



Consultation on Ireland's Invasive Alien Species Soil and Stone

Pathway 2023-2027

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Introduction to CIEEM

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

CIEEM was established in 1991 and has over 7,000 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.

CIEEM is a member of:

- Northern Ireland Environment Link
- National Biodiversity Forum (Ireland)
- Scottish Environment Link
- Wales Environment Link
- Environmental Policy Forum
- IUCN – The World Conservation Union
- Professional Associations Research Network
- Society for the Environment
- United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020 Network
- Greener UK

CIEEM has approximately 450 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 practicing ecologists and environmental managers, many of whom regularly provide input to and advice on land management for the benefit of protected species and biodiversity in general.

This response was coordinated by our Ireland Policy Group.

We welcome the opportunity to participate in this consultation and would be happy to provide further information on this topic. Please contact Jason Reeves (CIEEM Head of Policy and Communications) at JasonReeves@cieem.net with any queries.

CIEEM welcomes the implementation of this Action Plan and the opportunity to input. Please find below some comments and recommendations for your consideration.

- CIEEM would suggest that we are added to the list of Key Stakeholders on page 10.
- CIEEM acknowledges the presence of organisations such as NPWS and NBDC on the Working group and the expertise they bring. As an organisation of volunteers, CIEEM, is limited in capacity, however we would highlight the breadth of expertise in our membership and suggest we are included in some capacity in the activities of the Working Group moving forward.
- With the experience of our members, we could provide valuable input to guidance documents being developed under Action 1.
- CIEEM welcomes Action 2 and agrees that standards and checks on biosecurity measures should be introduced. We believe we should be added to the list of key stakeholders under this action and that this review should be undertaken with open consultation.
- CIEEM agrees with Action 5 of the plan and would suggest adding us to key stakeholders. We would anticipate that there is a role for us in raising the standards and practice in our sector for this area and we would be happy to work with NBDC, where we can, to do so.