

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025

www.pollinators.ie

YEAR 4 REVIEW

DECEMBER 2024



An tSeirbhís Páircanna Náisiúnta
agus Fiadhúlra
National Parks and Wildlife Service



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



An t-ábhar le
BORD BIA
RISH FOOD BOARD

Suggested citation: All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (2024): *Annual Review*. National Biodiversity Data Centre, Waterford.

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

Background

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

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

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

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

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025

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

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

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

AIPP partners

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

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

Funding partners



National Parks & Wildlife Service



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



An initiative by
BORD BIA
IRISH FOOD BOARD

Implementation of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 is project managed by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. Dr Úna FitzPatrick, Chief Scientific Officer within the Centre, oversees the initiative. In 2024, it was supported by an additional three project officer positions within the National Biodiversity Data Centre:

- ✓ Kate Chandler - Communities and Engagement Pollinator Officer. This position was funded by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- ✓ Ruth Wilson – Farmland Pollinator Officer. This position was funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine.
- ✓ Sarah Kelly – Agri-business Pollinator Officer. This position was part-funded by Bord Bia.

Tracking progress

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

- ✓ Each year, an annual review document is made publicly available to indicate progress against each of the 186 actions in the Plan, completed by those organisations who have accepted responsibility for that action. This is the fourth review document for the second phase of the Plan (December 2024).
- ✓ Two other annual reviews are also produced each December. These can be found at <https://pollinators.ie/aipp-2021-2025/annual-reviews/>:
 - **Council partners: 2024 annual review.** This outlines the key actions taken by each Council partner in support of the AIPP.
 - **Business supporters: 2024 annual review.** This outlines the key actions taken by each company who has signed up as a business supporter of the AIPP.
- ✓ A publicly available online mapping system (Actions for Pollinators) allows all those who take pollinator-friendly actions to log their location and the action(s) taken. This tracks progress through the build-up of food, shelter and safety for pollinators in the landscape. The

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

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

Nature Restoration Law

The European Nature Restoration Law was passed in 2024. Article 10 of the Law places duty on Member States to restore pollinator populations. It sets time-based targets for improving ‘pollinator diversity’ and reversing ‘the decline of pollinator populations’ by 2030. From 2030 there should be an increasing trend of pollinator populations measured with a programme of monitoring. Thanks to the two phases of the AIPP, Ireland is in a strong position, but efforts need to be significantly enhanced to meet the targets of reversing the decline of pollinator populations. The timing works well as a third AIPP is due to be developed in 2025 (for 2026 onwards). This will need to be more ambitious and will dovetail with the development of a Nature Restoration Plan in the Republic of Ireland.

AIPP 2024 review

This document briefly outlines key progress in 2024. This is followed by a 2024 update against each of the 186 actions in the Plan, completed by the organisation who accepted responsibility for that action.

An accompanying two-page infographic has also been prepared to summarise key progress in 2024.

For each action, the respective partner was contacted and requested to provide a short update against their action for 2024. They were contacted twice by email. This was not policed. Where a 2024 update was not provided, this is stated. We thank the partners for their incredibly positive engagement with this process.

Key Progress in 2024




- ✓ At the end of year four of this five-year Plan, **94%** of the 186 actions have been completed or are in train.
- ✓ All 42 Councils across the island have now formally partnered with the AIPP and have committed to taking actions on the public lands they manage. Local Authorities have embraced the AIPP and are taking significant actions for pollinators and biodiversity, as evidenced in their 2024 annual review: All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (2024): *Council Partners - Annual Review*. Accessible at: [Annual Reviews » All-Ireland Pollinator Plan](#)
- ✓ Good progress continues to be made with the farming sector. In this second phase, we have been able to engage much more widely with farming stakeholders. An online training module on Pollinator-friendly farming, aimed at farmers, farm advisors and agricultural students was launched in 2024. A five-year research project, 'Protecting Farmland Pollinators', managed by the Data Centre, has been completed (2019-2023). This was funded by DAFM through the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) programme. It has developed an evidence-based whole farm scoring system, that allows farmers to assess how pollinator friendly their farm is, and what simple actions could be taken to improve their score. Efforts are ongoing to promote this more widely.
- ✓ Funded by DAFM and NPWS, a National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme was launched in ROI in 2022. This scheme is managed by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. In 2024, 40 sites were again monitored across farmland, semi-natural sites, and urban parks. Each site was monitored five times for pollinating insects. The aim is to annually monitor a fixed network of 50 sites. Fifteen sites were also monitored in Northern Ireland in 2024, as part of the UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme. These schemes will provide important baseline data. Combined with existing citizen science initiatives (All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme and Flower-Insect Timed Counts), they will allow the impact of the AIPP to be fully assessed into the future. They will also be vital in tracking implementation of pollinator targets within the Nature Restoration Law in the Republic of Ireland.
- ✓ Local Communities continue to carry out inspiring work in support of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. The Local Authority Pollinator Award aims to encourage Tidy Towns groups in ROI to implement pollinator-friendly actions in their towns and villages as part of the Tidy Towns competition. It is coordinated and sponsored by the Heritage Offices and Biodiversity Offices of Local Authorities across Ireland, in partnership with the National Biodiversity Data Centre. To date more than 200 communities have become pollinator friendly through the award. Congratulations to the overall 2024 winner, Sneem Tidy Towns in Co Kerry.
- ✓ The Business supporters network continues to thrive. Ninety-two new companies have joined in the past twelve months. In joining, companies commit to taking evidence-based actions for pollinators and reporting on their activities. This brought the total number of business supporters to just over 400. As of 2021, annual reporting plus mapping for Businesses is now mandatory. To maintain the integrity of the network, those who did not submit an update of

their 2024 activities in support of the Plan have been removed from the list/website (they can reengage at any point). The adjustment is reflected in the overall figure for November 2024, which now stands at **338 business supporters**. These companies are all taking positive actions for biodiversity.

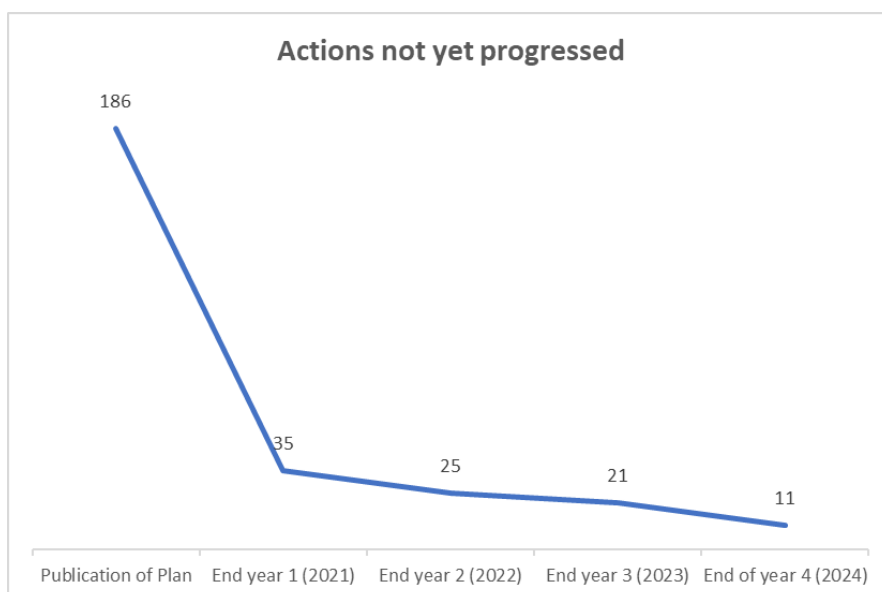
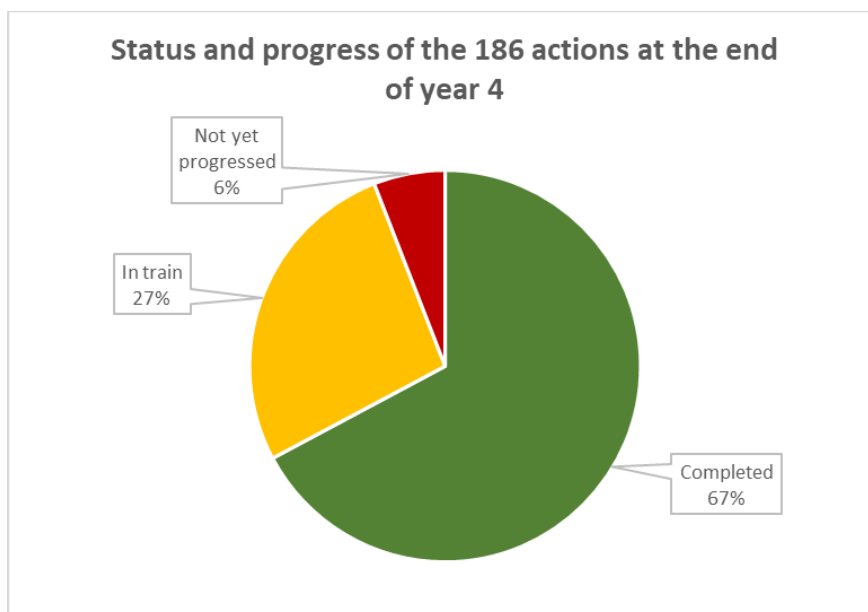
- ✓ The first phase of the AIPP for 2015-2020 saw many resources published and made freely available online: 11 evidence-based guideline documents for different sectors and an additional 7 how-to-guides, as well as numerous flyers. In 2024 we published two new guides in the 'Protecting Endangered Pollinators' series on the Forester Moth and Shrill Carder Bee, as well as a signage template and poster for both. We also published an updated version of the guidelines for local communities, an Irish language version of the community guidelines, three new hedgerow resources: the 'Benefits of Hedgerows' infographic, 'Hedgerow through the seasons' infographic, and a flyer on 'How to Plant a Pollinator-friendly Hedgerow'. We published updated guidelines for Businesses, a resource on Ecological Corridors, and a short resource on Ireland's Mason Bees. We also published a flyer on short-flowering meadows to support No Mow May. We finalised the design on a flyer on creating Pollinator-friendly Rainwater Planters and are in the latter stages of development of a resource for Business Parks and a new guide on the pollinator-friendly management of Healthcare Sites. As well as our standard resources, we have also developed an online course on Pollinator-friendly farming and are in the late stages of developing an online course for Managing School Grounds for Biodiversity. Resources in development will be released in 2025.
- ✓ Work on rare species continues to advance (Objective 5: Conserving rare pollinators). An additional two evidence-based guideline documents identifying actions to protect rare species were published in 2024. This brings the total to five: Northern Colletes, Large Carder Bee, Great Yellow Bumblebee, Forester moth, Shrill Carder Bumblebee.
- ✓ 2024 has seen wide-scale promotion of the AIPP both nationally and internationally. We thank all those partners and initiatives who have helped raise the profile of the Plan this year.

Actions completed end Year 4 (2024)

The second phase of the AIPP for 2021-2025 launched at the end of March 2021. Of the **186** actions in the Plan; 125 have been completed this year as agreed (67%), 50 are in train (27%) and 11 have not yet been progressed (6%). Some actions are discrete (once-off) while many are annually rolling actions. Many of those not yet progressed have a research component and may be funding dependent.

	Agreed action has taken place in 2024
	Action has been started and is in train
	Action not yet progressed

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



Progress within each Objective at the of Year 4 is outlined below:



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

Acknowledgements

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

ALL-IRELAND POLLINATOR PLAN 2021-2025: 186 ACTIONS TO HELP POLLINATORS REVIEW OF PROGRESS YEAR 4 (2024)

Updates under each of the 186 actions have been provided by the organisations responsible. Partners were contacted twice by email with a request to provide a short update on progress. This was not policed. The traffic light system to quickly show progress under each action has been added by the Steering Group. Some actions are discrete (once-off), but the majority are annually rolling actions. Where they have been completed for 2024 these are coded green.

	Agreed action has taken place in 2024 or is completed for this phase
	Action has been started and is in train
	Action not yet progressed

OBJECTIVE 1: MAKING FARMLAND POLLINATOR FRIENDLY

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

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024	
1	Incorporate relevant evidence-based pollinator-friendly actions and prescriptions into agricultural and agri-environment schemes in Republic of Ireland (RoI).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporation of pollinator conservation actions into agri-environment schemes Uptake by farmers 	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	Pollinators are accommodated in the Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES) through a results-based approach under the ACRES Co-operation approach available in High Priority Geographical Areas and through Targeted Actions in the ACRES General approach. This €1.5 billion agri-environment scheme is a farmer-friendly scheme to help address biodiversity decline while delivering an income support for farms Ireland. There are currently approx. 54,391 participants. The ACRES General approach has a wide range of targeted and general biodiversity actions which will benefit pollinators both directly and	

				indirectly (approx. 33,668 participants). Payments to participants in the ACRES Co-operation approach are results-based to reward farmers for farmland habitats which are in good condition and support biodiversity including pollinators (approx. 20,723 participants). Participants in the ACRES Co-operation areas approach may also avail of non-productive investments and landscape actions to support and enhance priority habitats and species in their respective areas.	
2	Incorporate relevant evidence-based pollinator-friendly actions and prescriptions into existing agricultural and agri-environment schemes in Northern Ireland (NI).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporation of pollinator conservation actions into existing agri-environment schemes • Uptake by farmers 	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)	<p>2023 update: The Environment Farming Scheme (EFS) first opened for applications in 2017. After six tranches, 57 agreements contained the 'Creation of Pollinator Margins – Annual Wildflower' option and 16 agreements contained the 'Creation of Pollinator Margins – Pollen and Nectar' option. Both options, aimed to support pollinators.</p> <p>There are no further Tranches of EFS Wider.</p>	
3	Encourage more organic farming (which has been shown to support more pollinators).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the Organic Farming Scheme 	DAFM	<p>In 2023 there were approximately 4,050 farmers (4% of land under organic production), and in 2024 there are approximately 4,900 farmers (5% of land under organic production)</p> <p>As part of the Agri Food Strategy targets DAFM has committed to at least 7.5% of utilisable agricultural area is targeted to be farmed organically by 2030.</p>	
4	Establish a network of stakeholders, including	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networks of sites identified • Progress reported annually 	AIPP Farmland Officer	This network continues to be developed and will be further progressed in 2024. In the future, it will be	

	<p>agri-businesses who agree to manage their own farms or test sites in a pollinator-friendly way, e.g., DAFM, AFBI, individual agri-businesses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites used to develop case studies which are shared within the network 		<p>linked to the tools being developed within the National Biodiversity Data Centre’s EIP project (2019-2023) on ‘Protecting Farmland Pollinators’. This project has created a simple system to establish a whole-farm pollinator score, based on the habitats present. This is linked to simple management actions to improve the score.</p> <p>Many agri-businesses are currently being supported through the AIPP business supporter’s framework (Action 89). These include companies like Aurivo Co-operative Society Ltd., Carbery Food Ingredients, Kepak, Kerry Group, Lisavaired Co-op and Food Group and McCormack Family Farms. Around 80 agri-food companies are currently business supporters of the AIPP.</p>	
--	--	--	--	--	--

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

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024	
5	<p>Encourage the responsible and sustainable use of pesticides (insecticides, herbicides and fungicides) in Rol.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through the National Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides, encourage farmers to minimise the impact of pesticides on pollinators 	DAFM	<p>DAFM have issued guidance notes on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) which provides farmers with a tool to assist them make the most appropriate and environmentally suitable crop protection decisions. Additionally, DAFM a decision support document to support the responsible use of Plant Protection Products (PPP’s) use in public, amenity and garden areas. DAFM has also corresponded with all Local Authorities, Distributors, Sports Associations and Leisure, Recreational and Amenity Facilities to help</p>	

				<p>support them on the requirements for the use of PPP's. A template for carrying out a risk assessment for areas of non-agriculture for specific areas is also available on DAFM's website for quantifying the use of PPP's where their use is necessary. This document helps the user decide on whether intervention is necessary or not and if intervention is deemed necessary, it presents the options to solve the pest problem. Additional users, advisors, distributors, and inspectors continue to be trained which all assists in the responsible and safe use of pesticides.</p>
6	Encourage the responsible and sustainable use of pesticides (insecticides, herbicides and fungicides) in NI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the UK National Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides (Plant Protection Products) and DAERA Integrated Pest Management Guidance, encourage farmers to minimise the impact of pesticides on pollinators • Support the UK-wide Voluntary Initiative on Promoting Responsible Pesticide Use 	<p>DAERA/Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI)</p> <p>Ulster Farmers' Union (UFU)</p>	<p>DAERA/AFBI: DAERA are in the process of contributing towards an update of the UK National Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides.</p> <p>AFBI projects emphasise integrated pest management for pest species with projects on leatherjackets and aphids. This year (2024), AFBI has established a Plant Health & Integrated Pest Management Branch. This work includes use of suction and water traps to provide cereal and potato growers with data to allow them to make informed decisions on aphid control and avoid prophylactic insecticide applications.</p> <p>https://eservices.afbini.gov.uk/aphidmonitoring/cereal-aphid.html</p> <p>The UFU continue to support the UK-wide Voluntary Initiative on Promoting Responsible Pesticide Use.</p>
7	Summarise and publish annual trends in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarised trends published for Rol 	DAFM and AFBI	<p>DAFM continues to conduct, with technical support from AFBI, pesticide usage surveys in ROI. The most recent reports can be found on DAFM's website</p>

	agricultural pesticide use across the island.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summarised trends published for NI 		at: https://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/sud/pesticidestatics/ Additionally, DAFM publishes the annual pesticide sales data which can be viewed using the same link above. AFBI: NI pesticide usage reports are available at: www.afbini.gov.uk/articles/pesticide-usage-monitoring-surveys
--	---	--	--	--

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

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024
8	Establish an All-Ireland farming subgroup to advise and steer on pollinator actions for farmland from the farmers' perspective.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish the subgroup Group meeting at least annually, either in person or remotely 	AIPP Project Manager, supported by Farmland Officer	This small subgroup was established in 2021. It has been agreed that the group will advise on one specific pollinator issue every 6 months (where necessary).
9	Provide comprehensive and freely available online resources for the farming sector at	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up-to-date resources provided on the website To include: evidence-based guideline documents, flyers, videos, blogs, webinars, presentations, case studies, animations All 2015–2020 resources to be updated where necessary 	AIPP Farmland Officer	This website is maintained at https://pollinators.ie/farmland/ Two flyers were promoted in 2024 - the 'benefits of hedgerows' and 'a hedgerow through the seasons'. Blogs, presentations, webinars, reels are other new resources developed are listed under Action 16.

