



IRISH FORUM ON NATURAL CAPITAL

2016 Progress Report

Conferences, Workshops & Presentations

- **Conference:** We held a major conference on 4th October at the National Concert Hall, with 25 speakers and 150 delegates. The sold-out event - titled 'Making Nature Count' - brought together some of the leading voices on natural capital from a diverse range of disciplines, including economics, accountancy, business, communications and policy, as well as ecology and environmental science. Speakers included the renowned author and environmentalist Tony Juniper; Chair of the UK Natural Capital Committee and Professor of Energy Policy at Oxford Dieter Helm; Director of Science at Kew Kathy Willis; and Chief Economic Advisor to the Scottish Government Gary Gillespie. The event received excellent feedback from attendees. Videos of the presentations are available on our *YouTube channel* and IFNC members can download PDFs of the slides in the *Members Area* of our website. We promoted the conference on social media using bespoke 'live' graphics and our hashtag #makenaturecount trended on Twitter. We also produced an infographic on the business case for natural capital. An interactive conference report that brings all of these elements together will be published in January 2017.
- **Fringe events:** In conjunction with the conference, we held six webinars in collaboration with the *Ecosystems Knowledge Network* on topics including the Natural Capital Protocol, Payments for Ecosystem Services and Natural Capital Accounting. Recordings of the webinars are available to view *here*. We also hosted a public lecture by conference keynote speaker Tony Juniper at Trinity College Dublin, as well as an academic debate on natural capital with speakers from ecology, economics and environmental governance disciplines and chaired by Ella McSweeney.
- **Breakfast Briefing:** We held a Business Breakfast Briefing on 23rd November in collaboration with Sustainable Nation and Bank of Ireland. Will Evison, Environmental Economist at PwC, was the keynote speaker, and he was joined by Prof Jane Stout (IFNC Chair) and Gerry Ryan (Head of Land and Property, Bord na Mona) to discuss how private sector organisations are using natural capital concepts to change the way they do business.
- **External Conference:** IFNC Chair Prof Jane Stout delivered a keynote talk to the Northern Ireland Environment Link's annual conference, 'Delivering Prosperity through the Environment', in Belfast in October.
- **Workshop:** IFNC Executive Coordinator Hannah Hamilton and IFNC Steering Committee member Gerry Clabby delivered a workshop on natural capital to planners, engineers and ecologists at Fingal County Council in September.
- **Natural Capital Walk:** IFNC Steering Committee member Paddy Woodworth led a 'Value of Nature' walk at Marley Park in March.

Communications & Media

- **Website:** We developed a logo and visual brand identity and re-designed the website to reflect this. A series of blogs were also published covering various aspects of natural capital including valuation, cultural ecosystem services and finance. We also developed a Master Slide Deck with key information about the Forum, natural capital, case studies, policy, Irish research, and information on valuation methodologies. It is available through the *Members Area* of the website.
- **Newsletters:** We issued regular newsletters to members, featuring Forum news, natural capital news, updates from working groups, events and workshops, research calls, reports and papers.
- **Election Pledge:** We promoted natural capital among General Election Candidates with a 'natural capital pledge'. Thirty-three candidates signed the pledge.
- **In the Media:** The IFNC was featured in the Irish Times in a feature interview with Tony Juniper in advance of the conference.

Connections, Collaboration & Engagement

- **Natural Capital Coalition:** The IFNC became a member of the Natural Capital Coalition, a group that has developed a Protocol for businesses to use natural capital information to inform decision-making, and attended the launch of the Protocol in London in July.
- **Working Groups:** The Business, Policy and Research Working Groups have held a number of meetings throughout the year and are developing individual work programmes.
- **Engagement:** We connected with a number of key Irish organisations, and held meetings with representatives from Bord Bia and Green Schools to discuss natural capital concepts and potential integration with Origin Green and Biodiversity Flag programmes (respectively).
- **Submission:** We made a submission to the coordinators of the 3rd National Biodiversity Action Plan.

Organisational Development

- **Structure:** The Terms of Reference and organisational structure were updated and a new Chairperson was elected. We sought nominations to the IFNC Steering Committee for the period 2017-2019 and members have been invited to vote. The new Steering Committee will be announced in January 2017.
- **Development:** We are currently putting together a Development Strategy to outline potential service delivery in order to inform the Forum's work over the coming years.