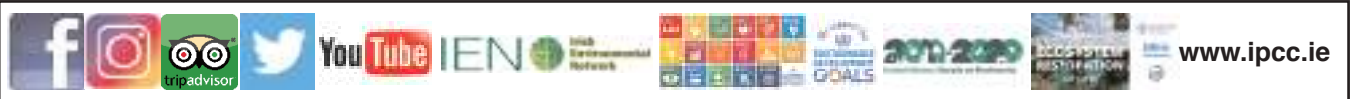




# Annual Report and Financial Accounts 2022

Irish Peatland Conservation Council



# Message from the IPCC Committee of Management

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council confirm that our organisation complies with the Governance Code for the community, voluntary and charitable sector in Ireland since 31st October 2021

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council's (IPCC) mission is to conserve a representative portion of Irish peatlands for people to enjoy now and in the future. We run the national Save the Bogs Campaign, we own six peatland nature reserves, located in Kerry, Kildare, Meath, Clare and Waterford, and we manage the Bog of Allen Nature Centre, which is open to visitors and school groups. We provide an extensive information service on our website, [www.ipcc.ie](http://www.ipcc.ie). IPCC has four members of staff and are supported by 100 volunteers. Four thousand individuals subscribe to our campaign. CHY6829 RCN20013547.



The Irish Peatland Conservation Council (IPCC) is delighted to present its Annual Report and Financial Accounts for 2022. This year marked 40 years of the IPCC taking action for, and giving a voice to, Irish peatland habitats and their associated ecosystem services.

IPCC would like to acknowledge and express its gratitude for funding received from Friends of the Bog, and from public, private and philanthropic groups. This funding was used to support its work to conserve a representative sample of Irish peatlands.

In 2022, the final report of the Review of the Use of Peat Moss in Horticulture was published. IPCC was disappointed with the report, and did not support the recommendations. The IPCC took action by hosting compost talks and opening an online survey to gather public perceptions regarding the use of peat.

Ultimately, 100% of the survey respondents reported considering the extraction of peat for horticulture as having a negative impact on peatland habitat and biodiversity.

The IPCC welcomed the establishment of the Citizen Assembly on Biodiversity Loss, and

engaged with the assembly-establishment process through making written submissions and presenting to the 100 participating citizens.

At the Bog of Allen Nature Centre, physical works, including the completion of the new outdoor classroom deck in the wildlife gardens, were completed. These were capitalised as assets in the financial accounts.

Several peatland research projects were undertaken, including:

- \* Re-instating the water-level monitoring at Girley Bog
- \* Reviewing the conservation status of peatland species
- \* Discovering Ketts Lough.

IPCC continued to monitor peatland sites nationally, responding to scoping and planning applications and making submissions regarding rehabilitation works on 13 Bord na Móna Peatland Climate Action Scheme (PCAS) sites.

The IPCC was recognised as a Volunteer Friendly organisation by Volunteer Ireland.

There were changes to the IPCC's Committee of Management and patrons. In July, the IPCC was saddened to learn of the passing of Pauline Bewick, who

had been a patron of the IPCC since 2009. Directors Rachel Kavanagh and Seán Ó Fearghail resigned from the Committee of Management, and at the AGM on May 11th the IPCC thanked them for the time they had given and the expertise they had brought to the Committee.

The IPCC welcomed Monty Don OBE as a new patron and John Lynch and Eugene Dunbar as Directors of the Council.

The voluntary Committee of Management held eight meetings in 2022. Topics of discussion included, but were not limited to, the regulation of IPCC's finances and operations and ensuring compliance with the Charities Regulator Governance Code.

The committee thanks the IPCC volunteers and staff who worked throughout the year to take action for and represent peatlands.

## 2022 Committee of Management IPCC

Rachel Kavanagh,  
Martin Kelly,  
Kate Macnamara,  
Miriam Mooney,  
Catherine O'Connell,  
Tiernan Murray,  
John Pierce,  
Seán Ó Fearghail  
Eugene Dunbar  
John Lynch

**Images: Pauline Bewick, RIP, was a patron of the Council since 2009. Bottom Left: IPCC welcomed Monty Don OBE as a new patron in 2022. Monty Don OBE has long campaigned for peat-free gardening. Photo credit: Marhsa Arnold.**

# Conserving and Protecting Peatlands in Ireland

Throughout 2022, the IPCC owned and managed six peatland nature reserves nationally.

A pair of Curlew returned to **Lodge Bog**, Co. Kildare, on March 7th. No breeding was recorded in 2022; however, supported by the NPWS, one of the Curlew was ringed and a solar-powered GPS transmitter was fixed, which helped provide insight into the movements of the Curlew over Lodge Bog. Twelve Large Heath butterflies and 55 casual wildlife observations from 14 species were also recorded on the reserve. A Moss Carder-bee (*Bombus muscorum*) was recorded on 30th July, a new species record for the site.

2022 was the second year of IPCC's participation in the National Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme on **Lullymore West**, Co. Kildare. Monitoring occurred monthly from March to October, with IPCC completing seven walks in total. Overall, 119 bumblebees from six species were recorded. These records include one new Bumblebee species for the reserve, the Gypsy Cuckoo Bee (*Bombus bohemicus*), which was recorded on July 26th.

In spring, a Marsh Fritillary larval nest count recorded 15 larval webs. On May 25th, the IPCC welcomed back Daisy and Ruby, two local

conservation donkeys, to graze the Purple Moor-grass and create varied sward heights of vegetation required by the Marsh Fritillary butterfly. The donkeys were removed on June 23rd, and positive results were observed with 57 autumn Marsh Fritillary butterfly larval nests recorded.

IPCC also continued to monitor butterflies on the reserve as part of the National Butterfly Monitoring Scheme, with 1,024 butterflies from 21 species recorded.

On May 21st, during National Biodiversity Week, the IPCC hosted a walk and talk on **Fenor Bog**, Co. Waterford, in partnership with the Moín Fhionnurach Development Association.

With support from local volunteers, water measurements were completed five times on **Coad Bog**, Co. Kerry. Nineteen wildlife records from 10 species were recorded, including Meadow Pipit, a red-listed species on the Birds of Conservation Concern. IPCC visited the reserve on May 17th and met with volunteers.

Funded by the Peatlands Community Engagement Scheme, IPCC re-instated water-level monitoring on **Girley Bog**, Co. Meath, post enhanced rehabilitation. Supported by Meath County Council, a biodiversity survey was

also completed, with 690 records from 77 species being recorded in 2022.

On June 27th, IPCC received a warm welcome to Doonbeg, where we met over 40 community members living in the surrounds of **Ketts Lough**, Co. Clare. 2022 was a year of discovery and promotion for Ketts Lough, with a new webpage launched on [www.ipcc.ie](http://www.ipcc.ie). An information poster and YouTube video were also designed and shared online. IPCC also met with Clare County Council and NPWS officials during the year.

At the **Bog of Allen Nature Centre**, with funding support from the Drehid Scheme and Kildare County Council, IPCC completed construction of an outdoor deck and replacement of raised beds in the wildlife gardens. Overall, 2,271 casual wildlife observations from 57 species were recorded throughout the year, with garden bird data submitted to BirdWatch Ireland's Garden Bird Survey 2022.

IPCC wishes to thank all volunteers who helped IPCC monitor and manage the nature reserves in 2022.

**Images from top: *Bombus muscorum* recorded on Lodge Bog; *Bombus bohemicus* recorded on Lullymore West; new information poster designed for Ketts Lough; student Nina Rogerson helping reinstate water-level monitoring on Girley Bog; and the new outdoor deck at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre. ©IPCC**



# Save the Bogs Campaign Achievements 2022



**2022 was the 40th anniversary of the Save the Bogs Campaign. A new Friend of the Bog booklet was designed with funding support from the Heritage Capacity Fund 2022.**

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council (IPCC) continues to campaign for the protection of peatlands in Ireland. This is communicated in a number of ways:

- \* Social-media
- \* Press releases
- \* Interviews
- \* Policy submissions and consultations
- \* Forming partnerships with environmental groups both locally and internationally
- \* Education programmes
- \* Publications
- \* Volunteer skill-sharing days.

