

## Draft Galway City Biodiversity Action Plan

### Proposed Actions

#### Objectives

1. To raise awareness and appreciation of biodiversity.
2. To maintain and enhance biodiversity within the city
3. To increase our knowledge and understanding of biodiversity

No.	Action	Objectives			Potential partners*
		1	2	3	
1	<b>Seek the appointment of a Biodiversity Officer.</b>	✓	✓	✓	Heritage Council, Galway City Council
2	<b>Support the establishment of a Biodiversity Forum.</b>	✓	✓	✓	NUIG, GMIT, NPWS, WRBD, WRFB, Community Forum, ENGOS, Galway City Council
3	<b>Conduct a biological audit for Galway City.</b>			✓	NUIG, GMIT, WRFB, NPWS, ENGOS, Galway City Council
4	<b>Survey attitudes of the people of Galway to nature and biodiversity.</b>	✓			Community Forum, Galway City Council
5	<b>Develop a biodiversity awareness campaign aimed at the general public, developers, architects, engineers and landowners.</b>	✓			ENGOS, NPWS, WRFB, WRBD, NUIG, GMIT, Community Forum, Galway City Council
6	<b>Support the development of biodiversity guidelines and a biodiversity training programme for Galway City Council staff.</b>	✓	✓		NPWS, WRFB, WRBD, NUIG, GMIT, ENGOS, Galway City Council
7	<b>Promote the creation of new wildlife habitats and the retention of existing natural habitats in new developments.</b>	✓	✓		NPWS, NUIG, GMIT, ENGOS, Community Forum, OPW, Galway City Council
8	<b>Promote community participation in nature conservation.</b>	✓	✓		Community Forum, ENGOS, NPWS, WRFB, Galway City Council
9	<b>Support the establishment of a network of Local Biodiversity Areas and associated wildlife corridors.</b>		✓	✓	NUIG, GMIT, Community Forum, ENGOS, NPWS, WRFB, Galway City Council
10	<b>Key habitat: Urban woodlands and hedgerows</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop management plans and recreation use policies for all woodlands owned by Galway City Council.</li> <li>• Promote the retention of hedgerows in new developments.</li> </ul>		✓	✓	GMIT, NUIG, NPWS, Community Forum, Forest Service, Galway City Council
11	<b>Key habitat: Wetlands and watercourses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the adoption of a policy that aims for no net loss of wetlands within the city.</li> <li>• Conduct a survey of wetland invertebrates i.e. groups that are indicative of water quality such as water beetles and marsh flies.</li> </ul>		✓	✓	NUIG, NPWS, BirdWatch, WRFB, Corrib Navigation Trust, Galway City Council, WRBD, Galway Civic Trust, OPW

12	<b>Key habitat: Exposed limestone habitats</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the high nature conservation value of limestone habitats.</li> </ul>		✓	✓	NUIG, Teagasc, IFA, Galway City Council
13	<b>Key zone: Coastal zone</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote sustainable use of the marine and coastal environment.</li> <li>Ensure appropriate assessment conducted for any proposed works within the coastal zone.</li> </ul>	✓	✓		NUIG, GMIT, Marine Institute, WRFB, WRBD, Galway City Council
14	<b>Key species: Bats</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the protection of the foraging habitats of bats i.e. urban woodlands, wetlands and hedgerows.</li> <li>Ensure a bat survey is carried out before old structures are developed or restored in order to consider possible mitigation measures.</li> </ul>	✓	✓		VWT, BCI, NPWS, Galway City Council
15	<b>Key species: Birds</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highlight the importance of adequate protection of bird habitats including waterways, wetlands urban woodlands and hedgerows.</li> <li>Develop guidelines for works in or adjacent to waterways, woodlands and hedgerows in relation to bird conservation.</li> </ul>	✓	✓		BirdWatch, Galway City Council, NUIG
16	<b>Key species: Small mammals</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue monitoring small mammal populations in Terryland Forest Park and adjacent wildlife corridors.</li> </ul>		✓	✓	Zoology Dept., NUIG, VWT, Galway City Council
17	<b>Support efforts to prevent the spread of invasive alien species.</b>	✓	✓		WRFB, Galway County Council, NUIG, WRBD, Galway City Council, NPWS
18	<b>Support implementation of national Species and Habitat Action Plans within Galway City, as appropriate, and the new National Biodiversity Plan.</b>	✓	✓	✓	NPWS, ENGOs, NUIG, GMIT, WRFB, Galway City Council

\*NUIG – National University of Ireland, Galway

WRFB – Western Region Fisheries Board

WRBD – Western River Basin District

ENGOs – Environmental Non-Governmental Organisations (e.g. BirdWatch)

GMIT – Galway Mayo Institute of Technology

BCI – Bat Conservation Ireland

VWT – Vincent Wildlife Trust

OPW – Office of Public Works

NPWS – National Parks and Wildlife Service

**We want your views!**

**Send any comments on the proposed actions to:**

**info@galwaybiodiversity.com**