OUR PLANET, YOUR BIOSPHERE



November 2020

UNESCO Kerry Biosphere Reserve – Autumn Event Series - Final Report

'Our Planet, Your Biosphere' is a strategic initiative launching in partnership with the UNESCO Kerry Biosphere reserve, Creative Ireland Kerry and the EPA in autumn 2020. The aim of the initiative is to promote citizen well-being through opportunities to engage, in a creative way, with local habitats and to impart intergenerational learning.













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Our planet, your Biosphere

UNESCO KERRY BIOSPHERE RESERVE - AUTUMN EVENT SERIES - FINAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The Kerry United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Biosphere Reserve was first established in 1982 as the Killarney Biosphere reserve; following a review process in 2017 the biosphere reserve area was increased to incorporate a core, transition and buffer zone bringing the total area of the Biosphere reserve to 65,760 ha.

The core area and Buffer zone of Kerry Biosphere reserve are subject to several national and international environmental designations including: Killarney National park, Killarney National park Special Protection Area (SPA), Killarney National Park, MacGillycuddy reeks and Caragh River Catchment Special area of Conservation (SAC), Killarney National Park, MacGillycuddy reeks and Caragh River Catchment proposed national heritage area (pNHA), Eirk Bog Nature Reserve, Eirk Bog SPA, Derrycunnihy Wood Nature Reserve, Castlemaine Harbour SAC, Doo Loughs pNHA. (Killarney National Park Biosphere Reserve, Periodic Review, May 2017).

Biosphere reserves globally champion a community led, participatory approach, however here in Kerry there is a lack of awareness of the UNESCO biosphere reserve designation, the protected habitats and species within the protected areas, their contribution to our healthy ecosystems and the vital role that communities play in protecting these natural habitats.

Through increasing understanding and engagement with the protected areas of the Kerry Biosphere Reserve and the associated listed habitats and species this event will address this awareness deficit and encourage citizen engagement with the conservation objectives of the Kerry Biosphere reserve.

'Our Planet, Your Biosphere' is a strategic initiative launched in partnership with Kerry's Biosphere reserve and Creative Ireland Kerry with support from the Environmental Protection agency and South Kerry Development Partnership in autumn 2020. The event series includes online talks, primary schools workshops, an arts and heritage engagement project 'StoryScapes' and development of educational resources for primary schools and a dedicated website for the UNESCO Kerry Biosphere Reserve.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT SERIES

Aim:

To encourage community wellbeing through arts and heritage engagement with the native habitats and species of the Kerry Biosphere Reserve and to raise awareness of the part we as stewards of the land play in protecting nature and biodiversity.

Objectives:

- To deliver both online and in person events to raise awareness of the ecology and heritage of the Kerry UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and encourage ongoing engagement both locally and nationally with the Man and the Biosphere program in line with the Roadmap for MAB programmes 2015-2025.
- To engage an intergenerational audience using STEAM place based approach to encourage citizen
 wellbeing through stewardship of the protected habitats and species found in the Kerry UNESCO
 Biosphere Reserve.
- To develop a dedicated Kerry Biosphere website to aid in promoting the UNESCO Kerry Biosphere Reserve and to encourage citizen engagement with same.
- To develop content that can be shared online via a dedicated Kerry Biosphere website and
 associated social media channels to increase awareness of the significance of the UNESCO Biosphere
 Reserve designation, the objectives of the MAB programme and provide a resource for individuals,
 schools and communities to encourage engagement with the opportunities it presents.
- To develop a schools programme that will increase students' knowledge of the ecology and habitats of the Kerry Biosphere Reserve through hands on and arts engagement methods.
- To launch a primary student's art competition to create a calendar to be made available for purchase titled 'My Kerry Biosphere' encouraging students to create artwork based on their learnings during the schools programme.

EVENTS SERIES DESCRIPTION

The 'Our Planet, Your Biosphere' event series was designed to promote awareness of the UNESCO Kerry Biosphere Reserve while encouraging citizen wellbeing through engagement with the natural and cultural heritage of the area. Nature connection, visiting outdoor spaces and particularly natural habitats has been proven to increase wellbeing, reduce stress and encourage positive mindsets. Given the ongoing restrictions imposed by the COVID pandemic, this event series was designed to help individuals and communities to maintain a connection to nature and increase their understanding of the ecology of these areas with a view to increasing their engagement with protected habitats and the work of the UNESCO Kerry Biosphere Reserve once travel restrictions have been lifted.

To increase the impact of the event series we offered several different types of events to encourage intergenerational engagement and to appeal to a wider demography in communities including remote communities, community groups, special interest groups and farmers. This led to the creation of several events types: online community talks, online family workshops, primary school workshops, primary school calendar competition and the 'StoryScapes' arts and storytelling project.

The opportunity for developing an ongoing legacy from this year's event was also considered with a view to repeating the autumn event series in future years. This has led several longer term elements being incorporated into this year's event series. These include: the creation of a YouTube channel for the Kerry Biosphere Reserve, the development of a dedicated website for the Kerry Biosphere Reserve, the creation of the 'UNESCO Kerry Biosphere Reserve' primary schools worksheet and the printing of the 'My Kerry Biosphere' calendar using artwork selected from the primary schools calendar competition.

