# [***150 recommendations on biodiversity loss in new report***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6809-6D41-DYTY-C38W-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Body**

Over 150 recommendations were made by the Citizens' Assembly final report on ***Biodiversity*** ***Loss***, which it says has the potential to dramatically transform Ireland's relationship with the natural environment.

The report expresses the Assembly's clear disappointment at the State's failure to adequately fund, implement and enforce existing laws and policies.

It also states explicitly that this must change, and that sufficient funding and increased expenditure should be provided for enforcement and implementation of national legislation and EU ***biodiversity***-related laws and directives related to ***biodiversity***.

With the majority of land in Ireland used for agriculture, the Assembly believes the agriculture industry and its approach to land use have a major impact on ***biodiversity***.

It said that ***biodiversity*** is currently undervalued in our agriculture production system and policy framework. Review 99pc of the Assembly agreed that current State policy on the management of ***biodiversity*** on agricultural lands is not sufficient and requires fundamental review and change to support and incentivise farmers and landowners to protect and restore ***biodiversity***.

91pc agreed that ***biodiversity*** targets in national schemes (CAP/ACRES) must be made significantly more ambitious, detailed and focused on the medium to long term and that funding must be increased to support this ambition.

91pc agreed that the State must further subsidise and incentivise organic farming and locally grown produce.

60pc of the Assembly agreed that people must be encouraged to consume a more plant-based diet.

96pc agreed it is imperative that penalties for polluting freshwater are significantly increased and enforcement considerably improved.

91pc said forests currently planted and those already felled on peatlands are a significant and historic problem and the State should remedy this issue promptly and on a significant scale.

The Assembly was made up of 99 people from around the country, after 20,000 invitations were issued, generating 2,261 responses, six of which are farmers.

Eight farming organisations were invited to talk to the group. Aideen McGloin, representing the INHFA, told the members that farmers follow policy and have removed ***biodiversity*** because of policy and income.

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