



## Business Supporters - Annual Review Questionnaire 2023

The *National Biodiversity Data Centre* and the *All-Ireland Pollinator Plan* are grateful for all your amazing and inspiring work on pollinator-biodiversity actions.

- A **MANDATORY** requirement of engagement with the *All-Ireland Pollinator Plan* is to submit a 250-word report through this simple questionnaire for inclusion in [Annual Review for Business » All-Ireland Pollinator Plan \(pollinators.ie\)](#) highlighting evidence-based, pollinator-biodiversity actions delivered by your business/organisation during 2023.
- Also **MANDATORY**, PLEASE MAP your business's evidence-based actions on [- Actions for Pollinators \(biodiversityireland.ie\)](#) – the biodiversity accountability portal.
- **PLEASE SUBMIT** by **Friday 29 September 2023** to [skelly@biodiversityireland.ie](mailto:skelly@biodiversityireland.ie)
- **NOTE: FAILURE TO SUBMIT** this completed questionnaire OR to map actions will result in removal from the AIPP website/database etc. and preclude said organisation from the use of ANY/ALL AIPP marketing collateral moving forwards. Those removed from the AIPP business supporters may reapply to renew their support in 2024 by emailing [skelly@biodiversityireland.ie](mailto:skelly@biodiversityireland.ie)



Thank you to our funders:



An initiative by  
**BORD BIA**  
IRISH FOOD BOARD



**NAME OF COMPANY/ORGANISATION\*\* Slieve Elva B&B \*\***

**\*Please submit this questionnaire (250 words) as a WORD DOC. to [skelly@biodiversityireland.ie](mailto:skelly@biodiversityireland.ie) and map actions BY FRIDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2023.**

**Align the structure of your answers in Q1a. and Q2. per the A-F evidence-based actions within the AIPP [Businesses actions-to-help-pollinators-2018-WEB.pdf](#) guidelines.**

**REVIEW Pages 3-4 'Suggested Response Framework: Company X – Example'.**

**\*EVIDENCE-BASED ACTIONS**

**1a. Which evidence-based PHYSICAL (A-E) pollinator-biodiversity action(s) has your business/organisation taken in 2023?**

We have 6 acres of field which isn't cut at all and left in its natural state.

Surrounding dry stone walls are kept as they are and hedgerow, bushes surrounding them are kept untouched or depending on location maintained and trimmed once a year. Hanging baskets and flower pots are placed around the building. Several types of flowering bushes are placed around the entrance and front of the house.

We've eliminated all use of pesticides.

A polytunnel is accessible for pollinators containing several plants like tomatoes, cucumber, radish, courgettes, lettuce and several herbs like parsley, thyme, oregano, mint, lemon balm, rosemary, celery. 2x 3m patches of Lavender are kept in good condition.

On top of the 15 native apple trees that have been planted before, another 8 have been planted on top of that.

Works on the Organic natural pond with regeneration zone and wetland filter have begun. Soil removed from the pond is partially banked and will be used as bare soil bank for nesting of pollinators like mining bees.

Cuttings from bushes have been piled up and can be used by animals, insects, throughout the winter.

**1b. Did you choose an alternative action to sowing/gifting wildflower seed mixes in 2023? YES**

We've never used wildflower mixes so far. By doing the no mow months and dedicated meadow patches we've plenty of local wildflowers growing. For the first year we even found wild orchids in our garden.

We recently went to a talk of a local biologist and ecologist and our kids put together a mix of locally harvested wild flower seeds to spread out in the garden.

**1c. Did you choose an alternative action to managing honeybee hives/an apiary in 2023? YES**

All actions taken on the property here are all aimed at our wild pollinators. There are no honeybee hives around.

**2. Which evidence-based COMMUNICATION (F) pollinator-biodiversity action(s) has your business/organisation taken in 2023? INSERT ANSWER**

Our AIPP cert is displayed at our reception area and is also used on website and social media.

The AIPP logo is part of our email banner which is send out as a signature with all online communication.

Several books about biodiversity, local fauna & flora are available for our guests in our library. Being a full paying member of the Burren Ecotourism network, we support all local activities and help fund preservation projects within a UNESCO Geopark.

