



IRISH  
FORUM  
ON  
NATURAL  
CAPITAL

*in association with*

20  
YEARS

BUSINESS  
IN THE  
COMMUNITY  
IRELAND

# Irish Business and Biodiversity

Webinar

6<sup>th</sup> October 2020, 10-11am



Live Tweeting @NatCap\_Irl #BizBioIrl

# Agenda

**10.00-10.05** - Introduction and welcome – Orlaith Delargy, Irish Forum on Natural Capital

**10.05-10.15** - Rationale for project, overview of Ireland's national biodiversity objectives, forthcoming policies - Deirdre Lynn, DHLGH

**10.15-10.30** - Project main findings – Craig Bullock, Optimize

**10.30-10.45** - Industry case study – Carmel Brennan, Environmental Advisor, SSE

**10.45-11.00** - Q&A – Moderated by Cillian McMahon, Business in the Community Ireland





# Business and Biodiversity

Summary of on-line survey results  
Some observations from interviews.



An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta  
Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage

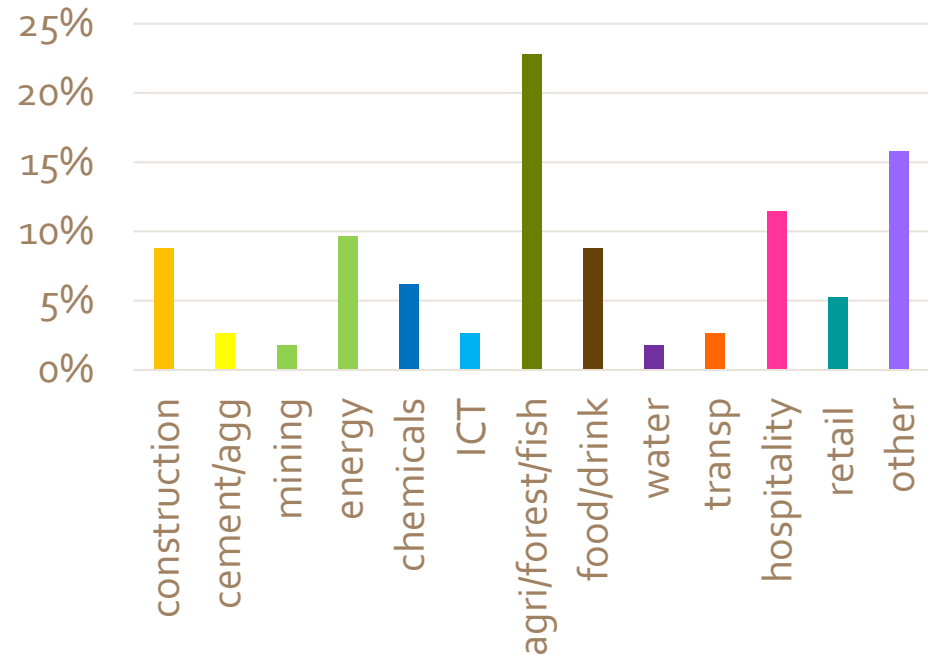
DBE  
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Craig Bullock - *Optimize*



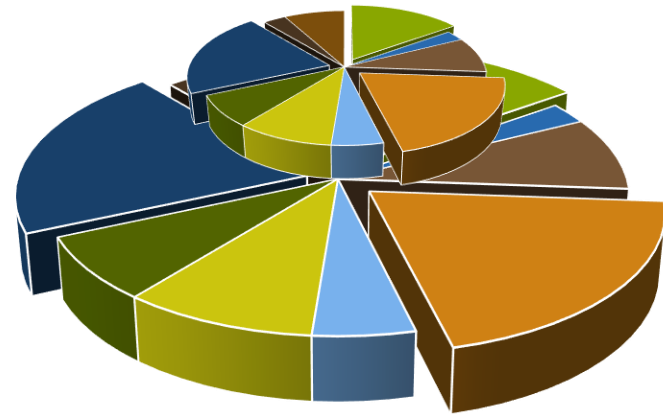
# 1. Replies by sector

- Most replies (26) to date have come from Agriculture/Forestry/Fisheries
- Also hospitality and tourism, energy, food & drink, and construction
- Would like to learn from more businesses who are at the start of their biodiversity journey
- And from sectors where there is much potential, e.g.
  - More food/drink, and retail
  - More agri-business
  - More cement, aggregate and horticultural companies.



