

**Memorandum of Understanding
between
Natural Capital Ireland Ltd. and the National Parks and
Wildlife Service
regarding
provision of annual contribution from the NPWS for the
purpose of supporting the NCI Secretariat**

July 2023

1. The Parties

Natural Capital Ireland

Natural Capital Ireland (NCI) is a not-for-profit organisation Limited by Guarantee, governed by a Board, led by a Steering Committee and administered by a Secretariat. NCI's core purpose is to lead the conversation on natural capital in Ireland to support their vision for an Ireland in which natural capital and ecosystem goods and services are valued, protected and restored.

NCI's mission is to help to value, protect and restore Ireland's natural capital and ecosystem services. It works towards this goal by supporting the adoption of natural capital concepts in public policy and corporate strategy, promoting informed public and private sector decision-making and assisting in the establishment of a national natural capital accounting standard.

NCI is a free membership organisation with over 900 members from across private, public, semi-state, NGO, academic and independent sectors as well as individual members of the public.

NCI is a key actor in fulfilling certain policy goals as set out in the National Biodiversity Action Plan, i.e. to mainstream biodiversity into decision-making across all sectors, and particularly where this relates to the use and development of natural capital accounting tools and methods in an Irish context.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service

The NPWS is part of the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage. It is charged with the conservation of a range of habitats and species in Ireland under National and European law and adherence to international conventions and agreements. It shares responsibility for implementation of conservation legislation with a number of other Government Departments as well as Local Authorities and other national agencies. It provides the scientific evidence underpinning such protection and it reports on the status of such habitats and species. As such, it is supportive of the vision of NCI set out above.

2. Scope and Limitations

This MoU covers the annual contribution of funds from NPWS to NCI in 2021-2022 for the purpose of contributing to the overall costs of sustaining the core activities of the NCI Secretariat.

This MoU does not cover any other funding agreement which has been or may in future be entered into between the Parties for any purpose and will be treated as separate to any further partnership arrangement, contract or collaboration which may be agreed between them.

3. Objectives

The objective of this arrangement is to facilitate the delivery of core support funding from the NPWS for NCI's mission and strategic goals.

4. Commencement

This MoU comes into effect upon signature by both the NPWS and NCI.

5. Duration

This MoU will be reviewed between the Parties in January 2024 and updated as necessary to align with future funding commitments.

6. Roles and responsibilities

NPWS

The NPWS agrees to provide NCI with core funding support to assist in meeting the costs of running the NCI executive and secretariat. This funding will be submitted to NCI in two equal payments, at the beginning of January and the beginning of July of each year for the duration of the arrangement.

The NPWS nominates Mr Alan Moore to act as a primary point of contact for NCI in respect of this funding arrangements. He is authorised to make or facilitate the necessary arrangements for prompt delivery of funding, and to assist NCI with any enquiries relating to any of the activities and initiatives stated in this MoU.

NCI

NCI agrees to utilise the core funding provided by the NPWS as a contribution towards the routine operational costs of the organisation, including *inter alia* general overheads and the costs of providing a staff compliment for the Secretariat, incorporating the role of an executive co-ordinator and a communications manager and any additional part- or full-time post which may be required to facilitate day-to-day activities of the organisation, at NCI's own discretion.

By employing the funding in this manner, NCI will ensure that the funding provided under this agreement will contribute to NCI's work in support of NPWS' policy goals relating to natural capital. This may include input to the following activities:

- Conferences and seminars (including on-line meetings) that advance the natural capital agenda in Ireland across sectors.
- Educational content that communicates the natural capital agenda
- Research on natural capital accounting and ecosystem services
- Networking opportunities for public bodies and business organisations, civil society groups and other special interest groups

NCI agrees to acknowledge the funding given by the NPWS as a core contribution to NCI's activities, where such is relevant and appropriate e.g., via its website and on general communications on the above listed activities.

NCI will ensure that all expenditure and accounting of NPWS funding is managed in line with the principles of good corporate governance. NCI agrees to provide to NPWS, in the first quarter of each year, a summary account of the purposes for which the core funding from the previous year has been used, along with a summary of NCI's activities during that period.¹

7. Intellectual Property

Both Parties agree to respect intellectual property. Each Party will at all times retain full copyright over its own name, logos, brand identities and other intellectual property. No rights to the use of one Party's intellectual

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8. Termination

This MoU may be cancelled by either of the Parties upon at least 30 days written notice. The MoU may be reviewed or revised by mutual agreement in written communication. Amendments to the MoU shall come into force on the date upon which written notification of acceptance of the amendment is received.

9. Signatures

Signed for the Board of Natural Capital Ireland Ltd.



Fiona Ross

Date: 27 July 2023

Signed for the National Parks and Wildlife Service



Andy Bleasdale

Date: [DATE]

27/7/23

Notes:

¹ The executive co-ordinator oversees the day-to-day management of NCI's secretariat and has primary responsibility for executing NCI's strategic goals. This includes, inter alia: the ongoing development of NCI as a not-for-profit professional, educational and advocacy network; Co-ordinating the activities of the Steering Committee and NCI's Policy Working Groups; Developing contacts and partnerships with other organisations, particularly for the purposes of advocacy, research and education on topics relating to natural capital; Organising NCI's regular Board and Steering Committee meetings; Co-ordinating submissions in response to public-consultation opportunities relating to (e.g.) Government policy initiatives.

The communications manager is responsible for drafting and circulating routine communications to NCI membership, including monthly newsletters, occasional project updates, invitations for comment on NCI projects or proposals, as well as managing daily social media content and community development, and facilitating development and communications relating to regular NCI events (e.g. AGM, Board and Steering Committee Meetings).