10	Establish a knowledge exchange programme for farmers on protecting pollinators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge exchange programme developed and rolled out • Farmer participation 	DAFM, Teagasc, College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE)	<p>DAFM: The Knowledge Transfer Programmes 2024 includes a Priority Topic on biodiversity, '<i>Biodiversity conservation with a focus on identifying key habitats and species and associated tools and management techniques</i>' and 30% or 136 KT groups have selected this Priority Topic. Local Needs are also selected by KT groups and Local Need Objective 6 (i) '<i>Restore, maintain, and improve Ireland's habitats and landscapes in order to halt biodiversity decline, including farmland birds and pollinators</i>' has been selected by 132 KT groups in 2024.</p> <p>Teagasc:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2024, additional specialist staff have been available to support biodiversity within Teagasc including a researcher with specialist knowledge of pollinators • A new initiative in 2024 on the 120 Signpost farms is a biodiversity assessment is to identify priority actions for biodiversity including pollinators. • A collaborative initiative between Teagasc and Local Authority Biodiversity Officers through The Heritage Council started in 2024. • Enhancing biodiversity and pollinators were a consideration in the Teagasc/FBD Environmentally Sustainable Farmer of the Year 2024 and included a category winner
----	---	---	--	---

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 40,000 farmer clients through Teagasc client publications (Newsletter and Today's Farm) • A further 300 ACRES Biodiversity training course (ATS) for 3,500 farmers delivered by Teagasc advisors in 2024. • Farmers new to Derogation in 2023 undertook a Biodiversity module in Nitrates Derogation Course delivered by Teagasc advisors • Focus on pollinators and biodiversity at Teagasc National Events in 2024: Beef (Grange); Environment (Johnstown Castle) and Biodiversity event (Birr Castle); and Upland Symposium in Louth. • Focus on pollinators and biodiversity at non Teagasc National events in 2023 including National Ploughing Championships; Bloom, Tullamore Show and Young Scientist Exhibition. • Teagasc Hedgerow Week held in September 2024 expanded to be held in conjunction with The Heritage Council and local Biodiversity Officers. • Biodiversity knowledge exchange to all 140,000 farmers, private advisors and the Agri-environment industry through national and regional print media, tv, radio, podcasts and webinars • Biodiversity including pollinators featured in the weekly Signpost webinars with 300-400 participants from the Agri Environment industry 	
--	--	--	--	--	--

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Teagasc Biodiversity modules including pollinators (5 x half hour), one of the 5 Environmental Modules for DAFM FAS CPD continues to be a mandatory undertaking for new FAS (Farm Advisory Service) agricultural advisors. <p>CAFRE: 2023: Farm management for pollinators is part of the CAFRE delivery to 400 farmers in the Environmental Business Development Groups. Hedgerow management to assist pollinators is part of an ongoing CAFRE information campaign.</p>
11	Agricultural colleges to support training and awareness-raising in RoI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of pollinator-friendly management within college sites as a teaching and awareness-raising tool Incorporation of material on the identification and conservation of pollinators within relevant teaching programmes 	Teagasc	<p>In 2024, integration of biodiversity into the agricultural education curriculum was initiated through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of Extensive farming systems into relevant modules Development of upland module <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Development of Course outline, Learning outcomes and Assessments ✓ Training of teachers and Education Officers ✓ Development of training material <p>Biodiversity Plans have been developed for Teagasc agricultural colleges with habitats identified and targets agreed to increase habits and improve biodiversity management practices as a resource for training and awareness-raising of biodiversity, including protecting pollinators. To be reviewed and amended annually.</p>

				Annual hedge planting on the ten-year demonstration sites continued on Teagasc farms in spring 2024 and Local Authority Biodiversity officers and other hedgerow and pollinator stakeholders have been invited to visit on the day of planting in spring 2025
12	Agricultural colleges to support training and awareness-raising in NI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of pollinator-friendly management within college sites as a teaching and awareness-raising tool • Incorporation of material on the identification and conservation of pollinators within relevant teaching programmes 	CAFRE	2023: CAFRE farm hedgerow management protocol is now in the 6th winter of a mixed hedge cutting & hedge sapling strategy designed to provide floral opportunity within each field or land block annually. 5 types of arable & grassland margins of use to pollinators are maintained with an ongoing volunteer butterfly monitoring transect to monitor the impact of the margins. Farm management for pollinators is part of the CAFRE Level 3 course.
13	Farming organisations and agricultural networks to promote pollinator-friendly actions to their members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner organisations to promote pollinator-friendly actions • Those listed under responsibility agreed to this action at time of publication 	Ulster Farmers Union, Irish Organic Association, Organic Trust, others to agree	<p>Ulster Farmers Union:</p> <p>UFU has continued to promote farmland pollinator actions to members. Information and the Pollinator Farmland Guidance has been shared with members through the agricultural press, social media posts and the UFU e-bulletin. The Union referenced the importance of protecting pollinators in relation to hedges in an article in June also featured in Farming Life. The UFU ran a social media campaign with a particular focus on pollinators and their importance to agriculture on World Bee Day (20th May). Any new information or guidance that is produced by the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan project and is relevant to farmers/farming families is automatically shared with</p>

				<p>our members on social media and through the UFU e-bulletin (around 7000 recipients).</p> <p>Irish Organic Association: The Irish Organic Association continues to promote the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and relevant actions. We do this through informative articles in our Organic Matters magazine which is published twice a year. In 2024 we introduced a dedicated section in our monthly e-newsletter called “Working with Biodiversity on Your Farm or in Your Business” to highlight relevant information and tips to organic farmers and businesses to support pollinators and biodiversity more broadly. Both publications are distributed to all Irish Organic Association members. Pollinator-friendly related actions are also promoted via our social media channels. Many of our members are practicing farming methods on their farms which enhance and encourage biodiversity. Members are also actively involved at a community level in a variety of projects and networks that seek to protect and promote our natural heritage such as such as Farming for Nature.</p> <p>Organic Trust: Organic Trust CLG remains committed to making the island of Ireland more pollinator-friendly and the objective of making farmland more pollinator friendly remains at the heart of the farming endeavors which we certify. We aim to ensure crop pollination, wild plant pollination and to continue to nurture the</p>	
--	--	--	--	---	--

				diversity of pollinators on our island as study after study confirms that maintaining pollinator diversity keeps agricultural systems and natural ecosystems resilient – co-dependant from a singularly positive perspective. In this respect the Organic Trust continues to promote pollinator-friendly actions to our members; stresses the importance of the Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 on our website and promotes the Plan to our members within our organic journal Clover and within our monthly E-Newsletter Organic Trust News. During 2024 Organic Trust promoted several other initiatives on its digital platforms, these included No Mow May, Hedgerow Week and World Soil Day to name but a few.	
14	Publish a guideline document outlining evidence-based pollinator actions for forestry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of guidelines for forestry • Dissemination to all relevant bodies 	AIPP Farmland Officer and relevant partners	This guideline is in train. An updated version has been produced and we will engage with others in the sector to get their input.	
15	Publish a guideline document that links pollinator/biodiversity actions to their carbon/climate benefits on farmland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collation of all relevant research necessary for this document • Publication when a sufficient evidence base is in place 	AIPP Farmland Officer and relevant partners	This has not progressed yet. It is an active research area, and it has been decided to wait until a more complete evidence base is in place.	
16	Publish other new evidence-based pollinator guideline documents for the farming sector as necessary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate which guideline documents are required and prioritise a programme for their development. May include, but not limited to: 	AIPP Farmland Officer and relevant partners	<p>This action is being progressed.</p> <p>Resources developed in 2024 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Launched an interactive learning module on actions to support farmland pollinators, aimed 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pollinator-friendly management of stud farms (equine industry) - Integration of pollinator-friendly guidelines into the Agricultural Catchments Programme • - Development of pollinator-friendly guidelines for archaeological sites on farmland 		<p>at farmers, farm advisors and agriculture students Pollinator-friendly farming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ An online course on hedgerows for pollinators and biodiversity is being developed (to launch 2025). ✓ A short resource on beneficial insects on farmland has been drafted (to be published early 2025). 	
17	Promote best practice in the use of imported bumblebee colonies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant organisations to disseminate the evidence-based guideline document: <i>Guidelines for users of imported bumblebee colonies</i> (AIPP, 2020) 	Teagasc, DAERA	The guidelines are promoted where relevant	
18	Promote the AIPP at key agricultural events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance at the National Ploughing Championship, ROI • Attendance at the Balmoral Show, NI • Attendance at other relevant agricultural events 	AIPP Farmland Officer	<p>The following key events were attended by the Farmland Officer in 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Delivered the biodiversity element of a farm walk at Shay Ryans farm (New Ross, Wexford). In partnership with Wexford County Council's Climate Action Week, Teagasc Signpost Programme, and Tirlán Future Farm Programme (15.5.24). ✓ Visited 16 farms and judged the biodiversity section of the Teagasc/FBD Sustainability Awards 2024. Discussed each farm, provided feedback and a score to Teagasc. Attended the awards ceremony on 1.10.24. 	

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Attended and delivered face-to-face engagement on pollinator and biodiversity information at the Teagasc and Heritage Council, National Hedgerow Week, Farmland Biodiversity event, in Birr Castle. Engaged with 40 farmers (estimate), over 300 attended the event, from both the public and the farming community. <p>Other events included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Delivered a farm walk on Alan and Cheryl Poole’s farm, Gorey, Co Wexford, for the ‘Festival of Farmland Biodiversity’, 20+ people attended. ✓ Attended the Irish Seed Savers launch of the AIPP/ISS ‘How to guide – Traditional Orchards and fruit on the farm’, in Scariff, for ‘National Blossum Day’. ✓ Attended the FFN Ambassador networking day at Trevor Harris’s farm near Nass (25.4.24). ✓ Attended and delivered face-to-face engagement at Bord Bia Bloom (3.6.24).
--	--	--	--	---

Target 1.4 Raise awareness and celebrate pollinator diversity on Irish farmland

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024	
19	Investigate the potential for an All-Ireland farmland meadow competition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scoping study on a potential meadow competition to celebrate the diversity and importance of natural farmland meadows for pollinators/biodiversity • Should link to future agri-environment initiatives where appropriate • Should build on learning from the Save our Magnificent Meadows project in NI (2014–2017) • To include an investigation of the potential for a green hay exchange • To include an investigation into creating a future donor site map for wildflower seed collection for local restoration projects • If funding is sourced, this should be rolled out on a gradual scale as the first building block in creating a network of flower-rich meadows across farmland 	<p>Coordinated by AIPP Farmland Officer</p> <p>Needs a funding body/sponsor</p>	<p>Work around this action has spring boarded ahead. In 2022, the NPWS launched a new project to celebrate Irish semi-natural grasslands called ‘Great Irish Grasslands’ https://greatirishgrasslands.ie/ This has been supported by the National Biodiversity Data Centre, and addresses many of the progress measures identified under this action. It also creates a foundation to specifically celebrate farmland meadows in the future.</p> <p>In collaboration with NPWS, a first Grassland Trail booklet has been developed and was launched in early 2024: The-Grasslands-Trail-2024-updated-WEB.pdf</p> <p>In 2023, the AIPP Steering Group agreed that a ‘Grassland Trail’ would replace the ‘Pollinator Trail’ (Action 32). The initial booklet profiled nine semi-natural grassland sites across public and private land, of which one was on farmland.</p> <p>In late 2024, an additional eighteen grassland sites have been added to the Trail, with efforts made to specifically include farmland sites. The updated booklet now includes eleven farmland meadows (it will launch in early 2025).</p>	

				We intend to use this resource to generate interest, with the aim of creating a network of 100+ sites in future years.
20	Investigate the potential for an annual May Hedgerow Festival.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scoping study on a potential Hedgerow Festival to celebrate the uniqueness and value of native hedgerows (Run in May when native hedgerows are in full flower) • Should include biodiversity as well as cultural components and bring in the wider community to celebrate and appreciate farmers as protectors of this vital habitat • Should stress the importance of hedgerows as networks for nature and for carbon capture • Should link with the Teagasc Hedgerow Week in September which promotes good hedgerow management • If funding is sourced, this should be rolled out on a gradual scale 	<p>Coordinated by AIPP Farmland Officer</p> <p>Needs a funding body/sponsor</p>	<p>Upon discussion, this action was changed into a wider initiative within the National Biodiversity Data Centre. The <i>Festival of Farmland Biodiversity</i> began in 2021 and will take place across May each year https://biodiversityireland.ie/farmlandbiodiversity/</p> <p>2024 saw a month long virtual ‘Festival of Farmland Biodiversity’ in May, on the theme of native species-rich hedgerows. This included daily social media on all aspects of native hedgerows, using reels, links to further information and management advice.</p>
21	Run a campaign to raise awareness and celebrate pollinator diversity on farmland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness-raising campaign rolled out. This to be largely social media based, but may also include newsletters, blogs, videos, etc. 	National Biodiversity Data Centre	<p>This is now largely carried out through the Festival of Farmland Biodiversity (above).</p> <p>Information on native species found on farmland, developed in 2023, were re-released across 2024 as part of ‘Biodiversity on your Farm’. The aim is to help</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This to be run in collaboration with an existing National Biodiversity Data Centre project: Protecting Farmland Pollinators EIP 2019-2023 (funded by DAFM through the European Innovation Partnership) 		<p>farmers learn more about the species they are likely to find on their land. There is also a simple tip each week for managing your farm for biodiversity. They are shared on social media by the National Biodiversity Data Centre and DAFM. The 40 species profiled can be found here: https://biodiversityireland.ie/surveys/biodiversity-on-your-farm/</p> <p>In addition, ten new ‘native farmland plants and their pollinators’ were highlighted in 2024.</p> <p>Other awareness raising activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Three local radio interviews on farmland orchards, pollinators and biodiversity. ✓ Promoted Traditional orchards on farmland on RTE radio on ‘Mooney goes wild’. ✓ Presented a ‘Pollinator-friendly farming’ talk at a DAERA/AIPP Community conference at CAFRE Greenmount, Co Antrim (23.4.24).
--	--	--	--	--

Target 1.5 Track changes in pollinators on farmland

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024	
22	Publish an annual review of farmland actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of an annual review outlining progress within actions under this objective Publication on AIPP website each December 	Coordinated by AIPP Farmland Officer	This document provides a review of the farmland actions in 2024.	
23	Track progress within the farmland sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open up the online mapping system <i>Actions for Pollinators</i> to the farmland sector https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/ Number of farms logging their pollinator-friendly actions 	AIPP Farmland Officer	This has not yet taken place. Considerations are still being given on how best to open up the mapping system to farmers and how to integrate with the findings of the 'Protecting Farmland Pollinators' EIP project, run by the National Biodiversity Data Centre (2019-2023). A scoring tool was developed within the EIP project which enables farmers to generate a score indicating how pollinator friendly their farm is. A web-based application of the tool is currently being tested internally (Nov 2024).	
24	Monitor pollinators across a network of farmland sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the framework necessary for a national pollinator monitoring scheme to include sites across farmland, public and protected land. This should be in line with the European Pollinator Monitoring Scheme recommendations (2020) Source funding and roll out this scheme to monitor pollinators across a network of farmland sites 	National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme requires funding	<p>In 2021, DAFM and NPWS granted initial funding for this scheme which is being managed by the National Biodiversity Data Centre in the Republic of Ireland. The project began in September 2021 and was rolled out as a National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme in 2022. In 2024, a total of 40 sites were monitored across farmland, semi-natural sites, and urban parks. Of these, 20 sites were on farmland, 16 are semi-natural sites and 4 are urban parks.</p> <p>An equivalent scheme is run in Northern Ireland, as part of the UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme. It is</p>	

				managed by NIEA. Of the 20 squares in NI, 15 have been surveyed in 2024.	
25	Publish annual farmland pollinator index.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the annual data from a National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme, publish annual trends as a farmland pollinator index 	National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme	This index cannot be developed until data begins annually feeding through from the National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme (Action 24 above).	
26	Develop a Citizen Science recording scheme for farmland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the possibility of creating a simple, tailored Citizen Science scheme for farmers to enable them to track changes in common pollinators on their land Pending funding, roll out this scheme nationally 	AIPP Farmland Officer & National Biodiversity Data Centre, Centre for Environmental Data and Recording NI (CEDaR)	<p>Forty native species were profiled in 2023 as part of an initiative called 'Biodiversity on your farm' (Action 21). Each week, the AIPP Farmland Officer helps farmers learn more about the species they are likely to find on their land, and they are encouraged to submit sightings. It was rolled out again in 2024, with the addition of another ten plant-pollinator species.</p> <p>In 2022, the National Biodiversity Data Centre piloted a farmer moth monitoring EIP project. Twenty farmers from Kildare and neighboring counties were able to independently operate moth traps and successfully monitor moths on their farms. It was repeated with a second group of farmers in Co Donegal in 2023. This project has shown the general interest and willingness of farmers to engage in and contribute to citizen science. It paves the way for a nationwide and longer-term monitoring scheme whereby the distributions and populational trends of moths on Irish farmland can be accurately monitored. Moths are important nocturnal pollinators. DAFM agreed to fund the national citizen science farmer moth monitoring scheme in 2024, and it will be rolled out from 2025.</p>	

OBJECTIVE 2: MAKING PUBLIC LAND POLLINATOR FRIENDLY

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

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024	
27	Increase the number of Councils who formally agree to partner with the Plan and take actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ There are 31 Local Authorities in ROI and 11 in NI. Target of 90% of all Councils formally signed up as partners of the Plan by 2025. 	AIPP Communities Officer	All 42 Councils across the island have formally partnered with the Plan as of 2023.	
28	Support relevant sections of Councils to engage with and implement the AIPP. Ensure the AIPP is integrated within relevant Local Authority policy instruments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Plan promoted to relevant sections within Councils, e.g. Environment, Local Enterprise Offices, Parks Dept, Engineers, Strategic Policy Committees (SPC), Public Participation Networks (PPNs), etc. ✓ Integration of the Plan within relevant policy instruments, e.g. County Heritage Plans, County Biodiversity Plans, County Development Plans, Local Economic and Community Plans, Climate Adaptation Plans, etc. 	Coordinated by Heritage and Biodiversity Officer network; Environment Departments	The Heritage and Biodiversity Officer network continue to support Councils in engaging with the AIPP and in integrating pollinator actions within the relevant policy frameworks.	
29	Provide comprehensive and freely available online resources for the Council sector at	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Up-to-date resources provided on the website. To include: evidence-based guideline documents, flyers, videos, blogs, webinars, 	AIPP Communities Officer	<p>This website is continually updated as new resources are developed: https://pollinators.ie/councils/</p> <p>An update of the evidence-based guidelines for Councils is in development. A guide on the</p>	

	www.pollinators.ie/councils	<p>presentations, case studies, animations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All 2015–2020 resources to be updated where necessary in consultation with Councils ✓ Council toolkit to be continually expanded to meet needs under the advice of the Heritage and Biodiversity Officer networks. May include, but not limited to: technical guidelines on meadow management, grass disposal, advice on pesticide alternatives, advice on new emerging technologies. ✓ Promote new and innovative ways for Councils to engage with the AIPP, e.g. Promotion of the successful <i>Midleton Pollinator Plan 2020</i> (Cork CoCo) 		<p>management of meadows, specifically for Councils, is also in preparation.</p> <p>Each Council partner is asked to provide a short update of activities to feed into the Council partner’s annual review document. It is published in parallel to this main AIPP Annual Review. The Council partners annual review is used to highlight the positive actions taking place across Local Authorities, but also to assist with knowledge exchange. <i>Council Partners: Annual Review 2024</i> https://pollinators.ie/aipp-2021-2025/annual-reviews/</p>	
30	Provide an ongoing knowledge exchange programme for Council staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Organise annual knowledge exchange event for Council partners ✓ Continue to develop blogs, case studies and newsletters ✓ Training provided to Council staff 	AIPP Communities Officer	The 2024 Council knowledge exchange event took place on the 13 th June 2024 at the Civic Theatre in Tallaght. It was organised in collaboration with South Dublin County Council. The day focused on sharing knowledge on managing meadows for pollinators and on alternatives to herbicide use.	
31	Increase the number of Regional Assemblies who agree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are three Regional Assemblies in RoI. Each to be approached on supporting the 	The Eastern and Midland Regional	The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSES) for the three Regional Assemblies promote the aims of the AIPP. More engagement with the Regional	

	to partner with the Plan and support implementation within local government, where appropriate.	<p>objectives of the AIPP 2021-2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each has a 12 year Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) (made in 2019/2020) containing Regional Planning Objectives (RPOs). These to support implementation of the AIPP 2021-2025 (and vice versa), where appropriate. • Each participates in EU projects which involve sectoral, local, regional and international engagement activities. Where thematically relevant, these to promote the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (e.g. the Interreg Europe PROGRESS project on which the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly is a partner) 	Assembly, others to agree	<p>Assemblies is planned for future. To date, the most direct engagement has been with EMRA, who have provided an update on their 2024 support below.</p> <p>EMRA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMRA has continued to actively promote the AIPP across local, regional and international networks including the Dublin Metropolitan CARO Regional Steering Group and the Environmental Conference of the Regions of Europe (ENCORE). • In 2024, EMRA launched its new website which includes policy and research resources relating to green infrastructure and ecosystem services. This includes policy briefs, good practice handbooks and infographics which showcase the AIPP as a transferrable good practice for regional and local government.
32	Develop an All-Ireland 'Pollinator Trail' across public land, composed of a network of sites demonstrating high quality pollinator/biodiversity friendly management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AIPP to develop criteria for the initiative • Local Authorities to identify suitable publicly owned sites to form part of a trail. • Begin process of developing an All-Ireland network of high-quality sites across different pollinator-friendly actions (meadows, hedgerows, 	<p>Coordinated by Heritage and Biodiversity Officer network and AIPP Communities Officer</p> <p>Requires resources for branding</p>	<p>Following discussions with the Steering Group in 2023, it was decided to change this action slightly. Instead of developing a 'Pollinator Trail' we will work with partners to develop a 'Grassland Trail'.</p> <p>Collaboration with NPWS that began in 2022, has led to a new project to celebrate Irish semi-natural grasslands called 'Great Irish Grasslands' https://greatirishgrasslands.ie/</p>

		<p>orchards, perennial planting, etc.) that are branded and promoted as a Pollinator Trail and used for knowledge transfer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin with Council sites, but develop a roadmap to expand this to other sectors, e.g. local community examples • Discuss with relevant bodies how this network can be fully promoted to maximise the positive potential for human health and wellbeing and as a tourism initiative • Increase in the number of sites within the Trail 		<p>Within this initiative, we are working to develop a 'Grassland Trail' to identify and promote excellent examples of semi-natural grassland meadows, across public and private land. As meadow sites form the bedrock of important areas for pollinators as well as wider biodiversity, it was decided that this was a more strategic action.</p> <p>The first phase of the initiative was completed in late 2023, and a booklet was produced by the NPWS and the National Biodiversity Data Centre to celebrate nine grassland sites. In 2024, it was expanded to include another eighteen sites. The plan is to increase the number of sites in coming years, to ultimately create a wide network across the island. It will help celebrate this important habitat and provide opportunities for knowledge exchange on correct management.</p>	
33	Encourage the development of 'Pollinator-friendly Parks' on public land, i.e. parks that demonstrate a wide range of pollinator-friendly actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AIPP to provide 'Pollinator-friendly Parks' criteria, including a template of features and minimum standards, e.g. small natural meadow, pollinator-friendly planting, nesting habitats, no pesticide use, mini orchard • Local Authorities to identify suitable areas to be managed/developed as 'Pollinator-friendly Parks' 	Coordinated by Heritage and Biodiversity Officer network, other relevant sections of Councils & AIPP Communities Officer	This is in the early stages of development. We have been working to develop pollinator scoring mechanisms for parks through the Green Flag for parks pollinator award (Action 34). This action will be further progressed in 2025.	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webpage and branding developed by AIPP to promote the location of these parks • AIPP to provide standardised signage templates for various park features and on pollinating insects • AIPP to develop associated materials and make freely available online: lesson plans and activities for school nature talks; health and wellbeing resources etc. • Where new areas are being developed, Councils to be encouraged to consider locating them within easy reach of schools in socio-economically disadvantaged areas. 			
34	Promote pollinator awards for Council-owned/managed land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to promote and support the pollinator award in the An Taisce Green Flag for Parks initiative in RoI • Investigate the possibility of an equivalent award in the Green Flags for Parks initiative in NI • Investigate existing award structures and the potential to have an annual award to recognize the most pollinator-friendly Council. (RoI and NI) 	An Taisce, AIPP Communities Officer, other partners as relevant	<p>Republic of Ireland: The An Taisce Green Flag for Parks initiative in RoI again included a special pollinator award in 2024. Thanks to Young Nurseries who continue to sponsor the award. Sixteen parks entered in 2024. Once again, the standard of applications was extremely high across all three categories. The three category winners were:</p> <p><i>Country Park:</i> Ballycroy Visitor Centre, Wild Nephin National Park, Co. Mayo</p>	

