

National Biodiversity Data Centre

Annual Report

2024

The National Biodiversity Data Centre is a Company Limited by Guarantee.
Company Registration Number: 730718

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MESSAGE FROM THE Chairperson



On behalf of the Board and staff of the National Biodiversity Data Centre CLG, I am pleased to present the Centre's 2024 annual report.

2024 was a significant year for the NBDC, with the publication in February of our first Strategic Plan since our establishment as a company in December 2022 and the significant growth in our team to position us to make early progress on the Plan's implementation. Drawing heavily on the mandate set out in our Constitution, and taking account of the inputs from internal and external consultation, our Strategic Plan sets out our vision, mission and values and a programme of work to be taken forward over the five years 2024 to 2028, structured around 6 Strategic Objectives. By year end, as set out in this report, we had made very substantial progress in delivering on the actions we targeted for the first year of implementation of the Plan and we had secured significant additional resources for 2025 which would place us in an excellent position to build further future momentum.

We had a number of changes in our Board membership during 2024. Ted Massey resigned as a Director due to a change in his role in the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and was replaced by a colleague, Tom Medlycott. In addition, Geraldine Tallon, who had played such an instrumental role in the transition of the NBDC from a funded programme to a standalone company, came to the end of her 2 year term as a Director in December and her position on the Board was filled in early 2025 with the appointment of Professor Willie Donnelly. We are deeply grateful to both Geraldine and Ted for their service on the Board during the company's early formative years and we look forward to working with Tom and Willie in the years ahead.

Ensuring that the Centre's work is aligned with Government policy and can provide the high quality, trusted and timely data that robust policy formulation and implementation depend on was a central concern for us in framing our Strategic Plan. Recognising that alignment, we continued to receive strong support during 2024 from both the former Minister for

Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien, and the former Minister of State with responsibility for Heritage, Malcolm Noonan. We extend our best wishes to both in their new roles and we look forward to working closely in the months and years ahead with their successors, Minister James Browne and Minister of State Christopher O'Sullivan, who were appointed in early 2025.

We are very much appreciative of the ongoing productive working relationship we enjoy with the National Parks and Wildlife Service and also with the Heritage Council to whom NPWS had delegated the first line of oversight of the NBDC. In addition to the core funding we receive from NPWS through the Heritage Council, without which we would not be able to operate, we also receive funding from a number of other organisations to deliver specific projects; this project-specific funding supports a significant element of the Centre's activities and we will continue to also nurture our relationships with those funders in the years ahead.

In conclusion, I want to thank my colleagues on the Board who give so generously of their time and expertise in leading the work of the Centre and to our CEO, Dr Liam Lysaght, and all the wonderfully passionate team who work so hard on realising the Centre's vision of "*an Ireland where biodiversity is understood, appreciated and valued, and decisions that impact on biodiversity are informed by evidence and knowledge*". Of course, there remains a long road ahead of us to deliver fully under our Strategic Plan 2024 – 2028, but the progress we have made in the first year of implementation provides soundly-based confidence in our commitment and capacity to complete the journey ahead.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John McCarthy". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Chairperson

MESSAGE FROM THE

Chief Executive Officer



2024 marked a new beginning for the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

With its establishment as a Company Limited by Guarantee in December 2022, much of 2023 was taken up with ensuring that the necessary policies and procedures appropriate for the CLG were in place, ensuring that we could hit the ground running in 2024.

Early in the year we published our new five-year *Strategic Plan 2024-2028* presenting the framework around which our objectives and key work programme would be structure. It identifies four objectives focused on biodiversity data and information namely, improving knowledge on Ireland's biodiversity, assisting better evidence-based actions for biodiversity conservation and restoration, promoting the use of data for science and decision-making, and strengthening the citizen science and research network. A fifth objective identifies the need to improve communication around biodiversity, while the sixth objective recognises the need to build an innovative, agile and accountable Centre to enable us to deliver on the other objectives.

Only the first year into delivering on our Strategic Plan yet we already have much progress to report. We saw significant organisational growth with the number of staff growing from 12 to 21. Establishing an Invasive Species Unit to build our capacity on invasive species, and to manage the Shared Island Biosecurity and Invasive Species Initiative was the main growth area. Organising the inaugural Invasive Species Forum to provide a national forum for stakeholders to come together and discuss key issues was a particular highlight during the year. There continued to be great progress to report with implementation of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025, now that all 42 Councils across the island having formally partnered with the Plan, and action are being taken by the local community, farming and business sectors.

We continue to deliver on our core mission to make data and information on Ireland's biodiversity more easily accessible. 6.9 million occurrence records on Ireland's biodiversity are now published through Biodiversity Maps. Contributing 67,000 occurrence records to National Parks and Wildlife Service to support their reporting under Article 17 of the EU Habitat Directive is a good example of how observations can contribute in a real way to policy implementation. We are also very pleased to have developed, on behalf of National Parks and Wildlife Service, a Tracker to make reporting under the Fourth National Biodiversity Action Plan more structured and to track progress with implementation of the Plan.

Thanks to the extensive network of surveyors who contribute to our monitoring programmes we are gaining better insights on how Ireland's biodiversity is changing. Unfortunately, insect populations are still declining but some rare plant populations seem to be doing well. The purpose of collecting these high-quality data is to promote more evidence-based actions to improve the outlook for biodiversity. Clearly there is much more progress needed to ensure that is the case.

The progress that we can report for 2024 is the result of a team effort. I would like to thank the Chairperson and Board of the Centre who provided valuable guidance and support to me during the year. I am particularly grateful to my colleagues for their professionalism and commitment to delivering a large programme of work, and to the many individuals and organisations that have engaged so positively with the Centre during the year.

Liam Lysaght

Chief Executive Officer

OUR 2024

Highlights

Growing the organisation

- Published our *Strategic Plan 2024-2028* and approved our Governance and Staff Handbooks
- Agreed our organisational structure and grew the staff complement from 12 to 21
- Established a dedicated Invasive Species Unit to expand our capacity to deliver a large work programme on Invasive Species in support of policy implementation

Improving knowledge on biodiversity

- Improved knowledge of Ireland's biodiversity by publishing 395,985 new occurrence records and 13 new datasets to Biodiversity Maps. This included occurrence data on 39 new species.
- Updated the suite of 71 sub-indicators of the National Biodiversity Indicators
- Developed an online Tracker to track progress with delivery of the 194 actions contained in the *Fourth National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030*

Assisting better evidence-based actions for conservation

- Continued to coordinate implementation of the *All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025*, reporting that 127 of the actions have been completed, 50 are still in progress and only 11 remain to be progressed
- Organised the inaugural Shared Island Biosecurity and Invasive Species Forum, attended by around 100 delegates from different partner organisations
- Managed the Action for Biodiversity website <https://actionforbiodiversity.ie/> as a resource for local action

Promoting the use of biodiversity data

- Published 108,705 new occurrence records to the Global Biodiversity Information Facility
- Contributed almost 67,000 occurrence records to assist NPWS report under Article 17 of the EU Habitats Directive

Strengthening the citizen science and research networks

- Supported a network of 8,301 citizen scientists who generated 152,711 new occurrence records
- Managed a network of 279 monitoring transects, 1,962 point counts, 302 site surveys and 289 monitored plant populations
- Reported on the trends of Ireland's butterfly and bumblebee populations by managing the Irish Butterfly and All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Schemes
- Managed the National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme
- Agreed a new Training and Engagement Programme to build capacity and taxonomic expertise across the citizen science and scientific communities

Communicating Biodiversity

- Published two issues of *Biodiversity Ireland*, the Centre's bi-annual magazine
- Published monthly eNewsletters providing updates on Centre activities
- Produced a suite of 18 new resources to improve knowledge of, and provide advice on, different aspects of Ireland's biodiversity.

SUMMARY OF THE

Organisation's Purpose and Activities

Our Constitution

The main role of the National Biodiversity Data Centre, as set out in its Constitution, is to acquire, collate, manage, validate and make available data in respect of Ireland's biodiversity in order to document wildlife resources and monitor and record changes over time. In discharging that role, the Centre aims to support national initiatives to maintain and enhance biodiversity, including recording of species and habitat information relating to the terrestrial, freshwater, marine and wetland environments.

Our Strategic Plan

The National Biodiversity Data Centre published its first five-year Strategic Plan for the period 2024 to 2028 in February. The Strategic Plan was developed by the Board and the staff during 2023, framed by the company's role as set out in its constitution, and benefited from an extensive consultation exercise that sought the input from the Centre's key partners. The Strategic Plan aims not only to frame the work priorities for the Centre over the next five years, but it also sets out how the Centre intends to conduct its business.

Our vision

Our vision is of an Ireland where biodiversity is understood, appreciated and valued, and decisions that impact on biodiversity are informed by evidence and knowledge.

The context for our work

Biodiversity is the variety of life on earth and encompasses the diversity that occurs at the genetic, species and ecosystem levels.

Human activity influences biodiversity, ecosystem function and the quality of ecosystem services that biodiversity supports. Climate change and biodiversity loss are global crises posing an existential threat to humanity.

In Ireland, the evidence shows that the complexity of our ecosystems is declining, and many species found in our country are endangered or under threat of extinction. Of the 3,466 species assessed under the Red List conservation assessment process, almost 24% are considered under threat of extinction,

The understanding, conservation and restoration of Ireland's biodiversity are key concerns for all sectors of society. Our work will improve knowledge of Ireland's biodiversity and will assist different sectors of society to better understand which evidence-based actions they can take to help its conservation.

Our work complements the policy, reporting and conservation role of National Parks and Wildlife Service, assists implementation of actions in the *Fourth National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030*, and contributes to the Heritage Council's Strategic Plan 2023-2028 – "*Out Place in Time*".

Our values

There are six values which guide the Centre in its work;



EVIDENCE We recognise that biodiversity conservation is a science-based discipline and that best outcomes for conservation result from evidence-based actions based on accurate and accessible open data.

INNOVATION We accept that new and innovative approaches to biodiversity data and information can help build societal support for the conservation of biodiversity.

COLLABORATION We understand that initiatives co-designed and delivered in partnership, or with community involvement, can have most enduring impacts.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION We commit to work with a diverse and inclusive network of interests, individuals and organisations to promote engagement, appreciation and conservation of biodiversity.

PROFESSIONAL INTEGRITY We commit to operate to the highest standards of professional integrity, quality, transparency and accountability so as to maintain the trust of all stakeholders.

SUSTAINABILITY We recognise the need to act with responsibility and a duty of care to ensure all activities of the National Biodiversity Data Centre minimise any adverse environmental impacts and contribute positively to delivering on the societal, economic and environmental pillars of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Our mission

Our mission is to work to ensure that the unique and intrinsic value of biodiversity to society and human wellbeing is recognised. We will make data and information on Ireland's biodiversity more easily accessible to better understand and inform its protection and restoration. We will work in partnership to support initiatives to increase people's understanding of, and engagement with, biodiversity, and the ways in which it can be maintained and enhanced.

