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April 5th 2023

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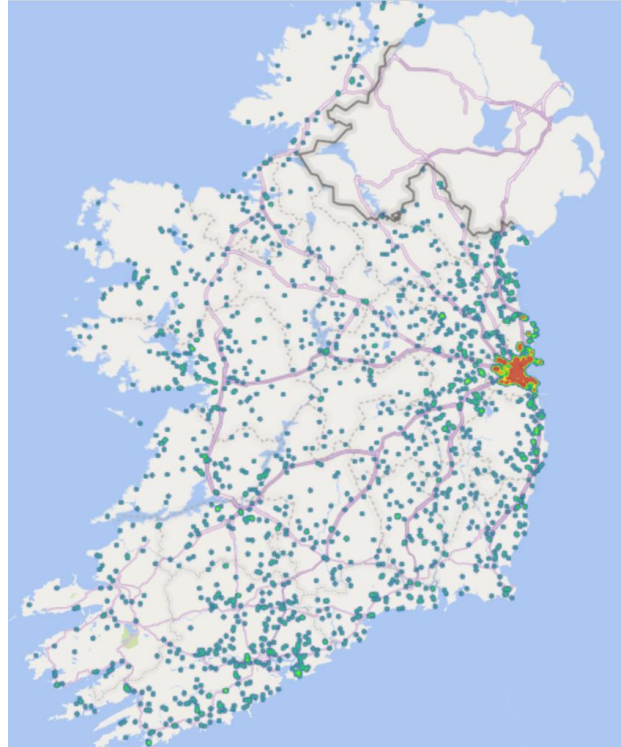
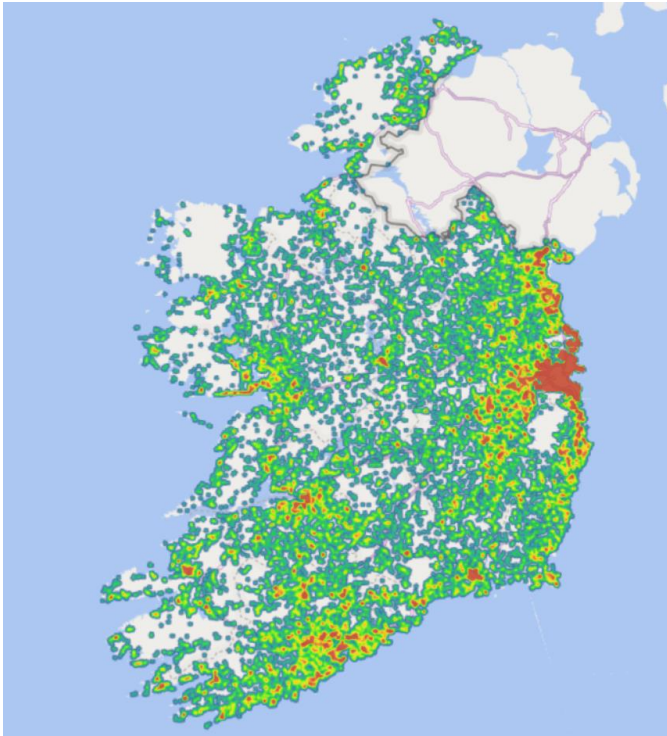
Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity Loss
Report & Recommendations



What is a
Citizens'
Assembly?



Who are the 'citizens' in this Assembly?



Example breakdown: 50/50 gender split, 23 people from Munster, 6 farmers, twelve 18-24 year olds, nineteen 65+ year-olds, 1 Ukranian etc.





Contributions to the Citizens' Assembly

- 647 submissions from Ireland & around the world
- 87 speakers representing a wide variety of sectors and organisations
- Sectoral Approach



Franco Viteri Gualinga

Leader and former president of Sarayuka,
Original people of Kawak Sacha, Living Forest

Greetings to the people of Ireland.









Biodiversity is all life on earth and the systems that underpin it.



