



Biodiversity Fund 2023

Developing a Community Biodiversity Action Plan

About Community Foundation Ireland

Community Foundation Ireland and its partners believe in equality for all in thriving communities. We work with individuals, families, corporates and other trusts and foundations as well as Government to translate giving in the moment to giving that is strategic, sustainable, and impactful. We use our skills and knowledge developed over 23 years to help donors turn aspirations into effective investments.

Community Foundation Ireland, its network of 5,000 partner organisations and donors share a mission of equality for all in thriving communities.

The Foundation works with partners to achieve solutions for both long-standing and emerging challenges. The work is built upon four pillars: Empowering Generations, Sustainable Futures, Inclusive Communities and Accelerating Change.

As a philanthropic hub we offer support, expertise and insights allowing us to deliver for communities and organisations across Ireland.

Through our many partnerships we are working towards an Ireland where barriers are broken down and communities are empowered to thrive. Working with you, other non-profits and donors we are committed to making this vision a reality.

About the Fund

With the support of the Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage, this fund has been devised to enhance biodiversity in communities throughout the country by combining the expertise of qualified ecologists with the skills, experience, and enthusiasm of local community groups.

We are inviting community groups to apply for a grant to hire an ecologist and develop a Community Biodiversity Action Plan (CBAP) for their local area. A CBAP is a classification of an area's local habitats, an assessment of their condition, an ecological mapping of the area, and a list of actions and recommendations that can be done to enhance local biodiversity.

Sample CBAPs from previous years are available on request.

Criteria

Three levels of grant funding will be offered:

- **Strand 1:** Grants of up to **€5,500** for community groups to work with an ecologist to classify their local habitats, assess their condition and extent, map them, and define a suite of actions to enhance biodiversity.
- **Strand 2:** Grants of up to **€8,000** for community groups who carry out the work outlined in Strand 1 in collaboration with one or two land managers/owners and particularly farmers, to classify habitats at landscape scale with a focus on field



boundaries (hedgerows, treelines and stone walls), assess their condition and extent, map them and define a suite of actions to enhance biodiversity.

- **Strand 3:** Grants of up to **€11,000** for community groups who carry out the work outlined in Strand 1 in collaboration with three to five land managers/owners and particularly farmers, to classify habitats at landscape scale with a focus on field boundaries (hedgerows, treelines, and stone walls), assess their condition and extent, map them and define a suite of actions to enhance biodiversity.

You must have received permission from all landowners involved before you apply.

Ecologists have agreed to a daily rate for their work of €500 exclusive of VAT, travel and subsistence.

- Groups may work with an ecologist whose name does not appear in the Resource Pack, provided they are suitably qualified and agree to the terms set out in the study criteria. Community Foundation Ireland must be notified in advance if this is the case.

The total cost for the project can be larger than the amount applied for, but Community Foundation Ireland will only fund the amount available through the Strand. Where there are funding gaps, the organisation should note how the additional funds have/will be raised.

Tips on Applying

- **Please do not apply for general biodiversity projects as they will not be assessed.**
- Attaching a map of your targeted area greatly helps our assessors make an informed decision.
- Please include community outreach/community awareness raising in your budgets. This can include educational events, school talks, public walks/talks with the ecologist, etc.

Grant Round Timeline:

Opening date for applications:	11 th September 2023
Closing date for applications:	13 th October 2023
Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application:	Early January 2024
Grants will be awarded:	January 2024
Studies should be carried out:	February 2024 – Spring 2025
Progress report due:	August 2024
Second Progress Report due:	February 2025
CBAP complete and Outcome Report due:	June 2025



Eligibility:

Eligible organisations...	Eligible projects...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be a registered charity or a local community/ voluntary group. • Must have an annual income of less than €2,000,000. • Have up to date and sufficient governing documents, annual accounts and child safeguarding policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be to carry out a Community Biodiversity Action Plan. • Must be done with a qualified Ecologist. • Must liaise with Landowners / Farmers / Local Authorities. • Will include clear, detailed, realistic costs and timescales.