## Lobbying

IPCC submitted letters to ministers Malcolm Noonan and Eamon Ryan in response to a call in Dáil Éireann to resume peat harvesting because of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the associated impacts to energy costs. IPCC highlighted that turbarry is not banned, and that horticultural companies must apply for planning

permission. Exempting peat extraction from planning would be disastrous in terms of sustainably managing our peat resources; we would lose biodiversity and all progress made so far in this regard would be negated.

## Nature Restoration Law

As part of the Environmental Pillar and Irish Environmental Network, IPCC had input on the drafting of the Environmental Pillar's policy position paper on the proposed Nature Restoration Law. The Pillar is encouraging that this law be introduced nationally, as Ireland has already ratified other nature laws that go beyond what is included in the Nature Restoration Law. The Nature Restoration Law would bolster and support all other legally binding restoration targets. The IPCC also co-signed, along with other European NGOs, a letter directed to the European Commission that outlined the importance of peatlands and requested that funding be increased to further restoration within the Nature Restoration Law

## National Biodiversity Conference and Citizen Assembly on Biodiversity Loss

IPCC attended the National Biodiversity Conference held at the Printworks in Dublin on June 8th and 9th. On day two, IPCC was invited to take part in a panel discussion on biodiversity and education in association

with the Heritage Council.

On October 16th, IPCC addressed the 100 members of the Citizen's Assembly on Biodiversity Loss. IPCC presented a three-minute virtual presentation on the status of peatland biodiversity and the steps that IPCC recommend be taken to halt the loss of peatland biodiversity.

## Heritage Ireland Conference

On October 24th, IPCC attended the Heritage Ireland Conference at Trinity College Dublin and hosted an information stand that allowed delegates to browse materials and engage with IPCC.

## Coillte's Strategic Vision for its Future Forest Estate

On September 21st, the IPCC attended, along with representatives of the Environmental Pillar, the head offices of Coillte in Co. Wicklow to discuss the draft Strategic Vision for Coillte's Future Forests. Coillte are the largest state body that own peatlands in Ireland. Afforestation of bogland has a devastating impact on all of the ecosystem services of peatlands, and the IPCC raised these concerns with Coillte at this discussion.

## European Peatland Initiative

On behalf of both the NPWS of the Department of Housing, Local Government and

Heritage and the Department of Food and the Marine, Bax and Company were contracted to undertake a project to investigate how a government-supported network could make a difference for peatlands at a European level. In connection with this project, IPCC took part in a virtual meeting with Bax and Company on May 26th.

## Peat Use in the Horticulture Industry Report

On January 17th, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage published the Peat Use in the Horticultural Industry report. The IPCC did not support the outcomes. While the working group identified viable alternatives to peat use, it went on to recommend that peat extraction continue to 2030 or 2035. With funding support from the Irish Environmental Network, IPCC issued a press release on January 19th and launched a survey to understand citizen perceptions regarding the use of peat in the horticulture industry. Ultimately, 100% of the survey respondents reported feeling that the extraction of peat has a negative impact on peatland habitat and biodiversity.

# Monitoring Peatlands in Ireland

Site Name, County	Issue	IPCC Action/Outcome
Allenwood South, Co. Kildare	Observation on proposed development.	The IPCC made an observation on a proposed e-motocross development planning application for a cutaway peatland. The Curlew that utilised IPCC's Lodge Bog Nature Reserve had been electronically tagged and had been recorded at the location of the proposed development. The IPCC did not object, but made observations that development should ensure that there are no detrimental impacts for the Curlew.
Cavemount Bog, Co. Offaly	Peatland Climate Action Scheme - Enhanced Rehabilitation	The IPCC asked Bord na Móna to quantify how climate-resilient the proposed rehabilitation will be in response to the wetter winters and dryer summers that are forecast for Ireland as a result of climate change. The IPCC would like to know the cost of the amenity in terms of biodiversity and carbon sequestration. IPCC highlighted impacts on peatland from nitrogen and asked Bord na Móna to monitor for nitrogen as it is an increasing issue.
Keerglen, Co. Mayo	Proposed Windfarm Scoping Consultation	The IPCC highlighted that only 33% of Co. Mayo's original range of peatlands remains, and that, although IPCC is not opposed to renewable wind energy, the developers need to ensure that no loss of important habitat or species occurs because of the development. Five designated sites of peatland conservation importance are located close to the proposed development. The IPCC also highlighted that nitrogen-deposition, the impact of the development on the Water Framework Directive, invasive species and the endangered Curlew must all be taken into account.
Clonad Bog, Co. Offaly	Peatland Climate Action Scheme - Enhanced Rehabilitation	The IPCC asked how climate-resilient the restoration and rehabilitation is compared to the effects of predicted climate change and considering that not all areas on the rehabilitation site are targeted for full restoration; how will this affect the recovery in terms of biodiversity? There are some raised-bog remnants outside the plan boundaries and IPCC feels that Bord na Móna could purchase these or encourage landowners to include these in the restoration.
Glenora, Co. Mayo	Proposed Windfarm Scoping Consultation	The IPCC highlighted that, as a result of developments, agriculture, peat extraction, drainage, afforestation, only 18% of peatlands nationally, and 33% of Co. Mayo's peatlands, are conservation-worthy. IPCC highlighted the Climate & Biodiversity Emergency and stressed that all must be done to reverse it. IPCC also highlighted issues with biosecurity, nitrogen deposition, bird species sensitive to windfarms and impacts to national monuments.
Derries Bog, Co. Offaly	Peatland Climate Action Scheme - Enhanced Rehabilitation	Bord na Móna may use <i>Sphagnum moss</i> to inoculate bare peat areas; IPCC highlighted that all species of <i>Sphagnum</i> are protected in Ireland and that Bord na Móna should liaise with the NPWS in this regard. While the Large Heath butterfly was not recorded within the rehabilitation site, Bord na Móna should monitor for this species, as it is predicted that the population size will decrease by 30% due to climate change. IPCC also asked Bord na Móna to conduct works with sensitivity towards ground nesting birds.
Dyrick, Co. Waterford	Proposed Windfarm Scoping Consultation	The IPCC highlighted that only 29% of Co. Waterford's peatland resource is in a conservation-worthy condition due to destructive practices such as turf-cutting, drainage, afforestation and agriculture developments. Under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act and the Climate Action Plan, Ireland has legal obligations to provide 80% of electricity via renewables. IPCC wish to see an habitat after-use restoration plan. IPCC also highlighted the BOGLAND EPA study, and stated that the developers need to be versed in the recommended actions.
Lodge Bog, Co. Kildare	Peatland Climate Action Scheme - Enhanced Rehabilitation	The IPCC supported the rehabilitation and enhanced restoration of Lodge Bog Wetlands, as this will support IPCC's restoration and management of Lodge Bog Nature Reserve. IPCC also gave support for the proposed National Peatland Park in the Ballydermot Works, which would support national conservation targets. IPCC has issues with the electrical substation proposed by Bord na Móna for the lodge rehabilitation area, as this would mean the loss of over 40ha of potential peatland conservation habitat. The IPCC also asked Bord na Móna to investigate the drying out of IPCC's drain on Lodge Bog Nature Reserve.
Milltownpass, Co. Westmeath	Proposed Windfarm Consultation	The IPCC highlighted four designated sites close to the proposed project area that may be impacted by works and operation of the project, particularly in regard to wildlife. The IPCC also listed the threats and impacts described within the IPCC Sites Database that have been recorded for the designated sites, and stated that the proposed project needs to assess these cumulatively. The IPCC also asked the project team to assess the project in terms of nitrogen impacts, biosecurity, National Monuments, Water Framework Directive and the BirdWatch Ireland Species Sensitivity to Windfarms (Barn Owl and Black-Headed Gull have been listed as being sensitive in this location).