Our strategic objectives

We have identified six strategic objectives as priorities for our work between 2024 and 2028

Objective

1 Improve knowledge on Ireland's biodiversity: Serve as the national centre for acquiring, collating, managing, validating and making available data on Ireland's biodiversity, and track how biodiversity is changing over time.

Objective

2 Assist better evidence-based actions for biodiversity conservation and restoration: Promote the use of genetic, species and habitat data and biodiversity informatics in partnership with other organisations, to better inform best practice, policy and decision-making through innovative data analysis, interpretation and reporting.

Objective

3 Promote the use of biodiversity data for science and decision-making: Support biodiversity data and informatics needs at the national, EU and international levels, particularly for research, policy development and decision making.

Objective

4 Strengthen the citizen science and research network: Build capacity within the citizen science network to foster enjoyment, engagement with and appreciation of local biodiversity, promote life-long learning, and improve the quantity and quality of citizen science generated data on Ireland's biodiversity.

Objective

5 Communicate biodiversity: Communicate the value of Ireland's biological diversity and support positive evidence-based conservation and land-use actions across Irish society.

Objective

6 Build an innovative, agile and accountable National Biodiversity Data Centre to enable it to respond to emerging public policy needs and to strengthen the state's ability to address the biodiversity crisis.

OUR 2024

Achievements & Performance

An Implementation Plan tracked progress with delivery of the Strategic Plan 2024-2028. For 2024, it identified 59 separate actions, grouped under the six strategic objectives, to help deliver on the Strategy.

Strategic Objective 1

Improved knowledge: 13 Actions



Strategic Objective 2

Assist conservation: 16 Actions



Strategic Objective 3

Science & decision-making: 4 Actions



Strategic Objective 4

Strengthen networks: 16 Actions



Strategic Objective 5

Communication: 2 Actions



Strategic Objective 6 -

Organisation & Governance: 8 Actions



At the end of 2024 progress reported

45 actions were completed

12 actions were continuing, and

2 actions showed no satisfactory progress.

The two with no satisfactory progress will be progressed in 2025.



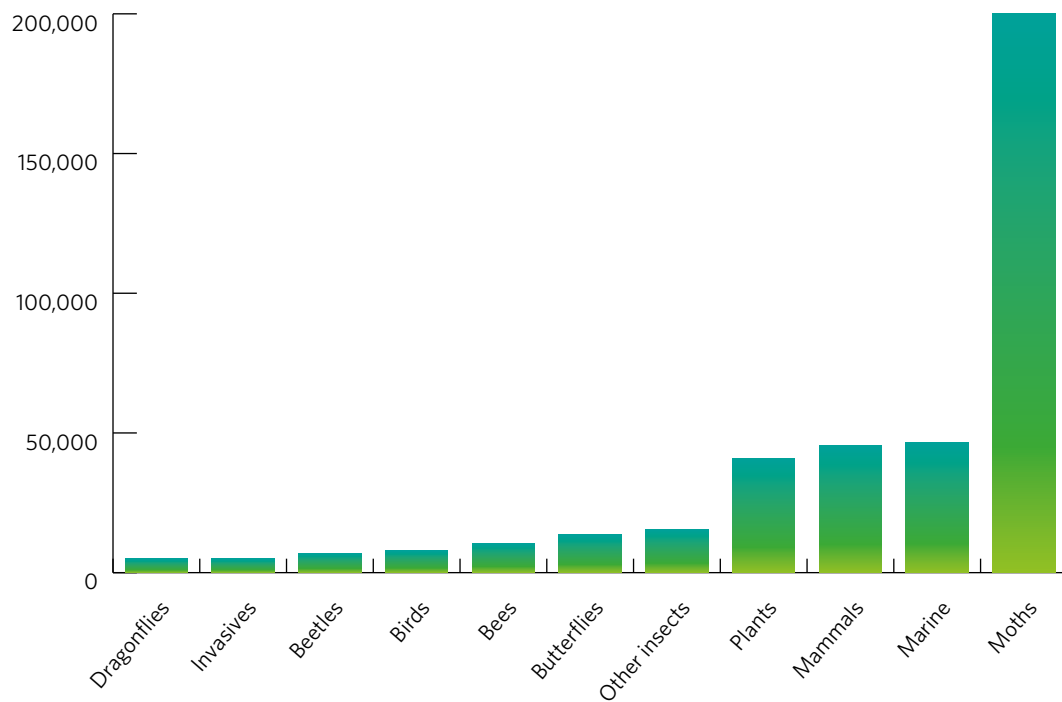
Improve knowledge on Ireland's biodiversity

Action: *Management of the National Biodiversity Database*
Expected benefit: *Having more and better-quality data freely available based on FAIR¹ principles*

2024 saw the continued growth of the National Biodiversity Database. A total of 395,985 new occurrence records of 39 additional species was added during 2024, and 13 new datasets. A particular focus during the year was establishing datasets for some of the more technically difficult groups of insects, a process coordinated by the newly appointed National Insect Database Officer.

Moth records provided by MothsIreland comprised 50% of the new records added to the database in 2024. Marine, mammals and plant records comprised just over 10% each of new records. All other groups accounted for less than 20% of the total number of new records.

Number of occurrence records added to the National Biodiversity Database in 2024

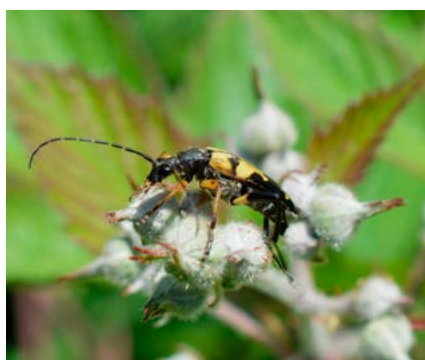
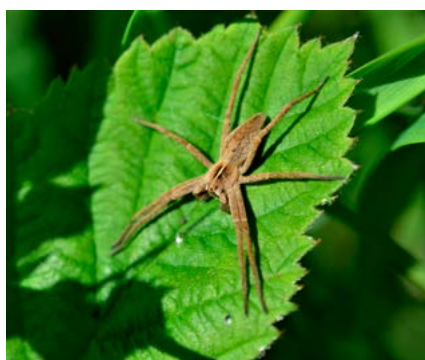


1. The FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) describe how data should be organised to be more easily accessible, understood, exchangeable and reusable.

Action: *Managing a network of experts for data validation*
Expected benefit: *Ensuring the quality of data mobilised by the Centre is maintained to the highest standard*

A core principle of the management of biodiversity observational data is to ensure that the data are reliable and trustworthy. The National Biodiversity Data Centre ensures that all occurrence data published through Biodiversity Maps undergoes a validation process. Validation of biodiversity occurrence data is a specialised task and draws on the time and expertise of a network of validators. Some of the validation is done by staff of the Centre who have

the necessary expertise; however, much of the highly technical validation is done on a voluntary basis by national experts in their area. The National Biodiversity Data Centre is dependent upon, and extremely grateful to, external validators who give of their time and expertise freely to help maintain high standards of data validation.



Sample of the diversity of insect and invertebrate records needing validation

Action: *Update the State of Knowledge on Ireland's Biodiversity*
Expected benefit: *A detailed update on the state of knowledge on Ireland's biodiversity*

During 2024, work began on updating the State of Knowledge on Ireland's Biodiversity that was first published by the National Biodiversity Data Centre in 2010. National experts have provided updated information on the state of knowledge for 17 different taxonomic groups. Information has been updated on:

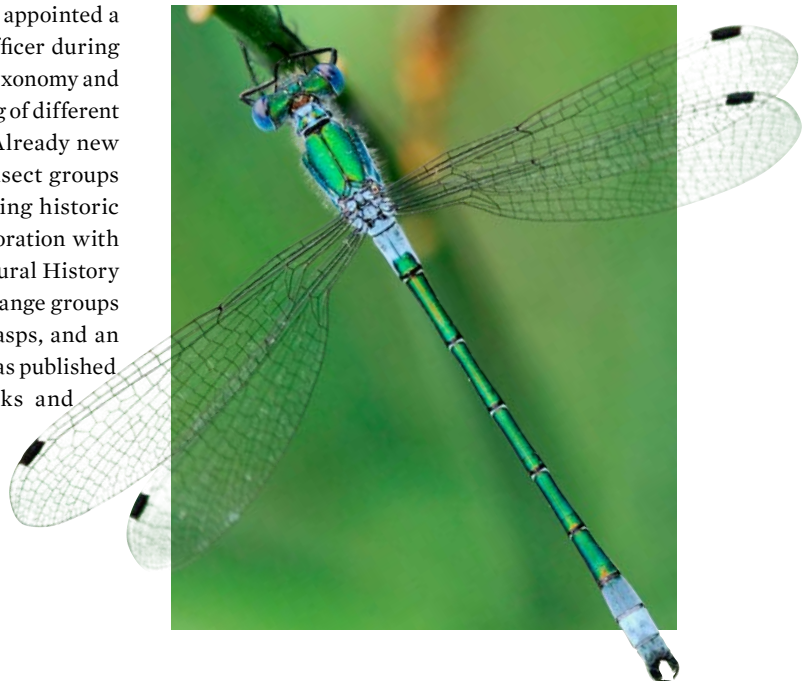
- the status of the relevant checklist for Ireland
- the number of confirmed occurring species
- the primary sources of occurrence data

- which national conservation assessments have been completed
- if there is a national monitoring programme or repeat surveys in place.

National experts attended a workshop hosted by the National Biodiversity Data Centre in November 2024 to discuss and identify national monitoring needs. This is a new element that will be included in the updated *State of Knowledge of Ireland's Biodiversity*, to be completed in 2025.

Action: *Build capacity on insect taxonomy and recording*
Expected benefit: *Improved knowledge on poorly understood insects*

The National Biodiversity Data Centre appointed a full time National Insect Database Officer during 2024 to improve knowledge on insect taxonomy and build capacity for more active surveying of different complex and under-studied groups. Already new databases have been developed for insect groups by collating existing data and digitising historic records. This has been done in collaboration with the National Museum of Ireland – Natural History and national experts. Knowledge exchange groups have been established for ants and wasps, and an updated Checklist of Bees in Ireland was published in collaboration with National Parks and Wildlife Service.



Action: *Update the National Biodiversity Indicators*
Expected benefit: *Facilitate reporting on Ireland's progress towards attaining national, European and global biodiversity targets.*

National Biodiversity Indicators are a collection of indicators that monitor changes in Ireland's species, habitats and landscapes, as well as reflecting broader changes relating to biodiversity in Irish society. These indicators provide an important source of evidence for the public and decision makers on the state, trends, pressures and conservation actions relating to biodiversity. The indicators also facilitate reporting on Ireland's progress towards attaining national, European and global biodiversity targets. Initiated by National Parks and Wildlife Service in 2013, the National Biodiversity Data Centre has been tasked with the collation and reporting of the National Biodiversity Indicators. The data underlying the indicators is provided by a broad range of governmental and non-governmental organisations and represents a collaborative effort across these organisations in developing the current suite of indicators.