Ineligible organisations include...	Ineligible projects include...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charitable organisations or community/voluntary groups with an annual income of more than €2,000,000 • Statutory bodies • For-profit companies • Organisations outside the Republic of Ireland • Individual people who are not part of a constituted organisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing core costs such as insurance, rent, bills etc. • General biodiversity projects. • Religious or Political activities. • Projects that have already happened or any activities that will happen before the grants are awarded. • Projects that do not have permission from all landowners involved. • Projects taking place outside of the Republic of Ireland

Priorities for this Strand:

We anticipate that this will be a very competitive grant round so proposals that show the unique value of their project will be prioritised, this includes the following:

- Projects that focus heavily on engaging the wider community and demonstrate an intention and capacity to work closely with local landowners, managers, and **particularly farmers**.
- Projects which consider biodiversity within towns and villages themselves, alongside their green areas, rivers, farms, and parks. This includes streets, laneways, and buildings where protection and enhancement of biodiversity is often neglected.



- Proposals which aim to raise biodiversity awareness within communities is important – through events, murals, biodiversity walks, street art, etc.
- Applications which include a map of their area will be prioritised. This map can be a screenshot from Google Maps, or any other document/picture which shows the area being targeted. Attaching a map is not *essential*, but applications including one will be *prioritised*.

Outcomes:

- Please work closely with the ecologist and follow their suggestions. Due to the nature of the work there may be delays, or a geographical feature may call for the ecologist to bring in another specialist. This can limit the size of the planned area but may be more beneficial to local biodiversity.
 - Ecologists have agreed to a daily rate for their work of **€500 exclusive of VAT, travel and subsistence**.
- It is expected that studies will be carried out by qualified ecologists between January 2024 and Spring 2025, with final CBAPs to be submitted by your group to Community Foundation Ireland by June 2025 and ensuring the ecologist has submitted their data to the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

Reporting requirements:

Successful applicants will be expected to:

- Acknowledge the support of Community Foundation Ireland and The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on any materials associated with the grant.
- Submit a Progress Report in August 2024.
- Submit a second Progress Report in February 2025.
- Submit an Outcome Report along with a copy of their CBAP in June 2025.
- Ensure that data collected from the ecological study is submitted to the National Biodiversity Data Centre by June 2025.

Governance Documents:

When submitting the application, all organisations will be required to upload digital copies of the following governance documents.

- 1. The Constitution or Memorandum and Articles of Association.**
 - This must show the mission statement or main objects of the organisation, how any donations will be used and the winding up clause. This **must be signed**.
- 2. A bank or credit union account statement header**
 - This statement header must clearly show the Account Name, BIC and IBAN.
 - Please blank out any transactions, as this is purely to verify the account to pay the grant into.
 - If your organisation has a credit union account, you must supply an IBAN for your specific account. We are unable to accept applications without a unique account



IBAN.

3. The organisation's most recent annual accounts

- Annual accounts should include unabridged financial statements for the year, or where relevant, a monthly profit and loss for the year.
- All applicants must declare their organisation's annual income on the application form, and this will be verified in your most recent annual accounts.
- Organisations with an annual income of **less than €100,000** may provide a Profit and Loss account for the previous year if formal financial accounts are not available.
- Organisations with an annual income of **more than €100,000** must provide audited annual accounts.
- Accounts should be from 2021 or 2022 and **must be signed**.

4. A current list of your organisation's board / committee members and the dates they were appointed.

If you do not submit the correct governance documents, your application will not be considered for funding.

How to Apply:

Once you have ensured that you meet all of the grant criteria above, you can then make an online application by clicking on the **link below**.

[Click here to apply.](#)

Closing Date: 4.00pm on Friday 13th October 2023.

NOTE: Your application will be acknowledged. If you do not receive an acknowledgement e-mail, please contact us at info@foundation.ie.