Site Name, County	Issue	IPCC Action/Outcome
Derryclare, Co. Galway	EIAR Scoping Consultation, Derryclare Wild Western Peatland Restoration Project.	This is a Coillte Nature Peatland Restoration project where poorly implemented afforestation is being removed and the peatland is being restored because a second rotation - replanting - would damage neighbouring protected sites. IPCC supplied information from the IPCC Sites Database listing threats to the site and any previous restoration actions that had taken place. The IPCC implored Coillte to research the available red lists and survey for endangered species. Transition Mire, Lagg and Fen are more susceptible to ground pollution than ombrotrophic bog, and could be impacted by the restoration construction works.
Turraun Bog, Co. Offaly	Peatland Climate Action Scheme - Enhanced Rehabilitation	The IPCC asked Bord na Móna to assess the proposed amenity plans for this site in terms of its impact on biodiversity decline and how it impacts on the site's conservation potential and carbon-sequestration potential. The IPCC asked Bord na Móna to monitor the levels of dissolved organic carbon (DOC) leaving the site through drains, as this has been highlighted as an issue internationally and was not being taken into account. Monitoring of DOC must be ongoing so Ireland can correctly calculate its carbon emissions. Long-term monitoring should be a goal of the rehabilitation plan, and local stakeholders and the community should be engaged to help with this.
Ballydermot Amenity Plan, Co. Kildare and Co. Offaly	Bord na Móna proposed Windfarm	The IPCC raised concerns regarding the fragmentation caused by the extensive path network, which may impact successful re-wetting. The IPCC requested access to walk visitors to the Lodge Bog Nature Reserve via the cutaway, thereby removing the need to walk them along the R414. Have impacts of the amenity on conservation and biodiversity been quantified?
An Clochán, Co Donegal	Removal of peat to facilitate fencing	The IPCC submitted a planning enquiry and complaint to the NPWS concerning removal of peat during the ground-bird nesting season by a member of public to facilitate the erection of fencing. The habitat in question is within the red grouse farm plan scheme. NPWS stated that fencing is exempt from section 40 of the Wildlife Act, as it is a normal farming activity. Donegal County Council initiated an investigation, as to which IPCC is still waiting for a response.
Killyconny Bog SAC, Co. Cavan-Meath	Development works within SAC	The IPCC submitted a complaint to county councils and the NPWS, as a member of the public had informed IPCC that a stone bridge had been erected, drainage initiated and soil dumped within the boundary of the Special Area of Conservation, actions that require ministerial consent. These actions had already been highlighted to the NPWS and ministers. No finalised outcome as of yet.
Mounds Bog SAC, Co. Kildare	Development works within SAC	A member of the public informed the IPCC that there has been ongoing destruction of the designated site, including the removal of vegetation and trees during the ground-bird nesting season. IPCC notified Kildare County Council and are still waiting for a response.
Shelmalere Windfarm, (Waterford City to Arklow)	Proposed Off-Shore Windfarm	On-shore/terrestrial infrastructure and construction has the potential to impact on sensitive habitats along the proposed routes through pollution, loss of habitat, and fragmentation (on-shore energy storage facilities and cabling, haulage routes). The proposed project needs to have a plan to manage the threats of invasive species, including their management, monitoring and removal. Haulage routes are a vector for the movement and spread of invasives, and there must be good biosecurity measures. The project team requested the IPCC's thoughts on a 250m setback buffer from peat soils. IPCC engaged with An Taisce and ascertained that the project team must prove that this is sufficient.
McDonald's	Sustainability Consultation	Planet Positive are conducting a consultation to gather stakeholders' responses regarding the sustainability of McDonald's operations. The IPCC highlighted the importance of sustainability in food production and the impact using peat has on the environment, as well as the need to ensure that the landscaping of food outlets is peat free.
Muilagh, Co. Meath	Industrial extraction of peat	A member of a community group highlighted to IPCC that industrial extraction has increased in the last few years; the community are phasing out turf cutting and are not sure if the industrial extraction that is occurring is legal. This was reported to the EPA to see if there was a licence tied to this activity, and the IPCC also submitted a planning enquiry to the County Council and the EPA. IPCC are waiting for a response.
Corryrouke, Co. Cavan	Industrial extraction of peat	IPCC submitted a planning enquiry to Cavan County Council and the EPA regarding an industrial operation for the extraction of peat. The area has clearly been extended, as is visible via online mapping services. The EPA will check to see if there is a licence and whether the operation is above the threshold and requires regulation. EPA have sent an enquiry letter to the peat-extraction company.

# Protecting Peatlands in Ireland

## Irish Peatland Conservation Council made submissions to the following Policies and Consultations in 2022

- 1. NPWS Strategy Statement Consultation** - IPCC made recommendations on what should be the biggest strategic goals and what are the biggest challenges as they restructure and re-form the organisation.
- 2. Climate Action Plan 2023 Consultation** - The Irish Peatland Conservation Council highlighted the importance of raised bogs, blanket bogs and fens as native habitats, and the benefits they provide. The IPCC also gave a list of twelve of the most important actions considered necessary if we are to reverse the impacts of climate change.
- 3. Call for Expert Evidence for the Citizen's Assembly on Biodiversity Consultation** - The IPCC highlighted how peat extraction has never been regularised and suffers from a variety of impacts. The IPCC described the issues surrounding incomplete designation of the raised bog Natural Heritage Areas and the ongoing impacts to the Special Areas of Conservation peatlands.
- 4. National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023 Consultation** - The IPCC highlighted the importance of the various types of peatlands, and also asked for more inter-governmental and cross-border government cooperation in regards to biodiversity recovery and climate change mitigation. The IPCC also supplied the IPCC roadmap of the twelve most important actions that would go some way to reversing biodiversity loss and mitigating climate change.
- 5. Second draft Interim Forestry Service Certification Consultation** - The IPCC made comments and proposed amendments such as including monitoring for unauthorised peat extraction and drainage. The IPCC asked that they take into account the sensitivities of fens and lag zones, as runoff from construction works and felling can impact them. Plantations on peat soils also need to be removed and the habitat restored where possible.
- 6. National Outdoor Recreation Strategy Phase 2** - The IPCC noted that not all conservation areas need to have amenity, as this lowers the effectiveness of conservation. Impacts such as erosion caused by trampling need to be managed and amenity only developed if it does not hinder the conservation and biodiversity aims of the site.
- 7. Invasive Alien Species (EU Com. & IUCN) Survey** - The IPCC highlighted international knowledge gaps relating to invasive species on nature reserves.

## Casework

In 2022, the IPCC responded to nineteen site issues (see pages 4 & 5) and made submissions on seven policy documents (see table inset).

## Peatlands Council

No Peatlands Council meetings were held in 2022, the IPCC remains a member of this committee.

## Special Areas of Conservation Appeals Board

There were no meetings of the board in 2022.

## Living Bog LIFE Raised Bog Restoration Project

The IPCC attended one meeting of the advisory board, on February 28th, and the virtual end of LIFE conference, which was held on March 8th.

## RAMSAR Wetlands Committee

The IPCC attended four meetings, three virtual and one physical. The IPCC also hosted a walk and talk for International Wetlands Day on Pollardstown Fen in partnership with the NPWS ranger for the site and the EPA officer who is responsible for monitoring Pollardstown Fen. The IPCC has also had input on the formation of a draft Irish Ramsar National Wetlands Policy document outlining the functions and aims of the Irish Ramsar Committee.

## Irish Environmental Network

The IPCC is a member of the Irish Environmental Network (IEN), and attended the IEN Members' Workshop regarding the IEN Strategic Framework, which reviewed the changes made during the evaluation. The IPCC asked for further clarity regarding the difference between IEN and the Environmental Pillar.

