

Conference Programme

Biodiversity and Planning: Developing Connectivity for Sustainability

11th November 2009

National Botanic Gardens Glasnevin, Dublin 9

Chairman – Dr Ken Whelan

9.00 – 9.30	Registration	
9.30 – 9.40	Opening Address	John Gormley, Minister of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government
Session 1	Green Infrastructure	
9.40 - 10.10	Wales: A networked environmental nation?	Russell Elliott (Countryside Council for Wales)
10.10 - 10.35	Green infrastructure baseline in Ireland - opportunities within legislation, policy and practice	Mary Tubridy (Mary Tubridy and Associates) and William Hynes (Keith Simpson Associates)
10.35 – 11.00	Green infrastructure case studies and outline national map - investigations across scales and environments	Gearóid Ó Riain (Compass Informatics) and Richard Butler (Cunnane Stratton Reynolds)
11.00 – 11.15	Coffee break	
Session 2	Biodiversity and planning	
11.15 – 11.45	Planning and biodiversity in Ireland	Gerry Sheeran (President, Irish Planning Institute)
11.45 – 12.30	Panel Q&A and open discussion	Representative from EU DG ENV (TBC) Ken Bradley (DOENI) Brian Keaney (DOEHLG Spatial Planning Unit) Cliona O'Brien (Heritage Council)
12.30 – 1.30	Lunch	
Session 3	Workshops	
1.30 – 2.45	1. Coastal Zone Management in a changing world	Chair: Bob Brown (NIBG) Rapporteur: Eugene Nixon (Marine Institute) Provocateur: Andrew Cooper (UU)
	2. The WFD as a model approach for sustainable planning?	Chair: Jim Bowman (EPA) Rapporteur: Cathy Maguire (Comhar SDC) Provocateur: Sinead O'Brien (SWAN)
	3. Natura 2000 and spatial planning	Chair: Shirley Clerkin (Monaghan CoCo) Rapporteur: Niamh Kirwan (Comhar SDC) Provocateur: John Coll (NUI Maynooth)
2.45 – 3.00	Coffee break	
3.00 – 3.20	Report back from workshops	Rapporteurs
3.20 – 3.35	Open discussion	
3.35 – 4.00	Final thoughts and next steps	Bob Brown Ken Whelan

WORKSHOP INFORMATION

Each workshop will start with an introduction by the Chair on the objectives of the workshop. There may be over 40 people in each workshop so it will be up to the Chair whether they want to have a round table introduction. This will be followed by a short presentation (5-10 mins) from the provocateur on what they see as the key points that need to be considered. Other participants will be given a chance to respond and if people wish to make a short presentation they can do so with prior arrangement with the Chair.

There will be a shared template for each workshop so the report back can address the same questions:

1. What are the main barriers to progress? Give three suggestions on how these can be overcome?
2. Is the current policy framework adequate? If not what are the limitations and how can these be overcome?
3. In summary what are the top 3 priority actions for next 3 years?
4. How can these be progressed on an all-island basis?