The National Biodiversity Data Centre update the suite of National Biodiversity Indicators and published the 2022 report in 2024. The suite of 71 sub-indicators used are grouped under eight focal areas, namely:

- A Awareness of biodiversity
- B Status of biodiversity
- C Threats to biodiversity
- D Measures that safeguard biodiversity
- E Measures that mainstream biodiversity
- F Benefits derived from biodiversity and ecosystem services
- G Impact on biodiversity outside of Ireland.
- H Knowledge of Irish biodiversity.

The updated set of indicators show the most positive statuses are in the focal areas of A. Awareness of biodiversity and H. Knowledge of Irish biodiversity. The focal areas B. Status of biodiversity and C. Measures that mainstream biodiversity account for the highest number of 'poor' statuses over the last five (short-term) or 10 years (long-term) timeframe. Knowledge gaps are still prevalent in the focal area F. Benefits derived from biodiversity and ecosystem services, but work will continue to populate these indicators in the future.

The full suite of indicators will be reviewed during 2025 and 2026 to assess if they are fit for purpose to reflect changes in national and international biodiversity policy developments.

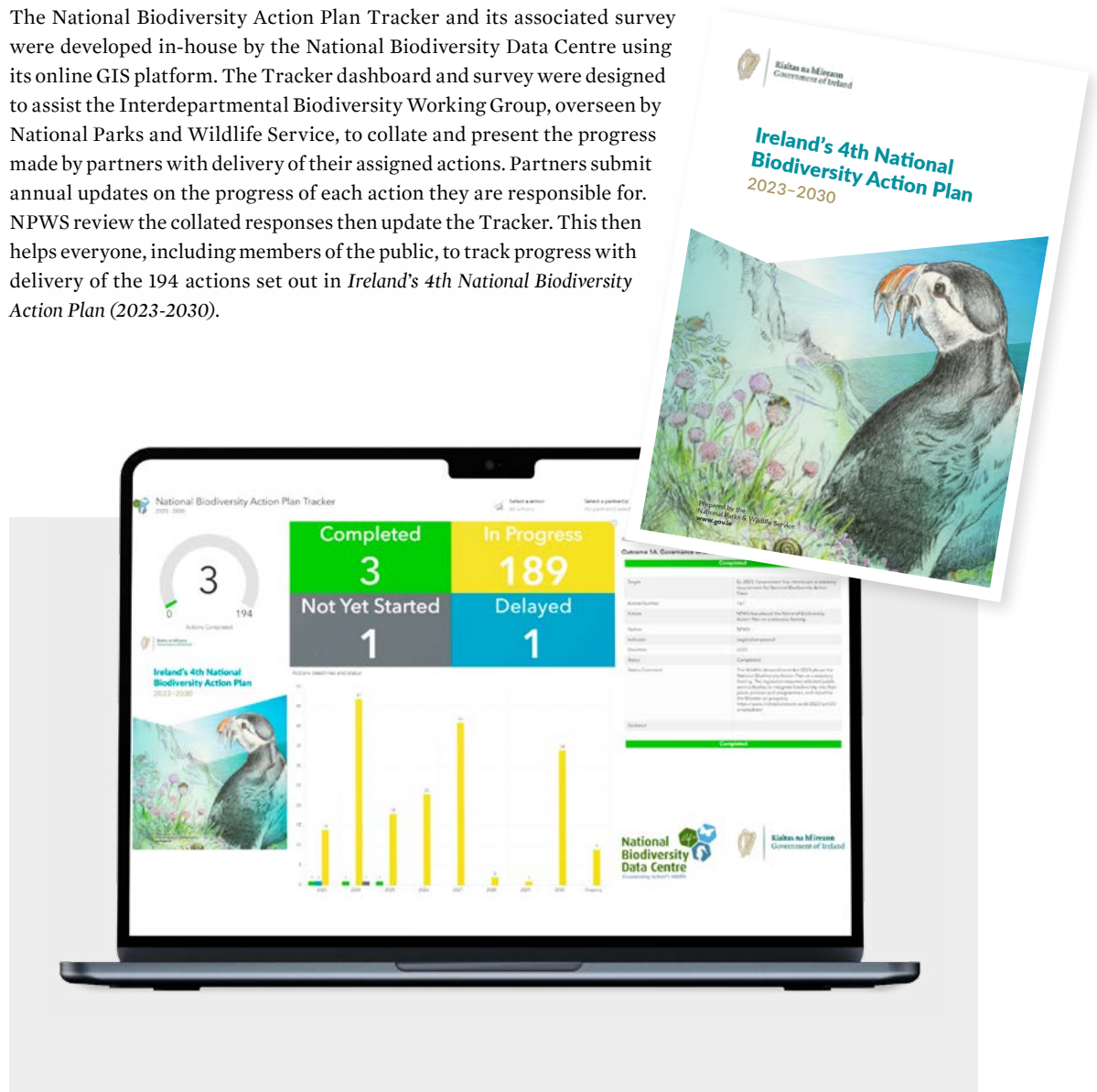


Focal Area	Status	No. of subindicators		
		Current	Short-term	Long-term
A. Awareness of biodiversity	Good	3	2	1
	Intermediate	7	5	5
	Poor	0	1	0
	Unknown	0	2	4
B. Status of biodiversity	Good	0	0	0
	Intermediate	5	5	3
	Poor	4	4	4
	Unknown	2	2	4
C. Threats to biodiversity	Good	2	3	3
	Intermediate	4	2	2
	Poor	3	1	1
	Unknown	0	3	3
D. Measures that safeguard biodiversity	Good	3	4	5
	Intermediate	8	5	2
	Poor	2	2	1
	Unknown	0	2	5
E. Measures that mainstream biodiversity	Good	1	1	3
	Intermediate	2	5	0
	Poor	5	2	0
	Unknown	0	0	5
F. Benefits derived from biodiversity and ecosystem services	Good	0	0	0
	Intermediate	1	2	1
	Poor	1	0	1
	Unknown	0	0	0
G. Impacts on biodiversity outside of Ireland	Good	0	0	0
	Intermediate	2	1	2
	Poor	0	1	0
	Unknown	0	0	0
H. Knowledge of Irish biodiversity	Good	4	3	4
	Intermediate	3	4	2
	Poor	1	0	0
	Unknown	0	1	2

Overview of the National Biodiversity Indicators Status at the end of 2022.

Action: *Develop a National Biodiversity Action Plan Tracker*
Expected benefit: *Improve the reporting of delivery of the Fourth National Biodiversity Action Plan*

The National Biodiversity Action Plan Tracker and its associated survey were developed in-house by the National Biodiversity Data Centre using its online GIS platform. The Tracker dashboard and survey were designed to assist the Interdepartmental Biodiversity Working Group, overseen by National Parks and Wildlife Service, to collate and present the progress made by partners with delivery of their assigned actions. Partners submit annual updates on the progress of each action they are responsible for. NPWS review the collated responses then update the Tracker. This then helps everyone, including members of the public, to track progress with delivery of the 194 actions set out in *Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan (2023-2030)*.





Assist better evidence-based actions for biodiversity conservation and restoration

Action: *Engage with the Heritage Council and the Biodiversity Officer network*

Expected benefit: *Closer alignment of the work of the National Biodiversity Data Centre to better meet the needs of the Heritage Council and the Local Biodiversity Officer network*

The Centre hosted a meeting of the Biodiversity Officer Network in November to discuss how the Centre could best meet the needs of the Biodiversity Officer network. A questionnaire was circulated in advance of the meeting to identify what supports the Officers saw as being of value to their work. The meeting identified a need for supports under five areas:

- provision of data,
- data analysis,
- surveys and monitoring,
- training, and
- national coordination.

These needs have been incorporated into the prioritised work plan of the National Biodiversity Data Centre, and there is continued active engagement with the Biodiversity Officer Network, facilitated by the Heritage Council.

Action: Managing delivery of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025

Expected benefit: A coordinated series of actions across the island of Ireland, delivered by different sectors, helping to make the Irish landscape more pollinator-friendly.

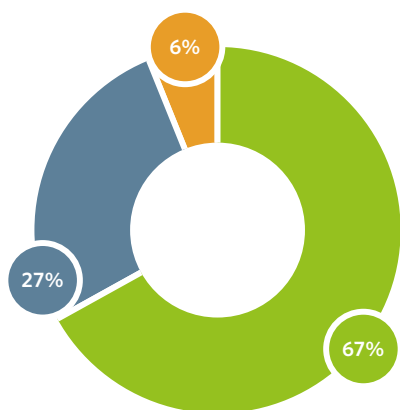
The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 identifies 186 actions to be delivered over the life of the Plan. At the end of 2024, 125 (67%) have been completed as agreed, 50 (27%) are in train, and a further 11 (6%) actions are yet to be progressed. Some of the key achievements by different sectors include:

- Councils - all 42 Councils across the island have now formally partnered with the Plan and have committed to taking actions for pollinators and biodiversity,
- Farming - An evidence-based whole farm scoring system that allows farmers to assess how pollinator friendly their farm is, what actions could be taken to improve their score was developed and is being actively promoted,
- Local communities – The Local Authority Pollinator Award of the Tidy Town, sponsored by the Heritage Council and the Heritage Officers, continues to promote

local community action to support the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. More than 200 communities have delivered actions under this award. The overall winner of the Award in 2024 was Sneem Tidy Towns, Co. Kerry.

- Businesses - Ninety-two new companies signed up as supporters of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan in 2024, bringing the total number of business supporters who have reported on actions they have taken to 338.

Two new guides in the ‘Protecting Endangered Pollinators’ series were published in 2024, on the Forester Moth and the Shrill Carder Bee. Three new resources promoting the importance of hedgerow for pollinators were also produced.



Status and progress of the 186 actions at the end of year 4

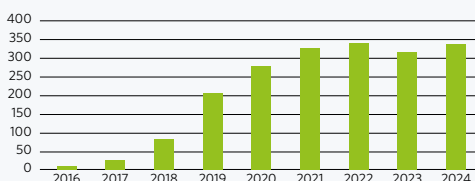
● Completed ● In train ● Not yet progressed



Sectoral Engagement

100% of councils are AIPP partners

200+ Tidy Towns groups have entered the special pollinator award since 2016



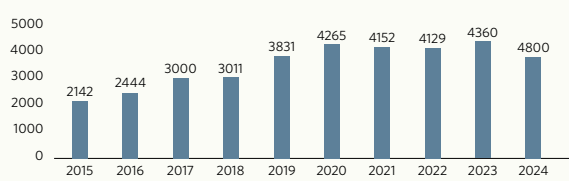
Businesses signed up to the All Ireland Pollinator Plan

Tracking Change

1,000+ Flower-Insect Timed Counts submitted in 2024

Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme 2012-2023 trend published

4,700 sites logged on 'Actions for Pollinators'



Number of validated wild bee records added to national database



Action: *Establish an Invasive Species Unit*
Expected benefit: *Have increased capacity to deliver an extensive work programme on Invasive Alien Species in support of national and EU policy implementation.*

It has been a transformational year for the invasive species work at the Data Centre with the establishment of a new Invasive Species Unit. From January to June, the focus was on recruiting staff of the Unit and developing work programmes. This included forming agreements with our key funding partners in the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, along with the milestone of recruiting and onboarding the new team.

