

Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

Business+Nature:
The Imperative for Action

16.11.2026
Trinity Business School,
Pearse Street, Dublin 2

ÉIRE2026.EU
IRELAND2026.EU
Imeacht Gaolmhar | Associated Event

AIB

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Mol Aeráide Choláiste na Tríonóide AIB
AIB Trinity Climate Hub

Why are we here?

While governments and businesses are taking action on climate change, more needs to be done when it comes to nature. 63% of world leading companies have targets in place for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions but only 2% have a nature transition plan in place to tackle biodiversity loss revealing considerable gaps in business knowledge and action relating to nature risks and dependencies. A key message of the IPBES publication on Business and Biodiversity (2026) is that all businesses depend on and impact biodiversity and can be agents of positive change.

As biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse risks national resilience, security and prosperity, this issue is of concern for all of society. In this event, we create action-oriented dialogues — engaging government and researchers with business and financial leaders to identify the imperatives and pathways for business action on nature. We look at some of the key challenges businesses face and profile emerging solutions.

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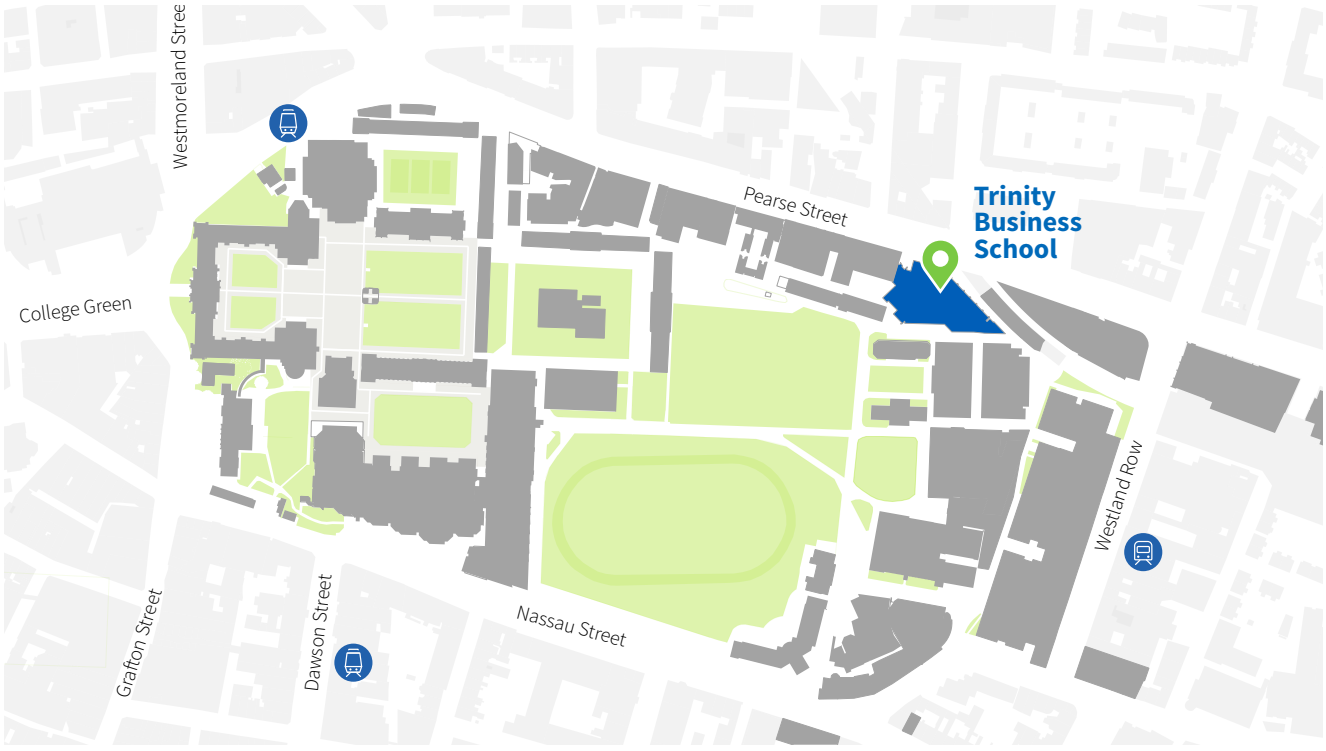
Agenda Mon 16 Nov

08:15	Coffee and Registration
09:15	**Welcome** → *M.C.* **Catherine Farrell,** Assistant Professor in Business and Nature, Trinity College Dublin → **Mary Robinson,** Adjunct Professor for Climate Justice in Trinity College Dublin and Guardian of the Planetary Boundaries → **Jane Stout,** Professor of Ecology & Vice President for Biodiversity and Climate Action, Trinity College Dublin → **Matt Jones,** Chief Impact Officer at the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)
09:30	**Business + Nature: Global to Irish Policy Conversation** → **Danny McCoy,** CEO, IBEC, Irish Business and Employers Confederation → **David Obura,** Chair of Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES, 2023-2026) and Founding Director of CORDIO East Africa → **Linda Doyle,** Provost & President Trinity College Dublin, Chair of LERU (League of European Research Universities) *Chaired by:* **Jane Stout,** Trinity College Dublin and **Matt Jones**, UNEP-WCMC
10:15	**Business + Nature: the Finance Conversation** → **John Hutchinson,** European Central Bank → **Valerie Hickey,** Director for Environment at the World Bank Group → **Stephen Hart,** European Investment Bank (EIB) → **Ed Pragnell,** Nature Finance Lead, Credit Nature *Chaired by:* **Rory McElligott,** Head of Climate Change, Central Bank of Ireland

11:00	Networking Break
11:20	**Business + Nature: Insights from First Movers** → **Joe O'Carroll,** Gresham House → **Garrett Quinn,** Group Head of Sustainability, Branding and Communications, Smurfit Westrock → **Joe Duignan,** Group Head of Sustainability at ESB → **Jason Hawkins,** CEO Carbery Group Limited *Chaired by:* **Martha O'Hagan-Luff,** Associate Professor of Finance, Trinity College Dublin
12:00	**Business + Nature: Overcoming Barriers** → **Brian O'Neill,** Head of Communications, Sponsorship and Corporate Social Responsibility, Aviva Ireland → **Emer Ní Dhúill,** Technical & Research Lead, Business for Biodiversity Ireland → **Thomas Ball, Director,** Nature & Land Use, Sustainable Futures, KPMG *Chaired by:* **Siobhan McQuaid,** Associate Director Trinity Centre for Social Innovation, GoNaturePositive! coordinator
12:30	Reflection on Morning Proceedings
12:45	Networking Lunch

13:15	**Parallel Workshops** ***Workshop 1:*** *Creating an enabling environment:* how can we activate collective, collaborative and individual action to accelerate business action on nature? ***Workshop 2:*** *Assessing your business performance on nature:* this practical hands-on workshop presents tools and supports to help businesses assess their impact on nature and key actions to prioritise. ***Workshop 3:*** *Turning research into business action:* This workshop presents key insights from research on business and nature action and asks where to prioritise future research.
14:45	Feedback from Workshops
15:00	Closing Comments and Next Steps
15:30	Closing Coffee

Campus Map Trinity College Dublin, Trinity Business School, D02 F6N2




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