

Biodiversity in Ireland



Ireland is home to:

- ✓ 815 flowering plants,
- ✓ 80 native ferns,
- ✓ more than 700 mosses and liverworts,
- ✓ 3,500 fungi,
- ✓ over 1,000 lichens
- ✓ over 1,400 algae.

There are:

- ✓ 32 terrestrial mammals,
- ✓ ten bat species,
- ✓ two species of seals and
- ✓ 24 whales and dolphins.
- ✓ 100 species of bees
- ✓ 425 species of birds have been recorded in Ireland, about half of these birds breed here.



Many of these species are already under threat, some are even endangered.

The freshwater pearl mussel, which lives in Irish rivers and is Ireland's longest living animal, is facing extinction.

If we want all of these species to survive, we must ensure that there are enough suitable areas for all to flourish.

Ireland also has an extensive coastline rich in biodiversity and so we should not forget our surrounding seas. There is a huge array of life in our seas, most of which we may never see. Unfortunately, this too is being negatively affected in a variety of ways: overfishing, coastal activities and pollution are some examples, and so it is important that our marine habitats are also protected.

