

NATURAL CAPITAL IRELAND

Annual Report 2022

1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022

Leading the conversation on natural capital and ecosystem services to
value, protect and restore Ireland's nature.

Irish Forum on Natural Capital Company Limited by Guarantee

Trading as Natural Capital Ireland
Company no. 632971
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Letter from the Chair

27th March 2023

Dear Member,

Welcome to NCI's fourth Annual Report. We continue to see growth in our organisation's reach and impact, with our membership up 20% in 2022 (an increase from 1,000 to 1,200 followers). Inbound interest in our work has also grown significantly: a clear signal of the increasing recognition and understanding of the importance of natural capital and a natural capital approach.

The biodiversity crisis and its core role in natural capital underpinned much of our work last year. We successfully delivered a number of high-profile biodiversity-related initiatives and events, details of which are outlined in the report below and on our [website](#). And we are proud to continue work on INCASE, an exciting and original research project on the application of natural capital accounting in Ireland. As we move into 2023, we are also focused on capacity building and developing Ireland's pool of natural capital experts. This theme builds upon draft actions in the National Biodiversity Action Plan as well as our work to date.

Behind the scenes, our rapid growth in 2022 has required significant investment in our organisational architecture. We just closed on NCI's first independent review of its governance structure and will shortly commence with a refresh of NCI's Strategic Plan.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of NCI's dedicated Board, Steering Committee, Finance Officer, Secretariat and Research Team for their work to date, much of which is a voluntary effort. I also welcome NCI's new Steering Committee, inaugurated in January of this year, and thank the outgoing Committee for their counsel.

Finally, I would also like to thank the organisations that have supported NCI during this period, particularly our core funders: the National Parks and Wildlife Service under the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

I am delighted to present this report on our work for 2022 and look forward to engaging further with our membership in the coming years.

Kind regards,



Fiona Ross
Chair of the Board of Directors, NCI



About Natural Capital Ireland

January 2022 to December 2022

Natural Capital Ireland or NCI is led by and supported by a group of individuals from academia and public, private and NGO sectors interested in the development and application of the natural capital agenda in Ireland.

We started as a small interest group in 2014 with just four members. The Irish Forum on Natural Capital 2014 was officially founded in 2018 as a company limited by guarantee and not having share capital incorporated in the Republic of Ireland under the Companies Act 2014 with Company No. 632971.

We began trading as Natural Capital Ireland at the start of 2021 and updated our logo at this time.

Our vision

is for an Ireland in which natural capital and ecosystem goods and services are valued, protected and restored.

Our mission

is to value, protect and restore Ireland's natural capital and ecosystem services. We will do this by supporting the adoption of natural capital concepts in public policy and corporate strategy, promoting informed public and private sector decision-making, and assisting in the establishment of a national natural capital accounting standard.

Strategy

NCI's work is directed by its [Strategic Plan 2021-2023](#), which details its key strategic themes and strategic objectives.

Three key strategic themes help NCI's Board of Directors, Steering Committee and members to identify and define the activities that will help us deliver on our vision and mission. We share some observations on our work in two of the three areas.

Funding and governance. Diversification of NCI's funding, and particularly unrestricted funding, remains a priority. NCI is pleased to share that its net revenue now exceeds funding targets set in the Strategic Plan. Goals to introduce new funding programs continue to be a focus for NCI.

Influence, engagement and awareness. With the maturation of NCI's Policy Working Group, NCI reset its targets as defined in the Strategic Plan 2021-2023. While the initial target of 20 submissions was revised downwards, NCI is pleased to have submitted more than 10 responses in 2022 alone. As most of our funding was tied to specific projects, NCI worked on events that reached several thousands of participants. As a result of the Covid pandemic we did not have the capacity to host as many of our own events as planned.

We are pleased to share that we did meet or exceed many of our actions—some of our key activities from 2022 are outlined below.

| Strategic theme | 2022 activities | Outcomes |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Funding and governance | Governance review | Future proof organisation |
| | Audited accounts produced; AGM held | Regulatory requirements met |
| | Net revenue exceeds funding target of €150,000 | Supports additional natural capital work |
| Influence, engagement and awareness | Policy Working Group | 13 submissions in 2022 |
| | Media engagement strategy | Work plan designed |
| | Report series (part of data hub) | 3 reports launched |
| | Data hub | Expansion of NCI online materials |
| | Social media and digital outreach | Exceeded 2022 targets |
| | Presence at Heritage Ireland 2030 Summit | Broad interest from attendees |
| | Presence at Bioeconomy Forum | Highlight natural capital |
| | Workshop delivery | Capacity building |
| | NCI Natural Capital explainer video | 500+ views in six months |
| Original research | Third level education survey | Informs future curricula design |
| | Key research themes | Informs future research design |

Organisation and governance

NCI is governed by a board of directors, advised by a steering committee and administered by a Secretariat and research team. NCI operates without employees and delivers its work through a team of highly skilled independent contractors. We are also supported by an energised group of volunteers.