Events Schedule

Event Title	Date of event	Speakers	Event description
Online Launch event	November 5 th 2020 At 7pm	Minister Pippa Hackett Niall O' Donnchú, NPWS	Online talks hosted via Zoom
		Moira Murrell, CEO, Kerry County Council Noel Spillane, CEO, South Kerry Development (SKDP) Partnership,	
		Patricia Deane, Project Manager, MacGillycuddy reeks EIP project Hosted by: Eleanor Turner, Biosphere	
'The world of the woods -family workshop'	November 7 th 2020 at 2.30pm	Officer, SKDP Workshop facilitator: Alannah Ní Cheallaigh Hosted by: Eleanor Turner, Biosphere Officer	Online talks hosted via Zoom
'Upland Habitats — community talk'	November 11 th 2020 at 7pm	Speaker: Mary Toomey, Project Ecologist, Reeks EIP Hosted by: Eleanor Turner, Biosphere Officer	Online talks hosted via Zoom
'Habitats and Species of Killarney National Park – Community talk'	November 18th 2020 at 7pm	Speaker: Mary Sheehan, Ranger, Killarney National Park Hosted by: Eleanor Turner, Biosphere Officer	Online talks hosted via Zoom
'StoryScapes' Arts and Storytelling project	Launched November 5 th final presentation on November 21 st 2020 at 7pm	Storyteller: Sean O' Laoghaire Hosted by: Eleanor Turner, Biosphere Officer	Arts installation and storytelling project incorporating outdoor arts installations, video dissemination and Online storytelling delivery hosted via Zoom
Woodland workshops for Primary Schools	All workshops delivered between November 9 th and 25 th 2020	Workshop Facilitator: Alannah Ní Cheallaigh	Outdoor workshop delivered on location in Killarney National park
Peatlands workshops for Primary schools	Workshops delivered on November 26 th 2020	Workshop Facilitator: Nuala Madigan Education Officer	In class module incorporating teacher led activities provided

		Irish Peatland Conservation Council	by IPCC and a live zoom chat with Education officer from IPCC
'My Kerry Biosphere' Primary School Calendar Competition	Launched November 5 th , closing date for entries November 20th	Delivered by Eleanor Turner, Biosphere Officer Judges for artwork selection: Valerie O' Sullivan, Photographer Sean O' Laoghaire, Artist and Storyteller Kate Kennelly, Creative Ireland Kerry Coordinator	Art competition open to 1st to 6th class within all schools in Kerry — students watched introductory presentation about the Kerry Biosphere Reserve and completed artwork. Winning artworks were used to create a calendar title 'My Kerry Biosphere'
UNESCO Kerry Biosphere Reserve — Primary Schools worksheet	Developed in November, available for distribution to schools from November 30th	Design and content: Eleanor Turner, Biosphere Officer Ralph Redlich, Graphic Designer, Tralee printing Darren Burk, Kerry County Council Proofed and approved by Kerry Biosphere Reserve Management council	A3 sized poster style worksheet incorporating a map of the UNESCO Kerry Biosphere Reserve, details of protected areas within the Reserve area and activities for students to complete.
Website Development – kerrybiosphere.ie	Website developed in November due for launch early December	Website created by: Foran Enterprise Content developed by: Eleanor Turner, Biosphere Officer, in conjunction with Kerry Biosphere Reserve Management Council	Creation of dedicated website for Kerry Biosphere Reserve

EVENT DETAILS AND ATTENDANCE

'Our Planet, Your Biosphere' Online Talks

All online events were held using the Zoom webinar platform. This was chosen for its cost effectiveness, ease of registration link set up and post webinar analytics.

All events were advertised via the Kerry Biosphere Reserve social media channels, this allowed for wide spread sharing in relevant groups and on relevant pages and an opportunity for higher engagement (examples of some of the social media engagement can be seen in Appendix 6). The launch event was also

advertised on Radio Kerry with several ads running over the 5 days prior to the event. All events were also shared via email with among the networks of the individuals working on the project.

Below is a table showing the attendee figures for each online event.

Online talks:	Attendees at event	Total number of	Post webinar
		Registrations for event	video views on
			30.11.2020
'Our Planet, Your Biosphere'	71	99	95
Launch event			
'The world of the woods' Family	23	38	12
workshop			
'Upland Habitats' Community Talk	36	47	54
'Habitats of Killarney National	48	67	68
Park' Community Talk			
'StoryScapes' the final tale	27	40	8
Totals	205	291	229

'StoryScapes' arts installation and Storytelling project

StoryScapes is an innovative arts installation and Storytelling project created by storyteller and artist Sean O' Laoghaire and delivered as part of the 'Our Planet, Your Biosphere' autumn event series.

Addressing issues of audience participation that can be lost in online delivery platforms, that would be usual in live storytelling practice 'StoryScapes' was developed to give the audience the power to shape the story as it was created prior to the final tale being told in a live session held via the Zoom webinar platform.