Along with our project-specific funding initiatives, we now have a new Invasive Species Theme Plan to guide the key actions and outcomes for the unit. This plan includes seven workstreams, 50 key actions, and the associated outcomes our new team is working to achieve. At the end of 2024, our new team have expanded their networks, building strong foundations and partnerships for the success of the new unit, the Theme Plan and their individual projects.

For example, the Invasive Species Unit also has two cross-border and multi-agency Steering Committees—one for the Shared Island Biosecurity and Invasive Species Initiative and one for Marine and Coastal Non-Indigenous and Invasive Species. Another key success in November 2024 was the inaugural Shared Island Biosecurity and Invasive Species Forum, with approximately 100 delegates attending on the day, bringing together our stakeholders.



NIEA's Dr Sara McGuckin and Rose Muir with other delegates at the Forum November 2024

Action: *Updating and maintaining the actionforbiodiversity.ie website*
Expected benefit: *Improving the overall quality of biodiversity actions plans produced by local communities, thereby delivering better value for money for the funding partners.*

The <http://actionforbiodiversity.ie> website, developed by the National Biodiversity Data Centre, is a one stop shop for information, guidance and other resources that will be of value to local communities in the preparation of their plans. It has been developed in partnership with Community Foundation Ireland and the Heritage Council. During the year the site was updated with any new plans or resources that became available, providing access to 269 Biodiversity Action Plans by the end of 2024. A link was created to the Actions on Invasives mapping system to encourage more local communities to log details of management actions they have taken to mitigate the impact of invasive species in their local area. During the year the website was restructured to improve its accessibility and keeping the information on the website up to date. An online map dedicated to local authority city or county plans was developed enabling this subset of plans to be downloaded.

A video was produced to highlight the work two Tidy Town groups, in Portlaoise and Abbeyleix, were doing on biodiversity in their communities. Work commenced on the production of a new 'How to develop a Community Biodiversity Action Plan' guidance document to assist local communities to produce their own Biodiversity Action Plan.

www.actionforbiodiversity.ie





Promote the use of biodiversity data for science and decision-making

Action: *Serve as Ireland's Node to the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)*
Expected benefit: *Ensure Ireland fulfils its obligation as participant to GBIF and contributes data to the global biodiversity data portal*

The National Biodiversity Data Centre serves as Ireland National Node to the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). GBIF is an international network and data infrastructure funded by the world's governments and aimed at providing anyone, anywhere, open access to data about all types of life on Earth. Data that are licenced as open data under the Creative Commons CC-BY licence are published to GBIF's data portal gbif.org. In 2024, 108,705 occurrence records were published to GBIF from the Centre.

Centre staff also play an active role in GBIF. The Centre's Chief Executive Officer, Dr Liam Lysaght was re-appointed as Chair of the Governing Board of GBIF for a further two-year period at its meeting in October 2024. Dr Michelle Judge, the Centre's Data Manager's also acts as GBIF's Node Manager for Ireland and is a member of the European and Central Asian Regional Nodes Group. She attended the annual meeting of the Regional Group in Zagreb, Croatia in May, and was part of the Irish Delegation to the Governing Board meeting in Porto, Portugal in October.

Action: *Provision of data to support NPWS on reporting under Article 17, EU Habitats Directive*
Expected benefit: *Ensuring any data collected through Citizen Science programmes is available for reporting purposes.*

FME software was successfully used to create a fully auditable data flow that allowed all the relevant data required by the NPWS for reporting under Article 17 of the EU Habitats Directive to be extracted seamlessly from the core National Biodiversity Database. Data were exported in the required format and to the exact speciation required by NPWS to incorporate these data into their Article 17 reporting process. A total of 66,915 occurrence records was made available to NPWS for this purpose.

Action: *Trialling FME software for biodiversity data mobilisation*
Expected benefit: *Developing replicable data process to improve data reporting*

Following implementation and testing of FME software it has been confirmed that FME can be used to create sophisticated, repeatable data processes that extract, enrich, analyse, and transform biodiversity data from the core database to produce outputs in various formats, meeting the needs of data users. This will be utilised as core software to meet many of our future core data management needs.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 04



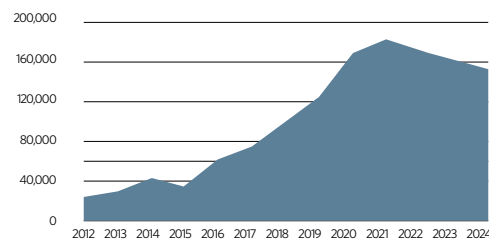
Strengthen the citizen science and research network

Action: *Managing Ireland’s Citizen Science Portal*
Expected benefit: *Improved capacity for quality recording from the citizen science network*

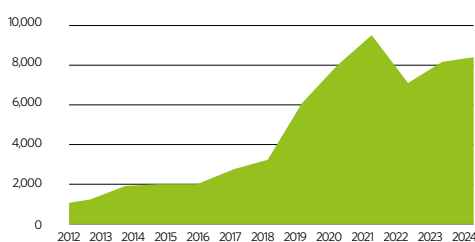
Ireland’s Citizen Science Portal provides a readily accessible on-line system to capture observations from observers. In 2024 more than 152,711 records were submitted by 8,301 individuals, across all 32 counties on the island. Since it was launched in 2012 the number of records submitted through the portal has increased significantly year on year, reaching a peak of in excess of 180,000 records in 2021, coinciding with COVID-19 lockdown. Recent years have seen the total number of records submitted decline slightly from the high of 2021.

In 2024, flowering plants accounted for 24% of the records submitted, followed by Birds (23.5%), Moths (17%), Mammals (5.5%) and Butterflies (5%). These five taxonomic groups accounted for 75% of the records submitted in 2024.

Total number of records



Total number of recorders



88 of the more active recorders who achieved significant recording milestones were issued with Outstanding Achievement Certificates at the end of 2024.

Bespoke online recording forms are provided as a service to key partner organisations to support national surveys they are undertaking. In 2024, bespoke recording forms were provided to support the following nine recording initiatives:

- Moth recording for MothsIreland
- Swift of Ireland for Swift Conservation Ireland
- General recording for Wexford Naturalists’ Field Club
- Wild Honeybee Study Group for University of Galway
- Hedgehogs of Ireland Survey for University of Galway
- Irish Stoat Survey for Vincent Wildlife Trust
- Dublin City Raptors for Dublin City Council & Birdwatch Ireland
- Dublin City River Birds for Dublin City Council & Birdwatch Ireland
- Urban Fox Study for University of Galway



Action: *Managing systematic survey and monitoring programmes on aspects of biodiversity*

Expected benefit: *Generating quantitative data on temporal biodiversity and biodiversity change*

The National Biodiversity Data Centre manages an extensive biodiversity monitoring network delivered by professional and citizen scientists. During 2024, different aspects of biodiversity were monitored at 873 different sites, and an additional 1,962 timed counts were completed by the surveyor network.

Monitoring Scheme	Monitoring activity in 2024
Butterfly Monitoring Scheme	148 monitoring transects
Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme	134 monitoring transects
FIT Counts	900 counts by 170 different people
Garden Butterfly Monitoring	1,062 counts
Rare Plant Monitoring	289 populations monitored
ExploreYourShore!	47 sites surveyed
Dragonfly Ireland	172 sites surveyed
Irish Pollinator Monitoring Scheme	40 sites monitored
Irish Marsh Fritillary Monitoring Scheme	43 sites monitored

Action: *Managing the transect-based Butterfly and Bumblebee monitoring schemes*

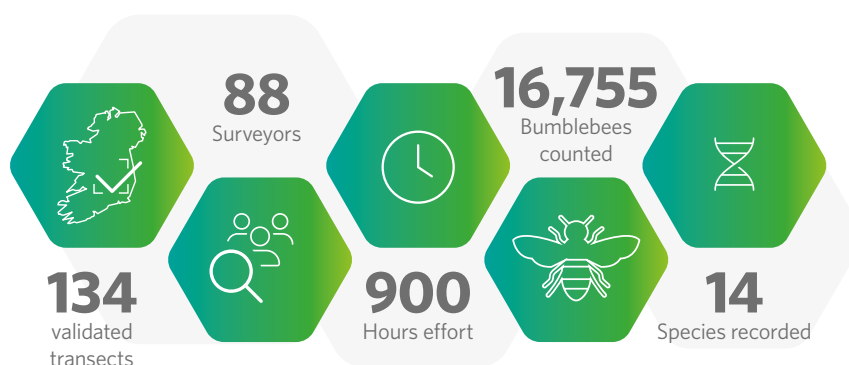
Expected benefit: *Tracking population trends of widespread butterfly and bumblebee species*

Two transect-based monitoring programmes, the Irish Butterfly Monitoring Scheme and the All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme, track population trends of our common butterfly and bumblebee species, respectively. The Irish Butterfly Monitoring Scheme was established in 2008, and is the longest citizen science insect monitoring scheme in Ireland, whereas the All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme has been running since 2012. Monitoring is done by a citizen science network who walk a fixed route (transect) regularly during the season to a standardised methodology. In 2024, data were generated from 148 butterfly transects and 134 bumblebee transects.

Irish Butterfly Monitoring Scheme

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total number of surveyors	132	94	88	117	113	112
Total number of transects	175	143	116	149	143	148
Total number of samples	20,645	13,028	12,199	13,672	16,284	12,564
Total number of butterflies	59,903	32,608	32,752	39,960	36,961	26,359

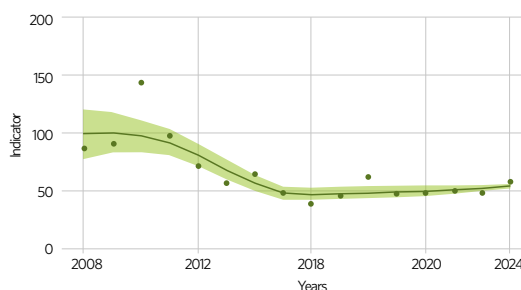
All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme



Findings of the monitoring programmes from 2023

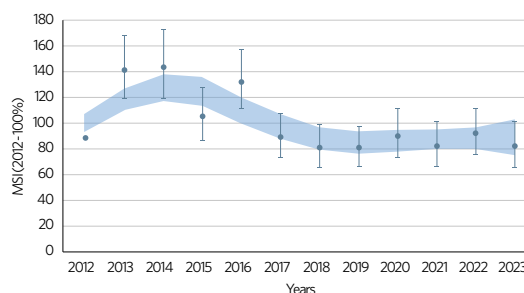
Butterfly populations - The multi-species index of the 15 most common butterfly species highlighted that there was a -55% decline in the population of butterflies in 2023 when compared to the baseline year of 2008. Statistically this is considered a moderate decline.