Board of Directors. The Board of Directors or “Board” is responsible for directing NCI’s affairs while meeting the appropriate interests of its stakeholders and complying with all necessary legislation and regulation. The Board sets the organisation’s strategy and meets regularly. NCI’s board is voluntary and does not receive remuneration.

Financial Officer. The Financial Officer oversees the accounts for NCI and reports to the Board.

Steering Committee. The Steering Committee or “SC” provides subject matter and strategic advisory to NCI’s Board and also operates on a voluntary basis. The SC meets quarterly to critically assess the direction, general activities and overall outputs of the organisation in the

context of the national and international natural capital agenda. Each SC serves a two-year term before elections are held again, with emphasis placed on ensuring a diverse set of views. SC members represent themselves and not their organisations.

Secretariat. NCI’s Secretariat delivers on the strategy outlined by and with the oversight of the Board.

Research team. For the delivery of its work, NCI engages with a team of skilled professionals. The Research Team takes its direction from the Board, with day to day oversight provided by the Secretariat.

NCI Board of Directors

| Name | Position |
|-----------------|----------|
| Fiona Ross | Chair |
| Alan Costello | Director |
| Kate Hotten | Director |
| Darragh Gaffney | Director |

NCI Steering Committee 2023-2024

| Name | Affiliation/Experience |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Noreen Byrne | University College Cork |
| Charlie Coakley | Irish Water |
| Ashling Cronin (SC Deputy Chair) | Scott Cawley Ltd |
| Geraldine Ann Cusack | Fáilte Ireland |
| Grainne Devine | Bord Iascaigh Mhara |
| Dr. Catherine Farrell | Trinity College Dublin/LIFE on Machair |
| Jennifer Fulton | Ulster Wildlife |
| Dr. Mary Kelly-Quinn | University College Dublin |
| Deirdre Lynn | National Parks & Wildlife Service |
| Dr. Kirstie McAdoo | Airfield Estate |
| Dr. Martha O’Hagan | Trinity College Dublin |
| Dr. Jimmy O’Keeffe (SC Chair) | Dublin City University |
| Tadhg O’Mahony | Environmental Protection Agency |
| Niall Ryan | Dept of Agriculture, Food & the Marine |

Dr. Noeleen Smyth

University College Dublin

Jane Stout

Trinity College Dublin

NCI Steering Committee 2021-2022

| Name | Affiliation/Experience |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Craig Bullock | Optimize/ University College Dublin |
| Charlie Coakley | Irish Water |
| Dr. Catherine Farrell | Trinity College Dublin |
| Janice Fuller | Coillte |
| Jennifer Fulton | Ulster Wildlife |
| Sean Kelly | NI Environment Link |
| Mary Kelly-Quinn | University College Dublin |
| Conor Kretsch (SC Chair) | Cohab Initiative |
| Deirdre Lynn | NPWS / Dept of Housing, Local Govt & Heritage |
| Dorothy Maxwell | Davy |
| Mark McCorry | Bord na Móna |
| Cillian McMahon | Business in the Community Ireland |
| Tadhg O'Mahony | Environmental Protection Agency |
| John O'Neill | Dept of Environment, Climate and Communications |
| Tom Pople | Natural Capital Partners/Change X |
| Niall Ryan | Dept of Agriculture, Food & the Marine |
| Ali Sheridan | Independent |
| Jane Stout | Trinity College Dublin |
| Dr. Noeleen Smyth | University College Dublin |
| Paddy Woodworth (SC Deputy Chair) | Independent |

NCI Secretariat

| Name | Position |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| Iseult Sheehy | Executive Coordinator |
| Fiona Smith | Communications Executive |

NCI Research Team

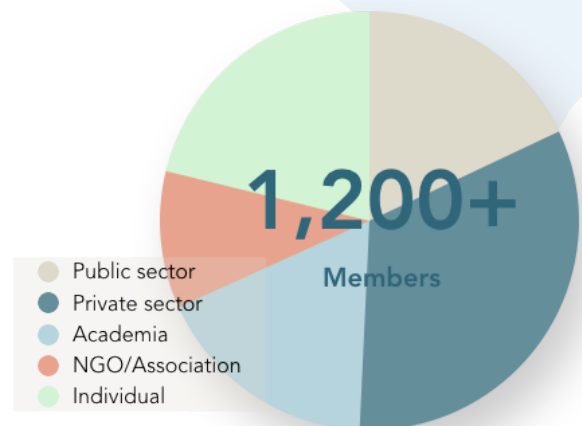
| Name | Position |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Dr. Emer Ní Dhuíll | NCI Researcher |
| Dr. Noreen Brennan | NCI Researcher |
| Dr. Sarah Zimmerman | NCI Researcher |

