



Trinity Civic Engagement for Societal Impact



From Gaps to Greenways: Research for Biodiversity Policy

ORGANISER

All-Island Climate & Biodiversity Research Network (AICBRN)

The All-Island Climate & Biodiversity Research Network (AICBRN) hosted its annual event, *From Gaps to Greenways: Research for Biodiversity Policy*, in Trinity Business School on May 29th. The day-long workshop brought together politicians, researchers, and policymakers to map out how Ireland can strengthen biodiversity policy over the coming decade.

The event was a participatory workshop for 80 people rather than a traditional conference. Professor Yvonne Buckley framed the day as an opportunity to bridge research and policy. Short keynote remarks from Senator Malcolm Noonan, Dr Jeanne

Moore (National Economic and Social Council), Dr Gerry Clabby (Dept of Climate, Energy and the Environment), and Dr Deirdre Lynn (National Parks and Wildlife Service) set the stage.

This was followed by table discussions about where is biodiversity policy taking us, what is affecting it. This was followed by discussions to capture who is doing what research at the table that could drive policy forward and where the gaps remain that should be prioritised by researchers.

VENUE

Portal at Trinity Business School

DATE

Thursday, 29th May 2025

FUNDERS:

National Parks & Wildlife Service

This work showcases how Trinity is engaging with multiple stakeholders in order to building mutually beneficial relationships that can move public policy forward.

Prepared by Trinity Civic Engagement for Societal Impact,
August 2025



Purpose of the Event

At its heart, From Gaps to Greenways was designed to address three core questions:

- Where do we need to be in biodiversity policy?
- Where are we now?
- How can we collectively build our way to a biodiversity-rich island?

The emphasis was on collaboration across traditional boundaries: bringing together politicians, civil servants, academic researchers, policy analysts and grassroots practitioners. As the organisers framed it, the event was not about producing polished declarations but about fostering a participatory process in which diverse perspectives could shape a collective agenda.

The workshop had both immediate and long-term aims:

- To identify pressing biodiversity policy-driven actions
- To recognise the external influences and drivers likely to shape these actions

- To highlight existing and missing research that can underpin policy
- To co-design mechanisms for generating and applying knowledge.
- To build relationships across institutions and sectors, reinforcing the network of actors committed to biodiversity action.

Challenges of the Event

- While many of the participants were academics, there were also university professional staff, public sector workers and civil servants and activists in the room.
- There were about 80 people registered so it is important to have an organised space and a clear timetable to avoid unease.
- An understanding of biodiversity policy was a prerequisite for full participation. This event was not to write a new policy but to ensure that AICBRN members were supporting policy implementation through their work.

For More Information

URL for AICBRN

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/aicbrn/>



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