Non-Sector Specific Recommendations of the Citizens Assembly on Biodiversity	Status	Notes	Source	Source		Key
The State must take prompt, decisive and urgent action to address biodiversity loss and restoration and must provide leadership in protecting Ireland's biodiversity for future generations.	Ignored	Failing by many metrics like afforestation, peatland protection, SACs. See biodiversity section in scorecard				Ignored: the State has taken no action on this.
The Assembly believes that the State has comprehensively failed to adequately fund, implement and enforce existing national legislation, national policies, EU biodiversity-related laws and directives related to biodiversity. This must change.	Ignored	Ireland's spending on the protection of nature remains below EU levels.	1			Delayed: the State has committed to this but insufficient progress has been made, or it was achieved significantly after the original timeline.
The ambition of the State needs to be significantly increased to reflect the scale of Ireland's biodiversity crisis. Adequate funding must be made available to address this crisis. This is likely to require substantial and sustained increases in expenditure, which should be made available immediately and guaranteed in the long term.	Ignored	Ireland's spending on the protection of nature remains below EU levels, as above.				Committed: the State has committed to this and it is on track for implementation
The responsibility for the implementation and enforcement of biodiversity related legislation, directives and policies by all state bodies and agencies must be made clear, with each body/ agency held publicly accountable for their performance. This should be supported by an independent review of implementation and enforcement of biodiversity related legislation, directives and policies.	Delayed	Such a review is reported as behind schedule.	1			Implemented: this is current policy and practice in the State.
The State must provide, communicate and implement a plan for the conservation and restoration of biodiversity for the benefit of its people.	Committed	This is also an EU obligation. A draft plan went out for consultation in summer 2026, and is due for publication by end 2026.	1	2		
Local leadership, local communities and the activities of the Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) sector must be actively developed and resourced to assist the State in addressing the biodiversity crisis.	Delayed	The government reference local authority biodiversity officers as part of their response to this recommendation, but they are still not in ever local authority.	1	2		
In taking action to protect and restore biodiversity, nature-based solutions aimed at protecting, sustainably managing and restoring ecosystems should be prioritised where possible.	Committed	Nature-based solutions are a part of local authority climate action plans and most sectoral adaptation plans.				
As a matter of urgency areas and species of High Nature Value, including but not limited to the national network of Natura 2000 sites and protected species, should be protected from further degradation through the implementation and enforcement of existing legislation and directives. Management plans should also include restoration programmes.	Ignored	EU has found Ireland to severely underperform in this arena.	1			
Ireland's varied land and seascapes across and around the island must be supported, and appropriate monitoring systems designed to suit their local environment. Higher incentives and supports should be provided to prioritise the preservation and restoration of rare and threatened species.	Ignored	EU Commission is not satisfied with the marine natura 2000 network	1			
Ireland needs to recognise its global responsibility, including through our local actions, in terms of our consumerism, resource usage and our international biodiversity responsibilities. The State should advocate for a shift in emphasis in EU and international economic policy away from GDP expansion as a goal in itself and towards the goals of societal and ecological wellbeing.	Ignored	While work has been carried out on wellbeing framework, Ireland performs poorly in terms of waste and recycling.	1			
An all-island approach and wider transboundary approach should be taken into consideration with regard to biodiversity conservation and restoration.	Implemented	Work in this area has been completed under the National Biodiversity Action Plan	1			
The State should renew and stand by its commitment to implement the objectives and targets of the EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy and play a leading and supportive role in the adoption and implementation of a new EU Nature Restoration Regulation.	Committed	As above, the nature restoration plan is in development.	1			
All governmental departments must explicitly acknowledge the State's declaration of a Biodiversity Emergency and take immediate and targeted action.	Ignored	There is no evidence of explicit recognition and the government's reported progress on this recommendation doesn't commit to it.	1			
All biodiversity incentives and grants should be results-based, supported by monitoring and evaluation.	Ignored	the Local Biodiversity Action Fund is not results based	1			
People in primary production industries should implement practices that conserve biodiversity and be incentivised for biodiversity enhancement and associated ecosystem service provision.	Implemented	The element of this recommendation that relates to the state is incentivisation. There are biodiversity incentives in agriculture even if they have not yet made a major difference.	1			
The State must work with all stakeholders to review Ireland's current food policy in the context of the biodiversity crisis, particularly in agriculture and marine sectors, to balance between the affordability and quality of food. This review must take into consideration vulnerable sections of the population and ensure reasonable standards of living, and result in a plan to address these issues.	Ignored	There has been no such focused review of food policy.				