Organisational updates

- The Board would like to thank Pat Costello and Emer Moriarty Crowley, both of who resigned from the Board in 2022, for their service in support of NCI. Pat continued to support NCI as Company Secretary through 2022.
- The Board would also like to thank the outgoing Steering Committee for their service in support of NCI. Particular thanks is extended to SC Chair Conor Kretsch and Deputy Chair Paddy Woodworth, both of whom dedicated significant time to NCI and its Policy Working Group in particular.
- A huge thanks is extended to Chloe Lipscombe for her generous dedication to NCI's voluntary role of Finance Officer, which she has filled since 2020. Chloe's terms will end at the AGM in 2023 and a replacement has been identified.

Membership

As of year end, NCI had over 1,200 members following our work (already up to 1,300+ by the time of this report!) across academia, not for profits and public and private sectors. Membership is at the individual level. Members receive our monthly newsletter and are first to hear about the progression of natural capital in policy as well as natural capital events and jobs in Ireland and beyond, including opportunities to contribute to NCI work. To follow NCI work, [sign up](#) on our site.



Finance and funding

NCI currently receives core funding from the National Parks and Wildlife Service, under the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

NCI previously also received core grant assistance from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.

We are grateful to all our funders who have enabled us to grow from a four-person initiative in 2014 to a nationwide network today. We continue to work closely with all those who support the natural capital agenda in Ireland.



Natural capital in policy

The topic of natural capital is continuing to grow in importance. We have highlighted some key developments below:

- The World Economic Forum's [Global Risks Report](#) published in 2022 & 2023 states that the top most severe global risks are climate inaction, extreme weather, and biodiversity loss, all of which are inter-related risks that compound each other. These risks are a direct threat to our natural capital, and also stem largely from our failure to conserve and restore it.
- Natural capital concepts are already found in a range of flagship national policies but much more can be done to embed natural capital thinking in decision making. The 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2022-2026 is currently in draft and it is anticipated that the natural capital approach and natural capital accounting will be incorporated into the Plan. This is in line with EU-wide adoption of the UN System of Environmental Economic Accounting ([SEEA](#)) and proposed changes to the EU Regulation on Environmental Economic Accounts.
- Ireland's Central Statistics Office's [Ecosystem Accounts Division](#) has been working on developing Irish ecosystem accounts since 2020 to fulfil CSO reporting requirements to the European Commission ([EUROSTAT](#)).
- In 2023, Phase I of the [Land Use Review](#) was published. The synthesis report noted a focus on the natural capital approach and that natural capital will especially inform Phase II of the project.
- New research projects are informing aspects of natural capital accounting and identifying ecosystem services with a view to developing more integrated policy and management approaches. Examples include [Farm Zero C](#), [Nature+](#) at TCD, and [ForES](#), all of which NCI's co-founder Professor Jane Stout is contributing to.
- Natural capital accounting or NCA for post-Covid Green Recovery has been a key research area. Catherine Farrell, former NCI Steering Committee member and INCASE Lead, contributed to [research](#) published in 2022 that highlights how NCA can support policy for biodiversity conservation, climate action, finance and macroeconomic policy.
- Irish semi-state bodies are also exploring the development of natural capital accounts at various levels—[Coillte](#) since 2017 and [Bord na Móna](#) since 2018. Bord Iascaigh Mhara ([BIM](#)) have also instigated a natural capital accounting [initiative](#) at Clew Bay, overseen by NCI Steering Committee member Grainne Devine.

Finally, NCI promotes the development of the natural capital agenda in Ireland and supports the adoption of natural capital concepts in public policy. In 2022, this work centred around our Policy Working Group and its numerous submissions, discussed later in this report.

NCI's year in review

January 2022 to December 2022

Policy Working Group (PWG)

NCI's Policy Working Group is working to drive the natural capital approach to the forefront of the national conversation. The PWG is led by Dr. Emer Ní Dhúill of the NCI Research Team and meets monthly to discuss ongoing and upcoming national policy consultations and programmes.

This working group is in part supported by NCI's core funding but also receives generous time from NCI's network of volunteer experts, including Jane Stout, Mary Kelly-Quinn, Jennifer Fulton, Craig Bullock and Donal Griffin. Submissions in 2022 were also supported by former Steering Committee members Paddy Woodworth and Conor Kretsch.

