

Economics of Nature Minutes

8th February 2017

Apologies

Martin Carey, John Martin, George Lyttle

Present

Dawn Miskelly, Sue Christie, Steve Aston, Jonny Bell, Malachy Campbell, Ed Wright

Irish Forum for Natural Capital Involvement

- Jonny Bell and Ken Bradley have been elected to the Forum. It is important to ensure synergy between developments in the North and South and to collaborate where possible.
- Ed Wright has been liaising with reps from the Forum around environmental profit and loss accounting. Four organisations are currently involved and are hoping to progress something tangible for businesses. In terms of progressing the natural capital agenda, there is a lack of expertise on the financial/accounting dimension.

Ed to look at how eNGO sector can engage with business to practically deliver NC concept and propose some ideas at the next meeting

Programme for Government

- Encouraging to see NC Index included in the draft PfG providing an important policy step forward. No indication from the Department whether work will begin before the PfG is agreed. Further update from the Department required to understand their agenda/work programme.

DAERA NC Paper Update

- Contributions were received from members and a reasonably comprehensive paper, including strong local examples, was sent to Ken Bradley. This informed a Paper for the Minister which is currently under consideration. This Paper was not available for viewing but officials were hopeful for Ministerial sign off before the election.
- Given the resource limitations within the Department it is important to consider how the EoN WG can assist the Department in progressing the NC agenda

JB and Steve to liaise with DAERA officials for further updates and to consider how EoN can complement DAERA work programme

NIEL Student Placement

- NIEL has acquired services of an MSc placement student for 8 weeks to explore natural capital and its application to NI. Shane is proposing to undertake a NC policy analysis to look at the 'best of GB', undertake telephone interviews and outline recommendations for next steps in NI.
- Members emphasised the importance of doing something simple and practical and linking it to payments for Ecosystem services. Key people to speak to include George Hutchinson and Malachy Campbell.

AOB

- EoN is heavily focused on aligning with government. Members suggested focusing on the role of the group beyond government, particularly in relation to business.
- Potentially a key role for NC to fill the void left by the CAP. UK eNGOs are currently modelling post Brexit subsidy options. RSPB are establishing a group to look at similar issues in NI.

Date of Next Meeting

TBC