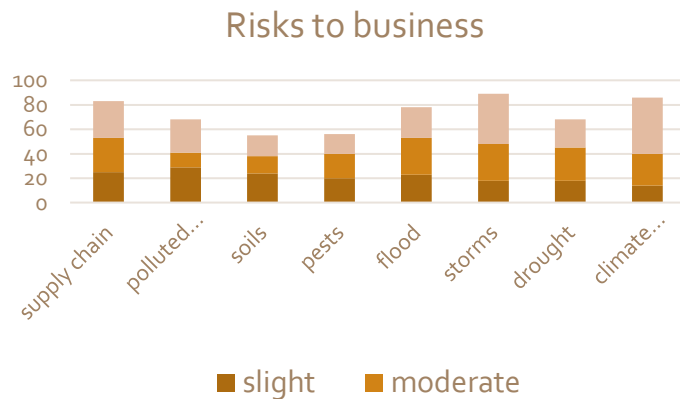
## 2. Dependence on natural products

- Many businesses acknowledged their dependence on natural heritage, e.g. landscape, especially for the tourism sector
- Also water quality & agricultural commodities
- May under-estimate dependence
  - Can manage water quality through treatment facilities, but also depends on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem
  - Same 'ecosystem services' at work in soils
  - Fisheries depend on wild catch and the marine ecosystem
  - Natural fibres include wool and cotton.



- agri commods
- natural fibres
- fisheries
- water quality

### 3. Perceived environmental risks to businesses



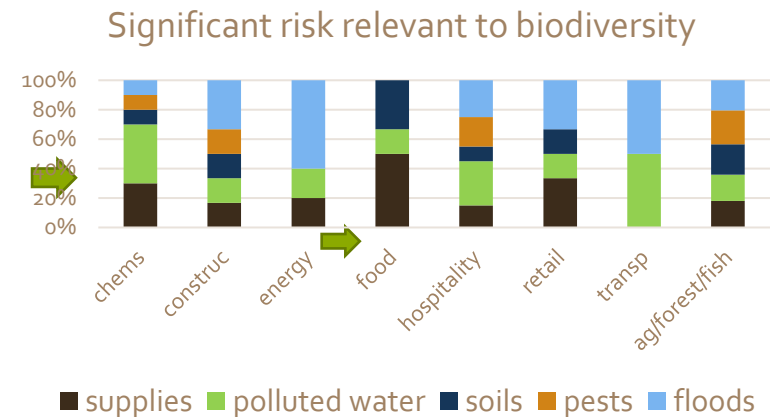
#### By sector:

Interruptions to supply chains in food and retail.  
Or water quality or pollution in chemicals and pharma

- Left = biodiversity risks, right = climate change
- Investment in natural ecosystems can reduce risk to water and soils, but also from climate change related risks of flooding, and potentially also storms and drought.

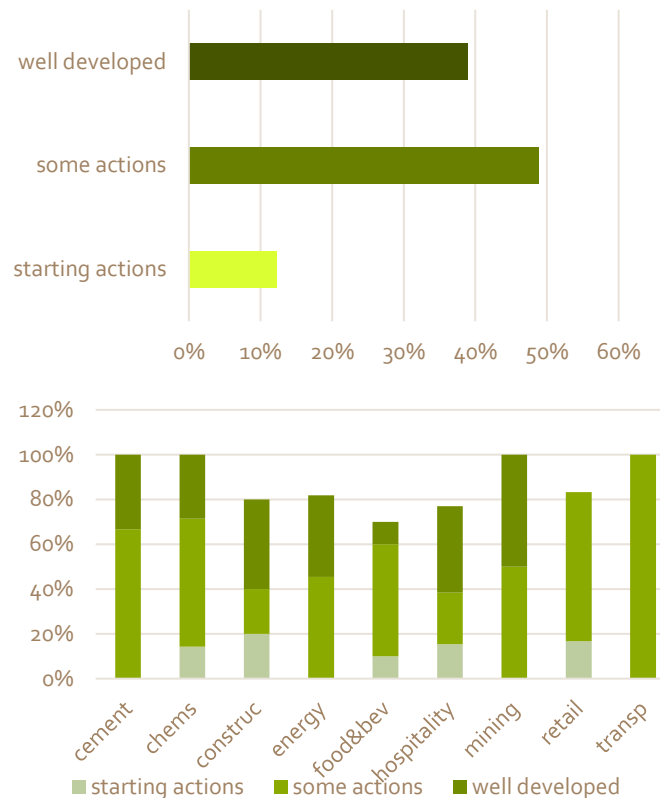
#### Largest risks due to:

- Interruptions to supply chains
- Storms and climate change



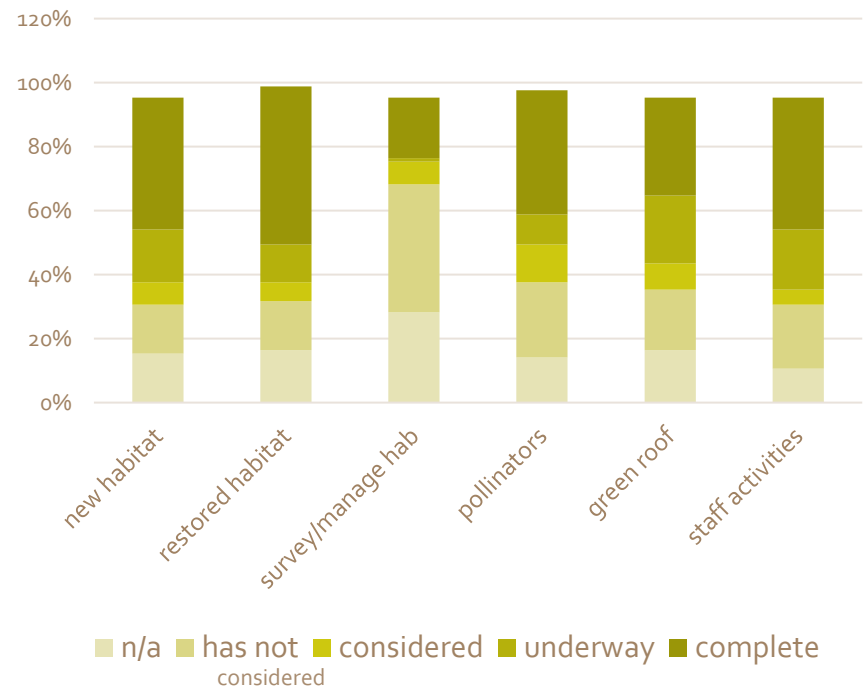
## 4. Actions for biodiversity

- A high proportion of companies have either taken some actions on biodiversity or have well-developed actions
- Second graph shows breakdown by sector
  - Most advanced in Mining
  - + Hospitality & Tourism, Energy, Construction, and Cement, Peat & Aggregates.
- Some self-selection inevitable



## 5. What actions have businesses undertaken?

- Figure shows on-site actions and proportions for which is “being considered”, “underway” or “complete”
- For some, on-site actions not applicable
- A good proportion have restored habitats, created new habitat, or planted shrubs/wildflowers for pollinators (All Ireland Pollinator Plan)
- Often engaging employees
- Or public (CSR)
- But few examples where has been functional, e.g. mitigating pollution, drainage, CO2 sequestration.