Thirteen responses were submitted in 2022, a significant increase on our single response made in 2021. For full transparency, NCI maintains a [Repository of Policy Submissions](#) on our website. Check out [our blog](#), too, for longer explainers on some submissions.

| Date | Submission | Type |
|---------|--|----------|
| Q1 2022 | EPA Land Use Review | Short |
| | Public consultation on Carbon Budgets | Short |
| | Draft Dublin City Development Plan | Short |
| | Public consultation on EU Just Transition Fund | Short |
| | EPA Strategic Plan 2022-2026 | Short |
| | Draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027 | Detailed |
| Q2 2022 | Draft Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029 | Short |
| | Marine Strategy Framework Part 3 Programme of Measures | Detailed |
| | Final consultation on second SDG Implementation Plan 2022-2024 | Detailed |
| Q3 2022 | Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity Loss | Detailed |
| | Sourcing Science Based Advice Public Consultation | Detailed |
| Q4 2022 | Letter to Minister Malcolm Noonan re. COP15 | Letter |
| | NPWS strategy statement | Detailed |

Our growing following

In addition to the increase in newsletter subscribers, our social media subscribers now exceeds 5,000—up around 25% from last year’s numbers. Thousands more engaged with the projects we run, including [INCASE](#) and the [National Biodiversity Conference 2022](#). Subscribers across all platforms, including [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#), have increased.

In 2022, we also had 5,000 unique visitors to our website, [naturalcapitalireland.com](#). Most of those, or 4,600, were first-time visitors.

Engagement with media

NCI’s work continued to be picked up by the media in 2022: for example, [Irish Tech News](#) published news of our submission to the Citizens Assembly on Biodiversity Loss and [Agriland](#) published our Position Statement on the Global Biodiversity Framework which was sent to Minister of State Malcolm Noonan’s delegation ahead of Cop15.

In 2022, NCI also designed a work plan for an approach to horizon scanning and media engagement. This will help NCI best boost our digital and press media efforts and respond to issues as they arise.



NCI report series

NCI launched a new report series in 2022, building on the content available as part of NCI’s online data hub. This includes [our report](#) on approaches to natural capital and ecosystem services in Irish third-level institutions. The report was based on a survey of academics in Ireland.

NCI aims to broaden the third level survey (with its small sample size of n=51), measure progression via further surveys and engage with third-level institutions in toolkits to support the application of natural capital concepts in Irish curricula.

NCI’s data hub

As part of our strategic goal to maintain a leading data hub on natural capital, NCI’s website is updated frequently. In 2022, we:

- Published 22 [blog posts](#), with the most popular including:
 - *'We need to [value nature](#) as well as profits to survive' - expert IPBES Values Assessment Report*
 - *The Natural Capital approach in our submission to the EPA’s [Land Use Review](#)*
 - *What have [limpets](#) ever done for us? Past and present provisioning and cultural services of limpets*
- Collated hundreds of events, including conferences, webinars and consultations, on our [calendar](#), which was viewed nearly 600 times;
- Kept our monthly newsletter going and maintained an [archive](#) of all our past newsletters (46 and counting!).

Heritage Ireland 2030 Summit

NCI was represented at the [Heritage Ireland 2030 Summit](#) held at Trinity College Dublin on 24 October 2022. Multiple parties noted that their attendance was because of NCI's presence and curiosity about our work and natural capital and NCI arranged a number of follow-up meetings based on connections made on the day.

Bioeconomy Forum

NCI continues to be represented at the Bioeconomy Forum. In 2022, NCI attended the Stakeholder Workshop in the [BiOrbic Research Centre](#), University College Dublin. NCI highlighted the importance of aligning natural capital and bioeconomy frameworks in meeting bioeconomy sustainability objectives.

Workshop delivery

In 2022, NCI's Research Team delivered stand-alone workshops and presentations on natural capital concepts and biodiversity. Contact us if you would like to feature natural capital at an event or if you would like to run a focused workshop or training.

| Workshop | Speaker | Key themes |
|---|--|---|
| Launch of APEM Ltd Cork Office | Dr. Sarah Zimmerman | Overview of natural capital concepts |
| Trinity College Dublin School of Natural Sciences | Dr. Emer Ní Dhuíll | Overview of natural capital concepts; workshop on effectiveness of NCI's website to convey concepts |
| Citizens Assembly on Biodiversity Loss | Dr. Jane Stout Lucy Gaffney (BFBI) | Nature's contribution to people; industry and energy production and relationship with biodiversity |
| Society for Ecological Restoration | Dr. Catherine Farrell and Paddy Woodworth | Ireland's case for natural capital |

Natural Capital Concepts video

In May 2022, NCI produced a 30-minute video introducing natural capital concepts presented by NCI co-founder Professor Jane Stout. The video reached 500+ views by the end of 2022 and has hit nearly 800 as of this report. You can watch this and NCI's other videos on our [YouTube channel](#).

