintain Twitter and Instagram accounts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growth in the number of followers Run dedicated annual campaigns on both platforms. May include, but not limited to: Let Dandelions Be, No Mow May 	AIPP team	<p>As of the end of November 2023, the number of X/Twitter followers is 10,239 (21% increase on 2022).</p> <p>The number of Instagram followers has increased to 5,040 (41% increase on 2022).</p> <p>Social media campaigns (Let Dandelions Bee & No Mow May) were run in 2023 and will be repeated in 2024. No Mow May had a huge boost in 2023 through a collaboration with An Post. We developed a postcard on the campaign, which An Post delivered to 2.6 million households in the Republic of Ireland. This saw a huge increase in participation.</p> <p>Investigations are underway on additional social media campaigns for future years.</p>	

145	Promote the AIPP in national and local media.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain up-to-date media toolkit, to include bank of photographs • Publish press release for key events • Development of a range of promotional materials to promote pollinators • Track numbers of published media articles and other engagements 	AIPP team	<p>The AIPP has been very widely covered in the National media in 2023. In addition to mentions in more than 113 articles in print and digital newspaper versions, promotion has also included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 radio/TV interviews/podcasts • 40 talks <p>Significant promotion occurred around World Bee Day in 2023 (Action 149 below)</p>
146	Focus engagement efforts on new audiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of engagement efforts with new sectors who have not heavily engaged with the 2015–2020 Plan 	AIPP team	<p>Specific efforts are being made to target new audiences in the second phase. These have included the following: GAA, Irish Science Teachers Association, Gaisce, Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland, Hospitals, NI Housing Executive, Aviation sector, NI Education Authority, Architects, Financial Institutions, Developers.</p>
147	Distribute a monthly digital newsletter to the mailing list.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital newsletter distributed to the mailing list each month 	AIPP team	<p>A digital newsletter has been produced each month in 2023. It is distributed to the AIPP mailing list and made available at https://pollinators.ie/newsletters/</p>
148	Organise an annual AIPP conference.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual event organised to provide a forum for knowledge sharing and reporting on progress within the Plan • Meeting venue to rotate around Provinces 	AIPP team	<p>This event has traditionally focused on Councils. In 2023, it was organised and scheduled to take place in Monaghan in May. However, we decided to cancel due to low booking numbers in spring. Postponing made sense given the flux around new biodiversity officer recruitment, as well as new resources that are in development for Councils. The 2024 event will be held centrally to attract as large an audience as possible. It will take place on the 13th June 2024 at the</p>

				<p>Civic Theatre in Tallaght, and is being organised in collaboration with South Dublin County Council.</p> <p>The AIPP did hold two community focused events in 2023. Similarly, these events rotate around the provinces. The spring recording event was held in Harold's Cross in Dublin, and the August 'wild bee festival' was held in Tralee in Kerry. It is planned that the spring 2024 event will be held in Northern Ireland.</p>
149	Run an annual programme of engagement around World Bee Day (20 th May).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme of engagement organised • Activities listed on a dedicated page on pollinators.ie. 	All partners	<p>To follow on from the widescale promotion of No Mow May (information postcards delivered to 2.6M households in collaboration with An Post), we released four new meadow resources for World Bee Day 2023. These aimed to raise awareness of the importance of this habitat for pollinators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How-to guide: creating and restoring meadows in local communities and gardens • Flyer: celebrating Ireland's meadows • Two new signage templates developed in consultation with South Dublin County Council and residents' associations (Let it Bee, and Meadow in Progress). There are three versions of each: an English version, a bilingual version, and an editable version which allows groups and local authorities to insert their own logos and websites. <p>We created a latest news page on the website for these resources, and posted on social media, where they had significant engagement.</p>

