# [***Assembly hears about biodiversity loss in Ireland***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:66FW-MRM1-JDRT-2007-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Body**

The first of the autumn plenary sessions of Citizens' Assembly on ***Biodiversity*** ***Loss*** has started at the Grand Hotel in Malahide, Dublin.

The assembly, which is being chaired by Dr Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin, is made up of 99 randomly selected Irish citizens who participate in the assembly's six-month programme of work.

This is the first citizens' assembly anywhere in the world focusing specifically on ***biodiversity*** ***loss***, so its deliberations are likely to be noted and watched carefully by environmental groups and related NGOs elsewhere.

The assembly heard first from public philosopher Roman Krznaric who highlighted how the decisions we make as a society now will have an impact for many generations to come.

Mr Krznaric said that this is the age of "the tyranny of the now" dominated by choices about the present rather than thinking about the future, and as a result society dumps major problems such as climate change, ***biodiversity***, and issues around the impact of technology onto future generations to sort out.

He said the big question for humanity is "are we being good ancestors?" because tens of billions of people will be born in the future and they will wonder about what type of world we have left them.

Policymakers need to think on the scale of years, decades and centuries when making decisions, he said.

All of the assembly meetings and presentations will be available online at [*www.citizensassembly.ie*](https://www.citizensassembly.ie/en/)

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