The project launched on November 5th to coincide with the online launch event. The final live storytelling event was held on Saturday November 21st throughout the weeks in between short video clips were released on Sean o' Laoghaire's YouTube channel and shared via social media. The videos included footage of the local environment, scenes created using natural materials and puppets in action. The public were encouraged to watch the videos and comment on what they thought was happening and where they thought the story would go next. These comments were then collected by Sean and elements from each included within the script of the final tale to be told during the live event.

All videos are available to view, links can be found in appendix 4.

Below is a table of the engagement numbers for this element of the events series.

StoryScapes project videos	Video views on	Social media reach	Attendees at live
	YouTube	from Facebook:	event
StoryScapes part 1	204	204	N/A
StoryScapes part 2	101	322	N/A
StoryScapes part 3	63	78	N/A
StoryScapes part 4	58	-	N/A
StoryScapes part 5	57	84	N/A
StoryScapes part 6	52	-	N/A
Live online storytelling event	8 –uploaded	6145	27

	30.11.2020		
Totals	535	6833	27

Primary School Workshops

As part of the 'Our Planet, Your Biosphere' event series workshops were offered to primary schools located within the UNESCO Kerry Biosphere Reserve. Three workshops topics were offered: Native Woodlands, Peatland Habitats and Upland Habitats. (A description of the individual workshops is included in the advertising examples in appendix 1). These workshops were offered in conjunction with an independent environmental education Alannah Ní Cheallaigh.

As the schools that availed of the workshops were located close to Killarney National Park all classes chose to avail of the Native Woodlands workshop.

These workshops were delivered over 5 and half days to 2 different schools, accommodating 1st to 6th class in both schools to a total of approx. 220 students.

Due to an over subscription for the field study workshops we also offered a remote module developed and delivered by the Irish Peatland Conservation Council. This was availed of by one school with three classes of 5^{th} and 6^{th} class participating. This includes a further 84 students.

Primary School calendar competition

The primary school calendar competition was launched on November 5th with a closing date for submission on the 20th of November.

The competition was open to all Primary schools located in Kerry. Contact details for all Kerry primary schools were downloaded from the website www.education.ie.

An email was sent to all schools on November 4th with details of the competition and a printable pdf to be shared among teachers detailing the competition rules (a copy of this email is included in Appendix 3). A presentation introducing the UNESCO Kerry Biosphere Reserve was developed and recorded and made available via the Kerry Biosphere YouTube channel on November 10th. A further email was sent to all schools on this day to alert them of the availability of the introductory presentation to assist in introducing the competition to the students. To date (30.11.2020) the video of this presentation has had 89 views.

38 classes submitted entries to the competition from 16 different schools with a total of 288 individual entries.

A total of 14 artworks will be selected by the judging panel, made up of Kate Kennelly, arts officer in Kerry County Council, Sean O' Laoghaire, artist and storyteller with a strong focus on heritage and mythology and Valerie O' Sullivan, photographer and volunteer on Killarney Mountain Meitheal volunteer group.

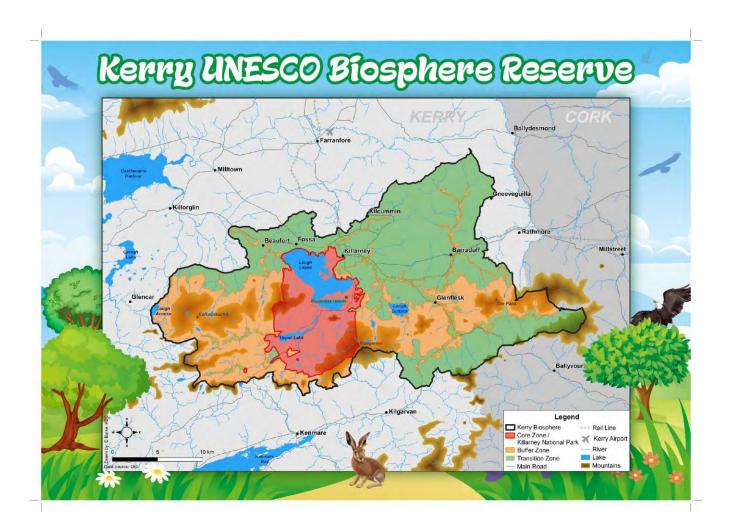
Each of the students whose artwork is included in the calendar will receive a copy of the calendar and an award certificate noting their achievement. Each Students class will receive and education pack consisting of a copy of the calendar, three books (The Great Big Book of Irish Wildlife through the Seasons by Juanita Browne, Diary of a young Naturalist by Dara McNulty and 101 things for kids to do outside by Dawn Isaac) and a UNESCO Kerry Biosphere Reserve worksheet for each person in the class. Each class that participated

