



National and Global Affairs



Professor Jane Stout

SCHOOL

Discipline of Botany,
School of Natural Sciences

PARTNER AGENCIES

National Parks and Wildlife
Service ☯ National
Biodiversity Data Centre,
The Heritage Council ☯
Dept of Agriculture, Food
and the Marine

FUNDERS:

Dept of Agriculture, Food
and the Marine ☯ Science
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Environmental Protection
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SUBJECT AREAS

Bees ☯ Behavioural and
Evolutionary Ecology ☯
Biodiversity ☯ Biodiversity and
Conservation ☯ Biological
Invasion ☯ Ecology ☯
Entomology ☯ Environmental
biology ☯ Insects ☯ Invasive
Alien Species ☯ Land Use
Planning and Policy ☯ Natural
Capital ☯ Pollination ☯
Pollinators ☯ Sustainable
Agriculture ☯ Weeds

Pollination for the Nation

Human activity is driving biodiversity degradation at an alarming rate. According to IPBES, that activity has significantly altered 75% of land and 66% of ocean areas, with one million of an estimated 8 million species on earth currently at risk of extinction. Degraded biodiversity threatens ecosystem health and resilience, as well as humanity's own health and economies.

Professor Jane Stout has, through the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, created a national conversation with multiple stakeholders which asks them to imagine an island where pollinator populations thrive instead of decline and to

find practical ways in which they can co-create that island.

Her work, through Nature Capital Ireland and the INCASE project, is also creating a mechanism and a language through which nature can become a key consideration in economic and policymaking development. By shifting the perception that a 'greenfield site' is simply a blank canvas upon which to develop into one that considers any natural site an existing asset delivering a suite of ecosystem services to humanity, which requires full consideration at all negotiations about investment, development, land use and future projections..

This work showcases how Trinity is changing public attitudes to a societal issue through multiple approaches, such as evidence-informed programmes, deliberative processes and media engagement.

Prepared by Trinity Civic Engagement for Societal Impact, September 2026



All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is a framework to create a landscape where pollinators, such as bees, butterflies, beetles, moths and flies, can survive and thrive across the island of Ireland.

Initiated in 2015 by Professor Stout with Dr Úna Fitzpatrick of the National Biodiversity Data Centre, the initial plan was a civic response to the marked decline in pollinator species. An unchecked decline can lead to all types of natural, social and economic impacts and yet reversing the decline would require the willing involvement of a wide variety of societal stakeholders.

The aim of the initial Plan was to create a wider societal conversation about pollinators and how human activity and decisions can directly affect these populations. The Plan itself became a shared environmental project that crossed the border. It also extended responsibility beyond government, bringing together farmers, councils, businesses, schools, community groups and householders.

While the first iteration of the Plan focused on raising awareness, gathering knowledge and collecting evidence, the third plan, which runs from 2026 to 2030, expands the ambition to 50 strategic aims and ten work packages. Its overall vision is to create 'pockets of nature' every 200 metres. This distance is in line with the foraging range of many solitary bees, like Mining Bees, who do not live in a hive.

The success of the plan is its practicality; the Plan gives people something hands-on to do about an environmental crisis that can otherwise feel overwhelming. Planting pollinator-friendly flowers, allowing grass and wildflowers to grow, protecting hedgerows or changing how public spaces are managed are the small pieces needed to reconnect fragmented habitats across the island.

Natural Capital Ireland

Planning and policy conversations often require a need to present tangible or quantifiable elements for comparison, for evaluation, for funding: if we cannot put a number on something, it tends not to make it to the discussion table. Co-founded by Professor Stout, Natural Capital Ireland is an attempt to put Ireland's natural 'assets' into the same kind of systematic framework that economists and policymakers use to understand the financial economy. Rivers, forests, peatlands, soils, habitats and landscapes move from being a backdrop to economic activity, and into being an integral part of what is delivered in economic and social terms, and how are these things sustained.

[INCASE \(Irish National Capital Accounting for Sustainable Environments\)](#)

In line with Natural Capital Ireland, INCASE (Irish Natural Capital Accounting for Sustainable Environments), a transdisciplinary project led by Professor Stout, was the first Irish project to develop natural capital accounts for different catchments in Ireland. The project prepared accounts for four areas across Ireland using the UN System of Environmental-Economic Accounting-Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA-EA).

At a practical level, the project provided a framework for bringing together information about the extent and condition of habitats in the landscape, and the benefits that humanity derive from them. Data can be viewed over time, creating accounts that allow changes in extent, condition and benefits to be tracked as land use is changed. Benefits are not always expressed in financial terms, although some aspects of the accounts can be monetised. Using the language of natural capital allows nature to be brought into rooms where decisions about public money, infrastructure, planning and development are made. It allows non-financial benefits to be articulated, and the loss of these benefits to be quantified.

Outputs



Nature: Our Operating System at Breaking Point (2026)

This TEDx event, hosted at Trinity Business School, invited Trinity's academics to explore why change matters and how fresh perspectives are shaping our world across AI, law, finance and blockchain, climate, and diversity, equity and inclusion. Professor Stout's talk challenged the audience to value nature and take it into account in decision-making.

Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity Loss (2022)

Professor Stout addressed the Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity Loss in May 2022. The Assembly was comprised of 99 members of the public, randomly selected from households across Ireland and an independent chairperson. Its final deliberations were concluded in January 2023 and it issued 73 high-level recommendations and 86 sectoral-specific recommendations.



Trinity Sustainability and Biodiversity Plans (2024)

As Trinity Vice President for Biodiversity and Climate Action, Professor Stout leads Trinity's Sustainability unit and developed Trinity's own Biodiversity Plan 2025-2030. One symbolic action to prompt discussion was the replacement in 2020 of the manicured lawns facing College Green with an ornamental meadow. Due to its prominent location in the capital city, this became a public statement on the importance of biodiversity.

A Note for Nature (2022)

A Note for Nature was a multi-disciplinary short-form documentary series created by Ceca Giblin of Crossing the Line Productions. Part nature documentary, part music video and part spoken word performance, it was broadcast across the Christmas season in 2022, featuring Professor Stout, Christy Moore, Tölü Makay, the National Concert Orchestra and many others.





Professor Jane Stout is an internationally renowned expert on pollinator and pollination ecology, and a prominent voice for biodiversity and its value. Her research seeks to understand how land management practices, including agriculture and urbanisation, affect ecological processes and the benefits of nature for humans.

Professor Stout leads a large team of researchers in the Plant-Animal Interactions Research group in Botany, in the School of Natural Sciences in Trinity. She is co-founder and former Chair of the Board of the Irish Forum on Natural Capital Ireland and is co-founder and deputy Chair of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. She is currently President of the Royal Entomological Society.

For More Information

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