## Abbeyleix Technical Advisory Group

The IPCC attended one meeting in 2022. Topics discussed included the results of a study comparing historical peat depths across the site and how the bog has changed over time. Restoration of Abbeyleix Bog commenced and the areas targeted were discussed, as well as who had been awarded the contracts to conduct the works. The impacts of the quarry on the site were also discussed.

## Sustainable Water Authority Network (SWAN)

The IPCC attended the Plenary and AGM in 2022. There has been focus on the publication of the River Basin Management Plan and areas where it is falling short in ambition; only half of the eighteen recommendations SWAN has made on the consultation have been addressed. A social-media campaign was planned but shelved due to ongoing meetings with the Department.

# Protecting Peatlands in Ireland

## Interreg North-West Europe, Care-Peat

As part of this project, the IPCC completed the first year of the *Sphagnum moss* transfer monitoring on Cloncrow Bog SAC. The IPCC also met with students from Rochfortbridge Post Primary transition year who had helped the IPCC complete the transfer in 2021.

## Irish Peatland Society

The IPCC took part in the Irish Peatland Society Peatland Gathering event during October 11th–13th. Peatland representatives from Ireland were joined by international members of the International Peatland Society to visit a number of Irish peatland project sites over the three days. Project sites visited included the FarmPEAT project, which is helping farmers in Clonboley, and the Community Centre in Mountbellew and Carrownagappul Bog SAC, Co. Galway, which were part of the Living Bog LIFE project. Participants also engaged with the Wild Atlantic Nature Project LIFE and blanket bogs in Ballycroy, the Bord na Móna Oweninney windfarm and associated visitor

centre and a Coillte restoration site (Derry Blanket Bog). The final day included a visit to the Klasmann Deilmann peat-processing facility in Glenlough, where the group received a tour of the facility. The gathering was successful, as varying aspects of peatland were explored and issues surrounding restoration and management were discussed.

## Irish Upland Forum

IPCC attended eight meetings in 2022, supporting the committee with raising concerns regarding peatland habitat and biodiversity and securing funding opportunities.

## Wild Atlantic Nature LIFE IP Pilot Primary School Programme

In partnership with the Heritage Council, the IPCC was invited to work on the development of a primary school pilot programme for this important blanket bog LIFE IP project. The work included development of a teaching resource manual, a PowerPoint presentation to support Heritage in School Specialists to deliver the programme, images and text for a Wild

Atlantic Nature plant identification swatch and delivery of two workshops in Ballycastle and Mulranny, Co. Mayo.

## National Peatlands Park

In 2022, IPCC further promoted the establishment of a National Peatlands Park in County Kildare, and made a submission on the County Kildare Development Plan 2023 open consultation. IPCC also submitted on the following proposed material alterations. The National Peatland Park is now mentioned multiple times within the draft Development Plan, but final publication is not due until the end of January 2023. The National Peatlands Park group also met with the County Kildare Senior Planner and the Heritage Officer at Lullymore Heritage and Discovery Park to hear their views on the benefits of the Park and how utilising the extensive cutaways left after the cessation of state-managed industrial peat extraction would benefit the county's aims in sustainable development, green economy, carbon protection and biodiversity-decline reversal.

## Environmental Pillar Representatives Group

The IPCC started 2022 with the first meeting of the Environmental Pillar, which focused on preparation for an upcoming meeting with Minister Noonan regarding the overhaul of the NPWS and his liaising with IEN Members and the Environmental Pillar. In the actual meeting with Minister Noonan, the IPCC asked when the National Peatlands Strategy Review was due to be published, what gains have been made regarding ending peat use within the horticultural industry, and when we can expect the re-configuration of the NHA Raised Bog Network to be finalised. The Environmental Pillar also met with Minister Eamon Ryan (IPCC not present) in 2022, and the IPCC asked the Pillar to highlight to the Minister that Carbon Credits would go some way towards funding the restoration of the 69% of privately owned peatland if the Government introduced it to the only source of fuel that is not taxed.



Images from left: IPCC staff attended the Irish Peatland Society's annual gathering, visiting a number of peatland sites, including a site in Ballycroy, Co. Mayo, where an introduction to the Wild Atlantic Nature LIFE IP habitat score card was provided. The IPCC also worked on the development of a pilot primary school education programme with the Heritage Council in 2022. © Nuala Madigan



# Peatland Awareness, Education and Training

**Images: Supported by the IEN Three peatland flora videos including those of fen, blanket bog and raised bog were created and uploaded to IPCC's YouTube channel to celebrate National Biodiversity Week 2022.**

The Bog of Allen Nature Centre is a gateway for the IPCC's awareness, education and training programmes. Offering in-house, virtual and outreach peatland education initiatives allows us to reach a greater audience and promote peatland protection.

## **Bog of Allen Nature Centre Visitor Attraction**

In 2022, the IPCC welcomed to the Bog of Allen Nature Centre 605 students from 18 primary and post primary schools and 158 students from eight international groups. Additionally, 432 independent visitors visited the Bog of Allen Nature Centre in 2022.

## **Féile an Dúlra**

This is the IPCC's festival of nature, hosting free public engagement days throughout the year. In 2022, events were hosted to celebrate World Curlew Day, National Spring Clean, Earth Day, Biodiversity Week, Heritage Week and International Bog Day. On International Bog Day, July 24th, the IPCC welcomed over 80 visitors to the Bog of Allen Nature Centre with events on the day including an exhibition by the National Reptile Zoo, a bog walk to Lodge Bog, and a talk on the Save the Bogs



Story.

## **Biodiversity Week**

Supported by the IEN to celebrate National Biodiversity Week, IPCC created and uploaded three videos to the IPCC YouTube channel featuring peatland plants from raised bog, blanket bog and fen habitats. The videos reached 805 people on IPCC's Facebook page and garnered 121 views in total on IPCC's YouTube channel. The IPCC also delivered three in-person peatland-themed family friendly talks called 'The Wonderful World of Peatlands' at the Tralee Bay Wetlands in County Kerry, and hosted walks on Lullymore West, Fenor and Girley Bog nature reserves.

## **Heritage Week**

Two events organised by the IPCC for Heritage Week 2022 were affected by an extreme weather event, with temperatures reaching 30 degrees Celsius. As peatlands are open landscapes, attendance from members of the public was discouraged. Events affected included 'Exploring the Fragility of Bogland Biodiversity', a walk and talk scheduled for

Lodge Bog Nature, and 'Exploring the Water, the Blood of the Bog and Peatland Biodiversity', an event planned for Girley Bog Nature Reserve. The IPCC did publish a video called 'Discovering Ketts Lough', which showcased the habitat and biodiversity of the recently purchased Kett's Lough Nature Reserve in Co. Clare, and hosted a walk and talk with artist Martina O'Brien, showcasing her work in photographing Lodge Bog South every day for a year.

## **Culture Night 2022**

On the evening of the September 23rd, Culture Night 2022 was celebrated at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre. The IPCC partnered with The Kildare Folklore Group for an evening of local memories and folk stories, including a ghostly tale from the Bog of Allen Nature Centre.

## **Partnerships**

The IPCC have continued to partner with organisations and help communities form strong relations. These include SEAI, Heritage in Schools, local authorities and libraries, through which

a variety of peatland-related initiatives were completed.

## **Heritage in Schools Scheme of the Heritage Council**

In 2022, IPCC delivered to 18 schools physical and virtual workshops entitled 'Bogs in the Classroom'. The Bogs in the Classroom workshop was also presented to Heritage Specialists at Lough Boora Parklands, Co. Offaly, during the annual Heritage in Schools network meeting on July 1st.

## **Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland**

The IPCC delivered 66 physical and virtual SEAI school workshops in 2022. The IPCC also delivered one teacher-training CPD workshop in Kildare Education Centre and attended two meetings.

## **Beauty of Bogs Booklet**

On February 8th, 2022, the IPCC presented an online peatland talk at the launch of the Beauty of Books booklet, which was prepared by North, East and West Kerry Development.