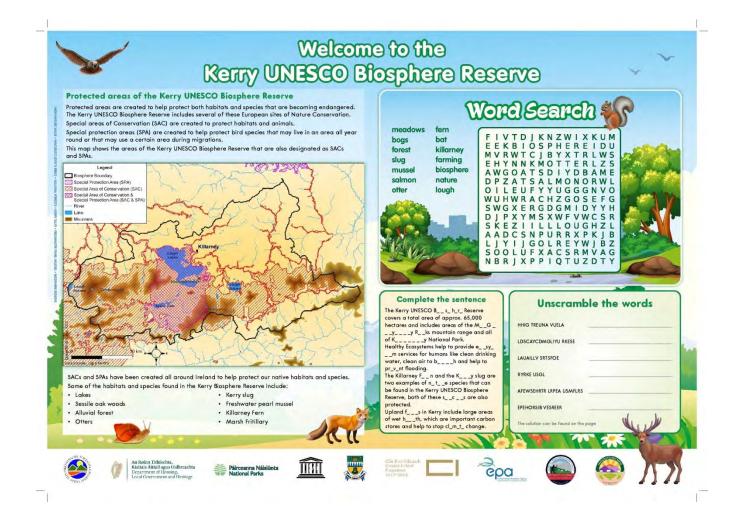
in the competition will receive a copy of the calendar and a thank you note to mark their contribution to the competition.

UNESCO Kerry Biosphere RESERVE PRIMARY schools worksheet

A worksheet has been developed to promote awareness and engagement with the UNESCO Kerry Biosphere Reserve. This is currently in draft format awaiting approval from the Management Committee for printing. This will be distributed as part of the education pack prize for the Primary schools calendar competition. It will be printed in A3 size and is double sided. In future this will be distributed in primary schools in Kerry to complement all other educational offerings e.g. workshops or talks.

Below is the copy of the Draft worksheet:





UNESCO Kerry biosphere website development

A dedicated website for the UNESCO Kerry Biosphere Reserve is also under construction as part of this event series. This will provide a central point of contact and allow for all information going forward to be made available and accessible in one place—this will include links to the event videos on YouTube, downloadable educational resources and information on how individuals and communities can get involved with the UNESCO Kerry Biosphere Reserve.

The website is due for launch in mid-December and will be using the domain www.kerrybiosphere.ie

EVENT FEEDBACK AND POST WEBINAR SURVEYS

Some feedback from attendees of the online webinars was collected on the night via the chat function in the webinar platform, feedback on the school workshops was sent to the kerrybiosphere@skdp.net email directly from participating teachers. Below is an example of some responses, the first quote box was received from a teacher who had participated in the woodland workshop with her class.

"The children and my colleagues have told me about the wonderful variety of engaging activities that you facilitated for the girls. They said that their experience was very positive; they found the workshop very interesting and enjoyed themselves immensely. Thanks so much for providing such a wonderful experience for the girls in our beautiful National Park.

When I asked the girls today to reflect on their happiest memories of this week, your workshop ranked number one!

Sincerest thanks to you and your colleague Eleanor for organising and facilitating such a fantastic workshop."

"I just wanted to take the time to contact you about the workshop with Nuala from the Irish Peatland Conservation Council. The boys absolutely loved the whole experience. They really embraced the topic and learned so much about the bogs of Ireland. Nuala had prepared videos, classroom activities & quizzes that were interesting and age appropriate. The live zoom workshop worked out so well. Nuala was so enthusiastic in her presentation and the boys responded so well to her. They thoroughly enjoyed it and learned so much."

These responses were received via the chat function on the webinar platform directly after events.

'Well done Eleanor and fantastic to hear also from Patricia and all your contributing presenters'

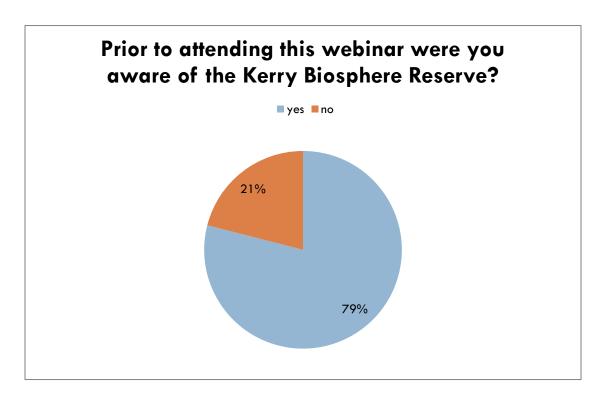
'There's finally hope for our natural heritage in Kerry. Great to hear good news. Onwards and upwards.'

'So informative. Mile buiochas!!'

A post webinar survey was sent to all attendees after the event. These were created and disturbed via the online programme survey monkey. An example of one of the surveys is included in Appendix 5.

Feedback from all the events in the series was overwhelming positive. With 100% of survey respondents saying they enjoyed the event. When asked if they had found the webinar interesting 59% returned an answer of 'yes, very interesting, and 41% returned an answer of 'mostly interesting'.