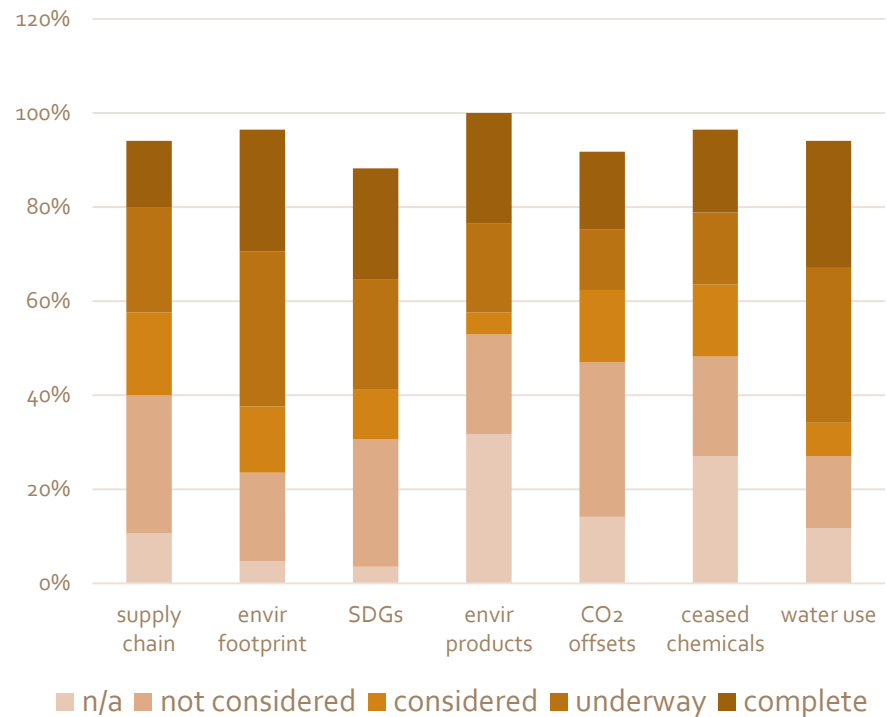




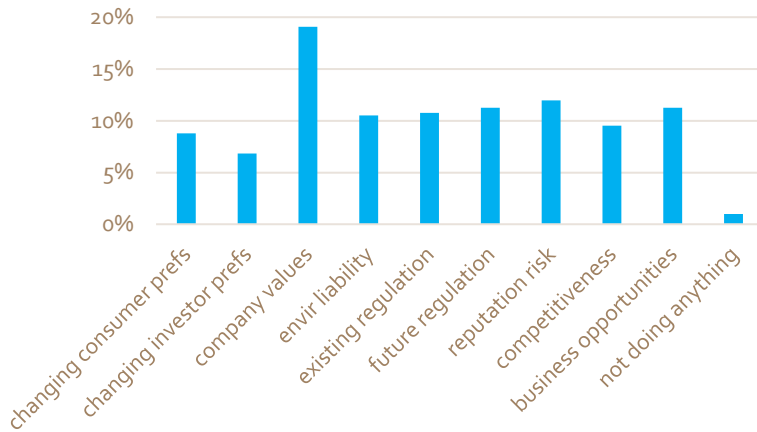
## 6. Other biodiversity actions and strategies

Other actions can include:

- Review of company's supply chain
- Examine company's environmental footprint
- Address UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Produced environmentally-friendly or organic products
- Offset CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- Ceased use of pesticides or other harmful chemicals
- Reduced water use.



## 7. Drivers to considering biodiversity

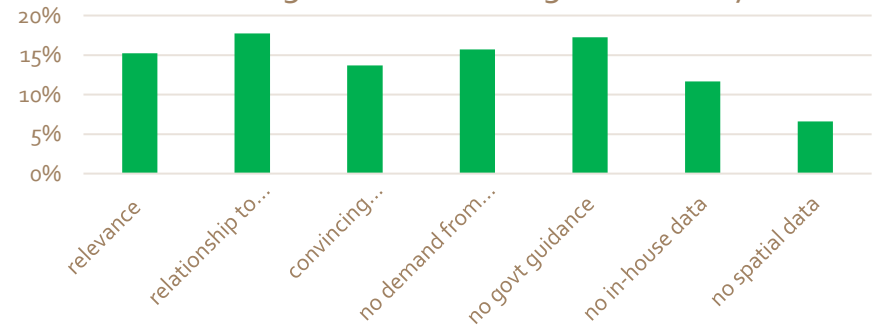


- Main driver is the company values, but also
- Reputational risk
- Environmental liability risk
- Business opportunity
- Possible future regulation
- Consumer or investor preferences.