# Peatland Awareness, Education and Training



**Images: Bogland walks, talks and information stands are all methods used by the IPCC to engage community members with peatlands.**  
© Nuala Madigan

## **Trinity Green Week**

The IPCC presented an online peatland talk on February 23rd as part of Trinity Green Week 2022.

## **EcoWeek 2022**

In partnership with South Dublin County Council, the IPCC delivered three physical and two virtual peat-free workshops with primary schools in March.

## **National Museum of Ireland**

The IPCC delivered six virtual peatland visits in partnership with the National Museum of Ireland.

## **Clean Technology Centre**

The IPCC developed a biodiversity module in partnership with the Clean Technology Centre, who were designing an environmental course for Solas Ireland.

## **Monasterevin Community**

The IPCC worked with Monasterevin Tidy Towns to prepare a wildflower survey along the River Barrow, and facilitated a walk during Heritage Week. In partnership with Monasterevin

Sustainable Energy Community, the IPCC presented two talks on the theme of water and biodiversity at their event day on June 11th.

## **Choosing Peat Free**

The IPCC hosted an online compost talk on Earth day 2022 with funding from the IEN. In partnership with Limerick City and County Council, a compost information stand was hosted at the Limerick Show 2022.

## **Hop to It Frog Survey**

189 Common Frog records were added to the IPCC's database this year submitted by citizen scientists from all over the country. The IPCC now holds 6406 Common Frog records on our database, dating back to 1997. This information is critical when completing submissions on developments in locations where this species is found, as it is protected under the EU Habitats and Species Directives and the Irish Wildlife Acts.

**Rathangan Tidy Towns CSSI Project**  
IPCC hosted two

workshops with Rathangan Tidy Towns, introducing community members to the new Citizen Science Stream Index managed by the Local Authority Water Programme, which involves using freshwater invertebrates to estimate water quality.

## **Community Foundation for Ireland Biodiversity Fund 2022**

IPCC worked with three communities, Milltownpass, Pullough and Kilcullen, to develop Community Biodiversity Action Plans.

## **Kildare Heritage Grant and IEN Biodiversity Fund**

IPCC received funding from the Kildare Heritage Grant and the IEN Biodiversity fund to create a table of all the peatland species listed in the Threatened and Protected Species List published by the NPWS. Project results were uploaded to a new IPCC webpage on [www.ipcc.ie](http://www.ipcc.ie).

## **Bogland Talks and information stands**

IPCC hosted bogland walks, talks and information stands in

partnership with Killyconny Bog Project, Friends of Ardee Bog Bog Café, Office of Public Works, Phoenix Park Honey Show, Griston Bog c/o Ballyhoura Development Association, Milltownpass Family Fun Day and Corliskea/Trien/Cloonfelliv SAC, Co. Roscommon.

## **Heritage Council Capacity Fund 2022**

IPCC are grateful to the Heritage Council for funding the work of the IPCC in 2022. Funding received was used to support citizen science engagement days, including species and habitat monitoring, IPCC policy work and the design and publishing of the new 'Save the Bogs' booklet for Friends of the Bog.

## **National Lottery Good Causes Award**

In 2022, the IPCC's were both regional and national finalists in the National Lottery Good Causes Awards, for our work in peatland policy, research, education and the provision of citizen science and upskilling initiatives.

# Communicating Peatlands, Volunteers, Fundraising

## Irish Peatland Conservation Council Press Releases 2022

1. Hop To It This World Wetlands Day with IPCC

2. Government peatland policy at odds as they give with one hand and take with the other.

3. Home Composting - Taking action For Peatlands, Climate and Biodiversity

4. Irish Peatland Conservation Council wins AXA Community Award

5. The Irish Peatland Conservation Council, giving a voice and taking action for peatlands since 1982

6. Féile an Dúlra is Back

7. Celebrate National Heritage Week 2022 with IPCC

8. A Year in Review: IPCC's Action for Peatland Conservation

## Peatland News and Action for Bogs Magazines

The IPCC's annual publications Peatland News and Action for Bogs are vital in the IPCC's communication and supporter development work. Two printed issues of Peatland News and one



virtual issue of Action for Bogs were published in 2022.

### Press Releases

IPCC issued eight press releases on a diverse range of topics (see table to the left).

### Interviews

The IPCC was interviewed on KFM radio on World Wetlands Day, February 2nd, highlighting the importance of the eco-system services wetlands and launch of the Hop To It Frog Survey. On July 18th, a press interview was held with Associated French Press relating to turf sale restrictions in Ireland. KFM hosted a radio interview with the IPCC on July 22nd promoting International Bog Day. Interviews with the Irish Examiner and the New York Times for articles on the importance of peat-free horticulture were published in September.

### Volunteers

Throughout the year, the IPCC worked

alongside our dedicated volunteers at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre, our nature reserves and remotely. The work involved maintenance of the wildlife gardens, species and water-level monitoring, scrub clearance, research and writing of informative pieces to include in Peatland News, Marsh Fritillary larval web counts and habitat assessment, bio-diversity surveys, Large Heath butterfly survey and habitat assessment, freshwater invertebrate monitoring and weekly bumblebee surveys on Lullymore West.

The IPCC also hosted three students during their work placement in 2022, during which time they helped with habitat mapping and general tasks at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre.

The IPCC also acknowledge the volunteers who sort stamps in their homes in preparation for their sale.

### Fundraising

IPCC made fourteen successful funding applications in 2022. These applications were made to Kildare County Council Heritage, Festival and Community Grants; Meath County Council Heritage Grant Scheme; Drehid Community Scheme; South Dublin County Council EcoWeek; Heritage Council Capacity Support Fund; Heritage Council Community Grant Scheme; Peatland and Community Engagement Scheme; IEN Biodiversity Fund; Dublin Zoo; Flogas; TJX Europe and Bank of America.

Supporting peatland conservation the IPCC spring and autumn appeals were generously supported by our Friends of the Bog and advocates, who raised a total of €28,433.31 in revenue and donated of gift prizes towards the raffle, which raised €4,037. This year, we received 126 shop orders, with a total sale value of €8,125.

# Communicating Peatlands, Volunteers, Fundraising



Images: Wild Ireland Calendar 2023 designed by the IPCC in partnership with Flogas. Homepage of the Irish Peatland Conservation Council website and an example of a social media post water monitoring on Lodge Bog.

IPCC Online Presence	2020	2021	2022
Website Visitors	62,636	31,806	60,900
Facebook followers	3,734	3,976	5,442
Twitter followers	2,254	2,804	3,267
YouTube views	39,630	47,286	56,998
Trip Advisor Reviews	37	37	38
Instagram	698	1,144	1,433

## Website and Social Media

The IPCC have been very active on social media, and track the progress of the posts during the year. Overall, 161 posts were written and shared on Facebook and 158 on Instagram. From January 1st to December 31st, 2022, IPCC's Facebook posts reached 45,399 profiles (up 14% on the previous year), and the Instagram posts reached 3,499 profiles (up 35% on the previous year). Five videos were produced by the IPCC in 2022 and uploaded to YouTube. The topics included fen, blanket bog and raised bog plants, Discovering Ketts Lough and the

restoration works on Girley Bog Nature Reserve. The IPCC YouTube Channel now has 196 subscribers and received 352 views across the new videos in 2022.

The IPCC received a number of frog images from citizen scientists around the country who participated in the Hop To It Frog Survey. A selection of posts were uploaded to social media to display the wonderful images taken during the year. Planning submissions, events, reports and webpages are also continually updated on the IPCC website.

## Press, Publicity and Promotion

The IPCC provided weekly wildlife articles to the Leinster Leader, which has a readership of 5,000. The IPCC also submit two articles annually to the Allen Eye, which is distributed to 2,500 in the local area of the Bog of Allen Nature Centre.

