

## ***Progress Report - 2014***

In 2013, a group of passionate volunteers came together to start a national conversation on natural capital and its place in Ireland's political and corporate landscape. Over a year later, we have achieved more than we could have hoped for. Here we present the highlights.

- *The (former) Natural Capital Committee, now members of the Steering Committee of the Irish Forum on Natural Capital*

### **A successful conference – *Ireland's Hidden Wealth***



The conference *Ireland's Hidden Wealth* was held in the National Botanic Gardens, Dublin, on 28-29th April 2014. Over 100 delegates and speakers came together to learn, share and discuss the concept of natural capital, the policy context, potential pathways for application in Ireland and examples of how it's being done on the ground.

Minister Jimmy Deenihan launched the event and speakers included Micheál O'Cinnéide (EPA Director), Feargal O'Coigligh (DAHG Assistant Secretary), Michaél O'Briáin (Natural Capital Directorate at DG Environment, Brussels), Dan O'Brien (Chief Economist of the Institute of International and European Affairs), Jo Pike (Project Director at the World Forum on Natural Capital), Paul Harris (Bank of Ireland), Rudolf de Groot (Associate Professor at Wageningen University, Netherlands) and James Aronson (French Centre for Functional Ecology) .

### **Post-conference report published**



A post-conference report was published in July 2014, summarising the background to the conference, the speakers' presentations, plenary discussions, final statement and next steps, as outlined by Ciarán O'Keeffe, National Parks and Wildlife Service.

It is available to download in the Resources section of the Natural Capital Ireland website, at [www.naturalcapitalireland.com/resources.html](http://www.naturalcapitalireland.com/resources.html).

## **Natural capital at the *Environment Ireland* event**

### 10th annual **Environment Ireland**<sup>®</sup>

Thursday 11th September 2014 • Croke Park, Dublin

A breakout session on natural capital was held at the EPA's 10th annual *Environment Ireland* event in Croke Park in November 2014. It was chaired by EPA Director Micheál Ó Cinnéide and speakers included two Steering Committee members. Dr Catherine Farrell spoke on 'Natural capital and environmental protection: Preserving Ireland's bogs for the future' and Paddy Woodworth spoke on 'Restoring the world in the climate change century: Our once and future planet'.

John Curtis, Associate Research Professor at Economic & Social Research Institute, also gave a presentation on 'Measuring the impact of economic activity on the environment'.

## **New website – [www.naturalcapitalireland.com](http://www.naturalcapitalireland.com)**

A new-look version of the *Natural Capital Ireland* website was launched. It includes videos of the speakers' presentations, links to download their slides, a comprehensive resources page and information on what natural capital is. Over the coming months, it will grow as we add new sections to cater for the development of the Irish Forum on Natural Capital.

## **Steering Committee of the Irish Forum on Natural Capital formed**

A Steering Committee has been established comprising representatives from public, private, academic and NGO sectors to provide resources and overall direction to the Irish Forum on Natural Capital. Information on the Steering Committee, its members, function, responsibilities and Terms of Reference will be available on the website on March 1st 2015.

## **Forum to be launched**

The Irish Forum on Natural Capital will be launched online on March 1st 2015 and interested parties will be invited to register through the website. The Forum's vision, mission, aims, objectives, structure and terms of reference will be available online.

## **New conference planned**

A second conference is in the pipeline to officially launch the Irish Forum on Natural Capital and open up the discussion on how to restore, value and protect Ireland's natural capital and ecosystem services. It's provisionally planned for June 2015 and we will soon be inviting members to attend through the website.