				<p>A new blog was released, 'Pollinator research continues to flourish', with updates on pollinator research from Jane Stout.</p> <p>We also contributed comms content to the World Bee Day campaign at the Aviva Stadium; and recorded an interview on MaREI podcast.</p>
150	Run an annual programme of engagement around international Pollinator Week (late June).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme of engagement organised • Activities listed on a dedicated page on pollinators.ie. 	All partners	<p>For Solitary Bee Week 2023, we focussed on sharing a key resource which was released in autumn 2022: the 'Solitary Bees of Ireland' poster. On Twitter, this post was the 'Top Tweet' in Q3. It was also in the Top 5 'link clicks' from Twitter for Q3, one of the most successful posts for driving traffic to the website.</p> <p>A new blog was released at the start of Solitary Bee Week: Rare pollinators using the long-flowering meadows in Tramore</p>
151	Recognise the contribution of local pollinator champions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since 2017, we have recognized a small group of individuals annually (approx. six). This to continue. These are local influencers who make the plan happen on the ground, largely in a voluntary capacity • Certificate and personal thanks are sent to new pollinator champions. Awardees are not publicised, as these are most often 	AIPP team	<p>These individuals are recognised each year in December/January. Champions are not publicly recognised, but personal thanks are sent.</p>

		people who do not wish to be personally promoted			
152	Raise awareness of an additional pollinating insect group annually. (The main focus of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is on bees.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social media campaign to raise awareness of one non-bee pollinating insect group annually. May include, but not limited to: hoverflies, nocturnal pollinators, day-flying moths, wasps, beetles 	Butterfly Conservation NI, BugLife, others as appropriate	<p>The AIPP has promoted other pollinating insects across social media throughout 2023, particularly hoverflies and moths.</p> <p>A new initiative to promote a 'pollinator of the week' is currently planned for 2024.</p>	
153	Raise awareness to promote the use of appropriate grass management in preference to planting with wildflower seed and, where this is necessary, the use of native, local provenance wildflower seed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued messaging through social media and other online platforms 	AIPP team	<p>This has expanded into a significant action in its own right. The use of 'wildflower' seed mixtures fails to address and even aggravates the real issues of biodiversity loss.</p> <p>To address this going forward, a wildflower seed action group was established in May 2021 with representatives from the National Parks and Wildlife Service, National Biodiversity Data Centre, National Botanic Gardens, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Teagasc, TCD, UCD, as well as some independent ecological consultants.</p> <p>The group met regularly across 2023. Each meeting results in actions that members of the group commit to taking to help address this issue.</p> <p>The group will continue to do all it can to encourage natural regeneration and the return of semi-natural grasslands, rather than inappropriate wildflower seed planting. This was boosted in 2022, by the launch of a new project by NPWS to celebrate Irish semi-natural</p>	

				grasslands called 'Great Irish Grasslands' https://greatirishgrasslands.ie/ This has been supported by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. It creates a foundation to better celebrate meadows and manage expectations around what they should look like.	
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Target 6.2 Researching the evidence base for action

Updates under Target 6.2 have been compiled by Prof Jane Stout

NOTE: Research actions are dependent on both funding and availability of appropriate researchers

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023
	Dissemination and communication			
154	Maintain the Pollinator Research Network to discuss ongoing research, and to build collaborations for future research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Pollinator Research Network meetings held Annual updates of researchers/research projects disseminated via pollinators.ie 	Pollinator Research Network – Trinity College Dublin (TCD), University College Dublin (UCD), Maynooth University (MU), Dublin City University (DCU), National University of Ireland, Galway, and others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual meeting held in January 2023 @University of Galway World Bee Day research blog published https://pollinators.ie/pollinator-research-continues-to-flourish/ Annual update to research outputs – total of 30 new publications in 2023 https://pollinators.ie/research/publications/ Meetings of farmland pollinators working group held.
155	Maintain bee health research-policy-practice dialogue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Bee Health meetings between researchers, decision-makers, and practitioners. 	MU, TCD, DAFM, Teagasc, AFBI, DAERA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Bee Health Meeting not held in 2023, but a research-policy meeting between PROTECTS project and DAFM was held
	Pollinator and pollination ecology			
156	Expand knowledge of Ireland’s wild bee populations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research into genetic differentiation/distinction among populations at different scales, linking with ecological/behavioral differences 	Researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research ongoing into genetic differentiation of <i>Bombus terrestris</i> (Irish, British, commercial) (Sarah Larragy & Jim Carolan, MU; Jane Stout, TCD) Research ongoing into solitary bee nesting and floral preferences (Colm O’Leary, PhD student; Simon Hodge, UCD; Steph Maher, Teagasc; Daire O’hUallachain, Teagasc; Jane Stout, TCD)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research into nesting and floral requirements of solitary bee species • Continue to investigate the prevalence, health and longevity of honeybee colonies that exist in the wild. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing research on diversity and adaptation in Irish wild honeybee population (Grace McCormack, NUIG) – see publication: McCann M & McCormack GP (2023). Increased levels of introgression evident in Irish honey bees, Journal of Apicultural Research, DOI: 10.1080/00218839.2023.2262872
157	Improve understanding of hoverfly populations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research into hoverfly abundance/diversity across different land uses, microhabitat use, and/or service provision (bio-control, pollination, nutrient cycling). 	Researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research into hoverfly abundance and richness in relation to farmland feature quantity and quality ongoing (Steph Maher, Teagasc; Jane Stout, TCD; Simon Hodge, UCD; Farm Ecos team) – paper in review • Research into hoverfly diversity in crop fields and contributions to pollination services ongoing (Katherine Burns, Arrian Karbassioon, Alison O’Reilly, Dara Stanley, UCD) – see publication Burns K.L.W., Stanley D.A. (2022) The importance and value of insect pollination to apples: A regional case study of key cultivars. Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment 331:107911 • Data from the Protecting Farmland Pollinators EIP researching hoverfly species richness and abundance in different farmland habitats will be published in the new year.