Photograph: Donal O'Leary



Photograph: Irish Linen Centre



Photograph: Carlos Garcia



Illustration: Valero Doval/The Guardian

Examples of species we are at risk of losing

European Eel



Freshwater Pearl Mussel



Curlew



Great Yellow Bumblebee



Atlantic Salmon



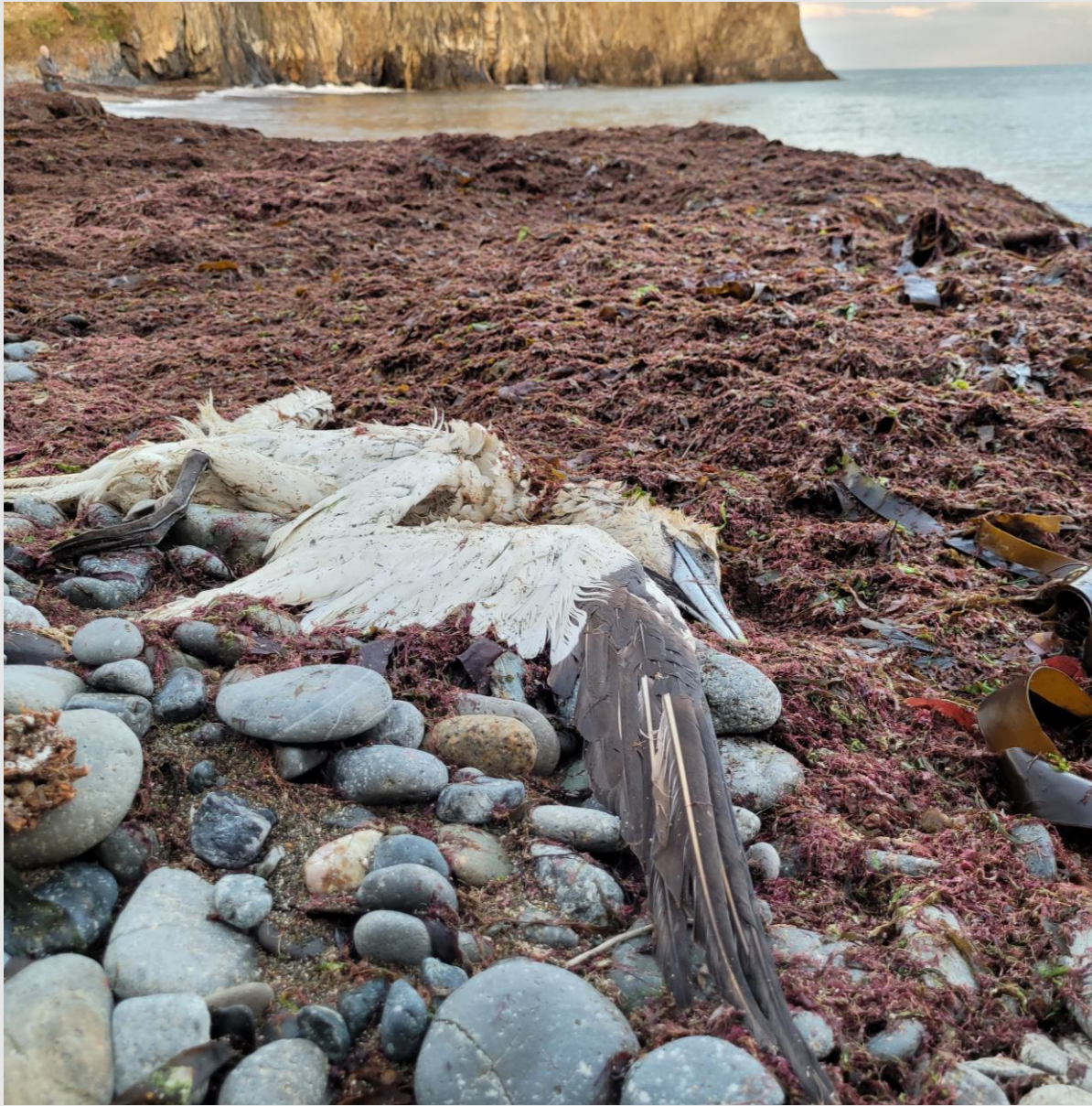
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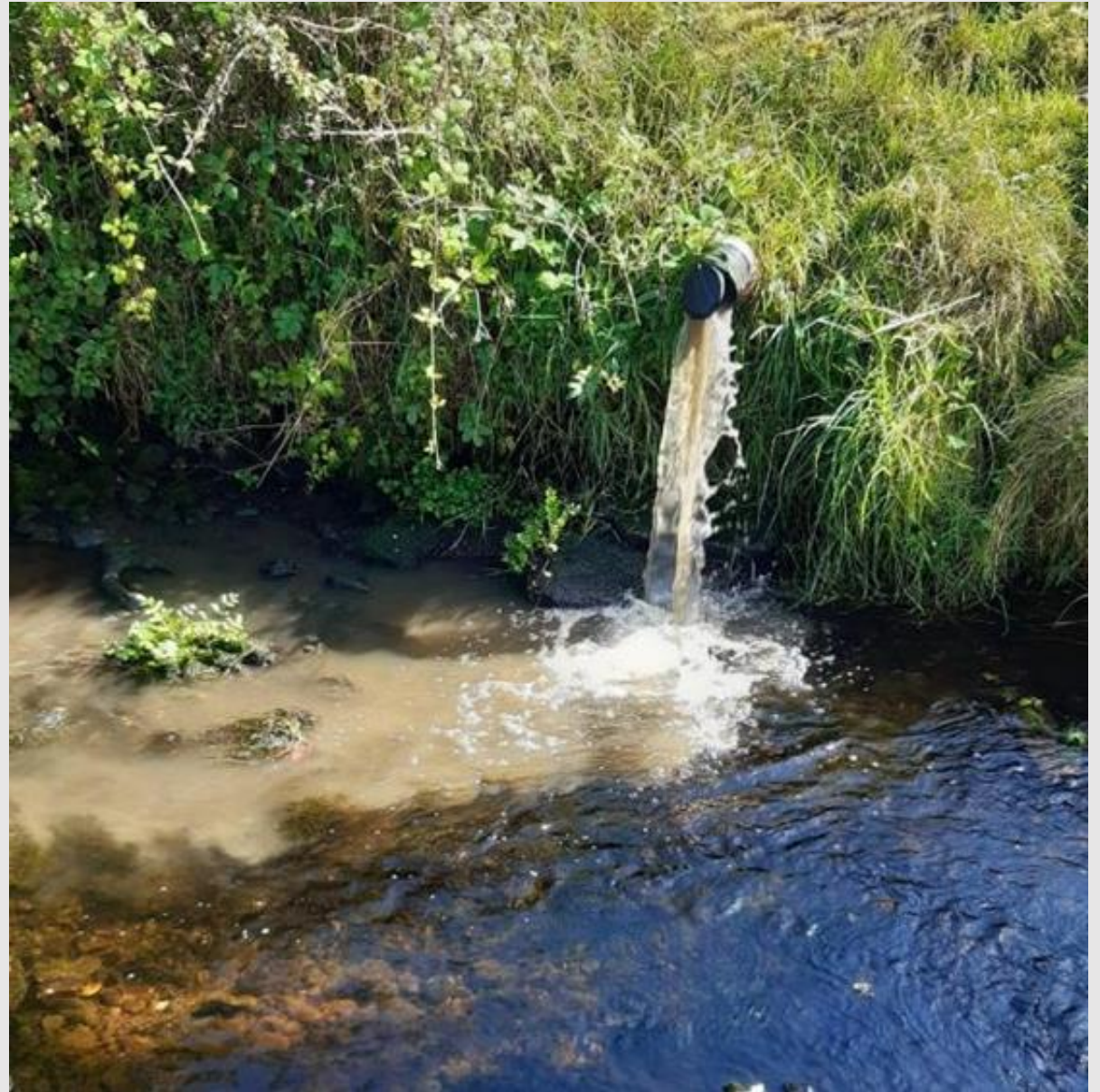