NCI's project delivery

In 2022, NCI was awarded new projects and continued to work on existing projects. This is thanks to NCI's strong reputation, network and expertise in:

- Producing and delivering online and in-person workshops, webinars, events and conferences;
- Stakeholder mapping, engagement and analysis;
- Providing communication, dissemination and reporting services for research projects.

These projects, described in more detail below, were selected by NCI given their alignment with the organisation's vision, mission and strategic themes—particularly as relates to delivering original research and capacity building. This work is delivered by NCI's Secretariat and the NCI Research Team with oversight from NCI's Board.

National Biodiversity Conference 2022

Natural Capital Ireland (NCI) provided event management services for the [National Biodiversity Conference 2022](#) which ran from 8th-9th June 2022 at Dublin Castle. The conference format was both in-person and livestreamed. As with the National Biodiversity Conference 2019, 2022's conference was also a sold-out event with 400+ delegates and 90+ speakers attending in person over two days. NCI facilitated active engagement with both the in-person and online audiences, including post-conference feedback.



Together with NPWS staff, NCI coordinated and welcomed a number of key speakers, including Taoiseach Micheál Martin, Assistant Secretary General Niall Ó Donnchú, Minister Darragh O'Brien, Minister Malcolm Noonan and Senator Pippa Hackett, as well as Andy Bleasdale and Ciara Carberry, both of the National Parks and Wildlife Service ([NPWS](#)). The National Biodiversity Action Plan project team was also represented and gathered views on the draft plan via a breakfast briefing.

Business for Biodiversity Ireland (BFBI)

A consortium led by NCI and including the [National Biodiversity Data Centre](#) and Business in the Community Ireland ([BITCI](#)) was contracted in 2021 to design, launch and manage the inaugural three years of Ireland's first [Business for Biodiversity Platform](#). The platform was one of the [Seeds 4 Nature](#) actions pledged by NPWS at the 2019 National Biodiversity Conference and an action in Ireland's third National Biodiversity Action Plan.

The platform made 2022 a year of development and outreach, with a number of introductory webinars and the launch of an online resource library, which was praised by Minister of State Malcolm Noonan and Senator Pippa Hackett at June's National Biodiversity Conference. BFBI also co-hosted the [European Business & Nature Summit](#) in Brussels in October alongside colleagues in the



Business for
Biodiversity

[EU Business & Biodiversity](#) platform. Finally, BFBI was also invited to address Ireland's [Citizens Assembly on Biodiversity Loss](#) in December.

A multi-sectoral Community of Practice has been put in place for 2023, bringing together a group of pilot businesses to help BFBI develop working strategies and a code of practice for communicating the journey to nature positive.

National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2027

A consortium consisting of KPMG Ireland, NCI, Optimise and the Institute for Development of Environmental-Economic Accounting ([IDEEA](#)) were contracted to support NPWS in drafting the 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2027. Since October 2021, NCI researchers have been involved in many aspects of the plan's development, including review of policy, legislation and research relating to biodiversity; stakeholder engagement; development of targets, actions and indicators; and drafting supporting text. Public consultation concluded on 9th November 2022. The consortium is now focused on handing over its findings to the National Parks & Wildlife Service ([NPWS](#)).

Irish Natural Capital Accounting for Sustainable Environments (INCASE)

NCI is a partner on the Irish Natural Capital Accounting for Sustainable Environments ([INCASE](#)) project. This is an EPA-funded multi-year project attempting to create natural capital accounts at catchment scale in Ireland to investigate how NCA (specifically the SEEA approach) can assist with reporting and/or working towards water protection and management in the context of implementation of the Water Framework Directive ([WFD](#)) River Basin Management Plan ([RBMP](#)) for Ireland in the period 2022–2027.

The project has found that conversion to other land-uses (agriculture, forestry and peat extraction) is one of the main pressures on Irish peatlands requiring drainage and removal of typical peatland vegetation. Now in its final year, the project has produced [several outputs](#) outlining the process undertaken including the January 2022 paper on applying ecosystem accounting to develop a [risk register for peatlands](#) and inform restoration targets at catchment scale; and the December 2021 paper on developing [peatland ecosystem accounts to guide targets for restoration](#), which builds on the previous '[Stocks and Condition](#)' publication to examine how ecosystem accounts can best be developed in the Irish context.

The final report for the INCASE project is currently being compiled by NCI and a series of dissemination events are planned for 2023—stay tuned by signing up to the [NCI](#) or [INCASE](#) newsletters.