### But also challenges to considering biodiversity:

- Understanding the relationship with sustainability
- Lack of government guidance
- No demand from customers, clients or in tenders
- Not knowing biodiversity's relevance to the business

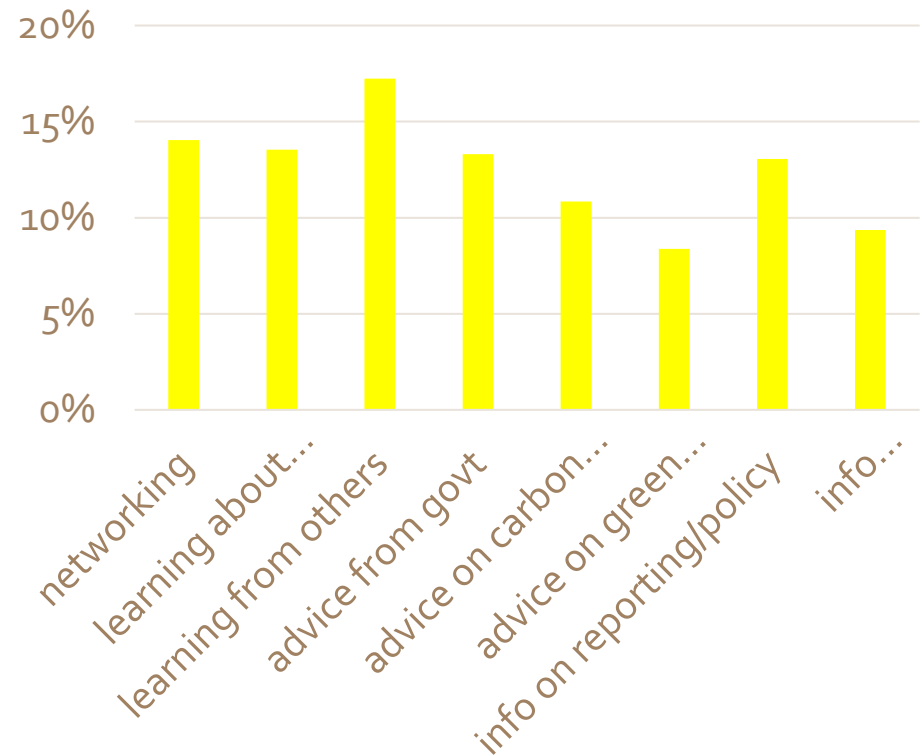
### Challenges to considering biodiversity



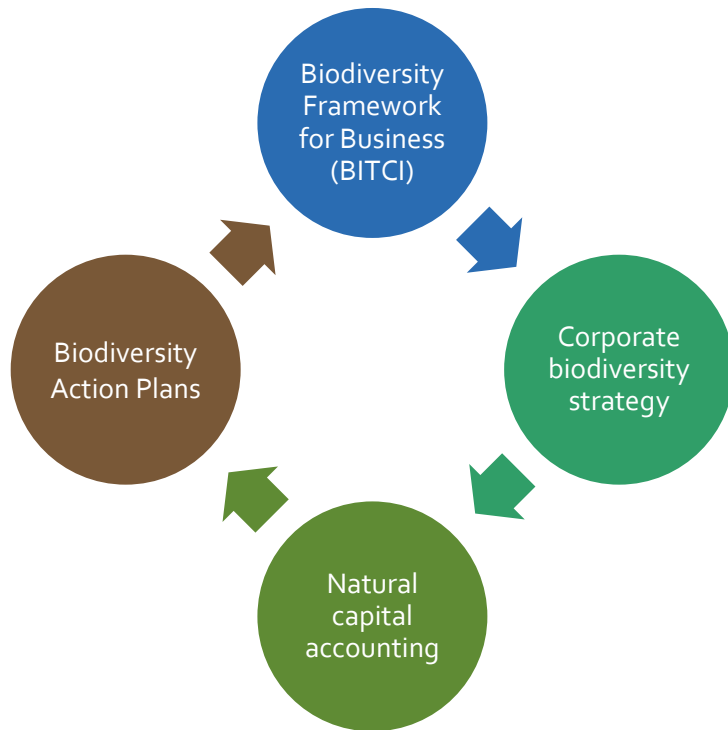
## 8. Perceived benefits of a “biodiversity hub” or forum

Numerous benefits suggested:

- Learning from other businesses
- Networking
- Business led, but supported with
- *Integrated* advice and guidance from government (DHLGH, DBEI, DAFM, DCCAE)
- Information of reporting obligations or future policy
- Learning about biodiversity
- Advice on carbon offsetting
- Information on links with sustainability or climate change
- Advice on green investment.