Multispecies indicator based on 15 species



Bumblebee populations - The multi-species index of bumblebee population showed an overall decline of -11.6% between 2012 and 2023. These data also show that four of the most common species are now in decline.

Multispecies Index of bumblebee population change 2012-2023



Action: *Production of a Training and Engagement Programme for the Centre.*

Expected benefit: *A well-trained and knowledgeable network of recorders with a greater understanding of biodiversity*

A key goal of the Strategic Plan is to provide the citizen science network with a life-long learning structure, with another goal seeking to build expertise in taxonomy, species identification and field skills. It is intended to deliver on these goals through the provision of a multi-annual Training and Engagement Programme. The structure for this programme was agreed during 2024, with delivery to commence in 2025.

The specific target audiences identified are:

- Professionals,
- Citizens/ General public, and
- Secondary school pupils.

Proposed structure based around four high-level learning topics:

- 1 Foundations of biodiversity
- 2 Species identification skills
- 3 Biodiversity survey and assessment techniques
- 4 Evidence-based biodiversity management

Cycle: Run on a four-year cycle in line with the academic cycle, starting from 2026.

Approximate number of events per year:

- 4 webinars
- 17 workshops
- 3 refresher field weekends (For individuals who have completed one or more previous workshops)
- 6 online courses

Action: *Manage Dragonfly Ireland and ExploreYourShore! projects*

Expected benefit: *Improved knowledge of biodiversity in freshwater and coastal waters.*

Dragonfly Ireland Project 2019 - 2024

In 2024, surveying for the EPA Funded Dragonfly Ireland 2019-2024 project was completed and work on the Dragonfly Atlas commenced. 3,087 dragonfly and damselfly records were submitted in 2024, a 33% decrease from 2023, most likely due to the poor summer weather. Cumulatively, over 22,000 validated records from 2019-2023 have been collected, covering 90% of Ireland's 1,000 available 10km grid squares.



A total of 172 site surveys was conducted across 18 counties, with 115 surveys, funded by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Centre for Environmental Data and Recording (CEDaR) in Northern Ireland, targeting previously underrepresented upland habitats such as Blanket Bog and Upland Wet Heath. These surveys recorded 409 observations of 14 species, with low counts attributed to challenging weather and lower species diversity in these upland habitats.

Explore Your Shore!

In 2024, the *Explore Your Shore!* project, funded by the Environmental Protection Agency, continued building a baseline for intertidal and coastal marine species in Ireland while also acting as a platform for marine biodiversity citizen science. The project received 8,448 new marine species records (a 23% increase from 2023) bringing the total to 25,789 validated records of 783 species from 2,289 coastal sites since 2019. Data fed into national, EU and international datasets, informing climate change and water quality indicator assessment. The development of an indicator species list progressed over the course of 2024, focusing on species with restricted distributions, those that experienced either an expansion or contraction in their range from historic baselines, or those species with a distinct phenology. Data contributed to tracking invasive species such as leathery sea squirt and wireweed. Work progressed on mapping and storing seagrass habitat area polygons on Biodiversity maps, providing a platform for better informing water quality monitoring and the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

Action:

Manage the National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme

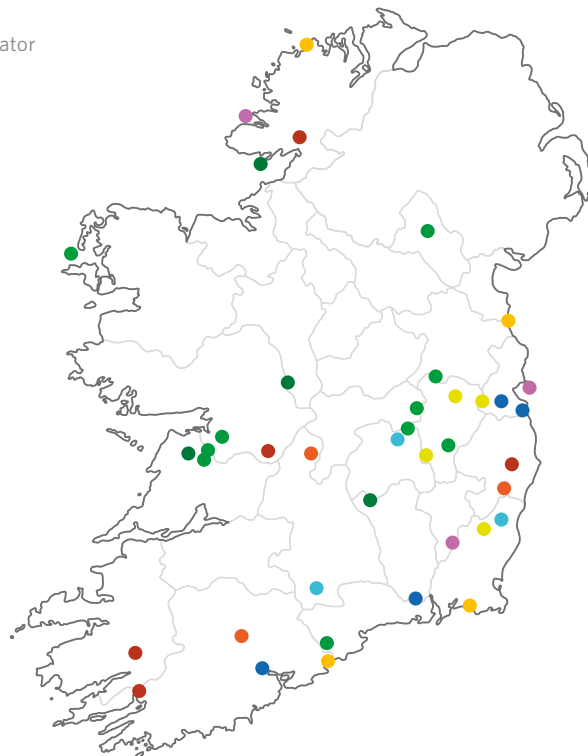
Expected benefit: *Having detailed quantitative data on the status of pollinators across the Irish landscape*

The National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme continued to be implemented by the National Biodiversity Data Centre in 2024, with 40 sites monitored in 2024. This scheme, together with existing citizen science initiatives, will allow the impact of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan to be fully assessed into the future. It also ensures that Ireland is to the fore in implementation of the EU Pollinators Initiative. This monitoring programme is funded jointly by National Parks and Wildlife Service and Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Map of Ireland showing the 40 pollinator monitoring sites for 2024

Site type

- Dairy farm
- Extensive beef farm
- Intensive beef farm
- Mixed farm
- Tillage
- Grey dune
- Semi natural grasslands
- Sessile oak woodland
- European dry heath
- Urban park





Communicate biodiversity

Action: *Produce publications and other resources to help communicate the work of the Centre and promote a greater understanding of aspects of biodiversity*

Expected benefit: *Greater awareness of the work of the Centre and a greater appreciation of biodiversity issues.*

The Centre undertook a broadly-based series of external communications to engage audiences in aspects of its work programme during 2024, also helping to promote better understanding of biodiversity and the importance of its conservation.

The key external communication vehicle is the Biodiversity Ireland magazine, of which two issues were published in 2024. The Centre also initiated a monthly electronic newsletter, providing regular updates on aspects of the Centre's work programme.

In addition, publications and resources were produced as outputs from many of the Centre's thematic work programmes, particularly in relation to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and Invasive Species. Among the main outputs were -

- Identification guide to Ireland's regulated invasive plant species
- Invasive Species Pathways Action Plan
- Protecting Rare Pollinators: Forester Moth
- Forester Moth signage template
- Forester Moth poster
- Protecting Rare Pollinators: Shrill Carder Bee
- Shrill Carder Bee signage template
- Shrill Carder Bee poster
- Local communities: Actions to Help Pollinators (Updated guideline)
- Local communities guideline - Irish version
- Benefits of hedgerows infographic
- Hedgerow through the seasons infographic
- How to Plant a Pollinator-friendly hedgerow flyer
- Businesses: Actions to Help Pollinators (Updated guideline)
- Ecological Corridors for Pollinators booklet
- Create a short-flowering meadow flyer
- Ireland's Mason Bees (simple PDF)
- Online course: Pollinator-friendly farming



Build an innovative, agile and accountable National Biodiversity Data Centre

Action: *Ensure the National Biodiversity Data Centre has good governance structures, policies and procedures appropriate for a Company Limited by Guarantee*

Expected benefit: *Enable the National Biodiversity Data Centre to be innovative, agile and accountable in the delivery of its work.*

During 2024, the company developed its governance structures, and agreed a suite of policies and procedures appropriate for a Company Limited by Guarantee of its size. These were progressed in tandem with development of the Centre's Strategic Plan 2024-2028, identification of the organisational needs to enable us to delivery on our Strategy, and reviewing the suite of digital services and data products being offered by the Centre.

The adoption of innovation is a central value of the company and is encouraged across all aspects of the Centre's work. It is in the field of technology where innovation is most necessary, particularly focused on biodiversity informatics. In 2024 the company completed a fitness for use assessment of the Centre's technology stack and software, researched and identified recent software developments, and completed substantial work on the development of a Prioritised Digital Infrastructure Plan for the Centre, to be agreed in 2025.

To ensure the agility of the staff, the company introduced new policies to promote the professional development of staff around ecological training,

attendance at conferences and membership of Professional Bodies. These were introduced to support the learning and development needs of the staff and to encourage them to be aware of emerging developments in their areas of expertise.

To ensure accountability, the company operated and adhered to its Governance and Employee Handbooks in execution of its functions and operations. This included developing *The Schedule of matters reserved for Board decisions*. Policies and processes around internal and external audit were initiated, a risk register was developed, and the following policies were approved by the Board:

- Lone Working Policy
- Credit Card Policy
- Reserves Policy
- Procurement Policy
- Fixed Assets Policy, and
- Travel and Claims Policy.

Structure, Governance & Management

Board Membership as of 31st December 2024

At the 31st of December 2024, the National Biodiversity Data Centre had nine directors, four (44%) female and five (56%) male board members.



John McCarthy

(Chairperson) (Appointed 5th of December 2022) is a former Secretary General of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, and has worked in a range of capacities across Government including in the Departments of Social Protection and Finance. He currently holds a number of non-Executive positions, including serving as Chair of the Management Board of the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management and as a member of the Board of the Approved Housing Bodies Regulatory Authority.



Ciara Carberry

(Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Nominee - Appointed 5th of December 2022) is Director of Nature Conservation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service. A senior civil servant with extensive experience in policymaking, legislation and governance, Ciara holds primary and postgraduate degrees in Botany and Environmental Science from Trinity College Dublin.



Professor Yvonne Buckley

(Heritage Council nominee - Appointed 5th of December 2022) is Professor of Zoology at Trinity College Dublin, a Member of the Royal Irish Academy and Academia Europaea, and an Irish Research Council Laureate. She co-directs Nature+, the Trinity Centre for Biodiversity and Sustainable Nature-based Solutions, and leads a team of researchers and students seeking to understand the fundamental drivers of animal and plant population processes in a rapidly changing world.



Dr Micheál Lehane

(Department of the Environment, Climate Change and Communications nominee - Appointed 5th of December 2022) is a Director of the Environmental Protection Agency and currently heads the EPA's Office of Radiation Protection and Environmental Monitoring. Micheál is also the Chair of the Irish National Accreditation Board. He is a graduate of University College Cork.



Colette Byrne

(Heritage Council Nominee - Appointed 5th of December 2022) is a former Chief Executive with Kilkenny County Council, having also served as Chief Executive in Offaly County Council. She has worked across all areas of Local Government services with urban and rural authorities and has a particular interest in provision of amenities, regeneration and repurposing of old buildings.



Dr Colm Lordan

(Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine nominee - Appointed 5th of December 2022) is Chair of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) Advisory Committee. Previously he was the Integrated Fisheries and Ecosystems Advice manager in the Marine Institute in Galway, Ireland where he worked for over 25 years developing fisheries and marine ecosystem assessments and advice.



Dr James Moran

(Heritage Council nominee - Appointed 5th of December 2022) is a senior lecturer in Biology and Ecology in the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment at the Atlantic Technological University, Galway. He leads the Agro-ecology and Rural Development (ARD) research group. James has worked in the applied ecology and agri-environmental management area for over 20 years as an advisor, researcher and academic, and concentrates on sustainable agricultural systems with a particular focus on the Common Agriculture Policy and improving agri-environment policy and practice.



