



Biodiversity Fund 2023

Implementing CBAP Recommendations

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 any organisation who has a Community Biodiversity Action Plan (CBAP) for their area to apply for funding to implement some of the recommendations contained in it.

If you do not have a Community Biodiversity Action Plan you are not eligible for this strand but may be eligible to apply for the 'CBAP' Strand. You can find information about this on our website.

Criteria

This year, any organisation with a Community Biodiversity Action Plan is invited to apply for grants of **between €2,000 and €6,000** to implement recommendations emerging from their CBAP.

These grants will only be available to those groups who have submitted their full Community Biodiversity Action Plans and their full data set to the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

Please ensure you have all permissions approved before applying. This may be from landowners, local councils, farmers, etc.



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.

Budgets can include the cost of a consultant ecologist.

Tips on Applying

- **Please do not apply for general biodiversity projects as they will not be assessed.**
- Please attach your CBAP as this is essential for our assessors to make an informed decision.
- Be as descriptive as possible when describing your targeted area and actions.
- Contacting and collaborating with other environmental groups, community groups, or Tidy Towns organisations in your area is a great way to strengthen an application – but it is not essential.
- 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
Applications will be informed of the outcome of their application:	Early January 2024
Grants will be awarded:	January 2024
Work should be carried out:	February 2024 – Spring 2025
Progress report due:	August 2024
Outcome Report due:	March 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 recommendations from a Community Biodiversity Action Plan • Must liaise with Landowners / Farmers / Local Authorities where applicable. • 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 make the greatest impact on restoring the biodiversity of the plan area.
- Projects that demonstrate working with and educating the wider community.
 - Biodiversity Action Plans are an important way for local communities to get involved in learning about the wildlife in their local area and getting best practice advice on how to improve biodiversity.

Outcomes:

The ultimate aim of the funding scheme is that successful community groups will implement recommendations from their Community Biodiversity Action Plans. This will demonstrate the impact that the plans can have in preserving and restoring local biodiversity.

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 an Outcome Report in March 2025.



Governance and Other 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.**
- 5. A copy of the Community Biodiversity Action Plan you are using.**
 - If this document does not attach, please email it directly to info@foundation.ie

If you do not submit the correct documents, your application will not be considered for funding. If you are having trouble attaching documents to the application form, please email them to info@foundation.ie

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.