				<p><i>Town Park:</i> Tralee Bay Wetlands Eco & Activity Park, Co. Kerry <i>Community Garden:</i> Sneem Garden of the Senses, Co. Kerry</p> <p>The overall winner in the 2024 competition was Tralee Bay Wetlands Eco & Activity Park</p> <p>Seven further parks were highly commended for their work: Ardgillan Castle Demesne & Gardens, Co. Dublin; Julianstown Community Garden, Co. Meath; Maynooth Campus, Co. Kildare; Millennium Park, Blanchardstown, Co. Dublin; Newbridge Demesne, Co. Dublin; Tymon Park, Co. Dublin; and Waterstown Park, Co. Dublin</p> <p>Northern Ireland: The National Biodiversity Data Centre assisted with judging the third annual Green Flag for Parks Pollinator Award in Northern Ireland in 2024. This award is run by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful.</p> <p>There are two categories – the Community Pollinator Award and the Council Pollinator Award. There were seven applicants this year. The winners and runners-up for 2024 are:</p> <p>Community Pollinator Award Winner – Monkstown Village Garden</p>	
--	--	--	--	---	--

				<p>Community Runner Up Pollinator Award – Downpatrick Community Allotments</p> <p>Council Pollinator Award Winner – Musgrave Park, Belfast City Council</p> <p>Council Runner Up Pollinator Award – Falls Park, Belfast City Council</p> <p>https://pollinators.ie/green-flag-pollinator-award-winners-2024/</p>	
--	--	--	--	---	--

Target 2.2 Make transport corridors more pollinator friendly

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024	
35	Provide comprehensive and freely available online resources for Transport Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up-to-date resources provided on AIPP website To include: evidence-based guideline documents, flyers, videos, blogs, webinars, presentations, case studies, animations ✓ All 2015-2020 resources to be updated where necessary ✓ Toolkit to be expanded to meet needs, under the advice of Transport Authority partners. 	AIPP Communities Officer	<p>This webpage is kept up to date https://pollinators.ie/transportcorridors/</p> <p>New resources have not been added in 2024</p>	

36	<p>TII to promote pollinator-friendly management of the national road network in RoI.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement of grassland management and pollinator-friendly planting across all existing motorway service areas Grass-cutting frequency to move from condition-based maintenance to a specified programme, i.e. reduced number of cuts per year All new roadside planting to have a significant proportion of pollinator-friendly plants Areas of pollinator-friendly management mapped on GIS Reduction in the use of pesticides on the network Control and manage the spread of invasive plant species. 	<p>Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ TII published in May 2024 a Design and Delivery of Soft Landscape Treatments in Urban Transport Environments Overarching Technical Document where planting for pollinators is one of the Planet Positive functions of any TII landscape treatments. The document gives guidance on the design and management of transport corridor landscapes with a focus on biodiversity. GE-ENV-03002 <div data-bbox="1361 491 1877 794" data-label="Image"> <p>3. Function and Value of Soft Landscape in Urban Transport Environments</p> <p>Soft landscapes: From the designed and planted to the semi-natural and wild, they play a key role in the function, identity, and performance of roads, routes, streetscapes, and greenways in urban transport environments.</p> <p>Conclusions from policy, research and best practice outline the significant, relatively, and well-defined costs and benefits that the economic integration of landscape treatments in urban environments can deliver.</p> <p>All landscape treatments can perform a function and deliver value categorised as follows:</p> <p>These categories reflect and align with TII's Sustainability Implementation Plan, TII's Biodiversity Plan and TII's Landscape Plan to add value to circular economy, enhance air quality and biodiversity, reduce road traffic, and deliver wider societal value and benefits.</p> <p>Number of soft landscape functions along transport corridors are explored within this document. The following icons will be used throughout the document to signpost these into associated images and sample sections.</p> <p>Landscape Treatments for Placemaking and Shaping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permeability Enhanced Journey Experience Traffic Calming Visual Connectivity & Signposts Perceived Safety Local Access Walking <p>Planet Positive Landscape Treatments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pollinator Friendly SoD Water Connectivity Climate Green Infrastructure </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ TII published in May 2024 a Guide for the Implementation of Soft Landscape in Towns and Villages on National Roads which lists the AIPP as a key reference document. GE-ENV-03001 ✓ TII is progressing work on a Biodiversity Impact Assessment Standard which will incorporate references to the AIPP- due to be published Q4 2025. ✓ TII is also developing a biodiversity accounting metric tailored to Irish habitats which will allow us to quantify potential losses/gains in biodiversity on proposed linear infrastructure projects. Draft to be completed Q1 2025. ✓ The areas of motorway networks under TII's direct responsibility continue to implement the aims of the AIPP with lessons learnt being reviewed annually. The next set of contract document for landscape
----	---	--	---	---

				<p>management are being prepared in 2025 to align with the actions of the AIPP Transport Guide.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The AIPP guide for Transport Corridors continues to be a required reference for all TII landscape schemes. ✓ AIPP Plan is referenced as one of the relevant standards and guidelines applicable when carrying out management, appraisal, design in the proposed TII document 'Environmental Impact Assessment of Rural Cycleways (Offline & Greenway) – A Practical Guide' due for publication early 2025. ✓ Mapping of Pollinator areas is linked to a general landscape mapping strategy which is still being progressed by TII and its motorway contractors. ✓ The Luas Light Rail Operators, Transdev, are trialling pollinator planted areas on selected landscape areas along the Green Luas Line and at tram depots. ✓ TII are continuing with its programme of invasive plant control and are trialling alternative methods of weed control on the Motorway Network. ✓ Key Motorway Service areas continue to manage their motorway services areas in line with the AIPP.
37	Department for Infrastructure NI to promote pollinator-friendly management of the national road network in NI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review DfI Roads' environmental policies to promote pollinator-friendly practices and to encourage their inclusion on road schemes, where practicable • Review the outputs from the 'Don't mow, let it grow' pilot project to 	Department for Infrastructure NI	<p>DfI continues to implement and promote its policy on roadside verge management (grass cutting), placing a greater emphasis on environmental protection and enhancement. The new policy means less grass is being cut in order to increase the environmental value of road verges by promoting rewilding and improving the available biodiversity resource. The policy was reviewed and introduced in 2022 with support from Ulster Wildlife. A copy of the policy can be found using the following link: https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/infrastructure/verge-management-%28grass-cutting%29-dem-193-22.pdf</p>

		<p>determine if grass-cutting policy could be changed to help improve the available biodiversity resource</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design of roadside planting on Strategic Road Projects to incorporate pollinator-friendly plants • Areas of pollinator-friendly management to be identified and recorded • Consider alternatives to the use of pesticides on the network • Continue to control and manage the spread of invasive plant species 		<p>DfI is working with local Councils to further increase the number of 'Don't Mow Let It Grow' sites and take forward biodiversity enhancement projects on the road network to promote pollinator friendly management of our soft estate. The benefits of 'No Mow May' was highlighted in the media, in partnership with Plantlife and Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council.</p> <p>DfI contracts place obligations upon partner consultants, contractors and constructors of major infrastructure and Strategic Road Projects to design roadside planting that incorporates extensive quantities of pollinator-friendly plants which include native trees, hedging and wildflower species; recent examples being the A6 Randalstown to Castledawson and A6 Dungiven to Drumahoe dualling schemes. The design of both schemes was based on the Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland 2020 and in partnership with Northern Ireland Native Woodland Group (NINWG). On the A5 Western Transport Corridor dualling scheme there is a contractual stipulation that there should be at least 15% biodiverse grassland on the non-functional verges.</p> <p>DfI is exploring the use of alternatives to pesticides that support All-Ireland Pollinator Plan on the road network, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of mechanical weed control- I.e., mowing, strimming, or cutting machines to manage roadside verges • Use of organic mulches to suppress weeds
--	--	---	--	--

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of biological controls- i.e., using natural predators or biological agents such as beneficial insect/fungi to control pests e.g. Nematodes • Use of manual removal i.e., manual weed pulling or cutting in small, sensitive areas where machinery or other methods are not suitable. • Replace grass-heavy verges with native wildflower meadows that suppress invasive weeds and support pollinators <p>DfI continue to deliver in-house training to staff on the control and management of the spread of invasive plant species.</p>
38	Iarnród Éireann to promote pollinator-friendly management of the national rail network in RoI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of grassland management and pollinator-friendly planting across all stations • Grass-cutting frequency to move from condition-based maintenance to a specified programme, i.e. reduced number of cuts per year • All new landscaping planting specifications to incorporate AIPP pollinator-friendly planting code • Areas of pollinator-friendly management mapped on GIS 	Iarnród Éireann	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ There is continued work on ensuring pollinator planting is implemented across all stations of the network with funding secured for a further 8 stations this year including creating a solitary bee habitat in an embankment located in Castlebar Station. There are ongoing discussions to ensure the target of all stations (145) across the network adopt pollinator plans by 2030 ensuring funding for this is formalised. ✓ Following on from updating the landscaping contract for Inchicore depot whereby a document was drafted and distributed to ensure pollinator friendly initiatives were implemented alongside general maintenance. There have been ongoing discussions about the frequency of grass cutting with areas being designated as “No Mow” with more wildflowers being identified in these areas and signs installed. This initiative was driven by our new Environmental Champion Programme.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in the use of pesticides on the network. Commit to trialing alternatives to glyphosate in station carparks and platforms • Control and manage the spread of invasive plant species • Creation of pollinator-friendly habitat on non-operational lands 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Previously trials in the use of alternatives to chemical-based weed control have been successfully implemented throughout the network. Currently data is being collected to determine quantities used and to find alternatives to reduce chemical use where possible without compromising on safety. ✓ There is ongoing work being undertaken on classifying and mapping habitats along the rail corridor and determining the condition to determine baseline data. This project will also help identify areas of high ecological value as well as those which can be enhanced for biodiversity and pollinators. ✓ Ongoing training to staff is being undertaken to ensure confidence in the identification of invasive species with the past publication of technical standards which are used as reference documents. A new framework is being developed to ensure qualified contractors are employed to treat infestations using best practice methods with an emphasis on long-term monitoring to ensure effective treatment and identifying alternative methods if appropriate.
39	Translink to promote pollinator-friendly management of the national public transport network in NI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the message of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025, and associated guidelines across Translink, 	Translink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We launched our new 7 year Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2030. 'Positive Action for Pollinators' forms one of the strategy's 5 themes, working towards the following target: By 2025, implement and deliver pollinator recording initiatives along our transport corridors, and by 2030 set aside at least 10%

		<p>stakeholders and contractors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure increasing pollinators is a key facet within the proposed new Translink Biodiversity Strategy – including the improvement of grassland management and pollinator-friendly planting across the Translink estate • Develop a suite of Translink Biodiversity Information sheets focused on pollinators • All new landscaping planting specifications to incorporate AIPP pollinator-friendly planting code • Areas of pollinator-friendly management mapped on GIS • Continue to work in partnership with employees, contractors, local communities, and environmental NGOs to promote pollinator-friendly planting. 		<p>of our adjacent landholdings for habitat management practices. Our pollinator theme has 5 priority actions, working alongside partner eNGOs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We carried out station biodiversity workshops with leaflets educating staff and passengers about pollinators and distributed wildflower seed. • We carried out 60 FIT counts along the Belfast-Newry line during summer 2024 focusing on station planters and displays. • We have planted 3 native woodlands with 30k trees (Scots pine, Alder, Downy birch, Silver birch, Pedunculate oak, Rowan, Cherry and Hazel).
--	--	---	--	---

40	Waterways Ireland to promote pollinator-friendly management of the national waterway towpath network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the message of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 within Waterways Ireland and with stakeholders. • Continued rollout of biodiversity-rich grassland management as standalone and through community partnerships. • Grass-cutting frequency to favour pollinators, i.e. reduced number of cuts per year. • Areas of pollinator-friendly management mapped on the AIPP GIS. • Control and manage the spread of invasive plant species. • Continue to ensure biodiversity and pollinator actions are core elements of the new Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan 2030. • Support grant applications that support biodiversity. 	Waterways Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Waterways Ireland, as partners to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, place significant focus and resources in the promotion of pollinators through augmented management practices. In 2024 we undertook the following: ✓ Continued to manage a number of pollinator friendly sites including Ferns Lock, Daingean, Clonony, Pollagh, Ticknevin, Dolphins Barn, Meelick, Victoria Lock, Ballinasloe and areas at our Western Regional offices in Scarriff and our HQ in Enniskillen. ✓ We carried Marsh Fritillary Butterfly habitat management to curtail grass/scrub encroachment at a location within our landholding which supports Marsh Fritillary breeding habitat on the Royal Canal near Mullingar. This work was carried out with input from NPWS and the local Baltrasna Boreen Biodiversity Group. ✓ In 2024 our Environment and Heritage Section delivered a series of ecology and environmental best practice toolbox talks to General Operative, Foremen and Engineers within the organisation; a significant element of this training was focused on achieving pollinator-friendly management of grassland habitats within WI landholding. ✓ Pollinator friendly management is applied throughout the majority of our towpaths and trackways outside the immediate path edge which ensures integrity of path surface with biodiversity management outside this zone. ✓ Waterways Ireland continued to operate 11 battery operated eWeedhex units in 2024 which is herbicide-
----	---	--	-------------------	--

				<p>free and removes the weed, earth and seed content. Being herbicide free means it is not entering our waterways, impacting non-target plants and impacting wildlife, especially pollinators. Also, as battery operated units, they have zero GHG emissions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ We continue to cosponsor and adjudicate this Tidy Towns Special Award which recognises and rewards the invaluable contribution of the voluntary sector. ✓ Waterways Ireland continues to promote the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan on its social media. ✓ We continued our Service Level Agreement with Kildare County Council and other local authorities to jointly fund research into herbicide free methods of weed control, which will help support pollinators. ✓ Monitoring and management of invasive species (both terrestrial and aquatic) is a core aspect of our work in Waterways Ireland, to ensure the continued ecological health of our waterways. Staff from our environmental team sit on the National Invasive Species Action Group being coordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. ✓ In 2024 the Heritage Plan Community Grant Scheme continued to support a wide range of heritage initiatives, including projects focused solely on the protection and/or enhancement of biodiversity.
41	Promote pollinator-friendly management of future transport routes, e.g. future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guideline document (<i>Pollinator-friendly management of Transport Corridors 2019</i>) to be applied to new projects as relevant, e.g., MetroLink 	AIPP Communities Officer and relevant partners	Relevant partners are addressing this action (see A36). A simple AIPP guide for greenways is in development.

	greenway cycle routes.	<p>and all future light rail projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to reach out to new partners and to promote the adoption of the guideline document for new transport routes. • Develop additional resources around pollinator-friendly management of greenways and new cycle routes 			
--	------------------------	---	--	--	--

Target 2.3 Make schools and educational properties more pollinator friendly

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024	
42	Provide comprehensive and freely available online resources for Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up-to-date resources provided on the website. To include: evidence-based guideline documents, flyers, videos, blogs, webinars, presentations, case studies, animations, etc. ✓ All 2015–2020 resources to be updated where necessary. 	AIPP Communities Officer	<p>This webpage is kept up to date: https://pollinators.ie/schools/</p> <p>It contains comprehensive resources for teachers and pupils. A series of updated lesson plans were added in 2023.</p> <p>In 2024, we developed an online interactive training module for schools, in collaboration with the Department of Education in ROI. It is aimed at school caretakers and grounds staff to encourage biodiversity friendly management. It is hoped the accredited course will be released in early 2025.</p>	

43	Green-Schools to encourage pollinator-friendly management of schools in RoI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollinators to continue to be promoted within the Green-Schools Initiative • Increase in the numbers of students, teachers, principals and caretakers exposed to pollinator information • Investigate the possibility of schools being awarded a pollinator award upon production and implementation of a School Pollinator Plan. 	Green-Schools	<p>The Green-Schools ‘biodiversity team’ have continued to make support materials and new resources for schools, with specific links to pollinators. These have all contained information on the AIPP and links to www.pollinators.ie</p> <p>From May to June 2024, our Seasonal Biodiversity Challenge was to “Feed the Bees”. We allocated our “Seasonal Nature Page” to promoting pollinator friendly actions including linking to the “Pitches for Pollinators” campaign. This was promoted in our Green Schools Newsletter, which goes to over 5,800 subscribers, including teachers, parents and local authorities.</p> <p>The Green Schools Biodiversity Programme is a partner in the EU Horizon Project “BioBeo” which aims to increase awareness of the Bioeconomy. A newsletter called BioBeo Buzz has been produced monthly this year. One issue this year in May was dedicated to pollinators. Green Schools shared information on and links to the pollinator plan in this issue.</p> <p>Green-Schools’ annual Autumn Seminars for the themes of ‘Biodiversity’ and ‘Food and Biodiversity’ included information on pollinators, and links and resources for creating a school ‘Pollinator Action Plan’. 113 teachers, each representing their respective school, attended this training in October 2024.</p>
----	--	---	---------------	---

44	Eco-Schools to encourage pollinator-friendly management of schools in NI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollinators to continue to be promoted within the Eco-Schools Initiative • Increase in the numbers of students, teachers, principals and caretakers exposed to pollinator information • Investigate the possibility of schools being awarded a pollinator award upon production and implementation of a School Pollinator Plan. 	Eco-Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ We relaunched the windowsill Garden social media campaign with Trócaire in both winter and spring to encourage schools to get involved. ✓ Funding has been received to begin an intergenerational biodiversity project with Radius Housing involving 6 primary schools and 6 independent living schemes. The first workshops were in October of 2024 which saw the installation of sensor cameras at each site to begin monitoring the wildlife on each. The rest of the programme will focus on increasing biodiversity on each site. ✓ The Biodiversity topic was for the second year running now the biggest topic for schools in Northern Ireland to focus their attention on their International Green Flag journey with 64% of schools who applied (164/257) focusing on improving biodiversity on their school grounds and local community. ✓ We released 9 new Biodiversity identification resources for schools and hosted 4 online teacher training clinics to support teachers on using them and implementing into their classrooms. ✓ 11,822 entries recorded in biodiversity audits last academic year September 2023 - June 2024.
----	---	---	-------------	---

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Hedgerow Heroes project funded by Pilgrim's Europe – Year 1 resulted in 11 schools receiving 20m of native hedgerow each and 245 children involved in outdoor learning and learning about hedgerows in relation to pollinator support. ✓ Hedgerow Heroes project has continued into Year 2 – 11 schools selected in Nov 2024. Each school will receive a native 20m hedgerow and three workshops to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Workshop on tree identification ○ Native hedge planting workshop ○ Workshop on birds and pollinators
45	Run a 'Pitches for pollinators' summer campaign to leave school pitches unmown during the summer holidays to provide food for pollinators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaign to leave unused school pitches unmown from the end of June until mid-August to allow clovers to flower and provide food for pollinators. • Where used, encourage pitch edges to be left unmown for pollinators • Promote this campaign to schools, to include full details on what is being proposed • Increase in the number of schools taking part. 	AIPP Communities Officer	<p>The Pitches for Pollinators campaign ran once again in the school summer holidays of 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A latest news post was shared on the website, and Pitches for Pollinators graphics were shared on social media. ✓ On Instagram, the Pitches for Pollinators post was the top performing post in June reaching over 2,400 accounts. ✓ GIY promoted Pitches for Pollinators in their June newsletter, directly reaching 450 schools.

