

CONSULTATION

Response Document



43 Southgate Street, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 9EH, UK
Tel: +44 (0)1962 868 626 | enquiries@cieem.net | www.cieem.net

“Plant Health & Bio-security Strategy 2020-2025”

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

18 September 2019

Introduction to CIEEM

The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), the leading membership organisation supporting professional ecologists and environmental managers in Ireland, the United Kingdom and abroad, welcomes the opportunity to participate in this consultation process.

CIEEM was established in 1991, received Chartered status in 2013, and has 5,000 members drawn from local authorities, government agencies, industry, environmental consultancy, teaching/research, and voluntary environmental organisations. The Chartered Institute has led the way in defining and raising the standards of ecological and environmental management practice with regard to biodiversity protection and enhancement. It promotes knowledge sharing through events and publications, skills development through its comprehensive training and development programme and best practice through the dissemination of technical guidance for the profession and related disciplines.

Amongst others, CIEEM is a member of:

- National Biodiversity Forum (Ireland)
- Irish Forum on Natural Capital (working group member)
- The Environmental Science Association of Ireland
- Europarc Federation
- IUCN – The World Conservation Union
- Professional Associations Research Network
- Society for the Environment
- United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020 Network
- The UK All Party Parliamentary Group on Biodiversity
- The UK Environmental Policy Forum
- Greener UK

CIEEM has approximately 250 members in Ireland who are drawn from across the private consultancy sector, NGOs, government and semi-state agencies, local authorities, academia and industry. They are practising ecologists and environmental managers, many of whom regularly provide input to and advice on SEA and AA.

Comments from CIEEM

CIEEM welcomes the opportunity to participate in the public consultation by DAFM on the Plant Health & Bio-security Strategy 2020-2025 and would like to make a few considered comments on the consultation document, as follows:

Does this strategy address your view's around Plant Health and Biosecurity?

The document is understandably focussed on plant health and biosecurity in relation to agriculture and forestry, but it should also include reference to exotic pathogens that are harmful to ecological interests.

What needs to be further considered?

A number of statutory and non-statutory agencies have been working on risk assessments for invasive plant species and have prepared lists of plants that would have greatest impacts if introduced to Ireland. These species should be included in the DAFM Plant Health and Biosecurity Plan. Risk assessments can be found at the following link:

<http://nonnativespecies.ie/risk-assessments/>

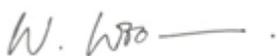
A list of legally-restricted plant species is provided in the third schedule of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2011/si/477/made/en/print>). The National Biodiversity Data Centre also has a range of resources on Invasive Plant species (<http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/projects/invasive-species/>), as does the Invasive Species Ireland project (<https://invasivespeciesireland.com/species-alerts/>).

Under *Plant Health "Protected Zones" in Ireland* (Page 4), it is stated "In order to maintain the health and productivity of Irish forests, horticulture, crops and grassland, it is necessary to have regulations in place to prevent introduction of pests from Europe, North America and beyond". This should be extended to all natural habitats in Ireland.

Any additional suggestions on the strategy?

Some experts in invasive plant species from the above organisations should be consulted during the preparation of the plan in order to horizon scan for any European species of particular concern to Irish ecology.

The plan should also refer to invasive algae, which are of concern to aquaculture. Species like *Sargassum muticum* and *Didemnum vexillum* are of particular concern.



Will Woodrow, CEcol MCIEEM

Vice President, CIEEM Ireland

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