Maura Brennan

(Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage nominee - (Appointed 21st of December 2022) is CEO of the Acorn Project, a non-profit organisation delivering nature-based learning and wellbeing programmes that empower communities to take action in ecological restoration through reconnection with their local wild spaces. Maura is an educator, forest school practitioner, herbalist, wild food forager and forest therapy guide with a background in public engagement and sociology.



Tom Medlycott

(Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine nominee – Appointed 8th October 2024) is a former Senior Inspector with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. He held a wide variety of senior roles in that organisation in areas including Internal Audit, Pesticide Controls Division, Human Resources and Nature and Land Use Division. He now manages a mixed enterprise family farm in County Wicklow. Tom holds primary and postgraduate degrees in Agricultural Science from University College Dublin and also qualified with the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants. Tom replaced Ted Massey as Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine nominee, when Ted stepped down from the Board on the 30th of May 2024.

The nine directors listed above were on the National Biodiversity Data Centre Board at the 31st of December 2024. A tenth director, Geraldine Tallon, stepped down from the Board after completion of her two-year tenure on the 4th of December 2024. The process to fill the consequential vacancy on the Board was underway at year-end.

Committees

In 2024, the National Biodiversity Data Centre Board had three committees - an Audit, Finance & Risk Committee, a Strategy and Governance Committee and a Scientific Advisory Committee.

Audit Finance & Risk Committee

The directors who served on the Audit, Finance & Risk Committee throughout 2024 (unless otherwise indicated) were as follows:

Colette Byrne (Chair)

Micheál Lehane

Ted Massey (Resigned 30th May 2024)

Tom Medlycott (Appointed 8th of October 2024)

The Committee's role is to support the Board in their responsibilities in relation to audit, finance and risk by reviewing the comprehensiveness of relevant assurances in meeting the Board's assurance needs and reviewing the reliability and integrity of these assurances. The Audit, Finance & Risk Committee met eight times during 2024. One Committee meeting was held in person at the NBDC premises, with all the other meetings being held virtually.

Strategy & Governance Committee

The directors who served on the Strategy & Governance Committee throughout 2024 (unless otherwise indicated) were as follows:

Geraldine Tallon (Chair) (Resigned 4th December 2024)

John McCarthy

Ciara Carberry

Maura Brennan

The Committee's role is to support the Board in its responsibilities for setting the long-term strategic direction of the company, tracking progress with its delivery, and ensuring that the company adheres to the highest standards of corporate governance. The Strategy & Governance Committee met four times during 2024, with all meetings held virtually.

Scientific Advisory Committee

The directors who served on the Scientific Advisory Committee throughout 2024 were as follows:

Yvonne Buckley (Chair)

James Moran

Colm Lordan

The Committee's role is to identify priorities for evidence and data provision in support of the delivery of the company's Strategic Plan and provide oversight of the scientific content of programme delivery. The Scientific Advisory Committee met five times during 2024, with all meetings held virtually.

Board and committee meeting attendance

A schedule of Director's attendance at Board and subcommittee meetings for the period 1st of January 2024 to 31st of December 2024, is set out as follows:

Attendance at Board and Subcommittee Meetings - 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024				
Name	Board	Audit Finance & Risk Committee	Strategy & Governance Committee	Scientific Advisory Committee
Number of Meetings	7	8	4	5
John McCarthy	7	N/A	4	N/A
Geraldine Tallon	4	N/A	4	N/A
Colette Byrne	5	8	N/A	N/A
Ciara Carberry	7	N/A	2	N/A
Micheál Lehane	7	8	N/A	N/A
James Moran	6	N/A	N/A	5
Colm Lordan	4	N/A	N/A	4
Yvonne Buckley	6	N/A	N/A	5
Maura Brennan	7	N/A	3	N/A
Ted Massey	1	5	N/A	N/A
Tom Medlycott	1	1	N/A	N/A

Notes: Formal Appointment of Tom Medlycott 8th October 2024
 Formal resignation of Ted Massey 30th May 2024
 Formal resignation of Geraldine Tallon 4th December 2024

Conflicts of interest

Declarations of any conflicts of interest were sought at the commencement of all Board and Committee meetings throughout the year. No conflicts of interest were noted.

Organisational structure

The Board agreed and began establishing an organisational structure that is fit for purpose for the new company. It is structured around the Chief Executive Officer leading a team of three Senior Managers who have responsibility for three directorates - Finance & Governance; Science and Digital Services, while Programme Managers and Project Officers have responsibility for delivery of the project work of the Centre. The main expansion in the Centre's team in 2024 centred on the establishment of an Invasive Species Unit to deliver an extensive programme of work on invasive alien species. At the end of 2024, the National Biodiversity Data Centre staff complement was 21, compared to 12 at the end 2023.



Staff at the end of 2024

Details of staff members listed below:

[Dr Liam Lysaght](#)

Chief Executive Officer

Liam works with the Board to set the strategic direction of the Centre and has overall responsibility for management of operations and delivery of its work programme. He is an active recorder with a particular interest in butterflies, birds and mammals. He also serves as Chair of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). The CEO is not a member of the Board.

[Dr Una Fitzpatrick](#)

Chief Scientific Officer

Una is part of the senior management team, having responsibility for oversight and delivery of the scientific content of the Centre's work programme, and she advises on biodiversity science and evidence-based actions. She is responsible for the development, and oversees delivery, of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.

[Richard Tilson](#)

Chief Operating Officer

Richard is part of the senior management team. He works closely with the Board and the CEO in the development and implementation of business strategies and procedures and ensures adequate design and delivery of all corporate services, including finance, procurement, HR and general Centre operations.

[Jon Hawkins](#)

Head of Digital Services

Jon joined the senior management team in 2024 and has responsibility for the coordination of the Centre's overall digital technologies development and ICT infrastructure needed to meet the company's data management needs.

[Owen Beckett](#)

National Insect Database Officer

Owen has responsibility for developing national insect digital databases and building capacity for greater recording of insects in Ireland, to improve our knowledge of Ireland's insect fauna.

[Dr Tim Butter](#)

Farmer Moth Monitoring Officer

Tim joined the team in September 2024 and is responsible for establishing a national scheme, delivered by farmers, to monitor moths on farmland. This will complement the existing monitoring of Ireland's pollinating insects. Tim's post is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

[Kate Chandler](#)

Pollinator Plan Communities and Engagement Officer

Kate has responsibility for engagement with local communities to support and coordinate community actions for pollinators. Kate's post is funded by National Parks and Wildlife Service.

[Oisín Duffy](#)

Surveys and Records Officer

Oisín has responsibility for the management of Ireland's Citizen Science Portal and the data validation processes with partners. He provides active support to the recording network to improve the quality and quantity of data submitted.

[Ann Haigh](#)

Invasive Species Pathways Action Plan Officer

Ann joined the team in July 2024 and has responsibility for the Shared Island Invasive Species Pathway Action Plan work programme. The role supports the management of risks concerning the introduction and spread of invasive species through pathway analysis, prioritisation, and the coordination of existing and new Pathway Action Plans. Ann's post is funded under the Shared Island Initiative.

[Rachel Hamill](#)

Invasive Species Citizen Science and Biosecurity Officer

Rachel joined the team in July 2024 and has responsibility for developing and delivering the citizen science invasive species surveillance and monitoring project. She is also developing an all-island biosecurity awareness strategy and working with partners to better coordinate catchment level invasive species actions. Rachel's post is funded under the Shared Island Initiative.

[Rachel Hayden](#)

Training & Engagement Officer

Rachel joined the team in July 2024 and has responsibility for developing an extensive training programme to build capacity across the biodiversity sector, and to improve external engagement activities.

Dr Michelle Judge

Data Manager and GBIF Node Manager

Michelle has responsibility for maintaining the National Biodiversity Database and publishing biodiversity data through Biodiversity Maps. In addition, she looks after the National Biodiversity Indicators and the data analysis for the Irish Butterfly Monitoring Scheme. Michelle is Node Manager for Ireland of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility.

John Kelly

Invasive Species Programme Manager

John joined the team in June 2024 and has responsibility for overall delivery of the Centre's work programme on invasive species. As part of this, John is developing and overseeing implementation of an extensive work programme including our Invasive Species Theme Plan, the Shared Island Biosecurity and Invasive Species Initiative and the Marine and Coastal Non-indigenous and Invasive Species project.

Sarah Kelly

Agri-business Officer

Sarah is working on supporting Origin Green Companies to deliver biodiversity measures to support implementation of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. Sarah's post is part funded by Bord Bia.

Irene Kilbride

Office & Corporate Support Officer

Irene joined the team in July 2024 and has responsibility for managing all aspects of office operations, serves as front of house for enquiries from the public, and provides corporate support to the Chair and Board of the Centre.

Dr Michelle Larkin

National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme Officer

Michelle is responsible for managing the National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme. This national monitoring framework collects data on the distribution, conservation status and trends of insect pollinators across Ireland. Michelle's post is funded by National Parks and Wildlife Service, and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Kate Moore

Invasive Species Engagement Officer

Kate joined the team in May 2024 and has responsibility for development and delivery of the invasive alien species engagement programme. This involves engaging with our key partners and different sectors to coordinate actions taken to mitigate the impact of invasive alien species in Ireland. Kate's post is funded by National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Colette O'Flynn

Invasive Species Officer

Colette manages the National Invasive Species Database, provides coordination of invasive species data and information, and contributes advice and policy support at the national and European level. She coordinate reporting requirements for Ireland under the EU Invasive Species Regulations.

Victoria Poppleton

Marine Invasive Species Officer

Victoria joined the team in July 2024 and is responsible for the Marine and Coastal Non-indigenous and Invasive Species work programme. She is developing a strategic management plan for Ireland and developing a Surveillance and Monitoring programme for marine and coastal areas. Victoria's post is funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Dave Wall

Citizen Science Officer

Dave is responsible for the Explore Your Shore! and Dragonfly Ireland 2019-2024 citizen science projects. He also takes the lead on developing the Centre's work programme on citizen science and all marine biodiversity activities. Dave's post is funded by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Ruth Wilson

Farmland Pollinator Officer

Ruth is responsible for implementing actions in the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan that relate to making farmland more pollinator friendly. Ruth's post is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

General information

National Biodiversity Data Centre

- 📍 Beechfield House, South East Technological University West Campus, Carriganore, Waterford X91PE03
- ☎ 051-306240
- 🌐 www.biodiversityireland.ie
- ✉ Info@biodiversityireland.ie

Company Secretary

ByrneWallace Corporate Secretaries Limited (Appointed 5 December 2022)

Auditors

- Grogan Ryan Chartered Accountants,
- 📍 Durand's Court, 7 Parnell St, Waterford

Internal Auditors

- Gilligan & Co. Chartered Accountants
- 📍 Silversprings House, St Patrick's Road, Glenalemy, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Bankers

- Bank of Ireland,
- 📍 60 Meagher's Quay, Waterford

Solicitors

- ByrneWallace Solicitors,
- 📍 88 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2

Governance processes

Charity Status

In September 2024, the National Biodiversity Data Centre applied for charity status with the Charities Regulator. The application was still ongoing at year end.