Lodge Bog featured in an episode of Nationwide on RTÉ, promoting IPCC's engagement with the Midlands Science Festival.

IPCC's Biodiversity Week events were promoted in the Irish Times, which has a print circulation of 54,147 and a digital circulation of 24,389.

The IPCC were quoted in the Guardian, a newspaper with a circulation of 105,134, regarding the grievances experienced by rural communities as a result of the commercial turf-cutting

ban introduced in 2022.

The IPCC received good coverage from its attendance and input at the Citizen's Assembly on Biodiversity Loss, with RTÉ and The Journal both covering the points that IPCC had raised.

BirdWatch Ireland members magazine "Wings" featured an article written by BirdWatch Ireland Kildare branch regarding their work monitoring the Curlew on Lodge Bog.

## Wild Ireland 2023

With funding support from Flogas, IPCC published 3,300 copies of the 2023 Wild Ireland calendar, which includes photos and poems from supporters featuring Irish wildlife and memories.

## Top 5 IPCC Facebook Posts in 2022

Title	Reach	Likes
* Make Your own Compost	6231	79
* World Curlew Day	5529	80
* International Bog Day	3764	58
* Autumn Leaves	3672	102
* Giant Puffball	3653	183

# IPCC a Year in Review Collage



images: 1. World Curlew Day, Lodge Bog. © Brigita Gindvilyte. 2. Volunteers supported the IPCC install a temporary fence on Lullymore West Bog. © Paula Farrell. 3. The IPCC take part in a panel discussion at the National Biodiversity Conference. © The Heritage Council. 4. Community members surrounding Ketts Lough attend a meeting with the IPCC. © Nuala, Doonbeg Community Development. 5. Volunteers and staff undertaking a biodiversity survey at Girley Bog. © Paula Farrell. 6. The IPCC were a national finalist in the Good Causes Awards. © Nuala Madigan. 7. Biodiversity and Conservation MSc. students from Trinity College Dublin support the IPCC with work on Lullymore West Bog. © Paula Farrell. 8. Volunteer Myfanwy Humphreys IPCC volunteer at Coad Bog. © Paula Farrell. 9. The IPCC are awarded a Volunteer Friendly Award from Volunteer Ireland. © Nuala Madigan. 10. The IPCC attend the Irish Peatland Society annual conference. © Nuala Madigan. 11. The IPCC and Moín Fhionnurach Development Association host a walk on Fenor Bog during Biodiversity Week, 2022. © Paula Farrell.

# Thank You



## Companies, Agencies & Organisations

An Féar Gorta - Tea and Garden Rooms  
 An Taisce  
 Allen Eye  
 AXA Community Awards  
 Ballyhoura Heritage and Environment  
 Bank of America  
 BirdWatch Ireland Kildare Branch  
 Butterfly Conservation Ireland  
 C.B. & H.H. Taylor 1984 Trust  
 Celtic Roots Studio  
 Community Foundation for Ireland  
 Community Wetlands Forum  
 Creative Rathangan  
 Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage  
 Dublin Zoo  
 Flogas Ireland Ltd  
 Fota Wildlife Park  
 Friends of Ardee Bog  
 Fruit Hill Farm  
 Girley Bog Meitheal  
 HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust  
 Heritage Council  
 IEN Irish Environmental Network  
 International Peatland Society  
 Interreg North-West Europe Care-Peat  
 Irish Peatland Society  
 Irish Ramsar Wetlands  
 Committee  
 Irish Wildlife Trust  
 Johnstown Garden Centre  
 Jackie & Ed Keilthy Jewellery  
 Kildare Auditing and Accountancy Service  
 Killyconny Bog Project  
 Kildare County Council  
 KRA Visionary Project Partners  
 Laois County Council  
 Laois Offaly Education Training Board  
 Leave No Trace Ireland  
 Leinster Leader  
 Limerick City and County Council  
 Louth County Council  
 Mayo County Council  
 Meath County Council  
 Met Éireann  
 Michael Gorey Lullymore  
 Midland Science Festival  
 Móin Fhionnurach Development Association  
 Mountaineering Ireland  
 Monasterevin Tidy Towns  
 Munster Technological University  
 National Biodiversity Data Centre  
 National Parks and Wildlife Service  
 National Museum of Ireland  
 Patagonia  
 Peatlands Community

## Engagement Scheme

Peatlands Council  
 Rathangan Tidy Towns Revenue Commissioners  
 Roscommon County Council  
 South Dublin County Council  
 Sustainable Energy Association of Ireland  
 The Irish National Stud Company Ltd  
 The Drehid Grant Scheme  
 The Living Bog Raised Bog Restoration LIFE Project  
 The Vincent Wildlife Trust  
 TJX Europe  
 Local Authority Waters and Communities Office  
 Wetland Surveys Ireland

## Individuals

Angela Horn  
 Anne Talbot  
 Anthony Collins & Family  
 Catherine O'Connell  
 Catherine O'Dea  
 Christine Dibelius  
 Colin and Angela Nicholls  
 Conan Dynes  
 Dáithí Kimber  
 Daniel Bevans  
 Dilys Bateman  
 Edward Kelly  
 Eoghán Ó Loingsigh  
 Ferdi Haverland  
 Fred O'Callaghan  
 Helga & Mr Gerhard

## Foss

Janetta Lambert  
 Joe Coyne  
 John Walsh and Ms Margaret Francis  
 John FitzGerald  
 Kathrine Geoghegan  
 Liliás Riekstins  
 Lucy Mooney  
 Marie Heaney  
 Marion Coutts  
 Michael Tubridy  
 Michael Smurfit  
 Michael Lynch  
 Michael Burns  
 Miriam Tarbett  
 Niall Mac Coitir  
 Pauline Smyth  
 Richard Molloy  
 Rosamund Phillips  
 Ruaidhrí Breathnach  
 Sally Mimnagh  
 Sara Bourke and Mr John O'Gorman  
 Seamus and Mary Hart  
 Seán ó Fearghail and Gwynn Grace  
 Simon Broadhead  
 Susan Minet  
 Tom Chambers

## Legacies and In Memoriam Gifts

Eugene Kennedy  
 Judith Chaney  
 Janetta Lambert  
 Sally Mimnagh  
 Sheila MacGrath  
 Clodagh O'Connor  
 Yvonne Rogers

## Volunteers

Angela O'Connell  
 Anne Harrington  
 Brendan Wyse  
 Catherine FitzGerald

Chris Logan  
 Deirdre Flynn  
 Denis Judge  
 Edward Smyth  
 Elizabeth Cullen  
 Eugene Dunbar  
 Gwyn Grace  
 Ita Sherlock  
 Jerome Kelly  
 Jesmond Harding  
 Joe Kelly  
 John Fearn  
 John Lynch  
 John Pierce  
 Karin Klinkenberg  
 Kay O'Connell  
 Kate Macnamara  
 Kevin Dunne  
 Leo Nolan  
 Lesley Whiteside  
 Lorcan Scott  
 Lorraine Benson  
 Martin Crotty  
 Martin Kelly  
 Mick Barry  
 Miriam Mooney  
 Myfanwy Humfreys  
 Niamh Cowdell  
 Nina Rogerson  
 Petra Oorthuijs  
 Rachel Kavanagh  
 Sarah Johnston  
 Seán Ó Fearghail  
 Tiernan Murray  
 Tony McLoughlin  
 Veronica Anderson  
 Wilbert Gelens

## IPCC Staff

Nuala Madigan  
 Paula Farrell  
 Tristram Whyte  
 Emily Mangan  
 Brigita Gindvilyte

Company registration number: 116156

**The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG**  
**Financial statements**  
**for the financial year ended 31 December 2022**

**The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG**

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**The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG**  
**Company limited by guarantee**

