

Nature Network Ireland

# Mission & the Sustainable Development Goals



*Connecting communities with Ireland's natural heritage through education, research, and on-the-ground restoration.*

## Our Mission

Nature Network Ireland's work aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) specifically SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities & Communities), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and SDG 15 (Life on Land).

We actively contribute to these goals through accessible community and education awareness programmes, public events, and engagement with schools and people across all sectors. Our work connects communities with their local environment, builds knowledge, and promotes awareness of Ireland's natural heritage including the impacts on freshwater, marine, and terrestrial habitats, biodiversity loss, climate change, and the importance of sustainable lifestyles and environmental stewardship.

Through our engagement with local biodiversity plans and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, we actively advocate for the integration of biodiversity values into local and national decision making, acting as a community voice and bridge between national policy and community led action.

Our research and projects work to restore and protect native species and ecosystems, promote nature based solutions, and build ecological resilience in the face of climate related impacts, habitat loss, pollution, invasive species, and overexploitation.

We broaden our impact by bringing attention to key dates such as Earth Hour and World Environment Day, integrating these into our events and communications to increase engagement and motivate community action.

## Our SDG Commitments

**SDG 4****Quality Education**

We deliver accessible environmental literacy through school programmes, public events, and community engagement across all sectors building understanding of Ireland's biodiversity, climate challenges, and the natural world.

### SDG 11 Sustainable Cities & Communities

We connect people to local nature initiatives, support local biodiversity plans, and lead urban green space restoration making sustainability a lived reality in communities across Ireland.

### SDG 13 Climate Action

We build ecological resilience through nature-based solutions, peatland restoration, and climate awareness campaigns demonstrating how protecting nature and tackling climate change go hand in hand.

### SDG 14 Life Below Water

We protect Ireland's freshwater and marine habitats through riparian management, otter conservation, and public awareness of the pressures facing aquatic ecosystems.

### SDG 15 Life on Land

We restore native species and ecosystems, support pollinator populations through the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, and work to protect terrestrial biodiversity across Ireland's landscapes.

## Our Key Projects

Each of our projects directly supports one or more of the SDGs, delivering measurable impact on the ground and in our communities.

### Otter Project

Monitoring and protecting Ireland's otter (*Lutra lutra*) populations as a flagship indicator of freshwater ecosystem health. Otters depend on clean, well-managed rivers and wetlands making their conservation a barometer for the wider health of our aquatic habitats. Our work raises public awareness and contributes vital data on otter distribution and habitat quality across Ireland.

**SDG links: [SDG 14 \(Life Below Water\)](#) - [SDG 15 \(Life on Land\)](#)**

### Riparian Management

Restoring and managing riverbank habitats to support biodiversity, reduce erosion, filter pollutants, and improve water quality. Riparian zones are among Ireland's most biodiverse habitats, supporting a wealth of plant, insect, bird, and mammal species. Our riparian management work promotes nature-based solutions that simultaneously benefit wildlife, water quality, and climate resilience.

**SDG links: [SDG 14 \(Life Below Water\)](#) - [SDG 15 \(Life on Land\)](#) - [SDG 13 \(Climate Action\)](#)**

### Peatlands Project

Rehabilitating Ireland's degraded peatlands among the most carbon-rich ecosystems on earth and unique habitats for specialist plant and animal communities. Restored peatlands lock in carbon, reduce flood risk, and support rare species. Our peatlands project demonstrates the power of nature-based solutions in addressing climate change while restoring biodiversity.

**SDG links: [SDG 13 \(Climate Action\)](#) - [SDG 15 \(Life on Land\)](#)**

### Valuing Insects

Raising public awareness of the critical ecological roles played by insects and invertebrates from pollination and soil health to food web support. Through research, education, and community engagement, we highlight the often overlooked importance of Ireland's insect life and actively support the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, helping communities create insect-friendly habitats.

**SDG links: [SDG 15 \(Life on Land\)](#) - [SDG 4 \(Quality Education\)](#)**

### Restoring Nature Through Urban Green Spaces

Bringing biodiversity back into towns and cities by supporting communities in creating and enhancing urban green infrastructure from pollinator gardens and native planting to green corridors and community nature areas. Urban green spaces improve wellbeing, connect people with nature, and provide vital habitat for wildlife in built-up environments.

**SDG links: [SDG 11 \(Sustainable Cities & Communities\)](#) - [SDG 15 \(Life on Land\)](#) - [SDG 4 \(Quality Education\)](#)**

## How We Deliver Our Mission

### Community & Education

We design and deliver accessible programmes for schools, community groups, and the general public building environmental literacy and fostering a connection to Ireland's natural heritage across all ages and backgrounds.

### Policy Advocacy

We engage actively with local biodiversity plans, the All Ireland Pollinator Plan, and national environmental policy acting as a bridge between community led action and national decision making frameworks.

### **Research & Ecological Restoration**

Our on the ground projects protect native species, restore degraded habitats, and promote nature-based solutions contributing to ecological resilience and building the evidence base for effective conservation.

### **Public Awareness Campaigns**

We amplify key dates including Earth Hour and World Environment Day through social media, newsletters, and events bringing environmental issues to wider public attention and motivating sustained community action.

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## **Nature Network Ireland**

*Connecting communities with Ireland's natural heritage*