46	Green-Campus to encourage pollinator-friendly management of third level campuses across the island.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase number of third level campuses who have signed up as supporters of the AIPP and agreed to take actions • Explore the possibility of a 'most pollinator-friendly campus' annual award. 	Green-Campus	The Green-Campus programme has highlighted the All-Ireland Pollinator via its guidance documents, website, events and blog. We have continued to encourage campuses to sign up to and engage with the plan during our assessment visits and feedback.	
----	---	---	--------------	---	--

Target 2.4 Organisations with site networks on public land to manage these in a pollinator-friendly way

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024	
47	Maintain a network of partner organisations who agree to manage their public site networks in a pollinator-friendly way.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Each organisation to provide a short annual update on activities as part of annual reporting in December ✓ Facilitate knowledge exchange between groups as appropriate. ✓ Expand the network to bring in new partners where possible 	AIPP Communities Officer	<p>A network has been established (annual reports below). The intention is that we will better facilitate knowledge exchange in future years.</p> <p>Methodology for Biodiversity Net Gain is currently being developed in Ireland. We have decided to coordinate knowledge exchange after this is published.</p>	
48	BirdWatch Ireland to adopt pollinator-friendly management within their reserves, where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake monitoring through the Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme at key reserves • Maintain habitats for nesting bees • Incorporate pollinators into reserve management plans (where appropriate and when reviewed) 	BirdWatch Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Monitoring, through the Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme, has continued for the seventh consecutive summer at our Annagh & Termoncarragh Meadows reserves, Co Mayo. Overall, nine different true bumblebee species and two cuckoo bumblebee species were recorded, however numbers were worryingly low. In comparison to 2023, total numbers recorded were down by nearly 70%. Of the rarer species, Great Yellow Bumblebees were only recorded on three occasions (cf 93 were 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Support pollinator policy and advocacy work where appropriate through developing and strengthening integrated biodiversity policies and actions. 		<p>recorded in 2022 & 39 in 2023) which is a worrying decline.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Habitats for pollinators are maintained on our lands through a variety of management including applying autumn mowing regimes, reducing soil fertility to increase flowering plant diversity, maintaining open structure grass swards, maintaining earthen wall boundaries and retaining areas of ‘tussock’ grass overwinter. ✓ BirdWatch Ireland continues to advocate for pollinators and their ecological requirements in relevant policy documents where appropriate.
49	Bord na Móna to adopt pollinator-friendly management across site network, where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of potential pollinator-friendly habitats on cutaway bogs • Maintain pollinator actions within BnM Biodiversity Action Plans. • Number of participating sites 	Bord na Móna (BnM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Bog restoration and rehabilitation measures have now been implemented across >60 Bord na Móna PCAS sites between 2021 and 2024 to encourage re-wetting and development of wet peatland habitats. Over 18,300 hectares have been completed to date (October 2024). Re-vegetating these areas will be positive for some pollinating insects by providing new habitat over the longer term. ✓ Pollinator friendly habitats (e.g. pioneer species-rich grassland) continue to be mapped as part of ongoing baseline establishment and monitoring surveys. ✓ Butterflies were monitored on 12 sites (vis bespoke transects) in 2024 as part of the wider PCAS monitoring programme. These surveys continue to identify sites of high pollinator value.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Up to 17 species of butterfly have been recorded as part of recent scheme surveys. Marsh Fritillary were recorded or documented a number of sites during either targeted survey or incidental records. New Marsh Fritillary colonies were recorded at Ballybeg bog, Lanespark and Derryvila bogs in Co. Tipperary. Peatland restoration and rehabilitation measures will continue to support such pollinator species. ✓ Other invertebrates of note that were recorded in 2024 included records of Ruby-tailed wasp (<i>Chrysis ignita</i> agg.) at Castlegar bog Co. Galway, Moss carder bee (<i>Bombus mascorum</i>), Large Heath Butterfly (<i>Coenonympha tullia</i>) and Dark tussock moth (<i>Dicallomera fascelina</i>) recorded at Clonbooley bog Co. Galway and Marbled white spot moth (<i>Deltote pygarga</i>) at Granaghan bog Co. Roscommon. ✓ Pollinator actions continuing to be included in proposed Bord na Móna renewable energy developments. Bord na Móna have recently commenced the construction of a Velo Rail project within the Lough Boora Discovery Park. As part of this planning application, a Habitat Management and Enhancement Plan was prepared that included actions for the protection of known Marsh Fritillary populations in the wider area as well as construction and operational phase actions that would benefit pollinators. The supporting habitat was fenced off in advance of works to 	
--	--	--	--	---	--

				<p>avoid impact on the species. Similar pollinator avoidance, mitigation and enhancement measures have been incorporated into the construction phases of both Derrililough Wind Farm and Timahoe North Solar Farm in 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Awareness of All-Ireland Pollinator Plan promoted at various Bord na Móna Ecology events in 2024. ✓ Pollinator-friendly management (e.g. natural grassy meadows) is still being encouraged at Bord na Móna offices. This management is continuing.
50	Coillte to adopt pollinator-friendly management across site network, where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of participating sites 	Coillte	<p>Restoration of high value biodiversity sites on the Coillte estate by Coillte Nature;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Coillte Nature completed the restoration of at Hazelwood, Co. Sligo (Annex 1 Alluvial woodland - 91E0) (30 hectares) by removing invasive species (i.e. rhododendron & Cherry laurel) and non-native conifers and broadleaf species. Enhancement planting of native trees and shrubs (5 hectares), fen maintenance (removal of trees and invasive species control) and the maintenance of High Nature Value flora on a section of GS4 Wet unimproved grassland present (i.e. autumn cutting/topping). These actions will benefit native fauna, especially pollinator species. ✓ Coillte Nature commenced restoration management at Cornagillagh and Derrycarne

				<p>Co. Leitrim (Annex 1 Old Sessile Oak woodlands - 91A0). At Cornagillagh, conifer removal enhancement planting took place (5.6 hectares) while at Derrycarne rhododendron and Cherry laurel clearance was undertaken (5.5 hectares).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ At Devils Glen, Co. Wicklow (Annex 1 Old Sessile Oak woodlands - 91A0) Cherry laurel and rhododendron was cleared (6.5 hectares). <p>The Nature Trust has afforested 37 hectares on five sites with native woodland tree and shrub communities, including pollinator friendly shrubs such as holly, rowan, willow and hazel.</p> <p>Coillte is currently developing a policy wrt native Irish honeybees and beekeeper stakeholder apiaries using a permit system on the Coillte estate. The draft policy is currently at consultation stage internally subsequent to external consultation with key stakeholders earlier this year (i.e. Conservation ENGOS, beekeepers, NPWS & the Heritage Council). A demonstration Native Honeybee Conservation Area was established under the guidance of NIHBS at Dunmore, Co. Laois, a Coillte-owned woodland.</p> <p>Felling licenses recently granted for Life Insular sites at Ards, Ringlevaun and Murvagh, Co. Donegal will allow the restoration of circa 27 hectares of sand dune habitat to commence imminently (in partnership with NPWS). This will facilitate pollinator species primarily</p>
--	--	--	--	---

				through the removal of pine plantations which are being replaced with a diverse dune habitat flora.
51	Environmental Protection Agency to adopt pollinator-friendly management across site network, where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of participating sites 	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	The EPA carries out various initiatives to promote biodiversity at its headquarters, including reduced mowing regimes, maintenance of a wildflower meadow and native hedgerows and trees. In addition, it promotes biodiversity awareness across its regional locations among its employees and contractors through peer learning and internal Green Team representatives.
52	Electricity Supply Board to adopt pollinator-friendly management across site network, where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of participating sites • Delivery of pollinator awareness workshops to ESB staff 	Electricity Supply Board (ESB)	ESB continues to ramp up pollinator action across its respective business units. ESB Networks has recently published its first Biodiversity Strategy 'Networks for Nature', to be implemented over the period of 2024 to 2029. This includes an action to communicate and support management practices for grass-cutting at relevant sites to improve local nectar resources for pollinators, whilst promoting the retention of existing habitats important for pollinators and the development of physical features which support them, such as bare earth banks and hibernating structures. ESB Networks has expanded its trials regarding pro-pollinator landscape management at its properties. Building on learning from previous years' actions at the National Training Centre in Portlaoise (where long-flowering meadow management of the training field continues), ESB Networks delivered 'No Mow May' at 19 of its depots and offices during 2024, in tandem with an awareness-raising poster rollout to communicate the importance of such actions. Nesting habitat for solitary bees was created as part of

				<p>biodiversity enhancement measures at a retired substation in Athy, Co. Kildare. In addition, working collaboratively with ESB Enterprise Services and our Facilities Management Contractors, a herbicide-free weed control methodology was trialed at our Finglas depot.</p> <p>ESB Generation & Trading is also progressing a number of actions. In November 2024, staff from ESB and Siemens Ireland collaborated to plant an array of spring-flowering bulbs at Ardnacrusha hydroelectric station in Co. Clare. The bulbs were donated by Siemens Ireland as part of the ‘Host in Ireland’ initiative which aims to plant one million pollinator-friendly bulbs across Ireland to create a healthier environment for bees. When the bulbs flower in spring, they will not only provide a vital source of nectar for bees emerging from hibernation, but they will also add a splash of colour to the grounds at Ardnacrusha. ESB Generation & Trading has also engaged the services of a specialist native wildflower seed supplier to create a species-rich grassland at a new solar farm site in Bullstown, Co. Meath. The seed mix comprises Irish native species of local provenance. Once operational, the management of the site will be appropriate to the requirements of a species-rich grassland.</p> <p>The new ESB Networks Biodiversity Strategy is available here</p>	
--	--	--	--	---	--

53	Gas Networks Ireland to adopt pollinator-friendly management across site network, where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain habitat for nesting bees • Incorporate pollinators into biodiversity strategy and guidance documents • Supporting community engagement initiatives promoting biodiversity awareness • Delivery of biodiversity & pollinator awareness training for staff & kids • Adoption of pollinator-friendly management practices in biodiversity guideline procedures 	Gas Networks Ireland	<p><u>Asset Management:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted a review of grass cutting across all sites in Ireland and created additional wildflower meadows through reduced grass cutting. • Maintained hedgerows at several sites. • Undertook a biodiversity project at one location which included planting 938 native Irish trees, creating 3 log piles, building a pond, and a hibernaculum. A biodiversity project at another location consisted of converting hardstanding areas to wildflower meadows, ponds and tree planting. • Implemented 'No Mow May' across entire network of assets (ROI & NI). <p><u>Strategy & Procedures:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertook 18 biodiversity baseline surveys at sites around Ireland in 2024. • Sustainability Strategy, including a module on biodiversity, presented to new joiners. • GNI developed a metric tool to calculate the impact of a development on biodiversity. The tool will compare the baseline environment and the proposed development, and will give a percentage change in biodiversity. This will be used to demonstrate No Net Loss/Net Gain to Biodiversity in future projects. <p><u>Community:</u></p>
----	--	--	----------------------	--

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued our anchor sponsorship of the Irish Examiner biodiversity month special ‘Biodiversity in Action’ in May. • Sponsorship of school biodiversity murals. • Organised a ‘Wildflower Scavenger Hunt’ at our Cork and Dublin offices for two local schools. • Wildflower guessing game delivered to Westmeath primary school (in a community where pipeline construction activities were taking place). • Collaborated with Westport Tidy Towns to plant native Irish trees in the community. <p><u>Support Staff:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivered training to staff and contractors on our environmental planning and assessment tool. • A dedicated biodiversity Teams channel was set up in 2024 to share news and information on pollinators and other biodiversity topics. • Biodiversity events included Bat Walks in Dublin and Cork where attendees learned about the importance of bats in Ireland, and a wildflower walk in the Cork office which consisted of identifying wildflowers in the meadows and information sharing on the wildflowers present. • Contractors given toolbox talks on biodiversity continuously. 	
--	--	--	--	--	--

54	Irish Water to adopt pollinator-friendly management across site network, where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of participating sites 	Irish Water; now Uisce Éireann (UÉ)	<p>UÉ implements the actions of the Plan through the management of our sites, as outlined in UÉ's BAP. As part of the ongoing biodiversity enhancement and protection measures, surveys of all UÉ sites have been conducted. Combining a mix of managers surveys and ecology surveys, a total of 2,147 sites recorded the implementation of at least one biodiversity enhancement measure, out of 3,631 overall sites. This equates to 59% of sites having an ecological important feature. All UÉ biodiversity enhancement measures are pollinator friendly, in line with the All -Ireland Pollinator Plan. Additionally, UÉ promote the planting of native species of local provenance across all sites and UÉ delivery projects.</p>	
55	National Trust to adopt pollinator-friendly management across network of sites and properties, where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake monitoring through the Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme at key NT properties • Maintain habitats for nesting bees • Incorporate pollinators into property/land use management plans (where appropriate and when reviewed) • Promote Flower-Insect Timed Counts (Citizen Science monitoring scheme) 	National Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued with established Bumblebee Monitoring transects at a number of sites including Castle Ward, Crom, Castle Coole, Giant's Causeway, Minnowburn and Lisnabreeny. <p>We carry our butterfly surveys under the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (both weekly transects and Wider Countryside Butterfly Squares). We also carry out moth trapping at a few sites and are very fortunate to have NI's leading Lepidopterist / moth verifier trap at Murlough National Nature Reserve. This year brought 5 new records for Murlough and N. Ireland, bringing the total number of moth and butterfly species to 816.</p>	

				<p>Our countryside teams continue to work together and with our tenant farmers to manage a variety of habitats across our protected sites, undesignated priority habitats and grasslands. Key actions in 2024:</p> <p><u>Positive management of pastures/meadows:</u> <u>Conservation grazing</u> Large areas of habitat within our care are managed through conacre agreements with local farmers. We aim to graze sites at an appropriate stocking density to maintain a well-structured sward with good flowering and seed setting. Cattle are the ideal grazing animal on wildflower rich grassland with hardy breeds being preferable as they tackle coarse grasses and control encroaching scrub. Dexters are used to manage species-rich ASSI grassland at Castle Ward, Rowallane Garden and Orlock Point.</p> <p><u>Positive management of meadows: Late cut and lift</u> Where there is a naturally occurring wildflower-rich grassland, this is maintained through a “late cut and lift”. The method of cutting will depend on the size of the grassland. In small areas, grass is cut by scythe (silent strimming) or Allen scythe by staff and volunteers. Larger, accessible areas will be cut using a tractor with a cutting bar or using mowers / flails with collectors. On large sites we will work with the conacre farmer to ensure the grass is lifted and baled. In smaller, inaccessible sites, the lifting of grass can be challenging. In 2024 we purchased mini balers which have been welcomed by site teams!</p>	
--	--	--	--	--	--

			<p><u>Meadow restoration through changes to cutting and grazing regime</u></p> <p>We review the areas of mown / amenity grassland and are in the process of transitioning former lawns / mown grassland to wildflower meadows through a late cut and lift. Key sites where this takes place are found in Fermanagh (Crom, Castle Coole and Florencecourt), Mid Ulster (Springhill, Derrymore and The Argory), Belfast (Rowallane and Lisnabreeny), East Down (Mount Stewart and Barr Hall orchard), South Down (Castle Ward) and the North Coast (Cushendun and Downhill). On many of our Belfast sites meadow management is by traditional scything methods along riverbanks and meadows.</p> <p><u>Meadow restoration through addition of local provenance seed</u></p> <p>We have stitched local provenance hay rattle / harvested seed or applied green hay to reduce vigorous grasses and promote wildflower seed set. In 2024 we introduced seed to William’s Harbour, which was sourced from formerly restored meadows from the nearby Castle Ward. Meadow restoration was also carried out on sites in Fermanagh with green hay and seed spread on restoration fields. Furthermore restoration was carried out on sites on the North Coast, within the Belfast Portfolio and in Mid-Ulster.</p> <p>We continue to manage meadows across sites where we have introduced local provenance native seed / green hay in previous years: Rowallane, Downhill,</p>	
--	--	--	---	--

				<p>Kearney (Green and orchard), Portmuck, Lisnabreeny, Minnowburn, Springhill, Florence Court and Castle Coole.</p> <p><u>Purchase of meadow machinery in 2024</u> We are very grateful to DAERA's Environment Fund Strategic Strand which enabled us to purchase disc mowers, tine harrows, hay turners and mini balers; this enabled us to ramp up our efforts to manage and restore/create meadows.</p> <p><u>Baselining the condition of our habitats</u> In order to track our management and restoration efforts, our staff and volunteers conducted habitat baseline surveys across a number of habitats.</p> <p><u>Management of farmland</u> At Mount Stewart we are continuing to deliver regenerative farming practices which includes bale grazing, herbal leys, beneficial insect margins on arable land and maintenance of bare earth and earth banks for mining bee species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given the poor weather, FIT counts were few and far between this year. Where possible rangers conducted FIT counts and submit casual pollinator records to CEDaR. Some properties use FIT counts to engage with visitors through guided walks. 	
--	--	--	--	--	--

				We are very grateful for all volunteers who help with surveys and support ranger teams with pollinator-friendly site management!
56	Northern Ireland Water to adopt pollinator-friendly management across site network, where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of participating sites 	Northern Ireland Water	This year NI Water volunteers surveyed 6 new WwTW sites, equaling a total of 10,676 m2 mapped. They completed online mapping of these sites, did Flower-Insect Timed counts and described each habitat. The 3 largest sites surveyed this year were Moira WwTW, Capecastle WwTW and Armoy WwTW which equalled 7,975 m2 area being mapped.
57	Encouragement and, where appropriate, adoption of pollinator-friendly management on NPWS property, including Statutory Nature Reserves and National Parks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Number of participating sites 	National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	<p>National Parks (NP) and Statutory Nature Reserves (NR) managed for pollinators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Burren NP Co Clare ✓ Wicklow Nountains NP Co Wicklow ✓ Brú na Bóinne NP Co Meath ✓ Killarney NP Co Kerry ✓ Connemara NP Co Galway ✓ Páirc Náisiúnta na Mara Ciarraí ✓ Ballyteige NR Co Clare ✓ Dromore Woods NR Co Clare ✓ Coole-Garryland NR Co Galway ✓ Richmond Esker NR Co Galway ✓ Derryclare NR Co Galway ✓ Sheskinmore Co Donegal ✓ Inch Wildfowl Reserve Co Donegal ✓ Ardnamona NR Co Donegal ✓ Ballyarr NR Co Donegal ✓ Glengarriff NR Co Cork ✓ Scaragh Bog NR Co Westmeath

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ballykeeffe Wood NR Co Kilkenny ✓ Kyledohir Wood NR Co Killkenny ✓ Garryricken Wood NR Co Killkenny ✓ Wexford Wildfowl Reserve ✓ Raven Point NR Co Wexford <p>Management practices include: scrub control, reduced mowing regimes, strimming/mowing along woodland paths, low intensity grazing, some marginal areas are also left uncut to provide winter cover. Larger projects include the restoration of coastal dune habitats.</p> <p>Essex Skipper was recorded at Wexford Wildfowl Reserve in July 2024</p>
58	Office of Public Works to adopt pollinator-friendly management across site network, where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Incorporate Pollinators into Conservation Management Plans at key sites as appropriate ✓ Support the roll out of short- and long-flowering meadows at appropriate locations throughout the country ✓ Maintain and expand on the provision of nesting habitats for solitary bees ✓ Engage with staff and the public in participating in Citizen Science Projects 	Office of Public Works (OPW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Stated measures are ongoing with biodiversity and pollinator actions being incorporated into local plans. To date over 20 sites now have comprehensive baseline audits completed. Recommendations leading from these audits have pollinator related suggested actions. ✓ The post of Biodiversity Officer has now been established. Along with two ecological officers and support administration. The OPW are actively seeking to support sites with short & long rotation meadows. The OPW Biodiversity Officer is also contributing toward a National Grassland Strategy, which has been proposed

				<p>by a range of like-minded groups and agencies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Some solitary bee habitats have been established at locations countrywide, some natural sites too have been identified and secured. ✓ As of September 2024, the OPW have been piloting a new dedicated Citizen Science recording process whereby all OPW can be filtered and retrieved for reporting basis. We very much hope all current surveys will be continued and supported using this facility. 	
59	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (NI) to adopt pollinator-friendly management within their reserves, where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake monitoring through the Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme at key reserves • Maintain habitats for nesting bees • Incorporate pollinators into reserve management plans (where appropriate and when reviewed) 	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB NI)	A 2024 update was not provided.	
60	The Courts Service of Ireland to adopt pollinator-friendly management across site network, where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of participating sites 	The Courts Service of Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In 2024, we have extended the ‘no-mow let it grow’ approach to include an additional venue at Ennis courthouse. In cooperation with the OPW and the Climate bar, we have initiated 	

				<p>rewilding of the rear lawn at the Four Courts complex in Dublin from Summer 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ We are in early discussions on the prospect of installing bird and bat boxes in suitable venues and aim to add this initiative to our growing biodiversity efforts.✓ In late 2023/early 2024 we carried out a staff and public perception survey on our organisation's biodiversity programme. This survey was promoted internally via newsletter articles and externally via our social media platforms and website over several weeks. The results were overwhelmingly positive of our efforts to date and have assisted us in capturing new ideas for improvement and expansion of our biodiversity programme.	
--	--	--	--	---	--