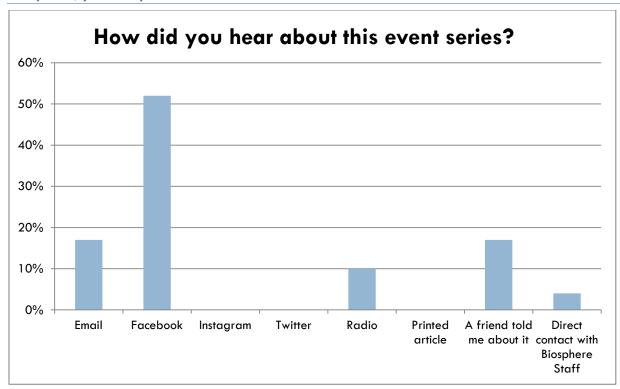
One question sought to determine if the attendees had prior knowledge of the UNESCO Kerry Biosphere Reserve, this was answered 79% yes and 21% no. This highlights the need for further engagement events to increase awareness of the UNESCO Kerry Biosphere Reserve. As this question was asked after all events and it was noted that several individuals attended more than one event the data for this answer may be slightly skewed as individuals attending more than one event may have answered no after the first event and yes after subsequent events. This will be addresses in future by the inclusion of a third option 'I have attended previous events held by the Kerry Biosphere Reserve'. This will also be useful in determining whether we are achieving a longer term engagement with our public event series.



Attendees were also asked how they had become aware of the event series, the responses to this question are summarized in the chart below. A considerable portion of the attendees discovered the events via Facebook, this was expected as for online events Facebook offers an easy way to engage with an audience that is already familiar with online content delivery. Facebook also allows specific targeting of audiences based on interest and geographical areas which proved very useful, particularly for the more specific interest topics such as upland habitats.

Given the cost of the radio advertising it was disappointing to see only 10% of survey respondents noted that as the method through which they head about the series. However the reach of a radio advertisement is substantial and so even though there was a low conversion rate, in terms of raising general awareness of the UNESCO Kerry Biosphere reserve we still feel the cost in advertising justified.

17% of survey respondents indicated that they had heard about the events series by Email and a further 17% by word of mouth, this gives a total of 34% of attendees coming from direct communication via email networks or community networks. This is something to be considered more for future events and does suggest that the creation of a mailing list for the Kerry Biosphere Reserve events would be beneficial.

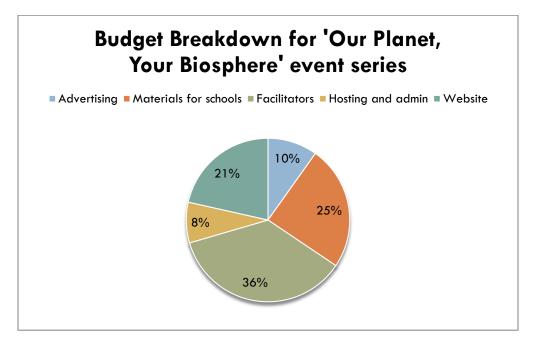


EVENT BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Total funding secured for the event series = €7000

Sources for funding were Creative Ireland =€4000, Environmental Protection agency event support = €3000.

Management and coordination of the event was delivered by the Biosphere Officer working with South Kerry Development partnership on the UNESCO Kerry Biosphere Reserve.



DISCUSSION

Overall the event series was very well received and attended, achieving a wide engagement and positive reviews and feedback.

Given the relatively recent appointment of the Biosphere Officer to the UNESCO Kerry Biosphere Reserve there was a very short lead time for the event series from concept through to delivery. This had an impact on the extent of advertising that was allowed for and the number of school workshops that could be offered. In future years having the events planned further in advance may support a wider advertising campaign for some elements of the event series.

The school workshops also suffered due to the weather constraints given the time of year in which they were offered this resulted in two days of workshops being rescheduled. In future years it would be better to offer the school workshops earlier in the semester between September and October.

Given the wide engagement from the primary schools in the workshop offerings and calendar competition this will be something that we are keen to build on next year. We would also in future seek to engage directly with primary schools and potentially secondary schools particularly TY or art students to expand the reach and engagement with the StoryScapes project.

After each webinar a survey was sent to attendees, this included a request for suggestions for future talks and workshop topics; a list of these is included below:

- Archaeology
- The history of the different areas of the park
- Stakeholder aspect of the Biosphere Reserve and How these stakeholders work together
- The type of work being done in the Kerry Biosphere Reserve area
- The farmers experience
- Any subject relating to Biodiversity e.g. wildlife, insects, flora and fauna
- What to look out for and how to be personally responsible when using the park regularly.
- How landowners in the Buffer zone are proactively engaging with the aims of the Biosphere Reserve.
- Waterways and water quality
- Native Gardening planting
- Gardening for birds
- Wildlife spotting course
- Rhododendron treatment workshop
- Talk or exhibition on the stars
- Walk with a conservationist to show what they see when they walk in the park
- Tree planting project

Future actions for the UNESCO Kerry Biosphere Reserve team identified through this event series would be to continue development of the online presence both through continued website development and all social media channels. Development of a newsletter and mailing list function should also be prioritized as a way to foster ongoing engagement with attendees of this event series.

It is also recommended that this event series be expanded and continued on a yearly basis. With some elements having potential to be expanded throughout the year.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our sincere thanks to our funders Creative Ireland Kerry, The Environmental Protection Agency and South Kerry Development partnership whose support made all of this possible.

Thanks to the partners supporting the Management Committee of the UNESCO Kerry Biosphere Reserve: Kerry County Council, National Parks and Wildlife service and South Kerry Development Partnership.