We're paying business supporter of the BurrenBeo Trust who uses all funds for generation of several Heritage and biodiversity initiatives. One of it being the "Hare's corner". Through this project local heritage orchards, woodland trees and shrubs, wildlife ponds, ... are created. We regularly take part in

activities organised by them like harvesting local seeds (yellow rattle for example), joining in insects/wildflower counting, ...

Actions we took ourselves regarding biodiversity and sustainability are communicated to the wider public through our own social media and website.

We recently did a FIT count and are often reporting sightings on the National biodiversity database.

#### **\*BIODIVERSITY MEASUREMENT & MONITORING**

**3. Have you mapped (mandatory) actions on [Actions for Pollinators \(biodiversityireland.ie\)](https://biodiversityireland.ie)? YES**

**4. Have you conducted any pollinator recording/monitoring on your site(s) in 2023? YES**

- Did your business participate in Flower Insect Timed (FIT) Counts? **YES How many? 3**
- Did your business participate in the Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme? **NO.** We recently went through the online course but haven't signed up yet as we've been too busy with the business.

**5. Have you located your site/identified pollinator species on [Maps - Biodiversity Maps \(biodiversityireland.ie\)](https://biodiversityireland.ie)? YES**

#### **\*BIODIVERSITY GOVERNANCE**

**6. Is the AIPP integrated part of your Sustainability Strategy/ ESG~CSR/ EMS? YES**

**6a. For Bord Bia's Origin Green members ONLY. Have you integrated AIPP 'Pollinator Actions' into your member's Biodiversity Target? N/A**

**7. RESPONSE TO THIS QUESTION IS OPTIONAL | What are your proposed pollinator-biodiversity action(s) for 2024?** Finishing our pond and bog filter with native plants. Plant some more native woodland trees. Help create awareness in local community.

**Example: Suggested Response Framework: Company X-Example**

<b>NAME OF COMPANY/ORGANISATION: Company X</b>
<b>THESE RESPONSES ARE A SUGGESTED STRUCTURE ALIGNED TO THE A-F EVIDENCE-BASED ACTIONS WITHIN THE AIPP Business supporters guidelines.</b>
<b>*EVIDENCE-BASED ACTIONS</b>
<b>1a. Which evidence-based <u>PHYSICAL (A-E)</u> pollinator-biodiversity action(s) has your business/ organisation taken in 2023?</b>
Answers in this section should align with the A-E evidence-based actions in the <b>Businesses: actions to help pollinators</b> guidelines ( <a href="#">Businesses_actions-to-help-pollinators-2018-WEB.pdf</a> ). You might include reference to the following:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A - What good biodiversity is your business currently preserving/protecting on your site? e.g. Are you managing your Native hedgerows for pollinators? Have you retained Bramble and Ivy?</li><li>• B – Have you reduced mowing of grass to create short-flowering or long-flowering areas?</li><li>• C – Have you Increased pollinator-friendly planting (Native and/or Ornamental)?</li><li>• D – Have you designated nesting habitats? (e.g. hedgerows for bumblebees etc., and for solitary bees - an old stone wall, south-facing earth bank).</li><li>• E - Pesticide elimination/reduction? Are you choosing eco-alternatives? Are you continuing to spot spray invasive species?</li></ul>
<b>SUGGESTED STRUCTURE OF ANSWER</b>
We have reduced mowing across all of our sites. We have delivered a range of actions including:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A – retained a woodland area. We are also retaining Bramble and Ivy as key food sources.</li><li>• A - managing our hedgerows to allow for bee nesting and early spring flowers and have planted whitethorn to enhance this.</li><li>• B - designated 1000m2 to create a naturally regenerated long wildflower meadow through <b>reduced mowing</b> (once a year).</li><li>• B - created five clover lawns through <b>reduced mowing</b> adjacent to each building. Verges also allowed to grow.</li><li>• C - We have also planted a range of AIPP recommended (pollinator friendly bulbs/shrubs in planters/pots and hanging baskets (including perennials such as Bidens &amp; Bacopas)</li><li>• D - We have also designated 5 south facing earth banks (for solitary mining bees) across the site, allowed the bramble and ivy to remain adjacent to the stone wall (for solitary bees). installed a bee hotel at HQ and we now have resident wild bees!</li><li>• E - We have eliminated pesticides on all sites except for spot-spraying when absolutely necessary.</li></ul>
<b>1b. Did you choose alternative action to sowing/gifting wildflower seed mixes in 2023?</b>
<b>NO.</b> But having read the AIPP FAQs we will choose <b>reduced mowing</b> next year.
REMINDER: Sowing wildflower seed mixes is NOT a biodiversity action. It is a horticultural action. Non-native wildflower seed mixes may contain invasive species such as <i>Black Grass</i> – potentially devastating for our agricultural land. Native wildflower seed mixes may have a high percentage of annuals so, will need re-sown next year.
<b>1c. Did you choose an alternative action to managing honeybee hives/an apiary in 2023?</b>
<b>YES</b> – we have increased the number of species in our Native hedgerow. N.B. we do have 6 hives on site which we use as part of CSR but will not increase numbers moving forwards.
REMINDER: To manage honeybee hives is NOT a biodiversity action. It is absolutely appropriate if part of your core business/CSR. There is ONE honeybee on the island, a managed pollinator, which is not under threat. To increase numbers of honeybees may create competition for food for our 101 wild bee species. REMEMBER - seek expert advice from your Local Beekeeping association if considering.
<b>2. Which evidence-based <u>COMMUNICATION (F)</u> pollinator-biodiversity action(s) has your business/ organisation taken in 2023?</b>
Answers in this section should align to the (F) list of evidence-based actions of the <a href="#">Businesses_actions-to-help-pollinators-2018-WEB.pdf</a> guidelines. You might structure your answer into 3 areas:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How have you engaged your Suppliers? e.g. invited them to sign up to AIPP and deliver evidence-based actions such as supplying Peat-free compost, eco-alternatives to pesticides OR Provenance-Irish trees?</li><li>• How you engaged your Community? e.g. via Tidy Towns or another Community initiative. N.B. sponsoring wildflower seed mixes is not a biodiversity action and cannot be included in your reporting.</li><li>• How have you engaged Employees? e.g. invited them to sign up to 'Pledge Your Garden and move through a step by step education process.</li></ul>