158	Improve knowledge of rare and at-risk pollinators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research to inform conservation of extinction-risk species in the Irish context • Provide evidence base for conservation of specialized habitats in which rare/at-risk species live. 	Researchers, NIE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research into <i>Bombus distinguendus</i> ecology, habitat preference and population genetics ongoing (Lydia Thompson, PhD student; Dara Stanley, UCD; Julia Jones, UCD)
159	Expand knowledge of urban pollinators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research to determine impacts of street lighting on pollinators and pollination service • Research to determine value of urban greening to pollinator populations. 	Researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not yet advanced.
160	Expand knowledge of plant-pollinator interactions and dynamics, and pollination service delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue research into farmland pollinators, how they respond to changes in floral availability within and between seasons • Research linking changes in 	Researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research on impacts of pesticides on plant-pollinator interactions and on pollination service delivery published – see O’Reilly, A. & Stanley D.A. (2023) Solitary bee behaviour and pollination service delivery is differentially impacted by neonicotinoid and pyrethroid insecticides. <i>Science of the Total Environment</i>, 894, 164399; and Russo L., Ruedenauer F., Gronert A., Van de Vreken I., Vanderplanck M.,

		pollinator communities with ecosystem function and service provision in wild plant species.		Michez D., Klein A., Leonhardt S., Stout J.C. (2023) Fertilizer and herbicide alter nectar and pollen quality with consequences for pollinator floral choices. PeerJ 11: e15452. DOI: 10.7717/peerj.15452; and Zioga E., White B., Stout J. C. (2023) Pesticide mixtures detected in crop and non-target wild plant pollen and nectar. Science of The Total Environment 879: 162971
161	Expand understanding of interactions between managed and wild pollinators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate optimal placement of honeybee apiaries – how do honeybee hives affect availability of floral resources for other pollinators and how many hives should be located in different habitat types (e.g., forests, urban areas, farmed landscapes). 	Researchers, Beekeepers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research into how placement of honeybee hives in heathland habitats in the Dublin mountains affects wild bumblebees ongoing (Katie Burns and Dara Stanley, UCD) Data from the Protecting Farmland Pollinators EIP researching honey bee and wild pollinator species richness and abundance in different farmland habitats will be published in the new year.
162	Expand knowledge of bee diseases and health risks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generate baselines of disease prevalence in honeybees and investigate potential for disease transfer 	Researchers, DAFM, AFBI, DAERA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SFI funded project at NUIG collected approx. 90 samples from wild and managed colonies were sampled and stored at -70oC before being sent to collaborators lab in Spain for screening for pathogens.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine whether promotion of managed honeybee colonies in the wild poses a disease risk to wild pollinators • Undertake new research into Chalkbrood disease in honeybees. 		
Drivers of decline and conservation measures				
163	Understand extent of exposure to pesticides and other pollutants across ecosystems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine exposure routes for multiple pesticides/pollutants and pollinator taxa • Quantify pesticide residues in plants, soil, water, bee products • Improve understanding of impacts of environmental pollution, e.g. heavy metals on bee health and bee products. 	Researchers, DAFM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Published work to determine pesticide residues in plants and soils (PROTECTS project – UCD, TCD, DCU) – e.g. see Vickneswaran M., Carolan J. C., Saunders M., White B. (2023) Establishing the extent of pesticide contamination in Irish agricultural soils. <i>Heliyon</i> 9 (9); and Zioga E., White B., Stout J. C. (2023) Pesticide mixtures detected in crop and non-target wild plant pollen and nectar. <i>Science of The Total Environment</i> 879: 162971. • Published work on exposure e.g. Knapp, J. L., Nicholson, C., Jonsson, O., de Miranda, J., Rundlöf, M. (2023). Ecological traits interact with landscape context to determine bees' pesticide risk. <i>Nature Ecology & Evolution</i>. DOI: 10.1038/s41559-023-01990-5.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roadmap for improved pollinator risk assessment (commissioned by EFSA) published Williams H., J... Knapp, J. L...et al. (2023). Roadmap for action on the environmental risk assessment of chemicals for insect pollinators (IPol-ERA). EFSA Journal. 10.2903/sp.efsa.2023.EN-8431 • Work on impacts of exposure published e.g. Nicholson C. and Knapp J. L., Hodge S., Stout J.C., et al. (2023). Agricultural pesticide use negatively affects bumble bee colonies across Europe. Nature, Accepted.