In order to drastically reduce the use of pesticides by at least 50% by 2030 in line with EU policy, the State should incentivise and encourage the domestic and commercial use of natural, cost-friendly alternatives, sustainable practices and biodiversity-friendly solutions. It should alsoregulate the use of chemical pesticides and fertilisers, while maintaining food security. This shouldcoincide with the improvement of schemes for the safe disposal of unused hazardous materials,as well as their containers.	Implemented	We have met this target and have introduced regulation subsequent to this report.	1			

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Examples of good practice in relation to biodiversity protection and enhancement should be actively identified and supported with funding, infrastructure and other supports provided to enable replication or expansion of these practices, in partnership with those who design and operate such initiatives and schemes, e.g. the Burren Programme, Biodiversity Regeneration In a Dairying Environment (BRIDE) programme. and the Sustainable Uplands Agri-environment Scheme (SUAS).	Implemented	These programmes have been expanded/extended				
The State is urged to take into account the recommendations from the Children and Young People's Assembly on Biodiversity Loss, an initiative featuring our next generation, and continue to engage with children and young people on the environment.	Delayed	The establishment of the Children and Young People's Biodiversity Forum has been delayed	1			
[This and further recommendations are strategic and more specific than above] There must be a whole of State approach to drafting and implementing a new statutory National Biodiversity Plan, aligned with the Climate Action Plan, supported by legislation and properly funded. This and subsequent plans must not be constrained by electoral cycles and should have clearly defined ecological targets (e.g. the number of species on the at-risk list to be halved), with appropriate monitoring and timelines, to which all parties at national, regional and local levels are fully committed.	Ignored	There are no such targets in the plan.				
There should be a senior ministerial position, with an associated department, with responsibility for biodiversity.	Ignored	There is no such department.				
There should be a permanent, cross-party Standing Oireachtas Committee on Biodiversity Loss, which will consider and respond to the recommendations of this Assembly, within 6 to 12 months	Ignored	There is no such committee.				
There should be a new national independent agency to act as a centralised biodiversity coordinating structure	Ignored	The National Park and Wildlife Service performs some but not all of these functions.	1			
The new National Biodiversity Plan and all policies related to biodiversity action at national and local level should be developed in partnership with the people and sectors most affected by changes (i.e. local communities, farmers, fishers, business, etc.). In many cases consultation has to move beyond the current status quo, with trust having to be rebuilt and relationships realigned.	Implemented	Such engagement and consultation happens.	1			
The new National Biodiversity Plan should have clear targets with ambitious and achievable timelines at national, regional and county level for halting biodiversity loss, restoring and enhancing biodiversity.	Ignored	While there are specific actions, no new clear targets are set to be met.				
In addition to recent developments in judicial structures in environment and planning, the State must develop an environmental court at Circuit and District Court levels, in order to hold policy makers, businesses and citizens to account.	Ignored	There is no such court.				
All citizens should be empowered with 'legal standing' to protect nature and biodiversity in court.	Ignored	This has not manifested.				
Each local authority must have at least one full-time dedicated biodiversity officer, the total number of which should be determined by population density, land mass and coastline.	Delayed	Some local authorities still do not have such an officer.	1	2		
All relevant departments, bodies and agencies that deal with biodiversity should have in-house ecological expertise to advise on all biodiversity related policies and activities.	Ignored	While staff training has been implemented across departments, this is not the same thing as in-house ecological expertise.	1			
There should be a referendum of the people to amend the Constitution with a view to protecting biodiversity.	Ignored	There has been no such referendum.				
Sufficient funding and resources to meet the challenges of biodiversity loss must be allocated to all relevant bodies to sufficiently protect and enhance biodiversity, and implement and enforce related national and EU laws, directives and policies. This must be guaranteed in the short and longer term.	Ignored	The government has established an Infrastructure Climate and Nature Fund, but spending on nature remains below EU norm.	1			
The Government's economic strategy needs to continue nurturing and embracing fully the 'Beyond GDP' concept and ensure that the National Well-being Framework, encompassing Environment, Climate and Biodiversity, is at the very core of economic decisions made now and in the future.	Delayed	Work is ongoing on integrating well-being approach into budgetary process but it could not be described as being at the core of the process. The only reference to well-being in Ministers' budget day speeches for Budget 2027 was economic well-being.	1	2		
The Well-being Framework for Ireland should be modified so that it more accurately measures economic, social and environmental progress in Ireland, with the metrics reported alongside GDP as an indication of how well Ireland is doing, and be given a strong role in shaping policy and informing the annual budgetary process	Ignored	There has been no such review and in fact commentators have found that the framework has been weakened.	1			
The State must undertake a comprehensive review of current and future taxation and levy policies, regulations and incentives to assess their impact on biodiversity.	Ignored	No such comprehensive review has occurred.				