**SUGGESTED STRUCTURE OF ANSWER**

We are:

(a) setting targets to invite suppliers to sign up to the AIPP and deliver evidence-based actions on our site. e.g. Our Landscape Contractors are now signed up and in consultation with us will structure their work according to the evidence-based actions.

(b) sponsoring the planting of bulbs/shrubs on the land of a local charity. This is a change from 2022 when we sponsored wildflower seed – but we now understand that sowing wildflower seed mixes are not an evidence-based action.

(c) engaging with a couple of local schools to sponsor the printing of the Junior Pollinator Plan.

**\*BIODIVERSITY MEASUREMENT & MONITORING**

3. Have you mapped (mandatory) actions on [Actions for Pollinators \(biodiversityireland.ie\)](https://www.biodiversityireland.ie)? **YES**

4. Have you conducted any pollinator recording/monitoring on your site in 2023? **YES**

Did your business participate in Flower Insect Timed (FIT) Counts? **YES/20**

Did your business participate in the Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme? **NO/ N.A.**

5. Have you located your business site/identified pollinator species on [Maps - Biodiversity Maps \(biodiversityireland.ie\)](https://www.biodiversityireland.ie)?

**YES** – We weren't aware of Biodiversity Maps but have now used it to 'Locate' our site and adjacent species.

**\*BIODIVERSITY GOVERNANCE**

6. Is the Pollinator Plan integrated into your Sustainability Strategy/ ESG~CSR/ EMS?

**NO.** But we will integrate for 2024.

6a. **For Bord Bia's Origin Green members ONLY.** Have you integrated the AIPP 'Pollinator Actions' into your member's Biodiversity Target?

**YES.**

7. **RESPONSE TO THIS QUESTION IS OPTIONAL** What are your proposed pollinator-biodiversity action(s) for 2024?

**SUGGESTED STRUCTURE OF ANSWER (OPTIONAL)**

Yes we will start to track and manage invasives on our site via [www.invasives.ie](https://www.invasives.ie)

We are going to sign up to the national hub - Business for Biodiversity Ireland [www.businessforbiodiversity.ie](https://www.businessforbiodiversity.ie)