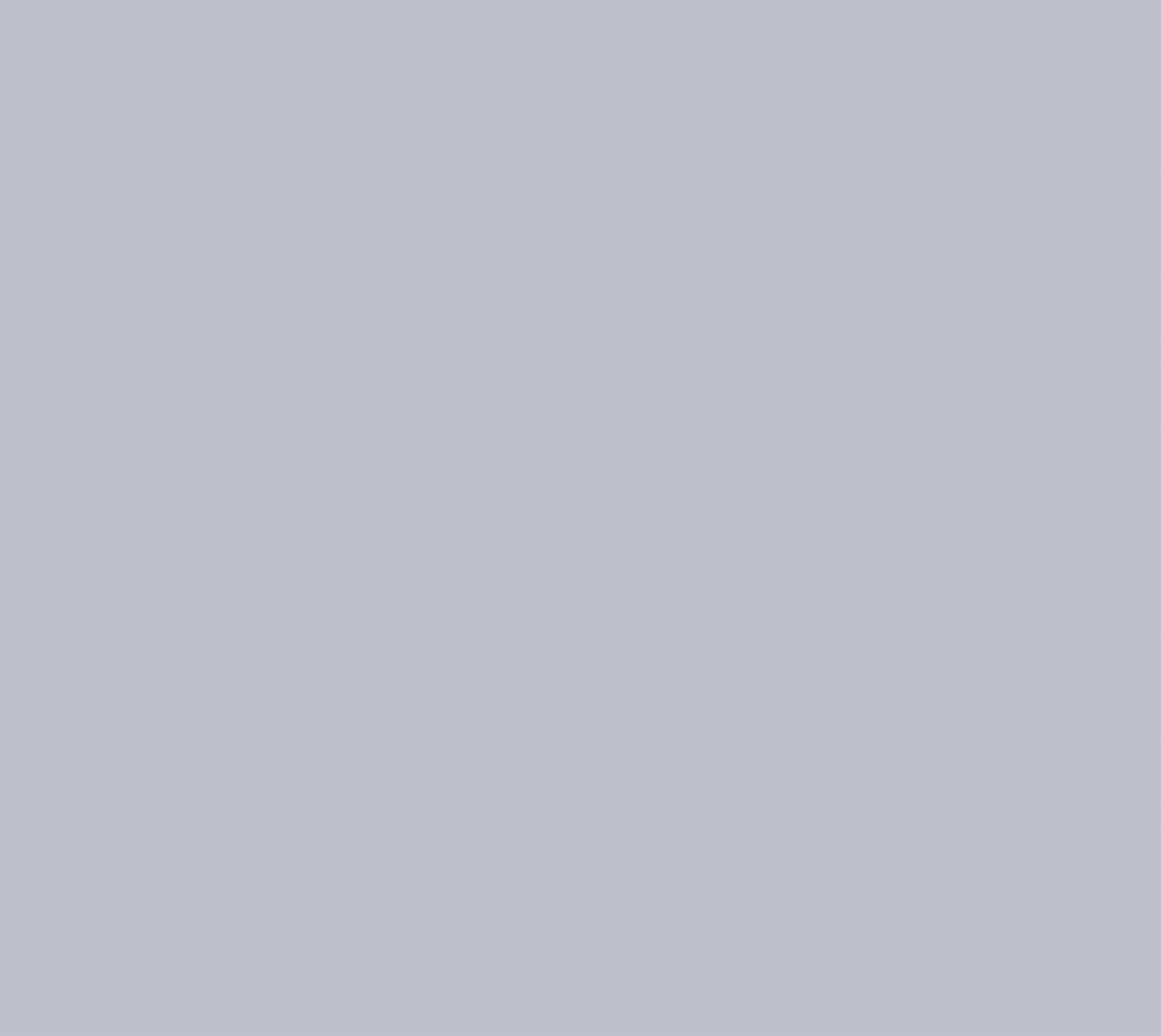












Recommendations of the Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity Loss

1. The State must take prompt, decisive and urgent action to address biodiversity loss and restoration and must provide leadership in protecting Ireland's biodiversity for future generations.
2. The Assembly believes that the State has comprehensively failed to adequately fund, implement, and enforce existing national legislation, national policies, EU biodiversity-related laws and directives related to biodiversity. This must change.