The State should significantly increase commitments and long-term funding with specific and targeted tax incentives and tax breaks to incentivise and support the regenerative economy, green technology and biodiversity activities.	Ignored	While some tax measures support climate action none are targeted at biodiversity.				

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The Assembly supports the State making Ireland a global leader in sustainable finance models.	Ignored	While Ireland's current finance strategy deals with sustainability, there is only one reference to biodiversity. The carbon intensity of loans by Irish banks to non-financial companies is double the EU average.	1	2		
The State should introduce a lower “green rate” for loans that fund biodiversity initiatives.	Ignored	The loan government cite as fulfilling this recommendation is exclusively for SMEs and the terms are not well suited to biodiversity intiatives.	1	2		
Planning levies should include a proportional contribution, ringfenced to conserve and enhance biodiversity.	Ignored	Such a ringfenced contribution does not exist.				
In addition to a dedicated biodiversity budget, governmental departments and agencies should be permitted to roll over any unspent biodiversity funding into the next year.	Ignored	This does not happen.				
The State should establish a framework for corporations and large businesses, as major users of natural resources, to provide financial contributions to fund the conservation and restoration of biodiversity.	Ignored	There is no evidence of such a framework, although Peatland Finance Ireland provide that framework specifically in the area of peatland restoration	1			
Local authorities are uniquely placed to deliver biodiversity projects. Biodiversity funding and staff resources in local authorities must be significantly increased. Local authorities must be accountable and report on their biodiversity activities. Current resources must be enhanced, and biodiversity given greater priority in the councils’ activities.	Ignored	Given government has not yet met its target of a biodiversity officer in every LA, can understand them as having failed to implement this recommendation. While there may soon be such an officer in ever LA, this will have been significantly delayed.				
New sector-specific levies/charges on harmful imports must be introduced and ring-fenced for biodiversity.	Ignored	This does not exist.				
There should be an immediate review of existing frameworks and mechanisms for the implementation and enforcement of biodiversity policy and legislation. This review should identify those responsible, address gaps in responsibilities and policies, highlight areas with insufficient funding and result in a plan to address these issues	Ignored	Given the word 'immediate', this recommendation was not fulfilled.	1			
Sanctions for an offence should be proportionate to the offence so they adequately discourage negative behaviour (e.g. penalties should be linked to company turnover), with the offender incurring the cost of undoing the damage. Each governmental department, organisation and agency responsible for enforcement should be provided with training, a clear remit, have sufficient resourcing and should be held accountable.	Ignored	There are still serious issues with effective deterrence of environmental crimes.	1			
All penalties for any breach of pollution or environmental legislation/regulations should be increased to meaningful economic levels, reflecting all damage caused plus enforcement and restoration costs, with criminal sanction where necessary.	Ignored	There are still serious issues with effective deterrence of environmental crimes.	1			
The State must provide a streamlined and easily accessible system of small grants, information and support for the public to undertake biodiversity action on residential properties	Ignored	There are no such grants.				
The State must provide funding and infrastructural supports to local community and voluntary groups, including the settled and nomadic Traveller community, and other groups engaged in actions addressing biodiversity loss and restoration, e.g. managing invasive species, participating in citizen science, creating biodiverse spaces, and protecting and monitoring the health of the local environment, etc	Implemented	Such schemes are available.	1	2		
The State must continue to promote and support the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan as a way of supporting communities and individuals to contribute to biodiversity initiatives.	Implemented	Work is ongoing on this front.	1	2		
The State must align initiatives in Rural Regeneration and Development with local, community-based biodiversity activities.	Ignored	While this fund could in theory go toward biodiversity initiative, biodiversity does not feature in the information regarding the fund on gov.ie.	1			
The State must ensure the expansion of community gardens and allotments through local authority initiatives in conjunction with private landowners, in both urban and rural communities.	Implemented	The planning guidance for local authorities includes reference to community gardens.	1			
The value of NGOs engaged in biodiversity should be recognised in early consultations on all relevant plans, policies and projects.		There is no evidence one way or another on early engagement across all relevant plans, such as the housing plan. This has been excluded from figures on government uptake of these recommendations.				
NGOs engaged in biodiversity should be appropriately funded in the short, medium and long-term to undertake targeted schemes with measurable outcomes and strict accountability measures.	Ignored	There is no long-term funding for NGOs on a multi-annual basis.				