We would also like to offer special thanks to Kate Kennelly, Arts Officer for Kerry County Council who was instrumental in the early planning phase for this event series and provided ongoing support throughout its delivery and Patricia Deane, Project Manager for the MacGillycuddy Reeks European Innovation Partnership project who supported the coordination and advertising of the event and through her own network raised the profile within the national farming community encouraging engagement from all over Ireland.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: samples of advertising used for social media and other online platforms







KERRY UNESCO BIOSPHERE RESERVE 'Our Planet, Your Biosphere'

PRIMARY SCHOOL PROGRAMME



INTRODUCING THE KERRY UNESCO BIOSPHERE RESERVE

We are currently offering fully funded practical workshops to schools in the Kerry Biosphere area to encourage students to learn about the amazing habitats we have here in the Kerry Biosphere Reserve. Suitable for students 1st - 6th class

Which one is your favourite?





WOODLANDS

Learn about:

- How to identify trees, lichens and other creatures
- What do trees tell us about the land?
- **Biodiversity and** interdependence of species
- Human land use
- Sustainable seed collecting

Take part in creative work including performance, poetry and prose.

A hands -on practical workshop for 1st class and up



PEATLANDS

Learn about:

- How Bogs are formed?
- Measuring soil PH
- Measuring the water table
- What animals live here
- Peatland conservation
- How Bogs can help fight climate change

Take part in creative work including performance, poetry and prose.

A hands -on practical workshop for 1st class and up.



UPLANDS

Learn about:

- How rocks decide almost everything!
- **Rock ID and Soil testing**
- Glaciation, rivers and lakes
- What flora and fauna have adapted to live here
- Conservation of the uplands

Take part in creative work including performance, poetry and prose.

hands -on practical workshop for 1st class and up













HOW TO BOOK YOUR WORKSHOP:

This programme is co-ordinated by the Kerry Biosphere Reserve team and supported by Creative Ireland Kerry.

To book a workshop or for more details please email kerrybiosphere@skdp.net or call our Biosphere Officer, Eleanor Turner, on 087 152 7746

Workshops are fully funded by Creative Ireland

MEET_THE INSTRUCTOR _



ALANNAH NÍ CHEALLAIGH

WORKSHOP DETAILS

Workshops can be full day or half day.

Depending on the habitats available within the school or close by workshops can be offered on location or within school grounds.

Woodland workshops can be offered as in class workshops.

Suitable for 1st class or over.

Available in November 2020.

CURRICULUM LINKS

Subjects: Science, History, Geography

Curriculum Strands:
Living things (Science),
Materials (Science),
Environmental awareness and care
(Geography & Science),
Human environments (Geography),
Natural environments (Geography),
Story (History),
Local Studies (History),
Early people and ancient societies
(History),
Life, society, work and culture in the
past (History),

Continuity and change over time

(History)

Alannah is an environmental educator with a cross-curricular approach to learning. She works in a variety of educational contexts, blending a rich mix of hands-on activities and adapting to suit all learners.

Alannah has an MSc in Outdoor, Environmental and Sustainability Education, with an applied thesis using Irish folklore in experiential education. Her previous studies were in biological sciences and archaeology. Since then, she has run Ecology-based workshops for all ages, throughout Ireland and abroad.

The design of Alannah's sessions support inquiry and experimentation by budding scientists, ignite imaginations and catalyse interest in history and geography, and provide sensory experiences to develop connection with nature and place. Together we'll bring knowledge of this amazing Biosphere and its flora, fauna, people, and legacies to life!



Appendix 2: Copies of printed articles and link to radio segment

Link Radio Kerry Saturday supplement with Joe McGill here: https://www.radiokerry.ie/saturdaysupplement-november-7th

Kerryman piece 04.11.2020

Harnessing the power of stories to help us reconnect with nature

STORY-TELLER and artist Sean O Laoghaire is working on a brand-new project to bring the natural environment of

the natural environment of Kerry together with the art of story-telling, in a bid to help the public re-connect with nature. The project, which is linked with the Kerry Biosphere, aims to promote the wonderful en-vironment surrounding us through using nature to tell actory.

a story: Work has taken place using natural products such as grass, leaves and turf to create art leaves, and turf to creste art installations or props to tell a story. The public are invited to play a part in the project by giving suggestions for what the story should be Videes of the artistic installations will be posted online, and the public can give their suggestions on story ideas based on these. Sean will weave the story ideas together into one story, which will also be proapets online. He will also use puppets



Artist Sean Ö Laoghaire and Kerry Blosphere officer Eleanor Turner, who are using storytelling to bring nature to life in a ne lock-down project. Phole by Christy Rierdan.

which will also use puppers is creating the art works in his to tell the story, a skill he is already well-known for.

"I was approached by Kerry Blosphere Reserve to come up with an idea and, given the pandemic, we really had to think outside the box, and we came up with developing 'Sto-

ryscapes' to tell a story like art installations," explained Sean. It had been hoped to use other locations in Kerry, including the art works in his rearring the art works in his racebook page. Kerry netice Portnager. media by Sean next week, and then the public can make sub-missions of their story ideas. The videos will be on Sean's own social media, including YouTube, and Sean an Seachai is his Facebook page, Kerry Biosphere will also share the videos. The project is funded videos. The project is funded by Kerry County Council Arts office, and an appeal has been made for the public to become part of the project. The final story will be aired on November 21 online.