Peatland Finance Ireland

Peatland Finance Ireland or “PFI”, supported by the [EIB's Natural Capital Finance Facility](#) and the [NPWS](#), aims to identify investible case studies and plan the development of novel markets in peatland, which may include low-carbon agriculture. NCI worked with UCD on stakeholder engagement for the highly successful first phase of this project in 2021 and contributed to the consortium's work plan design for Phase 2 in 2022.

Forest-related ecosystem services policy review

NCI won the tender to produce a report for COFORD, at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine ([DAFM](#)), of national policies across key sectors to identify where forest-related ecosystem services could play a role, and the degree to which such a role is currently recognised. These key sectors analysed include health, community development, environmental/land use planning, education, transport, foreign aid, culture and sport.

The research found that there is significant, unrecognised potential for forest-related ecosystem services to contribute towards a broad range of national objectives; particularly health, education, tourism, community development and environmental objectives. NCI's project report detailed ways to seek buy-in from the agricultural sector and to integrate forest-related ecosystem services into a broad spectrum of policy areas.

ForES

[ForES](#) is a four-year sustainable forestry project launched in 2021 as a collaboration between Trinity College Dublin, University College Dublin and practitioners in Coillte, and funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM). Natural Capital Accounting approaches will be used to co-develop tools for sustainable forestry management decision-making, with learnings from our [INCASE](#) project integrated.

NCI was responsible for launching the project's external communications in 2021 and continued to lead on communications in 2022. Keep an eye out for workshops, [videos](#) and other learning resources published by ForES in 2023.

**Irish Forum on Natural Capital Company Limited by Guarantee t/a Natural Capital
Ireland**

**Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the financial year ended 31 December 2022**

**Irish Forum on Natural Capital Company Limited by Guarantee t/a Natural Capital
Ireland
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**Irish Forum on Natural Capital Company Limited by Guarantee t/a Natural Capital
Ireland**

DIRECTORS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Directors

Jane Stout (Resigned 4 May 2022)
Pat Costello (Resigned 23 March 2022)
Kathryn Hotten
Alan Costello
Emer Moriarty Crowley (Resigned 21 July 2022)
Fiona Ross (Appointed 12 April 2022)
Darragh Gaffney (Appointed 23 March 2022)

Company Secretary

Pat Costello

Company Number

632971

Registered Office and Business Address

Ground Floor
71 Lower Baggot Street
Dublin 2
D02 P593

Auditors

Whiteside Cullinan
Registered Auditor and Chartered Accountants
Fleming Court
Fleming's Place
Dublin 4
D04N4X9

Bankers

Bank of Ireland
Smithfield
Dublin 7

Irish Forum on Natural Capital Company Limited by Guarantee t/a Natural Capital Ireland

DIRECTORS' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2022.

Principal Activity

The Irish Forum on Natural Capital CLG, through the collaboration and leadership of our diverse members, helps to value, protect and restore Ireland's natural capital and ecosystem services. We do this by supporting the adoption of natural capital concepts in public policy and corporate strategy, promoting informed public and private decision-making and assisting in the establishment of a national natural capital accounting standard.

The Company is limited by guarantee not having a share capital.

Financial Results

The surplus for the financial year after providing for taxation amounted to €13,537 (2021 - €22,520).

At the end of the financial year, the company has assets of €186,643 (2021 - €122,248) and liabilities of €132,506 (2021 - €81,648). The net assets of the company have increased by €13,537.

The statutory income statement is shown on page 10 of these financial statements. The Income and Expenditure amounts reported on this statement are broken-down in greater detail on page 17.

Directors and Secretary

The directors who served throughout the financial year, except as noted, were as follows:

Jane Stout (Resigned 4 May 2022)
Pat Costello (Resigned 23 March 2022)
Kathryn Hotten
Alan Costello
Emer Moriarty Crowley (Resigned 21 July 2022)
Fiona Ross (Appointed 12 April 2022)
Darragh Gaffney (Appointed 23 March 2022)

The secretary who served throughout the financial year was Pat Costello.

Future Developments

The company plans to continue its present activities and current trading levels.

Post Balance Sheet Events

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

Auditors

The auditors, Whiteside Cullinan, (Registered Auditor) have indicated their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014.

Statement on Relevant Audit Information

In accordance with section 330 of the Companies Act 2014, so far as each of the persons who are directors at the time this report is approved are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the statutory auditors are unaware. The directors have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and they have established that the statutory auditors are aware of that information.

**Irish Forum on Natural Capital Company Limited by Guarantee t/a Natural Capital
Ireland**

DIRECTORS' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

Accounting Records

To ensure that adequate accounting records are kept in accordance with sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014, the directors have established appropriate books to adequately record the transactions of the company. The directors also ensure that the company retains the source documentation for these transactions. The accounting records are maintained at the company's office at Ground Floor, 71 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2, D02 P593.