164	Research impacts of climate change and climate action policies on pollinators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research into how climate change affects pollinators • Research into how policies to tackle climate change affect pollinators. 	Researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research published into how weather affects pollinator activity, and creating a bee thermoregulation model to predict future responses to changing temperature (Arrian Karbassioon, Sarah MacQueen, Dara Stanley UCD)
165	Assess effectiveness of conservation measures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research effectiveness of conservation actions for pollinator populations and communities • Develop a simple tool to assess quality of conservation actions (e.g. meadows, parks, 	Researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD ongoing with Kildare Co. Co. (Sophia Couchman & Jim Carolan, MU, Jane Stout TCD, Una Fitzpatrick NBDC) to investigate non-chemical control methods for invasive/noxious plants and weeds on open public lands. • Research into agri-environmental measures (delayed grazing and delayed mowing) and impacts on rare and common bumblebees ongoing (Lydia Thompson, Julia Jones, Dara Stanley UCD) • Research into effects of flower strips and pesticide use (and their interaction) on pollinator populations and pollination services are ongoing (Jess Knapp TCD).

		designated sites, no-mow lawns, Buglife’s B-lines) in terms of provision of floral resources		
166	Determine effectiveness of Pollinator Trail sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research to monitor the network of Pollinator Trail sites to specifically assess the impact of different pollinator actions versus control sites 	Researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot be advanced until the trail is established (Action 32)
167	Investigate the role of specific plants in supporting pollinators to determine best ones to plant for bees in different habitat types.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research into role of trees to inform tree-planting initiatives • Research into replacements for invasive plants used by beekeepers to provide forage for honeybees (e.g. Himalayan Balsam) 	Researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Importance” of various taxa determined by investigation of Irish plant-pollinator networks https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.9347
168	Review publicly managed land in terms of suitability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct review • Develop a plan to prioritise the restoration of pollinator habitat, 	Researchers, National Biodiversity Data Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD ongoing with Kildare Co. Co. (Sophia Couchman & Jim Carolan, MU, Jane Stout TCD, Una Fitzpatrick NBDC) to investigate the correlation between biodiversity management practices and pollinator

	for key pollinator populations.	based on those areas that will yield the greatest expected net benefits		abundance and diversity on open public spaces and roundabouts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research will contribute to the development of practical guidelines for commercial landscapers and land managers.
Multiple benefits and widening engagement				
169	Research multiple co-benefits of pollinator conservation for other elements of biodiversity and ecosystem service delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research into co-benefits of pollinator conservation actions 	Researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Horizon project Restpoll funded, starting November 2023, co-benefits of pollinator conservation included (TCD)
170	Expand understanding of why people engage with pollinator conservation and how to reach those who are not yet engaging.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-disciplinary research into engagement with pollinator conservation action. To include studies of behaviour change, attitudes, perceptions, etc. 	Researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research into the social (and ecological) values associated with pollinator conservation, including attitudes and perceptions to encourage behaviour change, are ongoing (TCD).
171	Test methods for non-lethal monitoring across habitats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot studies and ground truthing of novel non-lethal monitoring technology, compatible with European 	Researchers, DAFM, National Biodiversity Data Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Biodiversity Data Centre ran a non-lethal moth sampling project on EIP farms in 2022-2023 (funded by DAFM). https://biodiversityireland.ie/projects/farmer-moth-monitoring-project/