Target 2.5 Make local communities more pollinator friendly

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

		pollinator award (below)		
63	Support Tidy Towns groups to be pollinator friendly through the Local Authority Pollinator Award in the National Tidy Towns competition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to annually fund and administer the special pollinator award in the national Tidy Towns competition • Continue to provide support and advice to Tidy Towns groups in helping pollinators • Monitor the engagement with and standard of entries to the award • Publication and dissemination of an annual newsletter celebrating the work of Tidy Towns groups to support pollinators 	Heritage and Biodiversity Officer network, with support from AIPP Communities Officer	<p>The Local Authority Pollinator Award was successfully run once again as a Special Award within the Tidy Towns competition in 2024. The application form was edited for 2024 to match the updated AIPP guideline: 'Communities: Actions to Help Pollinators'. Yet again the standard of entries was extremely high, and the committee behind the award are delighted with the quality of work taking place in communities of all sizes.</p> <p>In addition to the overall winner, this award identifies large and small-town winners within each of the four Tidy Towns regions. Since 2021, we have also introduced an award for the best newcomer.</p> <p>Congratulations to Sneem Tidy Towns in Co. Kerry who won the overall award in 2024.</p> <p>All winners were as follows:</p> <p>National winner: Sneem Tidy Towns Best newcomer: Ballymun Tidy Towns</p> <p>Large town winners: Midlands & East – Raheny Tidy Village Group, Co. Dublin South & Mid West – (No applicants for this category in 2024) South East – Clonmel Tidy Towns, Co. Tipperary North West & West – Oranmore Tidy Towns, Co. Donegal</p> <p>Small town winners: Midlands & East – Athboy Tidy Towns, Co. Meath South & Mid West – Sneem Tidy Towns, Co. Kerry South East – Kilsheelan Tidy Towns, Co. Kilkenny</p>

				<p>North West West – Belmullet Tidy Towns/ Baile Slachtmhar Bhéal an Mhuirthead, Co. Mayo</p> <p>The following towns were highly commended: Ardmore Tidy Towns, Balbriggan Tidy Towns, Buncrana Tidy Towns, Castlegregory Tidy Towns, Cavan Tidy Towns, Dalkey Tidy Towns, Rathmore Tidy Towns, and Tullahought Tidy Towns</p> <p>https://pollinators.ie/tidy-towns-pollinator-award-winners-2024/</p>
64	Promote pollinator-friendly actions within the Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to promote pollinator-friendly actions within the Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful initiative, as appropriate • Investigate possible mechanisms for a pollinator award within the Live Here Love Here Volunteer Award 	Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Connecting Communities networking events took place; 9 in person & 1 online webinar promoting KNIB/ LHLH community opportunities including Small Grants Scheme. Facilitators included Butterfly Conservation. ✓ 3 case study videos to showcase Small Grants Scheme funding and inspirational environmental https://www.livehereandlovehere.org/smallgrants ✓ Small Grants Scheme 2023/24 received 450 applications to the value of almost £1 million. 89 groups were successful awarded Small Grants with total funding of £113,760 ✓ All Live Here Love Here grants promote and only fund peat-free compost products and encourage native planting. Negative environmental practices, such as use of pesticides/ spraying are ineligible for funding. ✓ Video content available, to support individuals and communities to make the most of funding on LHLH You Tube: Live Here Love Here - YouTube ✓ Posters available to download under license for community groups and schools to use to encourage engagement in identification projects: https://livehereandlovehere.etinu.net/livehereandlovehere/documents/008811.pdf ✓ LHLH Biodiversity page maintained in 2024. Contains useful links and advice (including links to AIPP resources), information on local organizations and suppliers. Also features a resource on guidance for installing wildlife homes: https://www.livehereandlovehere.org/cgi-bin/generic?instanceID=20

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Big Butterfly Count promoted annually on social media. ✓ No Mow May encouraged through LHLH networks and social media.
65	Deliver community-based training on Ireland's bees, bee monitoring and bee-friendly habitat creation through the IWT <i>People for Bees</i> initiative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to provide introductory training to support local communities and members of the public in helping pollinators • Number of workshops delivered 	Irish Wildlife Trust (IWT)	In 2024, the Irish Wildlife Trust delivered 1 workshop and 1 talk on wild bee identification, recording and conservation. The workshop was delivered to the general public in the National Botanic Gardens in Dublin as part of National Biodiversity Week. The talk was delivered at the sustainability stage at BordBia Bloom. IWT also featured AIPP content in our regular newsletter throughout the summer.
66	Support additional communities in coming together to protect pollinators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the possibility of using the ChangeX platform to support wider implementation of the Plan at the community level 	ChangeX	ChangeX, the social innovation platform which draws together excellent social innovations, funding partners (e.g., Accenture, AWS and Greencoat Renewables), and community/volunteer groups, is now partnered with the AIPP.
67	Better promote pollinator-friendly land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated resources for Residents' Associations developed and added to AIPP website 	AIPP Communities Officer	A short new resource was launched for Residents' Associations in 2023: https://pollinators.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Residents-Association-booklet-2022-WEB.pdf

	to Residents' Associations.			
68	Promote the AIPP to other community volunteer networks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore possibility of providing training to Rural Social Schemes and other similar initiatives. • Connect with relevant networks and ask them to inform members about the AIPP, e.g. Men's Sheds, University of the Third Age, Volunteer Now, etc. 	AIPP Communities Officer	This action continues to be progressed when opportunities arise with community volunteer networks. Interactions in 2024 have been mainly with Men's Sheds.
69	Recognise those towns/villages that are helping pollinators through eliminating pesticide use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain an online list of towns/villages that have decided to go pesticide free (herbicide, fungicide and insecticide) 	AIPP Communities Officer	This action has not yet been progressed. Actions in 2024 have focused on collating knowledge and experiences on herbicide alternatives.

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

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024	
70	Encourage pollinator-friendly management of State and public-owned Nature Reserves and National Parks and, where appropriate, Natura 2000 and nationally designated sites in NI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uptake where appropriate on a site-by-site basis • Develop demonstration/example sites on NIEA properties and use for education and knowledge exchange 	Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)	<p>Continued AIPP actions by NIEA regional teams include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New areas and sites created for pollinator use, with appropriate planting/reseeding/management: at Crawfordsburn CP, Roe Valley CP, Scrabo CP, Castle Archdale CP and Peatlands Park. • All actions have been added to the AIPP Actions map. <p>CAFRE Greenmount supported AIPP Actions Awareness event April 2024. Attended by Local Biodiversity Officers and council representatives.</p> <p>Under NIEA grant aid, Butterfly Conservation carried out Marsh Fritillary monitoring on 23 sites (All-Ireland MF Monitoring framework sites and additional new sites where MF have been recorded).</p> <p>Roll out of new programme of Common Standards Monitoring of designated ASSI's with 'Invertebrate Assemblage' or 'Marsh Fritillary' as a site feature. This will give us a better understanding and support Conservation Management Plans.</p> <p>Regarding uptake of pollinator options under the Environmental Farming Scheme, with active</p>	

				Wildflower Margin option (annual wildflower), we have 32 active agreements with a total area of 19.72 Ha under planting. Other options that benefit pollinators include hedgerows, cultivated uncropped and rough grass.
71	Incorporate pollinator-friendly management on designated land in Natura 2000 and nationally designated sites in RoI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uptake where appropriate on a site-by-site basis 	National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	<p>Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed National Heritage Areas (pNHAs) managed for pollinators:</p> <p>Sites in Co Kilkenny</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Cullahill Mountain SAC ✓ Spa Hill/Clomantagh Hill SAC <p>Sites in Co Donegal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Horn Head and Rinclevan SAC <p>Sites in Co Westmeath</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Garriskil Bog SAC/SPA ✓ Ballynafid Lake and Fen pNHA ✓ Lough Iron SPA ✓ River Boyne & Blackwater SAC/SPA ✓ Lough Derravaragh SPA/NHA ✓ Royal Canal pNHA ✓ Split Hill and Long Hill Esker SAC ✓ Milltownpass Bog NHA <p>Sites in Co Roscommon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Lough Ree (St John's wood) SAC <p>Sites in Co Galway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Lough Fingall Complex SAC

			<p>Sites in Co Longford</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Glen Lough SPA/Pnha <p>Sites in Co Tipperary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Silvermines Mountains <p>Management practices include scrub control, reduced mowing regimes, strimming/mowing along woodland paths, low intensity and winter grazing, no fertilizer or herbicide usage and Invasive Alien Species control. Larger projects include native tree planting, restoration of herbaceous dune habitat and bog restoration. Certain sites are managed for Marsh Fritillary and solitary bees.</p> <p>Some NPWS visitor centres use ornamental perennial pollinator friendly plants within the landscape-planting scheme.</p> <p>Some sites include private lands, which are managed through the NPWS Farm Plan Scheme with specific measures for pollinators and invertebrates.</p>	
--	--	--	---	--

Target 2.7 Make healthcare sites more pollinator friendly

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024	
72	Publish guidelines for pollinator-friendly management of hospital grounds, clinics and nursing homes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of guidelines that also stress the additional benefits of pollinator actions to human health and wellbeing • Dissemination to all relevant bodies • Develop a new section of the website to provide resources for healthcare sites 	AIPP Communities Officer	This guideline has been developed and will be launched in early 2025.	
73	Investigate a potential nature campaign for healthcare sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss with relevant bodies the possibility of a pilot scheme 	AIPP Communities Officer	This will be discussed with relevant partners in 2025, once the guideline document is published (Action 72).	

Target 2.8 Complete policy investigations

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024	
74	Carry out a critical review of how some countries established a roadside verge cutting decree (e.g. the Flemish Roadside Act '1984' means roadside verges must be left uncut until after a certain date).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish as a scoping study • Include a public consultation element 	AIPP team and relevant partners	This action has not formally progressed. However, there have already been changes to policy on the island. In late 2022, a Northern Ireland policy review on roadside verge cutting was publicised through a ministerial announcement which was covered by local media and can be viewed on the links below. This will result in more biodiversity friendly management of the 45,000km of verges in NI.	

				https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/news/odowd-announces-new-approach-road-verge-management-protect-environment https://www.belfastlive.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/minister-john-odowd-announces-major-25158027
75	Create a roadmap towards eliminating pesticides on certain public lands (schools, hospitals, playgrounds).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critically review the evidence-base for this approach • Publish roadmap in collaboration with relevant partners • Consider roll out as a small pilot – supported by information on alternatives, monitoring of impacts and social attitudes, etc. 	AIPP team and relevant partners	This has not been progressed yet, but some preparatory work has been carried out. Following on from the Council Knowledge Exchange event in June, it became clear that we need to better collate existing information on herbicide alternatives. To better address this, we used Survey Monkey to capture feedback (July-September). Those trailing alternatives to herbicides were asked to score their usefulness and share advice they had gained through their own experiences. The survey was promoted to all local authorities, community groups and landscape contractors, and more generally through the AIPP newsletter. A total of 85 people responded, resulting in very valuable knowledge collation. It is currently being written up and the collective advice will be shared via a report on the website in 2025. It is the intention that the survey be repeated at appropriate intervals to use our collective experiences to assist those on the journey away from herbicides.

Target 2.9 Strengthen links between the AIPP and other national initiatives

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024	
76	Strengthen links between the AIPP and Climate Adaptation Plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of a guideline document linking pollinator/biodiversity actions to their carbon/climate benefits on public land. Active research area so timing of guideline document should be as appropriate • Establish appropriate AIPP actions as tools in nature-based climate change mitigation actions within Local Authorities – repackage actions in this context so that they can easily slot into Climate Adaptation Plans (or County Development Plans, Local Economic and Community Plans, etc.) • Liaise with Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO) and link with Local Authority Climate Action Officers. 	AIPP team and relevant partners	This has not yet been progressed. Local Authority Climate Action Plans in RoI are due to be published in 2024. An assessment of how to progress this action will be made after that.	
77	Explore and strengthen links between the AIPP and Green Infrastructure Planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of a guideline document linking pollinator/biodiversity actions to their Green Infrastructure benefits • Repackage pollinator actions in this context so that they 	AIPP team and relevant partners	Efforts continue to be made to link to Green Infrastructure strategies within Local Authorities. On the AIPP side, this has focused on encouraging ecological corridors within wider Green Infrastructure initiatives. AIPP resources are available on key features such as hedgerows and meadows.	

		can easily slot into Local Authority Green Infrastructure Plans		As existing AIPP resources are updated, they stress the importance of ecological corridors and Green Infrastructure, where relevant.	
78	Strengthen links between the AIPP and health and wellbeing initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of a guideline document linking pollinator/biodiversity actions to their health and wellbeing benefits • Repackage pollinator actions in this context so that they can easily slot into Local Authority community wellbeing initiatives • Establish a working relationship with relevant bodies such as Healthy Ireland, Sports Ireland 	AIPP team and relevant partners	This action has not yet been progressed. It is prioritised for 2025 in line with Target 2.7.	
79	Strengthen links between the AIPP and existing tree planting initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links created with 2020 DAFM scheme – Woodland Creation on Public Lands • Establishment of working relationships with other existing tree planting initiatives, e.g. Tree Council of Ireland, Native Woodland Trust, Crann, Trees on the Land, Easytreesie etc. • Encourage a proportion of trees planted to be pollinator-friendly and report on numbers planted 	AIPP team and relevant partners	A short flyer on planting trees for pollinators (right tree, right space, right place) was produced in collaboration with DAFM, The Tree Council of Ireland, The Native Woodland Trust and Trees on the Land. It was promoted across 2024.	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollinator-friendly tree guide published in collaboration with relevant partners 			
--	--	--	--	--	--

Target 2.10 Track changes in pollinators on public land

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024	
80	Publish an annual review of public land actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of an annual review outlining progress within the actions under this objective • Publication on AIPP website annually each December 	Coordinated by AIPP Communities Officer	This document provides a review of the public land actions in 2024.	
81	Track progress within the public sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of public land sites logging their pollinator-friendly actions on <i>Actions for Pollinators</i> mapping system, https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/. 	Coordinated by AIPP Communities Officer	As of the end of November 2024, 2,039 public land sites are logged on 'Actions for Pollinators'. Councils (452), Schools (235), Local Communities (1,352). https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/	
82	Monitor pollinators across a network of public sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the framework necessary for a national pollinator monitoring scheme to include sites across farmland, public and protected land. This should be in line with the European Pollinator Monitoring Scheme recommendations (2020) • Source funding and roll out this scheme to monitor 	National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme requires funding	In 2021, DAFM and NPWS granted initial funding for this scheme which is being managed by the National Biodiversity Data Centre in the Republic of Ireland. The project began in September 2021 and was rolled out as a National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme in 2022. In 2024, a total of 40 sites were monitored across farmland, semi-natural sites, and urban parks. Of these, 20 sites were on farmland, 16 are semi-natural sites and 4 are urban parks.	

		pollinators across a network of public sites		An equivalent scheme is run in Northern Ireland, as part of the UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme. It is managed by NIEA. Of the 20 squares in NI, 15 have been surveyed in 2024.
83	Continue to manage and support Citizen Science monitoring schemes that track changes in pollinators across all land types, including public land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme transects being carried out on public land. This is an expert-level Citizen Science scheme. • Increase in the number of regular Flower-Insect Timed Counts (FIT Counts) being completed on public land. This is a beginner-level Citizen Science scheme. • Publication of annual reports on the findings of both schemes 	National Biodiversity Data Centre, CEDaR	<p>Both the All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme and FIT Counts were managed and promoted by the National Biodiversity Data Centre in 2024. CEDaR also promoted both schemes.</p> <p>Data submission within the Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme continues until 31st December each year. Annual reports are produced in the following year to update the trends. The 2012-2023 report is available here: https://biodiversityireland.ie/app/uploads/2024/08/Bumblebee-Monitoring-Scheme_Annual-Report_2012-2023.pdf</p> <p>Data submission with the FIT Count Scheme continues until 31st December each year. Currently ~950 FIT Counts have been submitted in 2024 in RoI. 388 FIT Counts have been submitted in NI.</p> <p>New Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme transects have been established on public land in 2024. Many FIT Counts have taken place on public land.</p>

OBJECTIVE 3: MAKING PRIVATE LAND POLLINATOR FRIENDLY

Target 3.1 Increase the number of gardens that are pollinator friendly

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024
84	Provide comprehensive and freely available online resources for gardeners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up-to-date resources provided on AIPP website To include: evidence-based guideline documents, flyers, videos, blogs, webinars, presentations, case studies, animations All 2015-2020 resources to be updated where necessary Investigate sustainable signage options that the public can use to indicate that they are making their garden pollinator friendly. 	AIPP Communities Officer	This website is kept up to date: https://pollinators.ie/gardens/
85	An Taisce to promote pollinator-friendly garden actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion to members Uptake by community groups 	An Taisce	As Green Communities News Bulletins are not being issued at this time, I have edited the action to include a request that the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan annual review be

	within their Green Communities network.			included in the News Section of the An Taisce website for November 2024.
86	Community Gardens Ireland to promote pollinator-friendly garden actions within their network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion to members • Uptake by groups 	Community Gardens Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In 2024, Community Gardens Ireland have continued to support new allotments and community gardens getting established in Ireland by providing them with advice that are pollinator friendly. ✓ In March 2024, we held our yearly online gathering which was organised jointly with Social Farms & Gardens Northern Ireland. The 2024 theme was Food Education and we asked gardens from all over the island of Ireland to present on their activities in the previous year. The presentations included references to how the gardens are helping local biodiversity. Over 220 people registered to attend this event. ✓ Community Gardens Ireland have made over 20 submissions to consultations in 2024. Throughout each submission we have referenced how allotments and community gardens are pollinator friendly spaces by including references to bodies such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Working Group III report. This report highlighted how urban agriculture initiatives such as community gardening assist with reducing greenhouse gases, improving urban food security, improving biodiversity and adapting to climate change impacts.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Community Gardens Ireland created a pop-up community garden at Global Green at Electric Picnic 2024 and encouraged attendees to join our map and create their own community garden in their local area. Members of Community Gardens Ireland also took part in a group discussion on sustainable food production. ✓ In October 2024, Community Gardens Ireland held the second ever National Allotments and Community Gardens Week. The 2024 theme for the week was “Healthy Soil” and we asked community gardens and allotments from all over Ireland to highlight how they are practising healthy soil practices in their local growing area. Over 30 events took place during National Allotments and Community Gardens Week throughout Ireland. ✓ National Allotments and Community Gardens Week kicked off on the 12th October 2024 at Airfield Estate in Dublin where we held a panel discussion and workshop about Healthy Soil, and attendees visited the excellent work that Airfield Estate are doing on Healthy Soil. ✓ In October 2024 during National Allotments and Community Gardens Week, community gardens were recognised in law for the first time. This followed years of advocating by Community Gardens Ireland to achieve this. Local authorities now have a responsibility to create a Sustainable
--	--	--	--	---

				<p>Places and Communities Strategy, with both allotments and community gardens to be included in this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Community Gardens Ireland will be continuing our work to promote pollinators friendly & community friendly actions as part of our plans for 2025!
87	GIY to promote pollinator-friendly garden actions within their network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion to members • Actions adopted at GIY HQ and used for demonstration purposes • Training courses offered at GIY HQ as appropriate 	Grow It Yourself (GIY)	<p>In 2024, GIY maintained strong commitments to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) through various programmes that promoted pollinator-friendly growing and sustainability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of grass areas to maximise habitat for pollinators i.e. leaving most areas to form informal meadows with cutting in July post-flowering. • Ensuring any ornamental areas are planted with pollinator-friendly plants. • Managing productive areas with no spraying of agro-chemicals (even ones permitted under the organic standards). • Leaving vegetable plants to flower (particularly brassicas) where possible. • Leaving hedge bottoms with rough vegetation to provide nesting areas. • regular classes and talks at HQ to demonstrate how to encourage pollinators into the garden • Monitoring biodiversity through observation, such as visible numbers of pollinators, both number of species and overall population.