Killarney Advertiser piece 06.11.2020

Kerry UNESCO Biosphere Reserve autumn event series

The 'Our Planet, Your Biosphere' autumn events evening of talks will discuss the Importance of Biodiversity, Community Action and the Role of the Kerry UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

The Kerry UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, supported by Creative Ireland Kerry, have created a series of online events to promote citizen well-being through engagement with both natural and cultural heritage and to raise awareness of the land play in protecting nature and biodi-

Throughout November the public can join experts detailing the ecology of our beautiful upland areas and discover the species and habitats found in Killamey National Park that have helped to get this area designated as a UNESCO Biosphere reserve.

If you're looking for something to entertain the small ones at the weekend, join the woodland workshop and learn how to begin creating your own native woodland in your garden, the perfect lockdown activity!

It's not just online talks on offer. Seanchal Sean O Laoghaire has devised a story-

telling challenge for all the family. 'Story-Scapes' will see the creation of an outside art installation like a theatre set, this will then be filmed and shared via social media. Everyone is encouraged to watch the videos and relate back their interpretation of the installation, their idea of what happened, who is concerned and what could eventually take place.

All the feedback will be collated into one or two stories and will be performed online, for all to enjoy.

"It was really exciting to be able to create a new concept that can work to connect people with the outdoors, the living sto-

rybook of nature and the opportunities that can be presented working within the current restrictions and utilizing modern technology," Sean said.

This project allows people to connect across distances creating collaborations that can lift us from our 5km restrictions and remind us all of how interconnected we all are as communities and with nature."

Alongside these online events, primary schools in Kerry are also invited to take part in a calendar art competition titled 'My Biosphere Reserve', and winning creations will be used to create a calendar showcasing students' impressions of the Kerry UNESCO Biosphere Reserve throughout the seasons.

To find out more follow them on Facebook: @kerrybiosphere or email kerrybiosphere@skdp.net.

ADVERTISIN

6.11 7070

The Irish Times: 20.11.2020



Photo of the day - https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/images-of-the-day-1.4414048 - 19.11.2020





Appendix 3: Copy of email introducing 'My Kerry Biosphere' Calendar competition to Primary schools

Dear Teacher,

I am emailing you today to let you know about a primary schools art competition that we are launching this week.

The 'My Kerry Biosphere' primary art calendar competition is being launched as part of the 'Our Planet, Your Biosphere' autumn events series, with support from Creative Ireland Kerry, the Environmental Protection agency and South Kerry Development Partnership.

Entry in to the competition is simple, students are asked to create a piece of art work on A4 paper depicting a scene from the Kerry Biosphere in one of the four seasons.

The competition is open to $1^{st} - 6^{th}$ class students from all schools in Kerry, entries will be selected from four categories. $1^{st} - 3^{rd}$ class individual entries, $4^{th} - 6^{th}$ class individual entries, $1^{st} - 3^{rd}$ class group entries, $4^{th} - 6^{th}$ class group entries. (Groups of any size are allowed)

All entries must be submitted on A4 paper. Closing date for entries in the 20th of November. Entries must be submitted by post to the 'My Kerry Biosphere' Calendar competition, Reeks EIP project office, The Old Barracks, Beaufort, County Kerry.

Our planet, your Biosphere

All art works selected will receive a copy of the calendar and the class will receive an education pack from the Kerry UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

I have attached a printable pdf that can be shared with your teachers that includes details of how to enter the competition.

We can also provide an introductory presentation to the Kerry UNESCO Biosphere reserve if required; this has been recorded and can be shared as an mp4 file.

Please let me know if you require access to the presentation so I can forward you the link to download.

You can follow the Kerry Biosphere Reserve on Facebook for details of other events throughout November.

If you have any questions or need any more details please do get in touch,

We look forward to receiving your entries,

Best always,

Eleanor

Eleanor Turner,

Biosphere Officer,

Kerry Biosphere Reserve,

South Kerry Development Partnership CLG.

Old Barracks,

Beaufort Village,

Killarney,

Co. Kerry.

Phone: (087) 1527746

E-mail: kerrybiosphere@skdp.net

Appendix 4: List of links to recordings of events and StoryScapes project video component

Launch Event: https://youtu.be/qrmwjvGPkxY

The world of the woods – Family workshop: https://youtu.be/N843jQcU6f4

Upland habitats -Community Talk: https://youtu.be/TpP05SANtlU

Habitats and Species of Killarney National Park - Community Talk: https://youtu.be/vwxnVuMqVNE

Introduction presentation for Primary schools to UNESCO Kerry Biosphere Reserve: https://youtu.be/ZArGKsXhCig

StoryScapes video 1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yHebK2xIUzM&t=1s

StoryScapes video 2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FpWLDKZkdBI&t=51s

StoryScapes video 3: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0qMnup77c_w&t=7s

StoryScapes video 4: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TfsYmT8JUow

StoryScapes video 5: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHf6DGdNOHw&t=1s

StoryScapes video 6: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EvAAb2vz22Y

StoryScapes – the final tale: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k8oLje7snFo

Appendix 5: Sample post webinar survey form

Post Webinar Survey - 'Our Planet, Your Biosphere'
Community talk - Upland Habitats

Please take 5 minutes to fill in our short survey -there are 7 Questions

Thank you for attending the 'Our Planet, Your Biosphere' event series We would be grateful if you could answer a few questions for us to help us in planning our next event.