		Pollinator Monitoring Scheme			
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Target 6.3 Establishment and maintenance of supporting databases

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023
172	Continue to manage and maintain the online mapping system <i>Actions for Pollinators</i> , where all those who have taken pollinator-friendly actions can log their location and the action(s) taken.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage and maintain the GIS based mapping system • Open it up to all sectors • Improve reporting by increasing the number of sites logged • Where funding is available, work to expand the functionality of the system • Use this emerging map of pollinator-friendly habitat to direct future actions to the most appropriate areas 	National Biodiversity Data Centre	As of the end of November 2023, 4,200 sites are logged on 'Actions for Pollinators'. Just over 11,200 individual actions have been logged. The most popular action is pollinator-friendly planting (2,271), followed by reducing mowing (1,699) and reduced pesticide use (1,599). https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/
173	Maintain data on wild pollinator distribution and make available through an online Atlas of Irish pollinators and the NBN Atlas for Northern Ireland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and manage databases. Ensure that as much data is open access as possible • Make available through online Atlases of wild bees and hoverflies • Increase the number of active recorders who can accurately identify pollinator species • Where funding is available, continue to develop and 	National Biodiversity Data Centre; CEDaR	Bee data submitted online is validated in quarters. As of the end of September 2023, the National Bee Database, managed by the National Biodiversity Data Centre contains 102,282 validated records. It is fully open access: https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/Dataset/5 Hoverfly data submitted online is validated annually. Currently, the National Hoverfly Database, managed by the National Biodiversity Data Centre contains 39,035 validated records. It is fully open access: https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/Dataset/159

		publish online identification courses for pollinator identification		<p>The number of active recorders continues to increase across both datasets.</p> <p>The National Biodiversity Data Centre currently has free online identification courses for bumblebees and hoverflies: https://biodiversityireland.ie/online-training/</p>
174	Maintain and grow Citizen Science pollinator monitoring networks and databases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support and grow the All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme (expert volunteer Citizen Science scheme) • Continue to support and grow the Flower-Insect Timed Count monitoring scheme (general public Citizen Science scheme) 	National Biodiversity Data Centre	Both the All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme and the Flower-Insect Timed Count Scheme were fully supported in 2023. The numbers of volunteers participating in both schemes continues to grow annually.
175	Maintain a database on plant-pollinator interactions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain database • Add new data as it becomes available 	National Biodiversity Data Centre	This database continues to be maintained within the National Biodiversity Data Centre. It is updated quarterly in line with bee data validation within the Centre. Currently, there are just over 17,800 wild bee species records that also include foraging information.
176	Maintain an online database of Irish Pollinator research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and populate database • Make available via www.pollinators.ie • Update annually 	Pollinator Research Network	<p>This is available at https://pollinators.ie/research/</p> <p>The list of published papers by Irish researchers in 2023 is here: https://pollinators.ie/research/publications/</p> <p>Annual update to research outputs – total of 30 new publications in 2023.</p>

177	Develop a digital database of pollinator collections in the National Museum of Ireland (Natural History).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate funding mechanisms that would allow the national bee collection to be fully curated by the Natural History Museum. This should include image, accession number, specimen - all digitally linked and searchable 	National Museum of Ireland (Natural History)	<p>A preliminary survey conducted by the NMI entomology curator has estimated that there are approx. 25,000 Irish bee specimens in the Natural History collection. Suitable imaging systems have been identified and costed and can be readily purchased pending identification of an appropriate funding source.</p> <p>Protocols for efficient collation of geographic and temporal information from historical Museum specimens have been developed and published in scientific literature.</p>
178	Collate and maintain data on scientific engagement polls/surveys, so that the initiative can continue to learn from this feedback.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain a database of the findings of all engagement polls since the AIPP began in 2015. Some of these were run by the Plan itself through social media, others by third parties Use this information to improve engagement with all stakeholders 	AIPP team	<p>This database is maintained with the National Biodiversity Data Centre and is used to improve our understanding on how to best engage with stakeholders.</p>