				<p>Promotion to Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Communities GROW it Forward: This programme engaged over 900 households across Waterford, Donegal, and Longford in growing their own produce, incorporating pollinator-friendly practices into home gardens. The distribution of seed kits included pollinator-attracting plants, and educational resources emphasised the ecological importance of supporting pollinator species. • LEAF Programme: GIY integrated pollinator-friendly practices within community-based growing projects facilitated by 25 libraries in the South East as part of the Community Climate Action Programme. LEAF promotes biodiversity through collaborative food growing efforts and extending pollinator education into public spaces. • GROW2CEO: Over 12,000 participating students learned to incorporate pollinator-friendly practices into entrepreneurial food-growing challenges. The programme highlighted the role of pollinators in sustainable food systems and included modules on creating pollinator-friendly environments. • GROW at School (GAS): This educational programme involved over 450 schools and emphasized biodiversity, including specific lessons and resources on pollinator-friendly planting. Teacher training dedicated to biodiversity was 	
--	--	--	--	--	--

				<p>offered, reinforcing pollinator-friendly practices as part of the curriculum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SuperValu Let's GROW: As part of this nationwide campaign, schools received kits that included a variety of seeds, some selected for their benefits to pollinators. The initiative educated over 50,000 children on food empathy and sustainable growing practices, supporting the pollinator plan by fostering awareness.
88	Raise awareness to discourage the importation of wild pollinators into gardens, e.g., Red Mason Bee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short guideline document developed explaining the dangers of imported pollinators to the health of our native species • Social media campaign to discourage gardeners from buying non-Irish Red Mason Bee colonies online 	AIPP team	<p>This doesn't appear to be a significant problem currently, and a decision was made not to draw attention to the issue on social media. Instead, an information page, specifically on Mason Bees, was created on the website in 2024: Mason Bees » All-Ireland Pollinator Plan</p>

Target 3.2 Increase the network of AIPP business supporters

	Action	Progress measures	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024	
89	Fully support and grow the network of business supporters. Currently stands at 283 (end 2020).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increase the number of business supporters of the AIPP ✓ Provide day-to-day support to the large network of business supporters ✓ Organise and run an event for businesses ✓ Provide training courses for businesses ✓ Organise an annual pollinator award for businesses ✓ Run a regular webinar series for businesses ✓ Monthly digital newsletter for businesses ✓ Regularly promote the network through mainstream and social media 	AIPP business officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Since inception, the number of AIPP businesses supporters has increased year on year. ✓ An increase of 92 new businesses, in the period 1st November 2023 – 31st October 2024 from 317 supporters to 409 was experienced. ✓ With the new 2021-2025 phase requirement for businesses to submit an Annual Review report and map actions on 'Actions for Pollinators', 71 have not submitted a 2024 report and will be removed from the business supporters list. N.B. They may re-engage at any point. This is a mandatory requirement to support the integrity of the network. ✓ 66 of Bord Bia Origin Green's verified member companies have reported. This number of verified member companies is confirmed by Origin Green. ✓ As of the end of November 2024, 338 (409-71) businesses across the island are supporting the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 through actions for pollinators-biodiversity. ✓ See what actions each of these companies have taken in the 2024 Business Supporter Annual review https://pollinators.ie/aipp-2021-2025/ ✓ A significant update to the <i>Businesses: actions to help pollinators</i> guidelines was published in 2024. The number of evidence-based actions went from 18 in the original guidelines to 33. 	

				<p>The new guidelines include a business self-scoring actions Checklist, a car parks for pollinators scoring checklist, a pollinator-friendly procurement outline, and a pollinator-friendly Recommended Sponsorship activities table. Each of these has seen significant uptake by business supporters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Day to day support to the business supporters' network has included: registering new members and short online presentations to provide a 'snapshot' of good practice from Day 1. Also help in data mapping on the 'Actions for Pollinators' unique GIS data-mapping portal. ✓ Three webinars were delivered to Bord Bia Origin Green. ✓ The Agri-business officer also delivered numerous webinars to larger corporates seeking to provide nature-positive webinars to employees. ✓ AIPP was in attendance at Bord Bia's Bloom 2024. An NBDC stand and speaking opportunities on the Sustainability Stage provided excellent engagement with a range of companies. ✓ Judge of the 'Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2024' including a <i>Sustainable Communities and Biodiversity</i> category. ✓ 20 business case studies related directly to the new 33 evidence-based actions have been developed and uploaded onto pollinators.ie 	
--	--	--	--	---	--

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ An business supporters article was written for Clover (The Organic Trust) and a blog Bee Orchids – 'the canary in the cage' » All-Ireland Pollinator Plan ✓ A monthly digital newsletter has been issued to AIPP business supporters. ✓ Key updates have been posted on the AIPP's X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram and the NBDC's Facebook (Meta) and LinkedIn. ✓ Also completed in 2024 to be published in 2025 is the <i>Business parks for pollinators</i> A4 leaflet to assist groups of businesses in engaging with the landowner to identify and deliver AIPP evidence-based actions.
90	Provide comprehensive and freely available online resources for businesses at	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up-to-date resources provided on AIPP website To include: evidence-based guideline documents, flyers, videos, blogs, webinars, presentations, case studies, animations • All 2015–2020 resources to be updated where necessary 	AIPP business officer (funding dependent)	This website is continually updated: https://pollinators.ie/businesses/
91	Disseminate relevant resources to the business community through existing networks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissemination of information through existing networks 	Bord Bia, Business in the Community	Both partners have promoted the AIPP business framework in 2024.
92	Establish a dedicated framework for Garden Centre supporters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish framework/charter whereby garden centres can sign up as a supporter of the AIPP 	AIPP business officer (funding dependent)	A decision has been made not to progress this action as stated. Various industry labels now exist, and Garden Centre's across the island are typically

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of garden centre supporters who sign up and promote the AIPP, pollinator-friendly plants, and the pollinator-friendly pesticide code. 		<p>promoting pollinator-friendly plants. Discouraging the sale of pesticides falls outside the remit of this initiative.</p> <p>Instead, efforts under this action have focused on improving lists of pollinator-friendly plants and making this information as accessible as possible. This has involved ongoing discussions with the Royal Horticultural Society in the UK.</p>	
93	Publish new guideline documents with evidence-based pollinator actions that are industry-specific.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate which guideline documents are required and prioritise a programme for their development • Publish these industry-specific documents. May include, but not limited to: Agri-food businesses, Developers, Wind farms, Solar farms, Quarries. 	AIPP team and relevant partner organisations	<p>Guidelines for Wind Farms were published in 2021: https://pollinators.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Wind-Farm-Pollinator-Guidelines-2022-WEB.pdf</p> <p>Guidelines for Solar Farms were published in 2023: https://pollinators.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/AIPP-Solar-Farms-2023-WEB.pdf</p> <p>Other resources will be considered where appropriate.</p>	

Target 3.3 Increase the number of sports clubs that are pollinator friendly

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024	
94	Provide comprehensive and freely available online resources for Sports Clubs at	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guideline document (<i>Pollinator-friendly management of sports clubs, 2020</i>) distributed to clubs • Promotion and dissemination 	AIPP Communities Officer	This website is kept up to date: https://pollinators.ie/sports-clubs/	
95	Golf Course Superintendents Association Of Ireland (GCSAI) to encourage golf courses to become more pollinator friendly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guideline document (<i>Pollinator-friendly management of golf courses, 2019</i>) promoted to network • Uptake by golf courses 	GCSAI	The guideline document has been promoted.	
96	Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) to encourage clubs to become more pollinator friendly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Clubs encouraged to become more pollinator-friendly within the Green Club programme ✓ Uptake by clubs 	GAA	In 2024 almost 100 clubs were recognised as official Green Clubs under the GAA's Green Club Programme. Actions taken by GAA Green Clubs in 2024 included the management for biodiversity of hedgerows and non-playing grass areas, the planting of native trees and of community orchards, the development of biodiverse walkways in club grounds, pollinator planting in club colours, the holding of biodiversity workshops and awareness events, the installation on clubs grounds of biodiversity signage, nature info boards and murals, implementation of no-herbicide policies and practices and the development of biodiverse sensory gardens.	

				<p>In many areas, GAA clubs collaborated with community groups, Tidy Towns and local authorities to support local-area biodiversity plans.</p> <p>This year Ulster GAA, along with biodiversity partners RSPB NI and NI Water, were awarded funding of £404,543 by the UK's National Lottery Community Fund for 'Sporting Nature', a first of its kind project in the province, designed to help raise awareness, change behaviours and produce action on biodiversity and protecting water sources through the GAA club network. 30 Ulster Green clubs are taking part in the Sporting Nature project</p>
--	--	--	--	--

Target 3.4 Increase the number of faith communities that are pollinator friendly

	Action	Progress measures	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024
97	Eco Congregation Ireland to promote pollinator-friendly actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guideline document (<i>Faith Communities: actions to help pollinators</i>, 2018) promoted to members 	Eco Congregation Ireland	We continue to include the All-Ireland Pollinators plan in our monthly email newsletter and regularly refer to it on our social media platforms. It is also a central part of the many talks and seminars that we give to parishes all over Ireland. We also provide a link to the Faith communities document on our website and in our guidelines for churches who are getting started.
98	Provide freely available online resources for faith communities at	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up-to-date resources provided on AIPP website. To include: evidence-based guideline documents, flyers, videos, blogs, webinars, 	AIPP Communities Officer	This website is kept up to date: https://pollinators.ie/faith-communities/

		<p>presentations, case studies, animations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 2015–2020 resources to be updated where necessary. 		The AIPP has been supporting an initiative by Catholic Bishops that aims to ensure 30% of church grounds become biodiversity friendly.
99	Publish a guideline document outlining evidence-based pollinator actions for graveyards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of guideline document Publication and dissemination Uptake by sites. 	AIPP Communities Officer & partner organisations	This action will be progressed in future years. Laois and Offaly County Councils delivering a Just Transition project <i>Conservation and Pollination - Medieval Churches Laois and Offaly</i> during the years 2021 to 2023. This work will help inform a future guideline document.

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

	Action	Progress measures	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024
100	National Federation of Group Water Schemes (NFGWS) to encourage all Schemes to manage their sites (sources, reservoirs, treatment plants) in a pollinator-friendly way.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Guideline document (<i>Pollinator-friendly management of Group Water Scheme Sites, 2018</i>) distributed to Schemes ✓ Uptake by Schemes ✓ Promotion of biodiversity to wider drinking water catchments through dedicated initiatives with rural communities e.g. 'I've planted a tree and gone pesticide free' campaign ✓ Establishment of a dedicated biodiversity category in a future Group Water Scheme excellence awards programme 	National Federation of Group Water Schemes (NFGWS)	<p>Due to staff changes a 2024 update has not been provided. 2023 update is below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 14 Integrated source protection plans (ISPP's) were finalised in 2023 under the MARWP, with many measures being implemented with assistance financial support from DAFM. These measures are developed with habitat retention and creation in mind and also serve to protect or improve the GWS water source quality. ✓ The Group Scheme excellence awards programme continued in 2023. 3 GWS achieved excellence in the biodiversity section, with schemes being announced at the annual rural water conference on 7th September 2022

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A Climate Action and Biodiversity work programme, known as the BECA project, which now involves 36 GWS is currently underway. This is focusing on making GWS both biodiversity and climate friendly, not only in their own operations, but in the wider catchment. Key objectives include reduction of carbon footprint, management of sites in a biodiversity friendly manner, an elimination of pesticide usage in GWS operations as well as providing appropriate training for GWS personnel. 65% of GWS in the project have made their sites pollinator friendly and 76% no longer use any pesticides when managing their infrastructure. ✓ Interaction continued GWS managers and NFGWS staff with men's' sheds across a series of catchments. Some of these sheds work closely with people with disabilities, who have built over hundreds of insect hotels for members of the GWS communities. ✓ An Orchards for farmers initiative was launched on Halloween 2023 in Co. Roscommon. This is an initiative around linking food production, natural heritage, pollinator friendly planting and ceasing pesticide usage, with the overall aim of protecting our drinking water sources. 	
--	--	--	--	--	--

3.5: Track changes in pollinators on private land

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024	
101	Publish an annual review of private land actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of an annual review outlining progress within the actions under this objective Publication on the website annually each December 	Coordinated by AIPP Communities Officer	This document provides a review of the private land actions in 2024.	
102	Track progress within the garden sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of garden sites logged on the mapping system <i>Actions for Pollinators</i> https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/. 	Coordinated by AIPP Communities Officer	As of the end of November 2024, 998 garden sites are logged on 'Actions for Pollinators' https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/	
103	Track progress within the business sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of an annual report on the actions taken by the business supporter network Publication of this annual report on AIPP website each December Number of business sites logged on the mapping system <i>Actions for Pollinators</i> https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/ 	Coordinated by AIPP Business Officer (funding dependent)	The 2024 Annual Review of actions taken by business supporters will be made available here: https://pollinators.ie/aipp-2021-2025/ As of the end of November 2024, 1,565 business sites are logged on 'Actions for Pollinators'. Some business supporters will log multiple sites https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/	
104	Track progress within the sports club sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of sports club sites logged on the mapping system <i>Actions for Pollinators</i> https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/ 	Coordinated by AIPP Communities Officer	The 'Actions for Pollinators' mapping system was opened to sports clubs in 2023. As of the end of November 2024, 19 sports club sites are logged https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/	

105	Track progress within the faith community sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of faith community sites logged on the mapping system <i>Actions for Pollinators</i> https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/ 	Coordinated by AIPP Communities Officer	As of the end of November 2024, 28 faith community sites are logged on 'Actions for Pollinators'. https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/
106	Track progress across Group Water Scheme sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Group Water Scheme sites logged on the mapping system <i>Actions for Pollinators</i> https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/ 	Coordinated by AIPP Communities Officer	As of the end of November 2024, 34 Group Water Scheme sites are logged on 'Actions for Pollinators' https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/
107	Continue to manage and support Citizen Science monitoring schemes that track changes in pollinators across all land types, including private land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme transects being carried out on private land. This is an expert-level Citizen Science scheme Increase in the number of regular Flower-Insect Timed Counts (FIT Counts) being completed on private land. This is a beginner-level Citizen Science scheme Publication of annual reports on the findings of both schemes 	National Biodiversity Data Centre, CEDaR	<p>Both the All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme and FIT Counts were managed and promoted by the National Biodiversity Data Centre in 2024. CEDaR also promoted both schemes. Data submission within the Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme continues until 31st December each year. Annual reports are produced in the following year to update the trends. The 2012-2023 report is available here: https://biodiversityireland.ie/app/uploads/2024/08/Bumblebee-Monitoring-Scheme_Annual-Report_2012-2023.pdf</p> <p>Data submission with the FIT Count Scheme continues until 31st December each year. Currently ~950 FIT Counts have been submitted in 2024 in RoI. 388 FIT Counts have been submitted in NI.</p> <p>New Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme transects have been established on private land in 2024. Many FIT Counts have also taken place on private land.</p>

OBJECTIVE 4: ALL-IRELAND HONEY BEE STRATEGY

The 2024 All-Ireland Honey bee Strategy annual report was compiled by Dr Archie Murchie

Target 4.1 Education and Knowledge Transfer

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024	
108	Conferences used as a means of disseminating good practice to beekeepers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conferences organised and used as a means of disseminating good practice 	UBKA, FIBKA, INIB, IBA CLG, NIHBS	The beekeeping organisations have a good series of conferences, exhibits, summer schools, workshops, honey shows and online talks.	
109	Expand beekeeping qualification courses to cover other environmental issues, including impacts of beekeeping on native pollinators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Courses expanded and participants informed about other environmental issues Relevant fact sheets produced 	UBKA, FIBKA, INIB (via BBKA), IBA CLG	Ongoing: The beekeeping organisations have agreed to include greater awareness of all pollinators within their courses.	

Target 4.2 Communication

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024	
110	Establish a Steering Group to oversee the All-Ireland Honey bee Strategy 2021–2025.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Honey bee Strategy Steering Group established Twice-yearly meeting to discuss progress and share expertise Group to promote the Strategy. 	Honey bee Strategy Steering Group	The Steering Group meetings have taken place in May and November 2024. The Group has agreed to promote the AIPP Honey bee Strategy at appropriate opportunities. There have been some changes to the personnel attending the meetings.	

111	Beekeeping associations to promote the aims of this strategy and the wider All-Ireland Pollinator Plan to members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy promoted via conferences • Strategy promoted via roadshow and workshops • Strategy promoted via teaching/mentoring activities • Strategy promoted in Beekeeping publications and newsletters 	UBKA, FIBKA, INIB, IBA CLG, NIHBS	Ongoing: all beekeeping organisations continue to promote the AIPP and Honey bee Strategy.	
112	Honey bee Strategy Steering Group to provide evidence-based guidelines to stakeholders as necessary to ensure healthy Honey bees and effective beekeeping.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree communication strategy and provide evidence-based guidelines to relevant organisations as appropriate (e.g. Farming Unions) 	Honey bee Strategy Steering Group	<p>This action was discussed at the Steering Group meeting in May 2023 and it was decided that it was too expansive and not sufficiently defined for the Group to take forward in any meaningful way. The Associations themselves are involved in many educational and knowledge transfer activities to ensure healthy honey bees and effective beekeeping. It was requested that this action was refocused to a more specific requirement.</p> <p>The agreement was to provide details for a webpage on the pollinator.ie site, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links to beekeeping associations on the website • Map with association locations • Links to Coloss and ongoing bee health surveys <p>As of November 2024, links to beekeeping organisations and related locations of local Irish associations have been posted on the AIPP website.</p>	

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

Target 4.3 Surveillance and Biosecurity

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024	
114	Prepare a paper to establish the need for Honey bee Inspectors in Rol.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of a paper establishing the need and remit for seasonal bee inspectors to support beekeepers 	Honey bee Strategy Steering Group	A set of bullet-points detailing the advantages of independent government bee inspectors has been produced. The situation with bee inspectors in NI remains unresolved following the incorporation of bees into Regulation (EU) 2016/429 on transmissible animal diseases ("Animal Health Law") coupled with capacity pressures on the DAERA inspectorate following implementation of the Windsor Agreement and retirement of key staff. The UBKA met with DAERA Minister Weir to highlight this issue in May 2024 and will continue to press for bee health inspections.	
115	DAERA to circulate the agreed NI Bee Health Contingency Plan and updated Strategy for the sustainability of the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan circulated 	DAERA	The NI Bee Health Contingency Plan is available on the DAERA website under bee health (www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/bee-health). The plan is reviewed and tested each year as part of DAERA and AFBI's KPIs. The current version has been updated in draft but needs to be uploaded to the website.	

	Honey bee when completed.			The Strategy for Sustainability of the Honey bee is now unlikely to be updated until issues with Animal Health Law and EU-exit/transition are sorted.	
116	DAERA and DAFM to coordinate surveillance and share information on bee health, invasive species, and plant health (where relevant to bee health, e.g. pathway analyses).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North-South meetings to maximise cooperation 	DAFM, DAERA	High level meetings have restarted following the NI Assembly's re-establishment. DAFM Backweston is DAERA's National Reference Laboratory for bee health with AFBI as the Official laboratory and there is coordination for both laboratories to obtain accreditation to ISO17025.	
117	Voluntary registration to be encouraged in RoI prior to new EU legislation, which may make registration compulsory.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisations to actively encourage members to register 	FIBKA, IBA CLG, NIHBS, DAFM	<p>Agreed in principle. There have been discussions on the mechanism for voluntary registration. Some beekeepers are resistant to registration. In RoI, emphasis is placed on the food product, rather than bee husbandry. Correspondingly, DAFM Registration is as a Primary Producer of Honey, rather than as a beekeeper.</p> <p>Compulsory Registration will be a policy decision for DAFM based on the requirements of the EU 'Animal Health Law' (Regulation (EU) 2016/429 on transmissible animal diseases), which has been applicable since 21 April 2021.</p>	

118	Voluntary registration to be encouraged in NI through the 'DataBees' platform.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisations to actively encourage members to register 	UBKA, INIB, NIHBS, DAERA	<p>In NI, voluntary registration is via DataBees (www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/beekeepers-voluntary-registration). This has the following advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure record of active beekeepers and located apiaries (voluntary) Can select apiaries for inspection based on location risks e.g. proximity to ports Provides inspection lists of at risk apiaries following a disease outbreak Readily available lists of bee health inspections, due and overdue Record of previous year's disease outbreaks and trends Mapping facility to support inspections and management Specific reports to support management and provide data for research, public etc.
119	Data on overwintering losses and disease prevalence from the COLOSS survey to be shared at an island-wide scale.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information shared across the island Disseminated by beekeeping organisations 	AFBI, DAFM	<p>RoI COLOSS survey data published in An Beachaire.</p> <p>AFBI annual survey started in 2009 and published annually on the AFBI website.</p> <p>www.afbini.gov.uk/publications/honeybee-husbandry-survey-report-2022-2023</p> <p>Composite data are normally published in the Journal of Apicultural Research as open access papers.</p>

120	Honey bee Strategy Steering Group to bring associations together to discuss and agree a common policy on importations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify current rules and regulations • Agree principles to be published and promoted by Beekeeping Associations 	Honey bee Strategy Steering Group, DAERA, DAFM	<p>Ongoing. The beekeeping organisations agree that sustainability of locally produced honey bees is the correct strategy, which will be achieved through education, discouraging excessive imports and supporting local queen rearing.</p> <p>On July 24th 2023 all Irish beekeeping associations released a joint statement calling for the cessation of imports. This was signed by:</p> <p>Loretta Neary, Chairperson - Native Irish Honey Bee Society, NIHBS, John Donoghue, CEO/President - The Federation of Irish Beekeepers' Associations, FIBKA, Damien Mac Aodha, Chairperson - Irish Beekeepers Association, IBA, John Hill, Chairperson - Ulster Beekeepers Association, UBKA, Michael Young, Chairperson - Institute of Northern Ireland Beekeepers, INIB</p> <p>There is ongoing concern about post EU-Exit importations of honey bee queens to NI destined for GB.</p>	
121	Complete and publish all-Ireland pest risk assessments for invasive pests and pathogens of Honey bees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate DAERA Asian Hornet contingency plan • Publish All-Ireland risk assessments for invasive pests and existing pathogens • Publish All-Ireland risk assessments for unknown but emerging pests and pathogen 	AFBI, DAFM, DAERA NIEA (invasive species)	<p>The Northern Ireland Rapid Response Contingency Plan for Asian Hornet is available on: http://invasivespeciesireland.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Northern-Ireland-AH-RR-Contingency-Plan-minus-contacts-details.pdf</p> <p>Draft risk assessments for some pests have been produced by AFBI but are not yet publicly available.</p>	