Signed on behalf of the board

**Fiona Ross
Director**

**Kathryn Hotten
Director**

29 March 2023

Irish Forum on Natural Capital Company Limited by Guarantee t/a Natural Capital Ireland

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

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

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

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

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

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

Disclosure of Information to Auditor

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

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

Signed on behalf of the board

Fiona Ross
Director

Kathryn Hotten
Director

29 March 2023

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

to the Members of Irish Forum on Natural Capital Company Limited by Guarantee t/a Natural Capital Ireland

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Irish Forum on Natural Capital Company Limited by Guarantee t/a Natural Capital Ireland ('the company') for the financial year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the Profit and Loss Account, the Balance Sheet, the Reconciliation of Members' Funds, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes to the financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 2. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish Law and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued in the United Kingdom by the Financial Reporting Council.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2022 and of its profit for the financial year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland"; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are described below in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard for Auditors (Ireland) issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and the Provisions Available for Audits of Small Entities, in the circumstances set out in note 3 to the financial statements, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

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

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- the information given in the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, are necessary for the purposes of our audit.

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

to the Members of Irish Forum on Natural Capital Company Limited by Guarantee t/a Natural Capital Ireland

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the requirements of any of sections 305 to 312 of the Act, which relate to disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions are not complied with by the Company. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Respective responsibilities

Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 6, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework that give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is contained in the appendix to this report, located at page 9, which is to be read as an integral part of our report.

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

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

Mark Hamill

for and on behalf of

WHITESIDE CULLINAN

Registered Auditor and Chartered Accountants

Fleming Court

Fleming's Place

Dublin 4

D04N4X9

29 March 2023

Irish Forum on Natural Capital Company Limited by Guarantee t/a Natural Capital Ireland

APPENDIX TO THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Further information regarding the scope of our responsibilities as auditor

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

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditor's Report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditor's Report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

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

**Irish Forum on Natural Capital Company Limited by Guarantee t/a Natural Capital
Ireland**

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

| | Notes | 2022 € | 2021 € |
|-------------------------------|-------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Turnover | | 271,138 | 127,254 |
| Gross profit | | <u>271,138</u> | <u>127,254</u> |
| Administrative expenses | | (255,667) | (101,517) |
| Profit before taxation | | <u>15,471</u> | <u>25,737</u> |
| Tax on profit | 5 | (1,934) | (3,217) |
| Profit for the financial year | | <u><u>13,537</u></u> | <u><u>22,520</u></u> |

Approved by the board on 29 March 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Fiona Ross
Director

Kathryn Hotten
Director

Irish Forum on Natural Capital Company Limited by Guarantee t/a Natural Capital Ireland

BALANCE SHEET

as at 31 December 2022

| | Notes | 2022 € | 2021 € |
|---|-------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Current Assets | | | |
| Debtors | 6 | 60,242 | 30,322 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 126,401 | 91,926 |
| | | <u>186,643</u> | <u>122,248</u> |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 8 | <u>(132,506)</u> | <u>(81,648)</u> |
| Net Current Assets | | <u>54,137</u> | <u>40,600</u> |
| Total Assets less Current Liabilities | | <u><u>54,137</u></u> | <u><u>40,600</u></u> |
| Reserves | | | |
| Retained earnings | | <u>54,137</u> | <u>40,600</u> |
| Members' Funds | | <u><u>54,137</u></u> | <u><u>40,600</u></u> |

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the small companies' regime.

Approved by the board on 29 March 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Fiona Ross
Director

Kathryn Hotten
Director

**Irish Forum on Natural Capital Company Limited by Guarantee t/a Natural Capital
Ireland**

RECONCILIATION OF MEMBERS' FUNDS

as at 31 December 2022

| | Retained earnings | Total |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| | € | € |
| At 1 January 2021 | 18,080 | 18,080 |
| Surplus for the financial year | <u>22,520</u> | <u>22,520</u> |
| At 31 December 2021 | 40,600 | 40,600 |
| Surplus for the financial year | <u>13,537</u> | <u>13,537</u> |
| At 31 December 2022 | <u><u>54,137</u></u> | <u><u>54,137</u></u> |

Irish Forum on Natural Capital Company Limited by Guarantee t/a Natural Capital Ireland

