



# Actions

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## Overview and objectives

Work in Ballinaglera towards the restoration of biodiversity means to work hand by hand with locals and farmers. The EU strategy of designating protected areas in which human exploitation is not allowed is useful, but it perpetuates separation between human and nature. Our community does not live out of Nature but from and for it. Therefore, the Ballinaglera Biodiversity Project can address local needs towards the protection of Nature. Looking at Actions that restore biodiversity while living on land is the overall objective of the following Action Plan. We want to protect the unprotected, not by separating it from humans, but by showing the richness of our biodiversity.

Three main objectives are the guide of this Action Plan:

- Awareness & Appreciation
- Conservation & Restoration
- Education & Knowledge

### *Awareness & Appreciation*

It is important to create a real bond between community and Nature. To protect is to care, and a community cannot care about something they are not aware. Creating awareness and getting Ballinaglera to appreciate their non-human neighbours is a pillar of this Biodiversity project.

### *Education & Knowledge*

As it has been recalled in the Results chapter, actions must be taken carefully with professional's counsel. To educate and increase community knowledge on biodiversity and how to tackle its loss is necessary. But knowledge and education is not an unidirectional, but a conversation between conservationists and locals so the decisions are taken respecting habits and local human way of life.

### *Conservation & Restoration*

As this document has shown, some Actions must be taken to preserve local Biodiversity. The Conservation relates to maintain what we already have, like ancient forest or diverse riverbanks. On the other hand, Restoration means to fixing those places that have been degraded due to human activity.

## Table of actions

The following general principles should be followed in the implementation of any actions included in this biodiversity action plan:

- Always preserve features of high conservation value.
- Fully understand the habitats and species of flora and fauna already associated with the given location.
- Consult with range of specialists in various areas as much as possible, rather than rushing into actions.
- Try to understand the big picture and be aware that some actions considered to be beneficial may not always be of benefit to biodiversity and nature in every setting. For example, planting trees is usually a good idea, but not if we are trying to protect a rare grassland and its associated fauna. There are plenty of other examples...
- Work with, rather than against nature to make biodiversity enhancement more efficient
- Strive to use native species whenever planting/sowing
- People can benefit from biodiversity, as much as biodiversity can benefit from people. The concept of ecosystem services help dispels the ideas of conflict between biodiversity and local development. Ecosystem Services can be organised into 4 broad categories.



Supporting Services	These are services, such as nutrient cycling and soil formation, which are needed for the production of all other services.
Provisioning Services	Products obtained from ecosystems, such as food or timber.
Regulating Services	The benefits obtained from the regulation of ecosystems, including services such as purification of water, flood control, regulation of the climate, etc.
Cultural Services	The benefits people obtain from ecosystems through spiritual enrichment, reflection, recreation, and aesthetic experiences.

Figure 1. Science Communication Unit, University of the West of England, 2015.

Awareness & Appreciation		
Action	Description	Potencial Partners
Conference on Biodiversity on the Biodiversity Week (presential and online) (22nd-28th May)	Apr-May 1. Contact IEN for help on the event. 2. Contact potential speakers 3. Prepare publicity (Local and National 4. Prepare equipment for presential and online event.	Good Energies Alliance Ireland IEN Local Environmental Authorities National Environmental Communicator Ballinaglera Development company
Create Biodiversity Signage on the Leitrim Way	Apr-Dec 1. Look for financial support (LAWPRO) 2. Contact Beara Briefne Way. 3. Design the signage.	Good Energies Alliance Ireland IEN Beara Briefne Way LAWPRO

Education & Knowledge		
Action	Description	Potencial Partners
Work with local schools.	Sep-Dec 1. Contact Local Schools (Ballinaglera, Drumkeeran, Drumshanbo) 2. Prepare educational documents 3. Activities: eco-walks and talks	Good Energies Alliance Ireland ESC Volunteers School Teachers
Local Biodiversity toolkit.	Apr-November 1. Photograph local fauna and flora. 2. Design leaflet with local	Good Energies Alliance Ireland ESC Volunteers Sliabh An Iarainn Visitor Centre