122	Investigate the feasibility of a unified approach to managing Foulbrood on the island of Ireland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify statutory rules North and South • Recognition of the diseases' importance and management options explained • Honey bee Strategy Steering Group to agree principles • Disease ID sheets on the AIPP website for both forms of Foulbrood • Education events to focus on foulbrood • Association questionnaire for options re foulbrood (South) 	AFBI, DAFM, DAERA	Ongoing work. Foulbrood cases in NI and ROI are published on the DAERA and DAFM websites respectively along with statutory rules: www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/bee-health www.gov.ie/en/publication/9e1ff-beekeeping-honey/#bee-health	
-----	---	---	-------------------	---	--

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

Research has shown that Ireland has a pure population of *Apis mellifera mellifera*, the native Irish black bee. Elsewhere in Northern Europe, the original home of *Apis mellifera mellifera*, it has been severely hybridized. Ireland has a duty to conserve this genetic resource. Recent research (2024) confirmed that Ireland has a distinct and genetically diverse honey bee ecotype. However, the research also confirms it is under increased threat from hybridisation due to imported honey bees: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00218839.2024.2404297>

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024	
123	NIHBS to continue to promote the conservation of the native Irish Black Bee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued activities of the NIHBS 	NIHBS	Work is ongoing (please see www.NIHBS.org). NIHBS are currently focused on three main projects- the 'Protection of the Native Irish Honey Bee Bill' that is finished in the Seanad (5 stages) and progressing to the Dáil, the support of queen rearing group schemes and the establishment of conservation areas all of which are progressing well. Progress on the legislative	

				front has been delayed waiting on the scientific evidence. Work has been commissioned by DAFM from an international team of scientists led by NUIG.	
124	Beekeeping sector to encourage an education process on the merits of the subspecies/strains of Honey bee including the Irish Black Bee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This to include identification of subspecies, issues of local provenance and climatic suitability across the island of Ireland The Irish strain of <i>Apis mellifera mellifera</i> encouraged where appropriate 	FIBKA, UBKA, INIB, IBA CLG, DAFM, DAERA	<p>Ongoing work. The beekeeping associations agree in principle to this target and there are examples of educational events on the suitability of different bee subspecies/strains, including <i>A.m.m.</i></p> <p>FIBKA voted to include conservation of the native honey bee in their constitution.</p> <p>All organisations signed up to the statement (see above '120') on importation of honey bees.</p>	
125	Publication of an agreed management strategy for <i>Apis mellifera mellifera</i> on the island of Ireland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of the strategy. To include development of a roadmap towards the island of Ireland being recognised as a 'stronghold' for <i>Apis mellifera mellifera</i> 	NIHBS, NUI Galway	<p>Ongoing work. Steering Group discussions have been on developing a strategy to recognise Ireland (or areas) as a special conservation area (stronghold) for <i>A.m.m.</i></p> <p>NIHBS have published a book "The Native Irish Honey Bee, <i>Apis mellifera mellifera</i>" with practical 'How-to' sections on bee improvement, plus real-life stories from commercial beekeepers.</p> <p>Various strategies are being developed on several fronts. Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislative Approaches to Europe Educational Conservation areas 	

Target 4.5 Data sharing

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024	
126	DAFM and AFBI to make results of pesticide surveys publicly available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results of pesticide surveys made available in RoI Results of pesticide surveys made available in NI 	AFBI, DAFM	<p>NI pesticide usage data available on: www.afbini.gov.uk/articles/pesticide-usage-monitoring-reports</p> <p>RoI pesticide usage data at: www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/sud/pesticidestatistics/</p>	
127	Promote <i>BeeConnected</i> in NI as a mechanism to connect beekeepers and farmers so that beekeepers can be kept informed about spraying events in their vicinity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beekeeping Associations to encourage members to register <i>BeeConnected</i> promoted to farmers by the Ulster Farmers Union 	UBKA, INIB, UFU, NIHBS	BeeConnected (https://beeconnected.org.uk) is an up and running app supported by the beekeeping associations and the Ulster Farmers Union. The scheme was launched in NI in 2017 and continues to be promoted.	
128	Investigate possible mechanisms linking farmers and beekeepers so that they can be notified of spraying events in RoI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible mechanisms identified 	Honey bee Strategy Steering Group	<p>Ongoing work. Literature on BeeConnected needs to be updated to link in with AIPP.</p> <p>BeeConnected is based in the UK as part of the UK's Voluntary Initiative programme. However, there is no reason why BeeConnected cannot be used in the RoI and a small number of beekeepers and farmers have already registered in the Republic.</p>	
129	Honey bee Strategy Steering Group to develop a roadmap towards a system to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road map developed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - enable management of the overall pollinator resources across the island 	Honey bee Strategy Steering Group, UBKA	Work in progress. DAERA's 'DataBees' allows apiaries to be mapped but not hives and subject to GDPR restrictions.	

	capture hive density per hectad (10km ²).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - enable implementation of alerts and action plans against new pests/pathogens - avoid selling non-native Honey bees into Voluntary Conservation Areas. • Explore the possibility of testing in one specific region (e.g. Enniskillen). 		<p>NIHBS have established <i>A.m.m.</i> conservation areas in almost 350+ areas including the Fermanagh Beekeepers Association (Enniskillen).</p> <p>A heat map of apiary density has been produced for NI and NIHBS have a map of <i>A.m.m.</i> conservation areas.</p>	
--	---	---	--	--	--

Target 4.6 Tracking progress

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024	
130	Publish an annual review of the All-Ireland Honey bee Strategy 2021–2025.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual review published outlining progress against each of the actions • Annual reviews made available via beekeeping organisation websites. 	Honey bee Strategy Steering Group	This document fulfils this action.	

All-Ireland Honey bee Strategy Steering Group 2024

Member	Affiliation
Archie Murchie (Chair)	AFBI (deputy Ivan Forsythe)
Susie Hill	UBKA (deputy John Hill)
Mary Montaut	FIBKA
Vacant	INIB
Aoife Nic Giolla Coda (stepped down 2024); John Greenaway	NIHBS (deputy Loretta Neary)
Caroline McDonald	IBA CLG
Thomas Williamson (retired 2024)	DAERA (chief bee inspector NI)
Mary Coffey	DAFM
Úna FitzPatrick/Jane Stout	All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Steering Group

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

OBJECTIVE 5: CONSERVING RARE POLLINATORS

Target 5.1 Ensure rare pollinators are protected by legislation where appropriate

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024	
131	Protect rare pollinators through the Wildlife Act in RoI when warranted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Species added to Schedule 5 of Wildlife Act 	National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	The Wildlife Act revision process has started and is aimed for completion in 2026. The issue of protecting Rare species will be addressed through that legislative process.	
132	Ensure rare pollinators are protected by legislation in NI where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included on Priority Species list, under The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act 	Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), Centre for Environmental Data and Recording NI (CEDaR)	<p>Second Tranche of NIPS review has been presented to CNCC for endorsement (June 2024). Anticipated this will be published over the next few months. This tranche includes Butterflies (11), Micro-moths (46), Sawflies (26), Soldierflies and Allies (3).</p> <p>Now have new legislation: Environment Improvement Plan, strategic objective (3) to deliver 'Thriving, resilient and connected nature and wildlife'</p>	

Target 5.2 Raise awareness of rare pollinators

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024	
133	Work to develop initiatives to assist recovery of the endangered Great Yellow Bumblebee (<i>Bombus distinguendus</i>).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guideline document (<i>Protecting rare pollinators: Great Yellow Bumblebee</i>, 2019) promoted and distributed to all relevant stakeholders • Awareness raising within local communities in remaining Great Yellow Bumblebee strongholds (Mullet Peninsula, Mayo) • Development of a species recovery plan for the Great Yellow Bumblebee • Continued management of BirdWatch Ireland reserves in the Mullet Peninsula to also support the Great Yellow Bumblebee. • Investigation into funding mechanisms to increase the area of land that is managed to support the Great Yellow Bumblebee. 	National Biodiversity Data Centre, NPWS, BirdWatch Ireland, Mayo County Council, Belmullet Tidy Towns, University College Dublin (UCD)	BirdWatch Ireland: The management of our reserves on the Mullet Peninsula continues to be sympathetic to the ecological needs of the Great Yellow Bumblebee. Using this knowledge, and working closely with Belmullet Tidy Towns, Mayo County Council, UCD and others, then the Great Yellow Bumblebee Conservation Group was formed. The Group successfully received funding, through the European Innovation Partnership, to develop a pilot results-based project which was implemented across the Mullet Peninsula and Erris mainland, Co. Mayo during 2022.	
134	Work to develop initiatives to assist recovery of the near threatened Large	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to monitor its status - data from the All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme (2012-2019) shows an ongoing decline. 	AIPP team in collaboration with relevant partners	The 2012-2023 All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme data continues to show the Large Carder Bee in strong decline.	

	<p>Carder Bee (<i>Bombus muscorum</i>).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify a network of key locations where healthy populations remain • Work with local authorities and local communities to raise awareness of the Large Carder bee in these areas and to encourage pollinator-friendly actions to support it 		<p>Work has been ongoing with local communities who have populations of this bee within their local area. To date these have mainly focused on Skerries (Co Dublin), Tramore (Co Waterford) & Fenit (Co Kerry). In each case, the communities have worked with the relevant Local Authorities to create new habitat corridors. Where actions are taken, the bee responds and has been expanding its range.</p> <p>The National Biodiversity Data Centre ran a weekend ‘wild bee festival’ of workshops and walks in Galway City in collaboration with Galway City Council (August 2024). The event was focussed on how creating meadows, which will better support the Large Carder Bee. It included a talk from Fenit, on their work in 2023-2024.</p> <p>Work is ongoing to identify a network of other communities across the island who could be encouraged to take similar action around the Large Carder Bee in future years.</p>	
135	<p>Develop resources on rare pollinators and make freely available.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As resources are developed, all collated and added to the website: https://pollinators.ie/helping-endangered-pollinators/ 	<p>AIPP team in collaboration with relevant partners</p>	<p>Resources, including poster and signage templates, continue to be developed and added to the website: https://pollinators.ie/helping-endangered-pollinators/</p> <p>We have now developed evidence-based guidance documents on five rare pollinator species: Great Yellow Bumblebee (2019), Large Carder Bee (2022), Northern Colletes (2022), Shrill Carder Bee (2024) and Forester Moth (2024).</p>	

136	Promote rare pollinator species through social media campaigns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media campaign to raise awareness on the status, identification, and ecology of one rare pollinator species each year • Great Yellow Bumblebee, Large Carder Bee and Northern Colletes bee to be prioritised initially. Others to be finalised in future years. 	AIPP team in collaboration with relevant partners	Rare species are promoted on social media at appropriate times to raise awareness and encourage positive action.	
-----	---	---	---	--	--

Target 5.3 Publish best practice information on protecting rare pollinators

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024	
137	Publish how-to-guides on protecting rare pollinator species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New species-specific guides published within the <i>Protecting rare pollinators</i> series when a sufficient evidence-base is available. 	AIPP team in collaboration with relevant partners	<p>Five evidence-based guidelines on rare bees are now available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting Rare Pollinators: Great Yellow Bumblebee https://pollinators.ie/helping-endangered-pollinators/great-yellow-bumblebee/ This was in collaboration with BirdWatch Ireland. • Protecting Rare Pollinators: Northern Colletes https://pollinators.ie/helping-endangered-pollinators/northern-colletes/ This was in collaboration with the National Trust. • Protecting Rare Pollinators: Helping the Large Carder Bee in your local community 	

				<p>https://pollinators.ie/helping-endangered-pollinators/large-carder-bee/ This was in collaboration with Sustainable Skerries and Fingal County Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting Rare Pollinators: Forester Moth https://pollinators.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/How-to-guide_-_Protecting-rare-pollinators_Forester_2024-WEB.pdf This was in collaboration with Butterfly Conservation and MothsIreland. Protecting Rare Pollinators: Shrill Carder Bumblebee https://pollinators.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Shrill-Carder-Bee-Guide-WEB.pdf This was in collaboration with national experts.
--	--	--	--	---

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

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024
138	Publish an All-Ireland Hoverfly Red List.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of an All-Ireland Red List outlining the conservation status of Ireland’s hoverfly species. 	NPWS, NIEA	This is being drafted at present – all-Ireland database has been created and first iteration of the list is completed with all Least concern species identified.
139	Develop a roadmap towards updating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of an updated checklist of Irish Bees 	NPWS, NIEA, National Biodiversity Data Centre, CEDaR	An updated Irish checklist has been accepted for publication in the next volume of the Irish Naturalists’ Journal. Citation is Nelson, B., FitzPatrick, Ú., Beckett,

	the All-Ireland Bee Red List (2006).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a roadmap outlining necessary data collection that would allow updating of the 2006 Bee Red List. 		<p>O. and Paxton, R.J. (2024) A critical update to the checklist of Irish bees (Hymenoptera, Anthophila). <i>Irish Naturalists' Journal</i> 41 in press</p> <p>The National Pollinator Monitoring Schemes (Action 24) will generate important new datasets that can contribute towards the updating of the Bee Red List over the coming years.</p>	
--	--------------------------------------	--	--	--	--

Target 5.5 Track change in rare pollinators

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024	
140	Conduct dedicated surveys to establish the status and distribution of the Northern Colletes bee and the Red-shanked Carder bee in NI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NIEA to investigate whether surveys could be delivered through grant funding by partner organisations, e.g., Buglife Surveys successfully completed. 	NIEA and funded partners	<p>Delivering NIEA Environment Fund grant to Butterfly Conservation and Buglife for 5-year projects.</p> <p>The Buglife Coastal Invertebrates NIEA funded project includes site surveys for these rare and threatened bees.</p> <p>Supporting new dedicated Species Recovery work area in partnership with RSPB, Buglife, Bumblebee Conservation and Butterfly Conservation.</p>	
141	Attempt to increase the number of volunteers tracking rare species within the All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring scheme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pending resources, identification workshops on the following rare bumblebee species, run in areas where they occur: Great Yellow Bumblebee, Shrilk Carder Bee, Mountain Bumblebee 	National Biodiversity Data Centre	This year's 2-day 'Wild Bee Festival' took place in Galway City in August 2024. It was held in collaboration with Galway City Council. It included talks on the declining Large Carder Bee (<i>Bombus muscorum</i>).	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attempts made to encourage Citizen Science volunteers to walk specific routes to monitor these rare bumblebees. 			
142	Organise field meetings with volunteer recording networks to search for rare species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rare species hunts organised in appropriate areas, where funding allows. This will have to be limited to species that can be easily identified in the field. 	National Biodiversity Data Centre, CEDaR, BugLife	In 2022, a dedicated rare species survey was organised by the National Biodiversity Data Centre on the Ivy Bee in Wicklow. In 2023, an event was held around the Hairy-footed Flower Bee in Dublin. In 2024, the National Biodiversity Data Centre held a recorders event in the Burren, where attempts were made to search for the rare Shrill Carder Bee.	

OBJECTIVE 6: STRATEGIC COORDINATION OF THE PLAN

Target 6.1 General awareness raising

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024	
143	Continually maintain and update AIPP website to provide stand-alone toolkit for those who want to help.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued management and updating of website pollinators.ie 	AIPP team	https://pollinators.ie continues to be maintained and regularly updated	
144	Maintain Twitter and Instagram accounts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growth in the number of followers Run dedicated annual campaigns on both platforms. May include, but not limited to: Let Dandelions Be, No Mow May 	AIPP team	<p>As of the end of November 2024, the number of X/Twitter followers is 10,325 (0.84% increase on 2023). Followers were at 10,555 at the end of October, but have dropped dramatically since then (in line with wider trends on X).</p> <p>The number of Instagram followers has increased to 6,006 (19.2% increase on 2023).</p> <p>The AIPP comms plan for 2024 chose reach as a KPI for Instagram (the number of followers and non-followers who see our posts.) Reach for Q1-3 in 2024 was 47,173, a 190% increase on the same period in 2023.</p> <p>Social media campaigns Let Dandelions Bee & No Mow May were run in 2024, in addition to Let it Bloom June & Help Them Fly July, to encourage reduced mowing across the summer.</p>	

				<p>A new social media campaign 'Pollinator, Plant, and Action of the Week' was run in 2024 between February and October to highlight weekly plants, pollinators and actions, and raise awareness of their connectivity. These posts were accompanied by new web pages on monthly pollinator actions and information.</p> <p>Investigations are underway on how best to utilise social media in future years.</p>
145	Promote the AIPP in national and local media.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain up-to-date media toolkit, to include bank of photographs • Publish press release for key events • Development of a range of promotional materials to promote pollinators • Track numbers of published media articles and other engagements 	AIPP team	<p>The AIPP has been widely covered in the National media in 2024. In addition to mentions in more than 115 articles in print and digital newspaper versions, promotion has also included:</p> <p>2 radio interviews 1 documentary interview 33 talks</p>
146	Focus engagement efforts on new audiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of engagement efforts with new sectors who have not heavily engaged with the 2015–2020 Plan 	AIPP team	<p>Specific efforts are being made to target new audiences in the second phase. These have included the following: GAA, Irish Science Teachers Association, Gaisce, Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland, Hospitals, NI Housing Executive, Aviation sector, NI Education Authority, Architects, Financial Institutions, Developers.</p>

147	Distribute a monthly digital newsletter to the mailing list.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital newsletter distributed to the mailing list each month 	AIPP team	A digital newsletter has been produced each month in 2024. It is distributed to the AIPP mailing list and made available at https://pollinators.ie/newsletters/
148	Organise an annual AIPP conference.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual event organised to provide a forum for knowledge sharing and reporting on progress within the Plan Meeting venue to rotate around Provinces 	AIPP team	<p>This event has traditionally focused on Councils. In 2024, it took place on the 13th June 2024 at the Civic Theatre in Tallaght, and was organised in collaboration with South Dublin County Council. It focused on sharing knowledge on pesticide alternatives, and the development and maintenance of networks of semi-natural grassland meadows on Council land.</p> <p>The AIPP also held two community focused events in 2024. Similarly, these events rotate around the provinces. The spring event was held at Greenmount in Co Antrim, in collaboration with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency. The August ‘wild bee festival’ was held in Galway City, in collaboration with Galway City Council.</p>
149	Run an annual programme of engagement around World Bee Day (20 th May).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme of engagement organised Activities listed on a dedicated page on pollinators.ie. 	All partners	<p>For World Bee Day this year we released three new resources on the Shrill Carder bee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Protecting Rare Pollinators: the Shrill Carder Bee ✓ Shrill Carder Bee poster ✓ Shrill Carder Bee signage template <p>We created a latest news page on the website for these resources, and posted on social media.</p>

				Because of the heightened interest in wild bees on World Bee Day, we shared our Top 10 Actions for pollinators in our social media channels, which received high levels of engagement.	
150	Run an annual programme of engagement around international Pollinator Week (late June).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme of engagement organised • Activities listed on a dedicated page on pollinators.ie. 	All partners	For Solitary Bee Week 2024, we focussed on sharing a key resource which was released in autumn 2022: the 'Solitary Bees of Ireland' poster.	
151	Recognise the contribution of local pollinator champions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since 2017, we have recognized a small group of individuals annually (approx. six). This to continue. These are local influencers who make the plan happen on the ground, largely in a voluntary capacity • Certificate and personal thanks are sent to new pollinator champions. Awardees are not publicised, as these are most often people who do not wish to be personally promoted 	AIPP team	Where relevant, individuals are recognised each year in December/January. Champions are not publicly recognised, but personal thanks are sent.	
152	Raise awareness of an additional pollinating insect group annually. (The main focus of the All-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media campaign to raise awareness of one non-bee pollinating insect group annually. May include, but not limited to: hoverflies, 	Butterfly Conservation NI, BugLife, others as appropriate	<p>The AIPP has promoted other pollinating insects across social media throughout 2024, particularly hoverflies and moths.</p> <p>A new initiative to promote a 'pollinator of the week' ran across 2024. It included a series of wild bees,</p>	

	Ireland Pollinator Plan is on bees.)	nocturnal pollinators, day-flying moths, wasps, beetles		hoverflies, and moths. Top Ten Ways to Help Pollinators » All-Ireland Pollinator Plan
153	Raise awareness to promote the use of appropriate grass management in preference to planting with wildflower seed and, where this is necessary, the use of native, local provenance wildflower seed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued messaging through social media and other online platforms 	AIPP team	<p>This has expanded into a significant action in its own right. The use of ‘wildflower’ seed mixtures fails to address and even aggravates the real issues of biodiversity loss.</p> <p>To address this going forward, a wildflower seed action group was established in May 2021 with representatives from the National Parks and Wildlife Service, National Biodiversity Data Centre, National Botanic Gardens, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Teagasc, TCD, UCD, as well as some independent ecological consultants.</p> <p>The group met regularly across 2024. Each meeting results in actions that members of the group commit to taking to help address this issue.</p> <p>The group will continue to do all it can to encourage natural regeneration and the return of semi-natural grasslands, rather than inappropriate wildflower seed planting. This was boosted in 2022, by the launch of a new project by NPWS to celebrate Irish semi-natural grasslands called ‘Great Irish Grasslands’ https://greatirishgrasslands.ie/This has been supported by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. It creates a foundation to better celebrate meadows and manage expectations around what they should look like.</p>

Target 6.2 Researching the evidence base for action

Updates under Target 6.2 have been compiled by Dr Dara Stanley and Dr Jim Carolan with contributions from Irish Pollinator Research Network members.

