

15 January 2024

Dear Colleague

### **All Island Civil Society Forum on the Environment.**

Northern Ireland Environment Link (NIEL) and the Irish Environmental Network (IEN), the membership organisations for the environmental charity sectors, are delighted to have received funding from the Government of Ireland Shared Island Civic Society Fund to develop and deliver a series of five facilitated thematic dialogues and a final in-person networking forum between January and September 2024.

The main purpose of this project is to promote and deepen cooperation and dialogue between Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland ENGOs and environmental civil society groups in order that the sector be equipped to fully engage with, and respond to, the new environmental regulatory and governance context post-Brexit.

Each of the 5 dialogues, will be held online to maximise access. The initial dialogue will introduce the subject and the following four will explore a specific environmental challenge. The participants will discuss possible solutions and policy responses that they believe are appropriate for introducing/implementing/exploring on an all-island basis or on both sides of the border. These solutions/policy responses will be recorded by the organisers and presented at the final networking forum.

NIEL and IEN have now appointed a facilitator, Nigel McKinney of Spellack Consulting, to work with us to develop and deliver the dialogues and we are delighted that Lisa Whitten from Queen's University Belfast and one of the authors of "Linking the Irish Environment" will present at the first event along with others with practical experience of developing and delivering cross border and all Ireland environmental work.

The first dialogue will take place online using Zoom on **Wednesday 14 February from 1030am until 1pm** and you can register for that [here](#). The Zoom link will be issued to registered participants in advance of the session.

Thereafter dialogues will take place monthly, concluding in June, with the final networking event scheduled for mid/late September. While participants are welcome to attend each and every session, organisations can choose the level and extent of their participation. For example, if there is a session that is not relevant to your work or interests there is no obligation to attend.

This first session will set the context for the rest of the series and we will be looking at why deeper dialogue and cooperation between environmental organisations in Ireland and

Northern Ireland is necessary and discussing with participants what you think is important and what thematic areas might be prioritised.

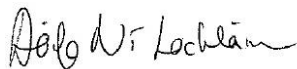
To help us with our planning we would be grateful if you could respond to the short survey available through the link below. It will take approximately 5 minutes to complete.

[All Island Civil Society Forum on the Environment Survey](#)

All the dialogues and the final networking event will be open to participants from any environmental civil society organisation on the island. Our focus will be on creating an inclusive and productive series of engagements and discussions which work towards building lasting relationships between environmental civil society organisations north and south.

We hope you or other organisation representatives can participate and please circulate this invitation to other relevant organisations and people. There is no limit to the number of people per organisation that can attend.

Yours sincerely,



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