Core funding should be provided for collaborative work between NGOs and their partners.	Ignored	The provision of core funding is described as 'limited'.	1			
The public must be encouraged to live in a way which reduces their impact on biodiversity loss. The State must develop public awareness and engagement campaigns on biodiversity and biodiversity loss, to educate people on the fundamental role of biodiversity in our lives and provide resources to inform people on what they can do in their own lives to support biodiversity.	Ignored	The government has claimed to fulfil this recommendation via the education outreach of the NPWS, but the NPWS has not been staffed for this purpose to the level promised in the 2020 Programme for Government.	1	2		

Non-Sector Specific Recommendations of the Citizens Assembly on Biodiversity	Status	Notes	Source	Source		Key
The State must develop an interactive website and app with easy-to-understand information on how the State and EU work together on environmental issues, where Ireland adheres to EU directives and the penalties of non-adherence. It should provide examples of good practice, information on what individual citizens can do, and details on who to contact for various issues. The website should highlight what collective action is occurring locally that people can participate in.	Ignored	There is no such centralised website or app.				
The State must establish a public information campaign to promote the benefits of buying local and seasonal produce.	Implemented	Bord Bia do work in this regard.	1			
Local authorities should play a central role in informing people of the importance of biodiversity in their areas.	Ignored	Again, there isn't yet a biodiversity officer in each Local Authority.				
There should be mandatory and ongoing biodiversity training provided for any civil or public servant whose work impacts on wildlife and biodiversity	Ignored	The government seeks to achieve this via Local Authoritybiodiversity officers, but it would not be across all levels of the civil and public service.	1			
The Natura 2000 biodiversity sites provide opportunities for education for local communities. A programme should be established to promote awareness of the importance and vulnerabilities of these sites	Implemented	There is such a programme.	1			
The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NWPS) should be funded to expand its education remit to make the public more aware of the importance and current conservation status of our protected habitats and species.	Ignored	The NPWS has not been staffed for this purpose to the level promised in the 2020 Programme for Government.	1	2		
Children and young people are integral to ensuring the environment is protected. In line with the current National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development – ESD to 2030, theDepartment of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth with the Department ofEducation, the Teaching Council, the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, and theTeacher Education Support Service(s) should continue to engage in meaningful curriculum reformand teacher education to explicitly incorporate teaching and learning on biodiversity in earlychildhood, primary and post-primary curricula.	Ignored	Biodiversity is not a part of school curricula. The Higher Education Authority Act 2022 makes reference to the promotion of environmental development including re: biodiversity, but includes no specific actions for its promotion. The Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development contains no specific action related to promoting education on biodiversity or biodiversity related initiatives. Biodiversity projects have been funded in schools.	1			
In line with the current National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development - ESD to 2030, the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Scienceand relevant agencies, such as the National Skills Council, Regional Skills Fora, Expert Groupon Future Skills Needs, SOLAS etc., should work with further and higher education providersto develop a greater number of easily accessible further and higher education programmes, apprenticeship and community-based education related to biodiversity and environmentalsciences	Ignored	There is no specific work being done for the creation of these programmes.	1			
School grounds and local public amenities need to be developed as a support to a diverse and meaningful nature education. In line with this, basic biodiversity training for school staff, including maintenance and grounds staff, should be rolled out on a national basis.	Ignored	While biodiversity training is available to teachers it is not mandatory, and school grounds have not been developed for biodiversity.				
The Green Schools Initiative should be reformed to ensure nature and biodiversity feature in the initial stages of the programme.	Implemented	This has occurred.	1			
The State must develop a research strategy to support the national and EU Biodiversity, soil and water strategies, involving all agencies, higher-education institutes and other organisations.	Ignored	There are no such grants.				
The State must create, publish and maintain an integrated habitat, species and land-usage map for the island of Ireland to identify habitat loss and improvement, to support local community awareness and to inform policies and actions of state bodies and organisations.	Delayed	Such a map does exist but its publication was delayed, as was the review of its policy implications.	1			
The State must increase funding to bodies and agencies, including the National Biodiversity Data Centre, local authorities, and State agencies such as the Natural History Museum and Teagasc, to carry out research related to biodiversity.	Ignored	While funding is available for biodiversity research, the government hasn't increased funding to these organisations for that specific purpose.				
The State must fund a programme of work to promote and support citizen science (scientific research conducted with participation of the public) on biodiversity-related research.	Implemented	Such a fund exists.	1			
The National Biodiversity Data Centre must be established on a statutory basis, its funding secured, and its role enhanced, particularly with regard to data generation, education, community engagement and citizen science	Ignored	NBDC not on statutory footing, it is a CLG.				
Increased funding should be made available for the research of new and emerging best practices that offer alternatives to overexploitation of natural resources.	Implemented	Such schemes exist.	1			
The State must prioritise the shift to all forms of renewable energy to achieve decarbonisation, while ensuring that these developments undertake full consideration of local biodiversity, do not negatively impact biodiversity and enhance biodiversity wherever possible.	Ignored	The shift to renewables has been inadequate, and the government has restricted access to environmental justice.				
The State should ringfence a percentage of funds raised through all energy production for biodiversity conservation measures	Ignored	There are no plans for this specific measure.				