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

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024	
	Dissemination and communication				
154	Maintain the Pollinator Research Network to discuss ongoing research, and to build collaborations for future research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Pollinator Research Network meetings held Annual updates of researchers/research projects disseminated via pollinators.ie 	Pollinator Research Network – Trinity College Dublin (TCD), University College Dublin (UCD), Maynooth University (MU), Dublin City University (DCU), National University of Ireland, Galway, and others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual meeting will be held in January 2024 @Maynooth University. For more information on the IPRN or to attend or present at this meeting please contact james.carolan@mu.ie or tara.dirilgen@mu.ie. Annual update to research outputs – total of 7 new publications in 2024 https://pollinators.ie/research/publications/ 	
155	Maintain bee health research-policy-practice dialogue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Bee Health meetings between researchers, decision-makers, and practitioners. 	MU, TCD, DAFM, Teagasc, AFBI, DAERA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Bee Health Meeting not held in 2024 	
	Pollinator and pollination ecology				
156	Expand knowledge of Ireland’s wild bee populations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research into genetic differentiation/distinction among populations at different scales, linking with 	Researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research ongoing into genetic differentiation of <i>Bombus terrestris</i> (Irish, British, commercial) (Sarah Larragy & Jim Carolan, MU; Jane Stout, TCD) 	

		<p>ecological/behavioral differences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Research into nesting and floral requirements of solitary bee species ● Continue to investigate the prevalence, health and longevity of honeybee colonies that exist in the wild. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Research ongoing into population genomics of the Great Yellow Bumblebee (Lydia Thompson, Julia Jones, Dara Stanley UCD) ● Research ongoing into solitary bee nesting and floral preferences (Colm O’Leary, PhD student; Simon Hodge, UCD; Steph Maher, Teagasc; Daire O’hUallachain, Teagasc; Jane Stout, TCD) ● Ongoing research on diversity and adaptation in Irish wild honeybee population (Grace McCormack, NUIG) – see publication: McCann M & McCormack GP (2023). Increased levels of introgression evident in Irish honey bees, Journal of Apicultural Research, DOI: 10.1080/00218839.2023.2262872 ● SFI Pathway Project commenced in UCD focusing on Andrena mining bee comparative and ecological genomics (2024-2028). PhD student recruited (Niamh Kennedy, supervisors - Darren O’Connell and Julia Jones)
157	Improve understanding of hoverfly populations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Research into hoverfly abundance/diversity across different land uses, microhabitat use, and/or service provision (bio-control, 	Researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Research into hoverfly abundance and richness in relation to farmland feature quantity and quality ongoing (Steph Maher, Teagasc; Jane Stout, TCD; Simon Hodge, UCD; Farm Ecos team) – paper in review ● Research into hoverfly diversity in crop fields and contributions to pollination services ongoing

		pollination, nutrient cycling).		<p>(Arrian Karbassioon, Alison O'Reilly, Dara Stanley, UCD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data from the Protecting Farmland Pollinators EIP researching hoverfly species richness and abundance in different farmland habitats, paper in prep (Saorla Kavanagh Teagasc, Jane Stout TCD, Una Fitzpatrick NBDC). • Research investigating farmland, town parks and roundabouts to evaluate hoverfly abundance and diversity. PhD with Kildare Co. Co. (Sophia Couchman & Jim Carolan, MU, Jane Stout TCD, Una Fitzpatrick NBDC)
158	Improve knowledge of rare and at-risk pollinators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research to inform conservation of extinction-risk species in the Irish context • Provide evidence base for conservation of specialized habitats in which rare/at-risk species live. 	Researchers, NIE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research into Great Yellow Bumblebee (<i>Bombus distinguendus</i>) ecology, habitat preference and population genetics ongoing (Lydia Thompson, Julia Jones, Dara Stanley, UCD)

159	Expand knowledge of urban pollinators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Research to determine value of urban greening to pollinator populations. 	Researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Research evaluating which of the current management approaches is resulting in improved pollinator abundance and diversity undertaken across a variety of public sites. PhD with Kildare Co. Co. (Sophia Couchman & Jim Carolan, MU, Jane Stout TCD, Una Fitzpatrick NBDC) 	
160	Expand knowledge of plant-pollinator interactions and dynamics, and pollination service delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue research into farmland pollinators, how they respond to changes in floral availability within and between seasons ● Research linking changes in pollinator communities with ecosystem function and service provision in wild plant species. 	Researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Research on impacts of pesticides on plant-pollinator interactions and on pollination service delivery by solitary bees (Megan Reilly, Dara Stanley UCD; Alison O'Reilly Lund University) ● Research on weather, pollinator communities and crop visitation (Arrian Karbassioon & Dara Stanley, UCD) ● RestPoll- (Jane Stout, Jessica Knapp, Sarah Larragy, Claire Kearney, TCD) conducted a pilot round of field surveys of pollinators (bees, butterflies hoverflies) on tillage and beef farms around Kildare to look at effects of restoration actions on pollinator populations. Two full field seasons of pollinator surveys on farms are planned for the next two years. ● Ongoing: research investigating soil biodiversity loss on plant-pollinator interactions (Tara Dirilgen MU & Dara Stanley UCD) 	

161	Expand understanding of interactions between managed and wild pollinators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Investigate optimal placement of honeybee apiaries – how do honeybee hives affect availability of floral resources for other pollinators and how many hives should be located in different habitat types (e.g., forests, urban areas, farmed landscapes). 	Researchers, Beekeepers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Research into how placement of honeybee hives in heathland habitats in the Dublin mountains affects wild bumblebees ongoing (Katie Burns and Dara Stanley, UCD) ● Data from the Protecting Farmland Pollinators EIP researching honeybee and wild pollinator species richness and abundance in different farmland habitats will be analysed in the new year (Saorla Kavanagh Teagasc). 	
162	Expand knowledge of bee diseases and health risks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Generate baselines of disease prevalence in honeybees and investigate potential for disease transfer ● Determine whether promotion of managed honeybee colonies in the wild poses a disease risk to wild pollinators 	Researchers, DAFM, AFBI, DAERA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SFI funded project at NUIG collected approx. 90 samples from wild and managed colonies were sampled and stored at -70oC before being sent to collaborators lab in Spain for screening for pathogens. ● The next iteration of the DAFM National Apicultural Programme (PROBEE, 2024-2028) commenced, with Julia Jones (UCD) as PI, including Grace McCormack (UoG), Darren O’Connell (UCD), Dara Stanley (UCD) and others. PROBEE will have a particular focus on honey bee disease risks. PhD student recruited (Egehan Onat Özfen, supervisors Julia Jones and Darren O’Connell UCD), field 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake new research into Chalkbrood disease in honeybees. 		<p>experiments planned for 2025 with a Varroa and foulbrood focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research ongoing as part of PROBEE, assessing the impact of pathogens and pesticides on honey bee colony mortality, and on worker honey bee gut microbiota (PhD student Marcela Díaz; Darren O’Connell; Julia Jones, UCD). Samples from 150 apiaries sent for metagenomic sequencing, sequences due before Christmas. Global meta-analysis of treatments for the honey bee pathogen Varroa destructor carried out as part of PROBEE completed and in revision (Darren O’Connell and Julia Jones UCD) 	
Drivers of decline and conservation measures					
163	Understand extent of exposure to pesticides and other pollutants across ecosystems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine exposure routes for multiple pesticides/pollutants and pollinator taxa Quantify pesticide residues in plants, soil, water, bee products Improve understanding of impacts of 	Researchers, DAFM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research ongoing as part of PROBEE, assessing the impact of pathogens and pesticides on honey bee colony mortality, and on worker honey bee gut microbiota (PhD student Marcela Díaz; Darren O’Connell; Julia Jones, UCD). See above for progress. Research commenced as part of PROBEE, which will involve screening all commercially available beeswax which can be sourced in Ireland for chemical contaminants (PhD student Egehan Onat Özfen; Darren O’Connell; Julia Jones, UCD). Wax 	

		environmental pollution, e.g. heavy metals on bee health and bee products.		<p>samples obtained, lab work to commence January 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research on differing pesticide resistance in wild versus commercially reared bumblebees in submission (led by Ed Straw, Jane Stout TCD, with species ID by DNA barcoding led by Darren O'Connell, Julia Jones UCD). Follow on experiments complete and species ID work due to be complete in November 2024.
164	Research impacts of climate change and climate action policies on pollinators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research into how climate change affects pollinators Research into how policies to tackle climate change affect pollinators. 	Researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research ongoing into how weather affects pollinator activity, and creating a bee thermoregulation model to predict future responses to changing temperature (Arrian Karbassioon, Sarah MacQueen, Dara Stanley UCD) Glasshouse experiment conducted by UCD in coordination with Teagasc, outlining honey bee responses to a temperature gradient in a controlled setting (O'Connell et al., 2024, J. Insect Pys.). Higher temperatures were shown to disrupt typical foraging behaviour, though time in glasshouse also had an impact.
165	Assess effectiveness of conservation measures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research effectiveness of conservation actions for pollinator 	Researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research to investigate chemical and non-chemical control methods for plants on open public lands. PhD ongoing with Kildare Co. Co. (Sophia Couchman & Jim Carolan, MU, Jane Stout TCD, Una Fitzpatrick NBDC)

		<p>populations and communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a simple tool to assess quality of conservation actions (e.g. meadows, parks, designated sites, no-mow lawns, Buglife’s B-lines) in terms of provision of floral resources 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research into agri-environmental measures (delayed grazing and delayed mowing) and impacts on rare and common bumblebees ongoing (Lydia Thompson, Dara Stanley UCD) • Research into effects of flower strips and pesticide use (and their interaction) on pollinator populations and pollination services are ongoing (Jess Knapp TCD). • (Same as update for above, action 160) RestPoll- (Jane Stout, Jessica Knapp, Sarah Larragy, Claire Kearney) conducted a pilot round of field surveys of pollinators (bees, butterflies hoverflies) on tillage and beef farms around Kildare to look at effects of restoration actions on pollinator populations. Two full field seasons of pollinator surveys on farms are planned for the next two years. 	
166	Determine effectiveness of Pollinator Trail sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research to monitor the network of Pollinator Trail sites to specifically assess the impact of different pollinator actions versus control sites 	Researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The action around the development of a Pollinator Trail (Action 32) has been changed. Therefore, this action will not be progressed within the 2021-2025 Plan. 	

167	Investigate the role of specific plants in supporting pollinators to determine best ones to plant for bees in different habitat types.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Research into role of trees to inform tree-planting initiatives ● Research into replacements for invasive plants used by beekeepers to provide forage for honeybees (e.g. Himalayan Balsam) 	Researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “Importance” of various taxa determined by investigation of Irish plant-pollinator networks https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.9347 ● Research into forage use of solitary bees (Colm O’Leary, UCD) and forage use of bumblebees (Lydia Thompson, UCD) ongoing
168	Review publicly managed land in terms of suitability for key pollinator populations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conduct review ● Develop a plan to prioritise the restoration of pollinator habitat, based on those areas that will yield the greatest expected net benefits 	Researchers, National Biodiversity Data Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PhD ongoing with Kildare Co. Co. (Sophia Couchman & Jim Carolan, MU, Jane Stout TCD, Una Fitzpatrick NBDC) to investigate the correlation between biodiversity management practices and pollinator abundance and diversity on open public spaces and roundabouts. ● Research contributed to the development of practical guidelines for commercial landscapers and land managers.
Multiple benefits and widening engagement				
169	Research multiple co-benefits of pollinator conservation for other elements of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Research into co-benefits of pollinator conservation actions 	Researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● EU Horizon project Restpoll ((Jane Stout, Jessica Knapp, Sarah Larragy, Claire Kearney, TCD, Saorla Kavanagh, Teagasc). This year, the TCD RestPoll team has selected the majority of farm sites (beef

	biodiversity and ecosystem service delivery.			and arable), established relationships with farmers, and conducted a pilot round of pollinator surveys. This site network will be used for assessing benefits of pollinator restoration actions on pollinators and co-benefits to ecosystem services e.g. nutrient cycling.
170	Expand understanding of why people engage with pollinator conservation and how to reach those who are not yet engaging.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-disciplinary research into engagement with pollinator conservation action. To include studies of behaviour change, attitudes, perceptions, etc. 	Researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research into the social (and ecological) values associated with pollinator conservation, including attitudes and perceptions to encourage behaviour change, are ongoing (TCD). • EU Horizon project RestPoll aims to restore habitats for pollinators in agriculture by engaging with stakeholders via 'Living Lab' workshops. The TCD RestPoll team held their inaugural Living Lab Workshop for stakeholders involved in the project on a participant farm in Athy, Co.Kildare. Many farmers in attendance were previously involved in the Protecting Farmland Pollinators EIP project (NBDC). The workshop drew 35 attendees from the agricultural sector including farmers, researchers and a representative from DAFM. See here for a summary of this workshop. • Horizon Europe project FarmBioNet will establish Farming and Biodiversity National Networks (NNs), consisting of farmers/foresters and other relevant AKIS actors. FarmBioNet will use these NNs to

				gather and disseminate knowledge and information on biodiversity-friendly farming practices to include actions for pollinators (Saorla Kavanagh, Teagasc).	
171	Test methods for non-lethal monitoring across habitats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot studies and ground truthing of novel non-lethal monitoring technology, compatible with European Pollinator Monitoring Scheme 	Researchers, DAFM, National Biodiversity Data Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Biodiversity Data Centre ran a non-lethal moth sampling project on EIP farms in 2022-2023 (funded by DAFM). https://biodiversityireland.ie/projects/farmer-moth-monitoring-project/ • Research ongoing on impacts of non-lethal sampling of genetic research on bumblebee behaviour and foraging potential (Lydia Thompson, Dara Stanley. UCD) 	

Target 6.3 Establishment and maintenance of supporting databases

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024
172	Continue to manage and maintain the online mapping system <i>Actions for Pollinators</i> , where all those who have taken pollinator-friendly actions can log their location and the action(s) taken.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage and maintain the GIS based mapping system • Open it up to all sectors • Improve reporting by increasing the number of sites logged • Where funding is available, work to expand the functionality of the system • Use this emerging map of pollinator-friendly habitat to direct future actions to the most appropriate areas 	National Biodiversity Data Centre	<p>As of the end of November 2024, 4,700 sites are logged on ‘Actions for Pollinators’. Just over 12,500 individual actions have been logged. The most popular action is pollinator-friendly planting (2,541), followed by reducing mowing (1,935) and reduced pesticide use (1,803).</p> <p>https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/</p>
173	Maintain data on wild pollinator distribution and make available through an online Atlas of Irish pollinators and the NBN Atlas for Northern Ireland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and manage databases. Ensure that as much data is open access as possible • Make available through online Atlases of wild bees and hoverflies • Increase the number of active recorders who can accurately identify pollinator species • Where funding is available, continue to develop and publish online identification courses for pollinator identification 	National Biodiversity Data Centre; CEDaR	<p>Bee data submitted online is validated in quarters. As of the end of September 2024, the National Bee Database, managed by the National Biodiversity Data Centre contains 112,438 validated records. It is fully open access: https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/Dataset/5</p> <p>Hoverfly data submitted online is validated in quarters. As of the end of September 2024, the National Hoverfly Database, managed by the National Biodiversity Data Centre contains 51,653 validated records. It is fully open access: https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/Dataset/159</p> <p>The number of active recorders continues to increase across both datasets.</p>

				The National Biodiversity Data Centre currently has free online identification courses for bumblebees and hoverflies. Solitary bee identification courses are in development https://biodiversityireland.ie/online-training/
174	Maintain and grow Citizen Science pollinator monitoring networks and databases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support and grow the All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme (expert volunteer Citizen Science scheme) Continue to support and grow the Flower-Insect Timed Count monitoring scheme (general public Citizen Science scheme) 	National Biodiversity Data Centre	Both the All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme and the Flower-Insect Timed Count Scheme were fully supported in 2024. The numbers of volunteers participating in both schemes continue to grow annually.
175	Maintain a database on plant-pollinator interactions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain database Add new data as it becomes available 	National Biodiversity Data Centre	This database continues to be maintained within the National Biodiversity Data Centre. It is updated quarterly in line with bee data validation within the Centre. Currently, there are just over 19,600 wild bee species records that also include foraging information.
176	Maintain an online database of Irish Pollinator research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish and populate database Make available via www.pollinators.ie Update annually 	Pollinator Research Network	This is available at Research » All-Ireland Pollinator Plan The list of published papers by Irish researchers in 2024 is here: Publications » All-Ireland Pollinator Plan
177	Develop a digital database of pollinator collections in the National Museum of Ireland (Natural History).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate funding mechanisms that would allow the national bee collection to be fully curated by the Natural History Museum. This should include image, accession 	National Museum of Ireland (Natural History)	A preliminary survey conducted by the NMI entomology curator has estimated that there are approx. 25,000 Irish bee specimens in the Natural History collection. Suitable imaging systems have been identified and costed and can be readily purchased pending identification of an appropriate funding source.

		number, specimen - all digitally linked and searchable		Protocols for efficient collation of geographic and temporal information from historical Museum specimens have been developed and published in scientific literature.
178	Collate and maintain data on scientific engagement polls/surveys, so that the initiative can continue to learn from this feedback.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a database of the findings of all engagement polls since the AIPP began in 2015. Some of these were run by the Plan itself through social media, others by third parties • Use this information to improve engagement with all stakeholders 	AIPP team	This database is maintained within the National Biodiversity Data Centre and is used to improve our understanding of how to best engage with stakeholders.

Target 6.4 Maintenance of a network of supporting organisations

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024
179	Maintain a network of organisations who agree to help promote or otherwise assist the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a framework, whereby organisations can sign up as a supporter of the Plan and indicate what actions they are willing to take in support • Maintain a list of all supporting organisations on the website • Maintain this network of supporting organisations and 	AIPP team	<p>A list of all supporting organisations is maintained at: https://pollinators.ie/partners/supporters/</p> <p>As of the end of November 2024, there are 76 supporters of the AIPP 2021-2025</p> <p>In the coming years, as the network grows, we will facilitate knowledge exchange within this group where possible.</p>

		<p>provide support as resources allow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate knowledge exchange where possible • Provide supporters with an opportunity to report on their activities each year as part of the annual review process 		<p>These supporters are given the opportunity to report on their activities to the AIPP team as part of the annual review process.</p>	
--	--	---	--	--	--

Target 6.5 Overall coordination

	Action	Progress measure	Responsibility	Progress by November 2024	
180	Promote the Plan to new organisations and sectors as relevant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan promoted to new organisations and sectors • Increase in the number of organisations supporting the Plan • As appropriate, continue to explore possibilities to grow the reach of the Plan e.g. investigations into whether the planning process could include stipulations for pollinators 	AIPP Project Manager and Steering Group	<p>This continues to occur where possible. Significant efforts continue to be made to engage with new organisations and sectors.</p> <p>The number of supporting organisations continues to increase.</p>	
181	Ensure that the Pollinator Plan is compatible with other biodiversity initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with other partners to ensure land management advice for promoting biodiversity is joined up and is not contradictory 	AIPP Project Manager and Steering Group	Oversight is continually maintained on this action. In 2024, this included specific discussions with BirdWatch Ireland and Bat Conservation Ireland.	
182	Ensure the incorporation of the Pollinator Plan into	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of the Plan to relevant organisations and 	AIPP Project Manager and Steering Group	Oversight is continually maintained on this action. The AIPP is currently included in Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023–2030.	

	future relevant national strategies, where appropriate.	those working on national strategies/planning			
183	Develop an online toolkit, based on lessons learned from the AIPP 2015–2020 to ensure knowledge sharing at the EU level and beyond.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop materials on lessons learned from the first phase of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015–2020 • Make available as an online toolkit for other countries interested in doing something similar • Include templates and resources that can be shared 	AIPP Project Manager	<p>This has begun https://pollinators.ie/toolkit/ and will continue to be developed over the coming years.</p> <p>The AIPP continues to engage and provide advice to other countries who reach out and are interested in replicating our activities.</p>	
184	Publish an overall annual review of the 186 actions in the Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a collated annual review, outlining progress on all actions within the Plan • Publication of this review on the website each December 	AIPP Project Manager	This document fulfills this action	
185	Annually review the Steering Group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the Steering Group annually and restructure as required 	AIPP Steering Group Chair	This is an ongoing process that happens annually. It has been agreed that the size remain constant (max 16 members) but that expertise on the group reflects the key tasks that are being undertaken in any given year. The current Steering Group (2024) is below, and it will remain unchanged for the current phase.	
186	Renew the Plan in 2025.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new version of the Pollinator Plan to be developed for 2026–2030 	Steering Group	Preparations and initial consultations have begun on drafting a new and more ambitious Plan for 2026 onwards.	

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Steering Group 2024

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



Implementation of the *All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025* is being coordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. The National Biodiversity Data Centre is a Company Limited by Guarantee. Register Number: 730718.