	<p>biodiversity.</p> <p>3. Leave it for Leitrim Wake hikers on the Ballinaglera Community Hall and (contact them first) Sliabh An Iarainn Visitor Centre.</p>	<p>Ballinaglera Development Company</p>
<p>Ballinaglera Biodiversity Bank of Images</p>	<p>Permanent</p> <p>1. Create a digital folder to be used as a bank of images and a spreadsheet to write down information.</p> <p>2. Schedule two to for monthly walks with volunteers to photograph plants and animals.</p> <p>3. Identify species.</p> <p>4. Copy images into the folder and work with the spreadsheet.</p>	<p>Good Energies Alliance Ireland ESC Volunteers</p> <p>Heather Bothwell</p> <p>Local community</p>

Conservation & Restoration		
Action	Description	Potencial Partners
<p>Control of Himalayan Balsam along stream and Crocosmia in the woodland in conjunction with landowners (Tobar Beo-Aoidh River and Yellow River)</p>	<p>March-May</p> <p>1. Contact landowners.</p> <p>2. Inform on Himalayan Balsam.</p> <p>3. Removal in partnership with landowners.</p>	<p>Good Energies Alliance Ireland ESC Volunteers</p> <p>Local Landowners</p>
<p>Increase of woodland areas along stream by natural regeneration. (Tobar Beo-Aoidh River and Yellow River)</p>	<p>Apr-Dec</p> <p>1. Partnership with landowners</p> <p>2. Apply needed measures if possible.</p> <p>Consult Little and others (2017) (Sources and links)</p>	<p>Good Energies Alliance Ireland ESC Volunteers</p> <p>Local Landowners</p>
<p>Maintenance of stone structures in wildlife friendly manner, leaving lichens and crevices (Tobar Beo-Aoidh River).</p>	<p>Apr-Jul</p> <p>1. Partnership with landowners.</p> <p>2. Identify structures with ecologist.</p> <p>3. Act according to the different structures.</p>	<p>Good Energies Alliance Ireland ESC Volunteers</p> <p>Local Landowners</p> <p>Heather Bothwell</p>
<p>Monitor water quality Tobar Bheo-Aoidh</p>	<p>Apr-Dec</p>	<p>Good Energies Alliance</p>



river-	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Get involve in the Citizen Science LAWPRO program. Email: info@lawaters.ie</li> <li>2. Select volunteers to take part on this action.</li> <li>3. Monitor waters.</li> </ol>	Ireland ESC Volunteers LAWPRO
Discuss woodland fencing, overgrazing and managing Lough Allen shores biodiversity (All areas)	<p>Apr-Dec</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contact landowners</li> <li>2. Meeting (landowners-ecologist) to discuss on the benefits of fencing and reducing grazing.</li> </ol>	Good Energies Alliance Ireland Heather Bothwell

### 1. Proposed Actions

Awareness & Appreciation	
Local community	Public meetings on biodiversity issues.
	Link with Ballinaglera farmers.

Education & Knowledge	
Local community	Citizens Science program ambassadors.
	Workshops for and provided by Farming Groups.

Conservation & Restoration	
St. Hugh's Well and Sweathouse Area	Recognition of biodiversity in area by maintenance teams.
	Adoption of reduced mowing in some of grassland to allow flowering for short periods.
	Adoption of All Ireland pollinator plan advice.
	Prevent access of grazing animals to woodland.
Fahy Townland	Further survey of lough Yugan wetlands, as recommended by Leitrim wetlands survey with advice from landowners re access routes. (long-term).
	Hydrological report on bogland (long-term).
	Invertebrate data is needed (marginal zone of lakes and river).
	Breeding bird monitoring (this habitat has supported breeding common sandpiper in the past).



	Further surveys likely to have specialist invertebrate populations in the bogland.
	Liaison with fishing clubs.
	Liaison with LAWPRO.
	Awareness events for all the habitats of the river.
	Breeding bird survey of river area.