## Status, Best practice (international & Ireland) & Guidance for future



### Possible actions:

- Map habitats on site
- Undertake local biodiversity review
- Explore synergies between biodiversity and sustainability
- Synergies between climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Nature-based solutions
- Payments for ecosystem services (PES)
- Biodiversity offsets – no net loss



Irish Forum for Natural Capital  
Irish Business and Biodiversity Webinar

SSE Environmental Strategy: Policy, Practice and People

Carmel Brennan

SSE Renewables - Environmental Advisor



## Integrated sustainability into the core business strategy

SSE Core Business Strategy - four fundamental goals for 2030 based on the UN Sustainable Development Goals



### Cut our carbon intensity by 50%

Reduce the carbon intensity of electricity generated by 50% by 2030, compared to 2018 levels, to around 150gCO<sub>2</sub>/kWh.



### Help accommodate 10m electric vehicles

Build electricity network flexibility and infrastructure that helps accommodate 10 million electric vehicles in GB by 2030.



### Treble renewable energy output

Develop and build by 2030 more renewable energy to contribute renewable output of 30TWh a year.



### Champion Fair Tax and a real Living Wage

Be the leading company in the UK and Ireland championing Fair Tax and a real Living Wage.

## SSE Environmental Strategy





A photograph of a landscape featuring several white wind turbines on a brown, grassy moorland. In the background, a faint rainbow is visible against a cloudy sky. A large, semi-transparent white circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing text.

# Natural Environment

*You can't manage what you don't measure*

- Develop and implement a means of assessing Natural Capital and delivering Biodiversity Net Gain
- Targets - No Net Loss' on new infrastructure projects gaining consent in 2020 onwards for Transmission and 2023 for Renewables and achieving 'Net Gain' on projects gaining consent in 2025 onwards
- Identify opportunities and challenges in each region



## Protect and restore biodiversity

- Avoid, minimize and compensate
- Mitigate for construction impacts
- Historic and existing land use management





## Scottish large-scale construction and restoration

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Scale of projects is significantly different

Extensive forestry felling and peatland restoration



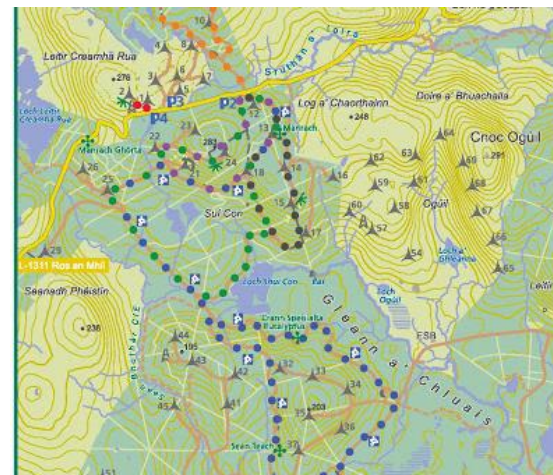
## Scottish large-scale Conservation Management Plans

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Regional Eagle Conservation Management Plan

Conservation Grazing Management Plan





**nature+**

Working with Nature to provide solutions to global sustainability challenges.



## Collaborative Initiatives

# Competitions and Events







Connect People with Nature

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## Sponsorship and Sustainable Education

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## Create simultaneous value for shareholders and society

Finance and investment funds – growing demand for sustainable investment

Management performance targets – linked to sustainability criteria

Practical measures – create a baseline with targets

Collaborate, innovate and network – find better ways to deliver your service

Community – staff, suppliers, management, customers, public engagement

Find new ways to communicate! So, in summary.....



















Thank you!

[www.comedywildlifephoto.com](http://www.comedywildlifephoto.com)

Q&A

Thank you for your participation.

And, if you haven't already, please take the survey!

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/LYC756/>