Target 6.4 Maintenance of a network of supporting organisations

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023
179	Maintain a network of organisations who agree to help promote or otherwise assist the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a framework, whereby organisations can sign up as a supporter of the Plan and indicate what actions they are willing to take in support 	AIPP team	<p>A list of all supporting organisations is maintained at: https://pollinators.ie/partners/supporters/</p> <p>As of the end of November 2023, there are 57 supporters of the AIPP 2021-2025</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a list of all supporting organisations on the website • Maintain this network of supporting organisations and provide support as resources allow • Facilitate knowledge exchange where possible • Provide supporters with an opportunity to report on their activities each year as part of the annual review process 		<p>In coming years, as the network grows, we will facilitate knowledge exchange within this group where possible.</p> <p>These supporters are given the opportunity to report on their activities to the AIPP team as part of the annual review process.</p>	
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Target 6.5 Overall coordination

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2023	
180	Promote the Plan to new organisations and sectors as relevant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan promoted to new organisations and sectors • Increase in the number of organisations supporting the Plan • As appropriate, continue to explore possibilities to grow the reach of the Plan e.g. investigations into whether the planning process could include stipulations for pollinators 	AIPP Project Manager and Steering Group	<p>This continues to occur where possible. Significant efforts continue to be made to engage with new organisations and sectors.</p> <p>The number of supporting organisations continues to increase.</p>	
181	Ensure that the Pollinator Plan is compatible with	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with other partners to ensure land management advice for promoting 	AIPP Project Manager and Steering Group	Oversight is continually maintained on this action. In 2023, this included specific discussions with BirdWatch Ireland and Bat Conservation Ireland.	

	other biodiversity initiatives.	biodiversity is joined up and is not contradictory			
182	Ensure the incorporation of the Pollinator Plan into future relevant national strategies, where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of the Plan to relevant organisations and those working on national strategies/planning 	AIPP Project Manager and Steering Group	Oversight is continually maintained on this action. Of most significance in 2023, is the inclusion of the AIPP within the draft National Biodiversity Plan in RoI.	
183	Develop an online toolkit, based on lessons learned from the AIPP 2015–2020 to ensure knowledge sharing at the EU level and beyond.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop materials on lessons learned from the first phase of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015–2020 Make available as an online toolkit for other countries interested in doing something similar Include templates and resources that can be shared 	AIPP Project Manager	<p>This has begun https://pollinators.ie/toolkit/ and will continue to be developed over the coming years.</p> <p>The AIPP continues to engage and provide advice to other countries who reach out and are interested in replicating our activities.</p>	
184	Publish an overall annual review of the 186 actions in the Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a collated annual review, outlining progress on all actions within the Plan Publication of this review on the website each December 	AIPP Project Manager	This document fulfills this action	
185	Annually review the Steering Group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the Steering Group annually and restructure as required 	AIPP Steering Group Chair	This is an ongoing process that happens annually. It has been agreed that the size remain constant (max 16 members) but that expertise on the group reflects the key tasks that are being undertaken in any given year. The current Steering Group (2023) is below.	
186	Renew the Plan in 2025.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new version of the Pollinator Plan to be developed for 2026–2030 	Steering Group	Not yet relevant	

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Steering Group 2023

Member	Affiliation
Dr Úna FitzPatrick (chair)	National Biodiversity Data Centre
Prof Jane Stout (deputy chair)	Trinity College Dublin
Mr Ken Bradley	DAERA; Environmental Policy Division
Ms Pauline Campbell	DAERA; Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Ms Niamh Carmichael	Centre for Environmental Data and Recording (CEDaR)
Ms Hannah Denniston	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Ms Eimear Fox	Local Communities, Tidy Towns Adjudicator
Ms Susie Hill	Ulster Beekeepers Association
Dr Catherine Keena	Teagasc
Ms Annette Lynch	National Parks and Wildlife Service
Dr Mary Montaut	Federation of Irish Beekeepers' Associations (FIBKA)
Dr Archie Murchie	Agri-Food and Biosciences NI
Ms Anne Murray	Local Authorities: Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown County Council
Ms Sarah Jane Phelan	Transport Infrastructure Ireland
Ms Melina Quinn	National Trust



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