1. How did you hear about the talks?

-		
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Facebook

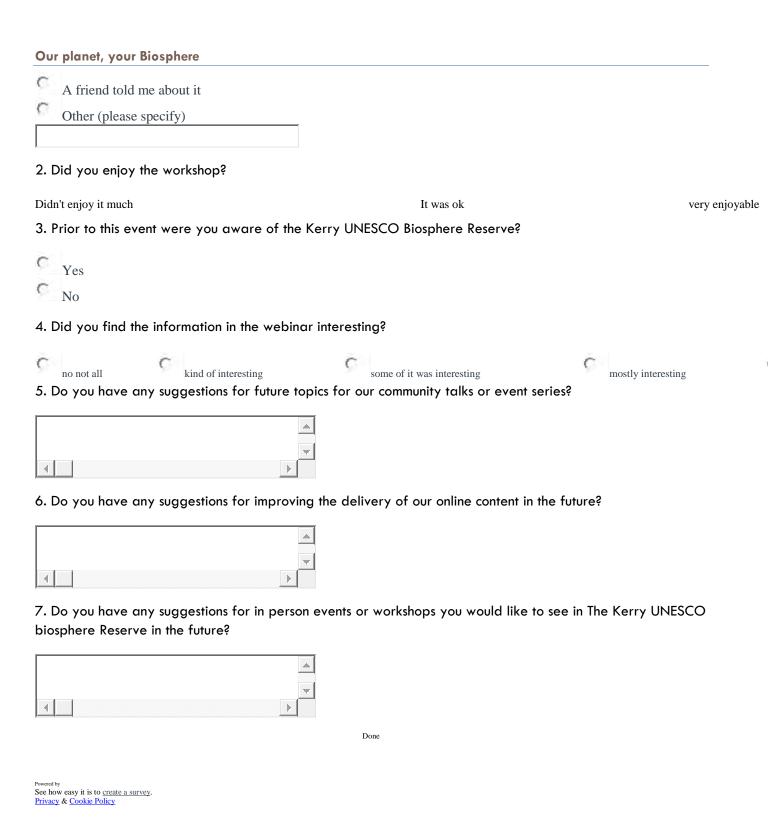
Instagram

Twitter

Radio

Leaflet

Printed advertisement or article



Appendix 6: Samples of social media engagement

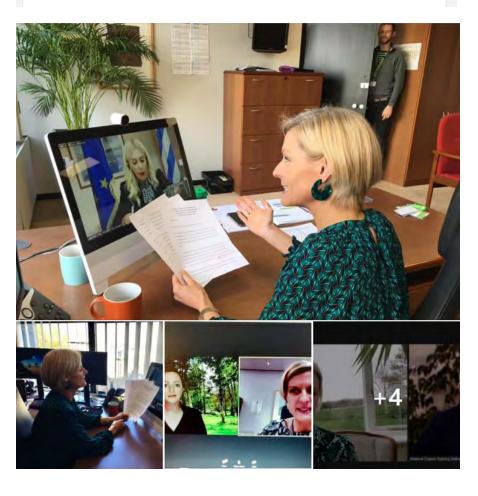


The covid restrictions have brought with them an era of webinars. While there is a certain efficiency to this, and many can be packed into a day, I do miss face to face meetings, and I think with that a there is some loss of effective and meaningful communication. Nevertheless, we are where we are, and this past few weeks have been particularly busy with events - both international, national and local, without me having to leave my office!

So over the past couple of weeks I have presented to a number of conferences and events, including the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation, Kerry UNESCO Biosphere Event, I opened the 3rd Biofarm conference, Macra Na Feirme's "One Health - From Soil to Society" National conference, and Teagasc's Land Use Webinar Series.

Last week I was also in from of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Agriculture, where I took questions on Forestry, which is still very much a sector in difficulty, which needs a lot of focus and support.

On the topic of forestry, I am looking forward to my first meeting of a new Forestry Policy Group next week, which will take up the huge challenge of helping to design a new forestry strategy for our country.











A part of the County of Kerry is a UNESCO biosphere. Caherdaniel resident, Living Iveragh PhD candidate Eleanor Turner is the Biosphere officer. Eleanor is a marine biologist by training and her PhD research is based in her home region of Iveragh, while she works full time (squared) in this role and remains a valuable and active member of the broader Kerry ecology & research communities here and an active collaborator on so many wider National and International research netw... See more



Want to know a little more about Kerry's uplands? Join us Wednesday for a talk with teh Ecologist from the MacGillycuddy Reeks EIP project:-)

#kerrybiosphere #... See more











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