Risk Management

In 2024, the National Biodiversity Data Centre compiled a comprehensive risk register to identify and manage any potential risks that may occur. The following general risk categories were applied to the register; Governance, Strategic, Compliance, Operational, Financial, Environmental or External, and Reputational. Individual risks were then identified under these general headings, where they were then assigned an owner at management level, to take responsibility for each individual risk. Each risk was then evaluated and graded accordingly in relation to likelihood, impact and controls. Mitigating actions were then listed under each individual risk, to ensure corrective action taken to minimise any impact, should the risk occur.

The risk register is a standing agenda item on all Audit, Finance and Risk Committee meetings, as well as being brought to the Board for review on a quarterly basis.

The National Biodiversity are currently composing a Risk Management policy, which will be finalised in early 2025.

Procurement

The National Biodiversity Data Centre has developed and applied a procurement policy for all levels of purchases. The policy sets out procedures and approval limits ensuring all procurement campaigns comply with current rules and guidelines, as set out by the Office of Government Procurement.

Internal Audit

The National Biodiversity Data Centre engages an external accountancy practice, Gilligan & Co. Chartered Accountants, to undertake a bi-annual internal audit. The National Biodiversity Data Centre's first internal audit took place in September 2024. The internal audit was a review of all operations, with a particular focus on financial and internal control environments. Resulting in positive outcomes and constructive recommendations, that have since been actioned upon.

Data Breaches

The National Biodiversity Data Centre had no data breaches during 2024.

APPENDIX 1 -

Audited Financial Statements

Company registration number: 730718

National Biodiversity Data Centre

Trading as National Biodiversity Data Centre

(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

Financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

Directors and other information

Directors

Mr John McCarthy
Ms Maura Brennan
Ms Geraldine Tallon (Retired 04/12/2024)
Mr James Moran
Ms Colette Byrne
Ms Ciara Carberry
Ms Yvonne Buckley
Mr Micheál Lehane
Mr Colm Lordan
Mr Tom Medlycott
Mr Edward Massey (Retired 28/05/24)

Secretary

ByrneWallace Corporate Secretaries Limited

Company number

730718

Registered office

Beechfield House
SETU West Campus
Carriganore
Waterford
X91PE03

Business address

Beechfield House
SETU West Campus
Carriganore
Waterford
X91 PE03

Auditor

Grogan Ryan Chartered Accountants
7 Durands Court
Parnell Street
Waterford

Bankers

Bank of Ireland
60 Meagher's Quay
Waterford City
Waterford

Solicitors

ByrneWallace Solicitors
88 Harcourt Street
Dublin 2

DIRECTORS

Report

The directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements of the company for the financial year ended 31 December 2024.

Directors

The names of the persons who at any time during the financial year were directors of the company are as follows:

Mr John McCarthy
Ms Maura Brennan
Ms Geraldine Tallon (Retired 04/12/2024)
Mr James Moran
Ms Colette Byrne
Ms Ciara Carberry
Ms Yvonne Buckley
Mr Micheál Lehane
Mr Colm Lordan
Mr Tom Medlycott
Mr Edward Massey (Retired 28/05/24)

The secretary who served throughout the financial year was ByrneWallace Corporate Secretaries Limited. There were no changes in shareholdings between 31 December 2024 and the date of the signing of the financial statements. In accordance with the Constitution the directors may be required to resign at the request of his/her nominating body. Changes to the number of Directors or to the composition of the Board may only be made with the approval of the Heritage Council and the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Principal activities

The principal activity of the company is to acquire, collate, manage, validate and make available data in respect of Ireland's biodiversity in order to support national initiatives to maintain and enhance biodiversity, including recording of species and habitat information relating to the terrestrial, freshwater, marine, rivers and wetland environments. The company is limited by guarantee not having a share capital. There have been no significant changes in these activities during the financial year ending 31 December 2024.

Dividends

During the financial year the directors have not paid any dividends or recommended payment of a final dividend.

Events after the end of the reporting period

There have been no significant events affecting the company since the financial year end.

Political Contributions

The company did not make any disclosable political donations in the current financial period (2023 € 0).

Future Developments

The company plans to formally register with the Charities Regulator, aiming to complete the process underway to secure charity status and then apply for corporation tax exemption with the Revenue Commissioners.

Accounting records

To ensure that adequate accounting records are kept in accordance with Section 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014, the directors have employed appropriately qualified accounting personnel and have maintained appropriate computerised accounting systems. The accounting records are located at the company's office at Beechfield House, S.E.T.U West Campus, Carriganore, Waterford, X91 PE03.

Relevant audit information

In the case of each of the persons who are directors at the time this report is approved in accordance with section 332 of Companies Act 2014:

- so far as each director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's statutory auditors are unaware, and
- each director has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's statutory auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

The previous auditors O'Neill Foley Chartered Accountants resigned on 01/01/2025. Grogan Ryan Chartered Accountants were appointed auditors on 01/01/25 and they have expressed their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014.

This report was approved by the board of directors on 16th of June 2025 and signed on behalf of the board by:

Mr John McCarthy
.....
Director

Ms Colette Byrne
.....
Director

DIRECTORS

Responsibilities Statement

The directors are responsible for preparing the directors report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and regulations.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law, the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 “The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland” issued by the Financial Reporting Council. Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date and of the profit or loss of the company for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and directors report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of Information to Auditor

Each of the persons who are directors at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- there is no relevant audit information (information needed by the company’s auditor in connection with preparing the auditor’s report) of which the company’s auditor is unaware, and
- the directors have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company’s auditor is aware of that information

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of National Biodiversity Data Centre (the 'company') for the financial year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the income and expenditure account, statement of income and retained earnings, balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 3. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish law and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2024 and of its profit for the financial year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and the provisions available for small entities, in the circumstances set out in note 12 to the financial statements, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which ISAs (Ireland) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other Information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

Based solely on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- in our opinion, the information given in the directors' report is consistent with the financial statements; and
- in our opinion, the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, and financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions required by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Respective responsibilities

Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the management either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Robert Grogan FCA

For and on behalf of
Grogan Ryan Chartered Accountants
Statutory Audit Firm
7 Durands Court
Parnell Street
Waterford

Income and expenditure account Financial year ended 31 December 2024

		Year Ended 31/12/24	Period Ended 31/12/23
	Notes	€	€
Income	5	1,813,718	1,216,512
Cost of sales		(219,066)	(203,755)
Gross Surplus		1,594,652	1,012,757
Administrative expenses		(1,446,728)	(811,102)
Operating Surplus		147,924	201,655
Surplus before taxation		147,924	201,655
Tax on surplus		(18,490)	(25,612)
Surplus for the Financial Year		129,434	176,043

The company has no other recognised items of income and expenses other than the results for the financial year as set out above.

	Year Ended 31/12/24	Period Ended 31/12/23
	€	€
Surplus for the financial year	129,434	176,043
Retained earnings at the start of the financial year	176,043	-
Retained earnings at the end of the financial year	305,477	176,043

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2024

	Notes	Year Ended 31/12/24 €	Period Ended 31/12/23 €
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	8	74,181	45,705
		74,181	45,705
Current assets			
Stocks	9	40,482	19,734
Debtors	10	83,051	84,558
Cash at bank and in hand		845,084	560,723
		968,617	665,015
Creditors: amounts falling due			
within one year	11	(701,708)	(499,064)
		266,909	165,951
Total assets less current liabilities		341,090	211,656
Net assets		341,090	211,656
Capital and reserves			
Capital Reserves and funds		35,613	35,613
Income and expenditure account		305,477	176,043
Members funds		341,090	211,656

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with Section 1A of FRS 102 Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors on 16th of June 2025 and signed on behalf of the board by:

Colette Byrne

Colette Byrne
Director

John McCarthy

John McCarthy
Director

1. General information

National Biodiversity Data Centre is a company limited by guarantee incorporated and registered in Ireland. The registered number of the company is 730718. The registered office of the company is Beechfield House, S.E.T.U. West Campus, Carriganore, Waterford, X91 PE03, which is also the principal place of business of the company. The nature of the company's operations and its principal activities are set out in the Directors' Report. The financial statements have been presented in Euro (€) which is also the functional currency of the company.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102 Section 1A, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

3. Accounting policies and measurement bases

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with the historical cost convention except for certain properties and financial instruments that are measured at revalued amounts or fair values, as explained in the accounting policies below. Historical cost is generally based on the fair value of the consideration given in exchange for assets. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland Section 1A, issued by the Financial Reporting Council. The company qualifies as a small company as defined by section 280A of the Companies Act 2014 in respect of the financial period, and has applied the rules of the 'Small Companies Regime in accordance with section 280 C of the Companies Act 2014 and Section 1A of FRS 102.

Income

Rendering of Services / Sales of Goods;

Turnover from the provision of services is recognised when the performance conditions have been satisfied which is generally when the services are provided/when goods are sold.

Incoming resources from government and other co-funders;

Grants from government and institutional donors are recognised as income when the activities which they are intended to fund have been undertaken, the related expenditure incurred and there is a reasonable certainty of receipt.

Income due to the company from governments and institutional sources but not yet received at year end is included in debtors in the balance sheet and funds already received but not yet utilised are shown in creditors.

Taxation

The taxation expense represents the aggregate amount of current and deferred tax recognised in the reporting period. Tax is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income, except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in capital and reserves. In this case, tax is recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in capital and reserves, respectively.

Current tax is recognised on taxable profit for the current and past periods. Current tax is measured at the amounts of tax expected to pay or recover using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date.

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences at the reporting date. Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits. Deferred tax is measured using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date that are expected to apply to the reversal of the timing difference.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and are subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in capital and reserves, except to the extent it reverses a revaluation decrease of the same asset previously recognised in profit or loss. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation is recognised in other comprehensive income to the extent of any previously recognised revaluation increase accumulated in capital and reserves in respect of that asset. Where a revaluation decrease exceeds the accumulated revaluation gains accumulated in capital and reserves in respect of that asset, the excess shall be recognised in profit or loss.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Fixtures, fittings, and equipment 12.50% straight line basis

If there is an indication that there has been a significant change in depreciation rate, useful life or residual value of tangible assets, the depreciation is revised prospectively to reflect the new estimates.

Impairment

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

When it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

Stocks

Stocks are measured at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost includes all costs of purchase, costs of conversion and other costs incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition.

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in non-convertible preference shares and non-puttable ordinary shares or preference shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in profit or loss. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in profit or loss, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss immediately.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised in profit or loss immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

Defined contribution plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in finance costs in profit or loss in the period in which it arises.

Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors are initially recognised at fair value and thereafter stated at a mortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts except where the effect of discounting would be immaterial. In such cases the receivables are stated at cost less impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts

Trade and other Creditors

Trade and other creditors are initially recognised at fair value and thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method except where the effect of discounting would be immaterial

4. Limited by guarantee

The Liability of the members is limited. Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up while they are members, or within one financial period thereafter, for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the company contracted before they ceased to be members, and of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributors among themselves, such amount as may be required, not exceeding 1.

5. Turnover

The whole of the turnover is derived from Ireland. An analysis of turnover by business operation is given below:

	Year Ended 31/12/24	Period Ended 31/12/23
	€	€
Publications	59,693	60,336
Workshops	2,147	7,622
Government Grant Income	1,697,878	1,128,554
Other Income	54,000	20,000
	1,813,718	1,216,512

6. Staff costs

The average number of persons employed by the company during the financial year was 18 (2023: 14). Two employees earned an annual salary of between €70,000 - €80,000 and one employee earned an annual salary of between €90,000 - €100,000.

The aggregate payroll costs incurred during the financial year were:

	Year Ended 31/12/24	Period Ended 31/12/23
	€	€
Wages and salaries	825,218	493,240
Social insurance costs	88,755	54,297
Other retirement benefit costs	39,881	25,267
	953,854	572,804

7. Appropriations of Income and expenditure account

	Year Ended 31/12/24	Period Ended 31/12/23
	€	€
At the start of the financial year	176,043	-
Surplus for the financial year	129,434	176,043
At the end of the financial year	305,477	176,043

8. Tangible assets

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	€	€
Cost		
At 1 January 2024	48,594	48,594
Additions	40,786	40,786
Disposals	(5,206)	(5,206)
At 31 December 2024	84,174	84,174
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2024	2,889	2,889
Charge for the financial year	7,104	7,104
At 31 December 2024	9,993	9,993
Carrying amount		
At 31 December 2024	74,181	74,181
At 31 December 2023	45,705	45,705

9. Stocks

	31/12/24	31/12/23
	€	€
Finished goods and goods for resale	40,482	19,734

10. Debtors

	31/12/24	31/12/23
	€	€
Trade debtors	14,036	-
Other debtors	52,556	73,109
Prepayments	16,459	11,449
	83,051	84,558

11. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	31/12/24	31/12/23
	€	€
Amounts owed to credit institutions	1,856	-
Trade creditors	48,185	45,125
Other creditors	624,382	405,002
PAYE and social welfare	26,353	17,125
Corporation tax	(17,054)	19,387
Accruals	17,986	12,425
	701,708	499,064

12. Auditor's Ethical Standards Disclosure - Provisions Available for Small Entities

In common with many other businesses of our size and nature we use our auditors to prepare and submit tax returns to Revenue and to assist in the preparation of the financial statements.

13. Departure from Companies Act 2014 Presentation

The directors have elected to present an Income and Expenditure Account instead of a Profit and Loss Account in these financial statements as this company is a not-for-profit entity.

14. Controlling Interest

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is deemed to be the ultimate controlling party. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has delegated oversight of the company to the Heritage Council. The directors of the company are deemed to be the beneficial owners on the Registrar of Beneficial Owners in their capacity as senior managing officers.

15. Post-Balance Sheet Events

There have been no significant events affecting the company since the financial year end.

16. Disclosure of Government Grants - In accordance with Circular 17/10 for the year 31/12/24

Name of Agency	Name of Grant	Purpose	Capital	Date Received	Amount Awarded taken as Income in 2024	Amount
					€	€
Heritage Council	Core Funding	Pay and General Admin.	No	Multiple	1,099,992	1,099,992
Bord Bia	Agri-business Officer	Service Provision	No	Multiple	39,000	39,000
Cedar	Ladybirds of Ireland	Service Provision	No	Multiple	10,000	9,050
DAFM	Farmland Pollinator Officer	Service Provision	No	Nov -24	66,033	60,963
DAFM	National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme	Service Provision	No	Nov -24	81,219	77,804
DAFM	All Ireland Pollinator Plan Resources	Service Provision	No	Nov -24	15,000	11,918
DAFM	Farmer Moth Monitoring	Service Provision	No	Nov -24	64,009	52,715
EPA	EPA-funded Citizen Science Officer	Service Provision	No	Multiple	59,068	58,846
EPA	Explore Your Shore! project	Service Provision	No	Multiple	3,044	2,512
EPA	Dragonfly Ireland Project	Service Provision	No	Multiple	1,055	1,055
National Museums NI	Dragonfly Ireland Project / Ladybirds of Ireland	Service Provision	No	Mar-24	5,000	3,800
NIEA	NIEA Shared Island	Service Provision	No	Feb--24	58,542	-
NPWS	Communities Pollinator Plan Officer	Service Provision	No	Nov -24	13,110	13,110
NPWS	Engagement & Communities Officer	Service Provision	No	Sep 24	29,126	29,126
NPWS	National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme	Service Provision	No	Dec 24	60,204	56,789
NPWS	Invasive Species Engagement Officer	Service Provision	No	Multiple	18,203	18,203
NPWS	Dragonfly Ireland Project - site surveys (NPWS)	Service Provision	No	Multiple	10,000	10,000
NPWS	Citizen Science Rare Plant Monitoring	Service Provision	No	Nov -24	3,688	3,688
NPWS	Invasive Species Resources	Service Provision	No	Nov -24	5,221	5,221
NPWS	Irish Vegetation Classification	Service Provision	No	Dec-24	2,000	1,974
NPWS	NPWS Shared Island Invasive Species	Service Provision	No	Nov-24	250,000	-
NPWS	Marine Invasive Species Officer	Service Provision	No	Dec-24	32,190	32,107

Term: The terms of all Agency Grants awarded above was on an annual basis.

The Agency acronyms used relate to the following entities

DAFM - Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine

EPA - Environmental Protection Agency

NIEA - Northern Ireland Environment Agency

NPWS – National Parks & Wildlife Service

17. Reconciliation of Grant Income taken in the year to Cash Received

Name of Grantor	Name of Grant	Purpose	Amount Taken as Income 2024	Cash Received 2024	Deferred Income	Expenditure
			€	€	€	€
Heritage Council	Core Funding	Pay and General Administration	1,099,992	1,099,992	-	1,099,992
Bord Bia	Agri-business Officer	Service Provision	39,000	39,000	-	39,000
Cedar	Ladybirds of Ireland	Service Provision	9,050	10,000	950	9,050
DAFM	Farmland Pollinator Officer	Service Provision	60,963	66,033	5,070	60,963
DAFM	National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme	Service Provision	77,804	81,219	3,415	77,804
DAFM	All Ireland Pollinator Plan Resources	Service Provision	11,917	15,000	3,083	11,917
DAFM	Farmer Moth Monitoring	Service Provision	52,715	64,009	11,294	52,715
EPA	EPA-funded Citizen Science Officer	Service Provision	58,846	59,068	222	58,846
EPA	Explore Your Shore! project	Service Provision	2,512	3,044	532	2,512
EPA	Dragonfly Ireland Project	Service Provision	1,055	1,055	-	1,055
National Museums	NI Dragonfly Ireland Project / Ladybirds of Ireland	Service Provision	3,800	5,000	1,200	3,800
NIEA	NIEA Shared Island Invasive Species	Service Provision	-	58,542	58,542	-
NPWS	Communities Pollinator Plan Officer	Service Provision	13,110	13,110	-	13,110
NPWS	Engagement & Communities Officer	Service Provision	29,126	29,126	-	29,126
NPWS	National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme	Service Provision	56,789	60,204	3,415	56,789
NPWS	Invasive Species Engagement Officer	Service Provision	18,203	18,203	-	18,203
NPWS	Dragonfly Ireland Project - site surveys (NPWS)	Service Provision	10,000	10,000	-	10,000
NPWS	Citizen Science Rare Plant Monitoring	Service Provision	3,688	3,688	-	3,688
NPWS	Invasive Species Resources	Service Provision	5,221	5,221	-	5,221
NPWS	Irish Vegetation Classification	Service Provision	1,974	2,000	26	1,974
NPWS	NPWS Shared Island Invasive Species	Service Provision	-	250,000	250,000	-
NPWS	Marine Invasive Species Officer	Service Provision	32,107	32,190	83	32,107

18. Approval of financial statements

The board of directors approved these financial statements for issue on the 16th June 2025.

The following pages do not form part of the statutory accounts.

Detailed income & expenditure account for the Financial year ended 31st December 2024

	€	€
Turnover		
Sales	1,813,718	1,216,512
	1,813,718	1,216,512
Cost of sales		
Opening stock	(19,734)	-
Purchases	(57,578)	(21,935)
Direct costs	(182,236)	(201,554)
	(259,548)	(223,489)
Closing stock	40,482	19,734
	(219,066)	(203,755)
Gross profit	1,594,652	1,012,757
Gross profit percentage	87.9%	83.3%
Overheads Administrative expenses		
Wages and salaries	(825,218)	(493,240)
Employer's PRSI contributions	(88,755)	(54,297)
Staff pension costs - defined contribution	(39,881)	(25,267)
Staff training	(12,442)	(4,988)
Use of Premises	(7,356)	(10,674)
Insurance	(10,495)	(4,400)
Cleaning	(7,093)	(7,047)
Repairs and maintenance	-	(150)
Printing, postage and stationery	(8,710)	(8,828)
Telephone	(10,776)	(4,113)
Computer costs	(169,436)	(77,733)
Hire of equipment	(2,369)	(2,413)
Motor expenses	(53,617)	(46,355)
Secondment Costs	(62,302)	-
Legal and professional	(61,627)	(45,661)
HR Services	(13,477)	(2,231)
Recruitment Services	(46,950)	-
Auditors remuneration	(11,220)	(6,000)
Bank charges	(1,426)	(1,435)
General expenses	(980)	(9,317)
Subscriptions	(288)	(4,064)
Depreciation of tangible assets	(7,104)	(2,889)
Gain/loss on disposal of tangible assets	(5,206)	-
	(1,446,728)	(811,102)
Operating profit	147,924	201,655
Operating profit percentage	8.2%	16.6%
Profit before taxation	147,924	201,655

The National Biodiversity Data Centre is based at Beechfield House, SETU West Campus, Carriganore, Co. Waterford. It has an approved staff complement of 21 led by the Chief Executive Officer, Dr Liam Lysaght.

The main role of the National Biodiversity Data Centre, as set out in its Constitution, is to acquire, collate, manage, validate and make available data in respect of Ireland's biodiversity in order to document wildlife resources and monitor and record changes over time. In discharging that role, the Centre aims to support national initiatives to maintain and enhance biodiversity, including recording of species and habitat information relating to the terrestrial, freshwater, marine and wetland environments.

This is the Centre's first Strategic Plan, defining at a high level what it seeks to achieve in delivering on its mandate over the period 2024 – 2028. The Strategic Plan will be supported by a more detailed implementation plan, and progress will be reported in each of the Centre's Annual Reports.

The National Biodiversity Data Centre is Ireland's Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) Node