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

| | Notes | 2022 € | 2021 € |
|---|----------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Cash flows from operating activities | | | |
| Surplus for the financial year | | 13,537 | 22,520 |
| Adjustments for: | | | |
| Tax on surplus on ordinary activities | | 1,934 | 3,217 |
| | | <u>15,471</u> | <u>25,737</u> |
| Movements in working capital: | | | |
| Movement in debtors | | (29,920) | (24,475) |
| Movement in creditors | | 52,141 | 48,467 |
| | | <u>37,692</u> | <u>49,729</u> |
| Cash generated from operations | | 37,692 | 49,729 |
| Tax paid | | (3,217) | - |
| Tax repaid | | - | 385 |
| | | <u>34,475</u> | <u>50,114</u> |
| Net cash generated from operating activities | | <u>34,475</u> | <u>50,114</u> |
| Net increase in cash and cash equivalents | | 34,475 | 50,114 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year | | 91,926 | 41,812 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year | 7 | <u>126,401</u> | <u>91,926</u> |

Irish Forum on Natural Capital Company Limited by Guarantee t/a Natural Capital Ireland

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

1. General Information

Irish Forum on Natural Capital Company Limited by Guarantee t/a Natural Capital Ireland is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in the Republic of Ireland. The registered office of the company is Ground Floor, 71 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2, D02 P593 which is also the principal place of business of the company. The nature of the company's operations and its principal activities are set out in the Directors' Report. The financial statements have been presented in Euro (€) which is also the functional currency of the company.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 2022 have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (FRS 102).

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with the historical cost convention except for certain properties and financial instruments that are measured at revalued amounts or fair values, as explained in the accounting policies below. Historical cost is generally based on the fair value of the consideration given in exchange for assets. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

The company qualifies as a small company as defined by section 280A of the Companies Act 2014 in respect of the financial year, and has applied the rules of the 'Small Companies Regime' in accordance with section 280C of the Companies Act 2014.

Income

Revenue mainly comprises of grants from Government bodies and project income for services provided on natural capital and ecosystem projects.

Trade and other debtors

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

Taxation

Current tax represents the amount expected to be paid or recovered in respect of taxable income for the financial year and is calculated using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantially enacted at the Balance Sheet date.

3. Provisions Available for Audits of Small Entities

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

4. Employees

The average monthly number of employees, including directors, during the financial year was 0, (2021 - 0).

5. Tax on surplus

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| | € | € |
| Analysis of charge in the financial year | | |
| Current tax: | | |
| Corporation tax at 12.50% (2021 - 12.50%) | <u>1,934</u> | <u>3,217</u> |

Irish Forum on Natural Capital Company Limited by Guarantee t/a Natural Capital Ireland

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

continued

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

| | | |
|--|----------------|---------------|
| 6. Debtors | 2022 | 2021 |
| | € | € |
| Trade debtors | 780 | 3,000 |
| Taxation | 24,753 | 5,000 |
| Accrued income | 34,709 | 22,322 |
| | <u>60,242</u> | <u>30,322</u> |
| 7. Cash and cash equivalents | 2022 | 2021 |
| | € | € |
| Cash and bank balances | 126,401 | 91,926 |
| | <u>126,401</u> | <u>91,926</u> |
| 8. Creditors | 2022 | 2021 |
| Amounts falling due within one year | € | € |
| Trade creditors | 11,913 | 8,220 |
| Taxation | 16,501 | 14,228 |
| Accruals | 1,700 | 1,700 |
| Deferred Income | 102,392 | 57,500 |
| | <u>132,506</u> | <u>81,648</u> |

9. Status

The liability of the members is limited.

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

10. Capital commitments

The company had no material capital commitments at the financial year-ended 31 December 2022.

11. Post-Balance Sheet Events

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

12. Approval of financial statements

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board of directors on 29 March 2023.

**IRISH FORUM ON NATURAL CAPITAL COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE T/A NATURAL
CAPITAL IRELAND**

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

NOT COVERED BY THE AUDITORS REPORT

THE FOLLOWING PAGES DO NOT FORM PART OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Irish Forum on Natural Capital Company Limited by Guarantee t/a Natural Capital Ireland

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

TRADING STATEMENT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

| | 2022 € | 2021 € |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Income | | |
| Project Income | 119,645 | 70,813 |
| Grant Income | 50,000 | 46,000 |
| Conference income | 83,865 | - |
| EPA research grant (INCASE project) | 17,628 | 10,441 |
| | <u>271,138</u> | <u>127,254</u> |
| Administrative expenses | | |
| Insurance | 623 | 695 |
| Administration costs | - | 435 |
| Print and stationery | 238 | - |
| IT costs | 3,473 | 3,608 |
| Travel | 1,932 | - |
| Entertainment | 1,159 | - |
| Legal and professional | 18,044 | 624 |
| Support services | 191,052 | 94,033 |
| Bank charges | 219 | 175 |
| General expenses | 2,387 | 447 |
| Conference costs | 35,290 | - |
| Auditor's remuneration | 1,250 | 1,500 |
| | <u>255,667</u> | <u>101,517</u> |
| Net profit | <u>15,471</u> | <u>25,737</u> |