**Directors and other information**

<b>Directors</b>	Dr. Catherine Fitzgerald Mr Martin Kelly Dr Rachel Kavanagh- Resigned 11/05/22 Ms Kate Macnamara Mr Sean O Fearghail - Resigned 11/05/22 Ms Miriam Mooney Mr Tiernan Murray Mr John G Pierce Mr John Lynch - Appointed 11/05/22 Mr Eugene Dunbar - Appointed 11/05/22
<b>Secretary</b>	Dr. Catherine Fitzgerald
<b>Company number</b>	116156
<b>Registered office</b>	Lullymore Rathangan Co. Kildare
<b>Business address</b>	Lullymore Rathangan Co. Kildare
<b>Auditor</b>	Kildare Audit & Accountancy Services 9 Eyre Street Newbridge Co. Kildare
<b>Bankers</b>	Bank of Ireland Lower Baggot Street Dublin 2
<b>Solicitors</b>	O'Shaughnessy Bairead Solicitors 1 Father Mc Wey Street Edenderry Co. Offaly

**The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG**  
**Company limited by guarantee**

**Directors and other information (continued)**

**Charity Number**

CHY6829  
RCN 20013547

## The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG

### Directors report

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

#### Directors

The names of the persons who at any time during the financial year were directors of the company are as follows:

Dr. Catherine Fitzgerald  
Mr Martin Kelly  
Dr Rachel Kavanagh- Resigned 11/05/22  
Ms Kate Macnamara  
Mr Sean O Fearghail - Resigned 11/05/22  
Ms Miriam Mooney  
Mr Tiernan Murray  
Mr John G Pierce  
Mr John Lynch - Appointed 11/05/22  
Mr Eugene Dunbar - Appointed 11/05/22

#### Principal activities

The company's principal activity continues to be the conservation of a representative sample of Irish peatlands, education and publicity, promoting environmental awareness, provision of information and encouraging the protection and conservation of our natural heritage for the common good.

#### Development and performance

Both the level of activity and the year end financial position were satisfactory during the year.

#### Assets and liabilities and financial position

Net Assets increased during the year due to the surplus of income over expenditure.

#### Principal risks and uncertainties

The company is well financed and supported currently through its cash reserve position. The primary risks to the company relate to the future income streams being impacted by a continued reduction in grant and donation income.

#### Accounting records

The measures taken by the directors to secure compliance with the requirements of sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 with regard to the keeping of accounting records are the implementation of necessary policies and procedures for recording transactions, the employment of competent accounting personnel with appropriate expertise and the provision of adequate resources to the financial function. The accounting records of the company are located at Lullymore, Rathangan, Co. Kildare.

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG

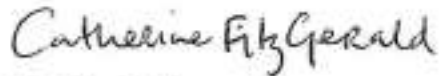
Directors report (continued)

**Relevant audit information**

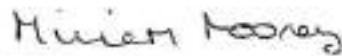
In the case of each of the persons who are directors at the time this report is approved in accordance with section 332 of Companies Act 2014:

- so far as each director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's statutory auditors are unaware, and
- each director has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's statutory auditors are aware of that information.

This report was approved by the board of directors on 10 May 2023 and signed on behalf of the board by:



Dr. Catherine Fitzgerald  
Director



Ms Miriam Mooney  
Director

## The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG

### Directors responsibilities statement

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 profit or loss 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 and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments 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 profit or loss 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 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.

**Independent auditor's report to the members of  
The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG**

**Report on the audit of the financial statements**

***Opinion***

We have audited the financial statements of The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG (the 'company') for the financial year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the profit and loss account, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 3. 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.

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 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 further described 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 the financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), 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***

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which ISAs (Ireland) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

***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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 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.

**Independent auditor's report to the members of  
The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG (continued)**

***Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014***

Based solely on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- in our opinion, the information given in the directors' report is consistent with the financial statements; and
- in our opinion, the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider 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 financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

***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 material misstatements in the directors' report.

The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions required by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made. 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, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors 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, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the management either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operations, 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.

**Independent auditor's report to the members of  
The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG (continued)**


As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), we exercise professional judgment 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 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.

***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 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.



Claire Kelly (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
For and on behalf of  
Kildare Audit & Accountancy Services  
Certified Public Accountants and Statutory Auditor  
9 Eyre Street  
Newbridge  
Co. Kildare

10 May 2023



The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG

Income and expenditure account  
Financial year ended 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 €	2021 €
<b>Turnover</b>		230,304	244,404
Cost of sales		(4,596)	(4,062)
<b>Gross surplus</b>		<u>225,708</u>	<u>240,342</u>
Administrative expenses		(179,453)	(172,248)
<b>Operating surplus</b>		<u>46,255</u>	<u>68,094</u>
Other interest receivable and similar income		1,460	13,006
<b>Surplus before taxation</b>		<u>47,715</u>	<u>81,100</u>
Tax on surplus		-	-
<b>Surplus for the financial year</b>		<u><u>47,715</u></u>	<u><u>81,100</u></u>

The company has no other recognised items of income and expenses other than the results for the financial year as set out above.

The notes on pages 12 to 17 form part of these financial statements.

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG

Balance sheet  
As at 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 €	€	2021 €	€
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	8	423,673		425,383	
			423,673		425,383
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stocks	9	5,890		6,106	
Debtors	10	3,927		3,104	
Cash at bank and in hand		759,396		715,603	
		769,213		724,813	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	11	(9,177)		(14,202)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			760,036		710,611
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			1,183,709		1,135,994
<b>Net assets</b>			1,183,709		1,135,994
<b>Capital and reserves</b>					
Capital Reserve			8,337		8,337
Restricted operational Contingency reserve			246,590		246,590
Restricted Land Reserve			59,800		55,631
Income and expenditure account			868,982		825,436
<b>Members funds</b>			1,183,709		1,135,994

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with Section 1A of FRS 102 Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors on 10 May 2023 and signed on behalf of the board by:

*Catherine Fitzgerald*  
Dr. Catherine Fitzgerald  
Director

*Miriam Mooney*  
Ms Miriam Mooney  
Director

The notes on pages 12 to 17 form part of these financial statements.

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG

Statement of changes in equity  
Financial year ended 31 December 2022

	Capital Reserve	Restricted operational Contingency reserve	Restricted Land Reserve	Profit and loss account	Total
	€	€	€	€	€
<b>At 1 January 2021 (as previously reported)</b>	8,337	246,590	122,709	677,258	1,054,894
Transfer between reserve accounts	-	-	(67,078)	67,078	-
Surplus for the financial year				81,100	81,100
<b>Total comprehensive income for the financial year</b>	-	-	-	81,100	81,100
<b>At 31 December 2021 (as previously reported)</b>	8,337	246,590	55,631	825,436	1,135,994
Transfers between reserve accounts	-	-	4,169	(4,169)	-
<b>At 31 December 2021 and 1 January 2022</b>	8,337	246,590	59,800	821,267	1,135,994
Surplus for the financial year				47,715	47,715
<b>Total comprehensive income for the financial year</b>	-	-	-	47,715	47,715
<b>At 31 December 2022</b>	<u>8,337</u>	<u>246,590</u>	<u>59,800</u>	<u>868,982</u>	<u>1,183,709</u>

## The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG

### Notes to the financial statements Financial year ended 31 December 2022

#### 1. General information

The company is a private company limited by guarantee, registered in Ireland. The address of the registered office is Lullymore, Rathangan, Co. Kildare.

#### 2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102 Section 1A, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

#### 3. Accounting policies and measurement bases

##### Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through profit or loss.

The financial statements are prepared in Euro, which is the functional currency of the entity.

##### Turnover

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable for goods supplied and services rendered.

Voluntary income including income for the purposes of capital spend is included in the financial statements when the charity is legally entitled to it, its financial value can be quantified with reasonable certainty and there is reasonable certainty of its ultimate receipt.

Voluntary income is defined as income received by way of funding, donations and gifts and is included in full in the financial statements when receivable.

##### Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and is subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts is recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in equity, except to the extent it reverses a revaluation decrease of the same asset previously recognised in profit or loss. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other comprehensive income to the extent of any previously recognised revaluation increase accumulated in equity in respect of that asset. Where a revaluation decrease exceeds the accumulated revaluation gains accumulated in equity in respect of that asset, the excess shall be recognised in profit or loss.

Increases in assets owned from non monetary donations received are not recognised as an income or donation, nor is a value attributed to same in the Financial statements.

**The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG**

**Notes to the financial statements (continued)  
Financial year ended 31 December 2022**

**Depreciation**

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Freehold property	- 2%	straight line
Fittings fixtures and equipment	- 10%	straight line
Office equipment	- 20%	straight line

If there is an indication that there has been a significant change in depreciation rate, useful life or residual value of tangible assets, the depreciation is revised prospectively to reflect the new estimates.

**Impairment**

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

When it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

**Stocks**

Stocks are measured at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost includes all costs of purchase, costs of conversion and other costs incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition.

**The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG**

**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**

**Financial year ended 31 December 2022**

**Financial instruments**

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in non-convertible preference shares and non-puttable ordinary shares or preference shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in profit or loss. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in profit or loss, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss immediately.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised in profit or loss immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

**4. Limited by guarantee**

The company is one limited by guarantee and in the event of the company being wound up the liability in respect of each of its members is €1.27.

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG

Notes to the financial statements (continued)  
Financial year ended 31 December 2022

5. Staff costs

The average number of persons employed by the company during the financial year, including the directors was 4 (2021: 4).

The aggregate payroll costs incurred during the financial year were:

	2022	2021
	€	€
Wages and salaries	114,113	118,583
Social insurance costs	12,609	12,446
	<u>126,722</u>	<u>131,029</u>

6. Directors remuneration

The directors aggregate remuneration was as follows:

	2022	2021
	€	€
Emoluments in respect of qualifying services	<u>-</u>	<u>18,700</u>

7. Appropriations of income and expenditure account

	2022	2021
	€	€
At the start of the financial year	825,436	677,258
Surplus for the financial year	47,715	81,100
Transfers	(4,169)	67,078
At the end of the financial year	<u>868,982</u>	<u>825,436</u>

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG

Notes to the financial statements (continued)  
Financial year ended 31 December 2022

8. Tangible assets

	Freehold property	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Office Equipment	Total
	€	€	€	€
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 January 2022	543,777	133,224	73,991	750,992
Additions	-	14,931	-	14,931
<b>At 31 December 2022</b>	<u>543,777</u>	<u>148,155</u>	<u>73,991</u>	<u>765,923</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 January 2022	157,377	96,769	71,463	325,609
Charge for the financial year	9,433	6,417	791	16,641
<b>At 31 December 2022</b>	<u>166,810</u>	<u>103,186</u>	<u>72,254</u>	<u>342,250</u>
<b>Carrying amount</b>				
At 31 December 2022	<u>376,967</u>	<u>44,969</u>	<u>1,737</u>	<u>423,673</u>
At 31 December 2021	<u>386,400</u>	<u>38,455</u>	<u>2,528</u>	<u>425,383</u>

9. Stocks

	2022	2021
	€	€
Finished goods and goods for resale	<u>5,890</u>	<u>6,106</u>

10. Debtors

	2022	2021
	€	€
Trade debtors	264	901
Prepayments	2,223	2,203
Accrued income	1,440	-
	<u>3,927</u>	<u>3,104</u>

11. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	€	€
Trade creditors	-	71
Other creditors including tax and social insurance	6,496	6,108
Accruals	2,681	8,023
	<u>9,177</u>	<u>14,202</u>



**The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG**

**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**  
**Financial year ended 31 December 2022**

**12. Approval of financial statements**

The board of directors approved these financial statements for issue on 10 May 2023.

**The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG**

**The following pages do not form part of the statutory accounts.**

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG

Detailed income and expenditure account  
Financial year ended 31 December 2022

	2022 €	2021 €
<b>Turnover</b>		
Donations	33,311	39,977
Bogland purchase donations	4,169	5,040
Shop sales	9,422	11,079
Government grants	99,702	83,545
Project income	26,391	58,405
Appeal/Raffle	25,164	31,352
Nature centre	21,011	-
Legacies	10,387	-
Other income	747	15,006
	<u>230,304</u>	<u>244,404</u>
<b>Cost of sales</b>		
Opening stock	(6,106)	(5,817)
Purchases	(4,380)	(4,551)
	<u>(10,486)</u>	<u>(10,168)</u>
Closing stock	5,890	6,106
	<u>(4,596)</u>	<u>(4,062)</u>
<b>Gross surplus</b>	<u>225,708</u>	<u>240,342</u>
<b>Gross surplus percentage</b>	98.0%	98.3%
<b>Overheads</b>		
<b>Administrative expenses</b>		
Wages and salaries	(114,113)	(94,314)
Directors remuneration	-	(18,700)
Directors Employers PRSI	-	(2,066)
Employer's PRSI contributions	(12,609)	(10,380)
TWSS IT liability for staff	-	(5,589)
Staff training	(1,460)	-
Water rates	(126)	(1,326)
Insurance	(8,111)	(6,276)
Light and heat	(6,173)	(4,129)
Cleaning	(831)	(874)
Covid-19 expenses	-	(380)
Repairs and maintenance	(1,298)	(923)
Printing, postage and stationery	(5,295)	(4,886)
Telephone	(1,654)	(1,636)
Computer costs	(1,201)	(967)
Conservation projects	(4,023)	(400)
Travel & related costs	(1,518)	(988)
Legal and professional	(18)	(115)
Accountancy fees	-	(277)
Auditors remuneration	(2,676)	(2,432)

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG

Detailed income and expenditure account (continued)  
Financial year ended 31 December 2022

	2022	2021
	€	€
Bank charges	(744)	(1,010)
Profit on exchange	7	882
Loss on exchange	(208)	-
Canteen	(82)	-
Staff welfare	(396)	(310)
General expenses	(3)	(4)
Charitable donations	(50)	-
Subscriptions	(230)	(20)
Depreciation of tangible assets	(16,641)	(15,148)
	<u>(179,453)</u>	<u>(172,248)</u>
<b>Operating surplus</b>	46,255	68,094
<b>Operating surplus percentage</b>	20.1%	27.9%
Other interest receivable and similar income	1,460	13,006
<b>Surplus before taxation</b>	<u>47,715</u>	<u>81,100</u>

## Irish Peatland Conservation Council

The following pages do not form part of the audited financial statements

### Project Grants Received from Public Bodies

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council wish to acknowledge and thank the following groups for expenses and grants received towards the conservation and education projects undertaken in 2022.

	2022(€)	2021 (€)
Carlow County Council	-	250
Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment (Irish Environmental Network)	48,636	45,672
Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage including the Peatlands Community Engagement Fund	-	4,500
Heritage Council (including Heritage in Schools & grant awards)	36,763	2,910
Kildare County Council	13,508	21,585
Kildare & West Wicklow ETB	-	810
Laois County Council	653	-
Laois Offaly ETB	1,130	-
Limerick City & County Council	600	-
Louth County Council	-	250
Meath County Council	1,500	1,500
National Museum of Ireland	-	1,200
National Biodiversity Data Centre	150	-
Roscommon County Council	300	-
South Dublin County Council	1,100	250
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland	6,812	2,418
Tipperary County Council (including Waters & Communities)	-	1,200
Waterford City and County Council	-	250
Waterways Ireland	-	750
<b>Total (€)</b>	<b>111,152</b>	<b>83,545</b>

### Project Grants Received from Private & Philanthropic Bodies

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council wish to also acknowledge and thank the following groups for funding received towards the conservation and education projects in 2022

	2022	2021
Bank of America	2527	2,500
Community Foundation for Ireland	4746	35,028
Patagonia	-	16,580
AXA Community Award	2,400	-
TJX Europe	1,000	-