

Sub Project 9 – Green City – Case Study

1. Project Statement

This sub-project will operate at two levels: mobilisation of decision-making tools for local authorities that allow them to examine the full environmental and related implications of developmental alternatives; development public understanding of the relationship between biodiversity and development, in partnership with Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.

2. Objectives and Targets

.(a) The eight local authorities in the Greater Dublin Region will learn how to use Moland and related modelling capabilities to assess implications of development decisions in their own area and beyond their boundaries

.(b) A biodiversity awareness project in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown, in collaboration with Dublin Zoo will yield a casebook for use in disseminating the approach.

3. Review of State of Knowledge

Reviews of state of knowledge in regard to MOLAND and other related models such as SATURN are presented in the relevant sub-project. Dublin Zoo benchmarks itself in its education and outreach programmes with best practise internationally.

4. Description of Work

Analytical capacities at local level

A core purpose of this project is to develop the capabilities of local authorities to systematically interrogate options and their implications in an integrated fashion. Those initially so involved will be the 8 authorities -four in county Dublin, and counties Louth, Meath, Kildare and Wicklow – in the Greater Dublin Region – but the lessons of their use will be incorporated into the final work book and made available to all local authorities, together with associated capacity building courses. The project will be linked with a parallel initiative in Northern Ireland and the border counties. It is hoped that we can collaborate to produce joint products with application throughout the island of Ireland, but the modalities in this regard remain to be worked on.

Biodiversity and Development

A key challenge is to make biodiversity conservation compatible with development. Achieving this synergy requires knowledge of biodiversity characteristics, their habitat requirements, and responsiveness to development pressures. How to achieve this compatibility will be examined in collaboration with Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council A special module of the biodiversity sub-project will be focused on this objective, with the focus on raising public awareness of how this challenge can be addressed. Dublin Zoo has developed a very strong and effective outreach programme to schools and the wider public focused on the merits of habitat conservation for wildlife. This capacity will be mobilised in a partnership format to ensure that the outreach effort is designed and implemented to maximum effect. The lessons from the Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council case study will be used to develop a casebook for application in other local authorities; Dublin Zoo support in the production, dissemination and use of this casebook will also be invaluable in achieving national take-up.

5. Project Management

The training of local authorities in the use of the modelling capability will be the responsibility of the project Director (Frank Convery) and Manager, in consultation with the Cluster Management Group and the Stakeholder Group. Tom Hayden, who leads the biodiversity sub-project, will lead the local authority element of the Green City sub-project, in co-operation with Tim Carey, Heritage Officer, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and Una Smyth, Education Officer, Dublin Zoo.

6. Expected Results

- More informed and therefore better quality decisions at local level about development options.
- More informed public concerning the implications of development for biodiversity.

7. Composition and Experience of Team

Mr Tim Carey is the Heritage Officer at Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council. Mr Carey has extensive understanding of raising public understanding of the relationship between biodiversity and development. The post of Heritage Officer was established in partnership with the Heritage Council in 2003 -the DLRCC post was the 17th Heritage Officer post established in the country (there are now 26). The role of the Heritage Officer is to promote heritage issues (architectural, archaeological and natural heritage) within the local authority structure. One of the main vehicles for this is the production of a five year strategic county Heritage Plan prepared in consultation with the general public, NGOs, state bodies and private firms. An important component of this county Heritage Plan is the production of a County Biodiversity Plan. In addition Mr Carey has written on a number of topics for various publications, including three books, Mountjoy: the Story of a Prison (2000) which was a bestseller, Hanged for Ireland (2001) and Croke Park: A History (2004).

8. Facilities/Capabilities

Urban Institute Ireland (UII) and Dublin Zoo have excellent facilities and experience in training and dissemination.

8. Declarations on Other Sources of Funding and on Tax Clearance

UCD, TCD and NUIM rely on this funding to cover marginal costs and have not sought additional funding; whereas ERA-Maptec provides 50% funding through their own sources.

University College Dublin will provide a current Tax Clearance Certificate, on request from the Environmental Protection Agency.

9. Compliance with National Policies on the Environment, Gender and Poverty

Urban Institute Ireland (UII), UCD (Project leader) UCD conforms with the university policy with respect to best practice in the areas of ethics, the environment and socio-cultural matters, including poverty. In particular, this project focuses on the development of an in-depth understanding of the environmental issues associated with urban areas. University College Dublin has an Equal Opportunities Committee with the brief to support Gender Mainstreaming within the university.