Photograph: Citizens Assembly

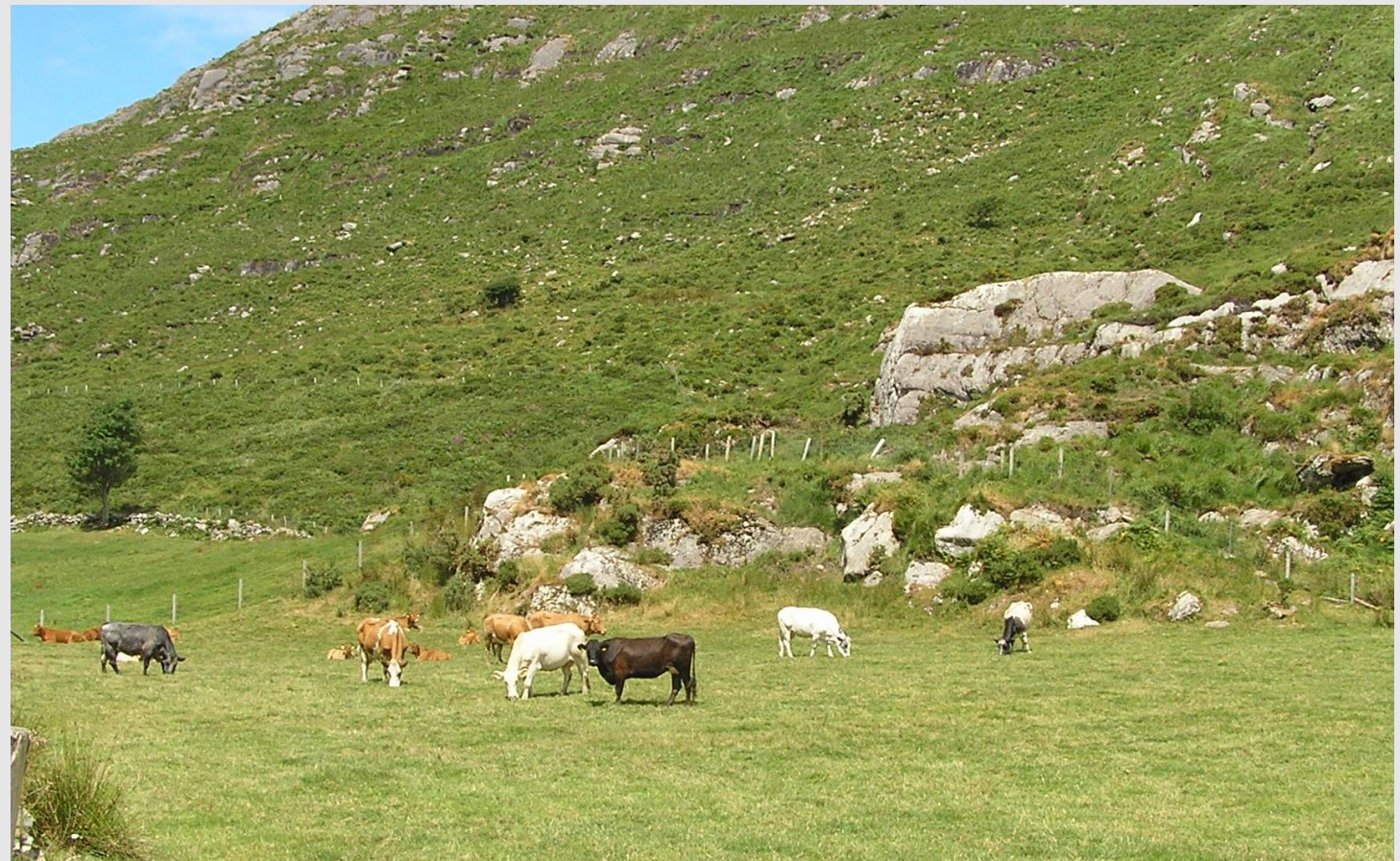
8. As a matter of urgency areas and species of High Nature Value, including but not limited to the national network of Natura 2000 sites and protected species, should be protected from further degradation through the implementation and enforcement of existing legislation and directives.

Management plans should also include restoration programmes.



16. The State must work with all stakeholders to review Ireland's current food policy in the context of the biodiversity crisis, particularly in agriculture and marine sectors, to balance between the affordability and quality of food.

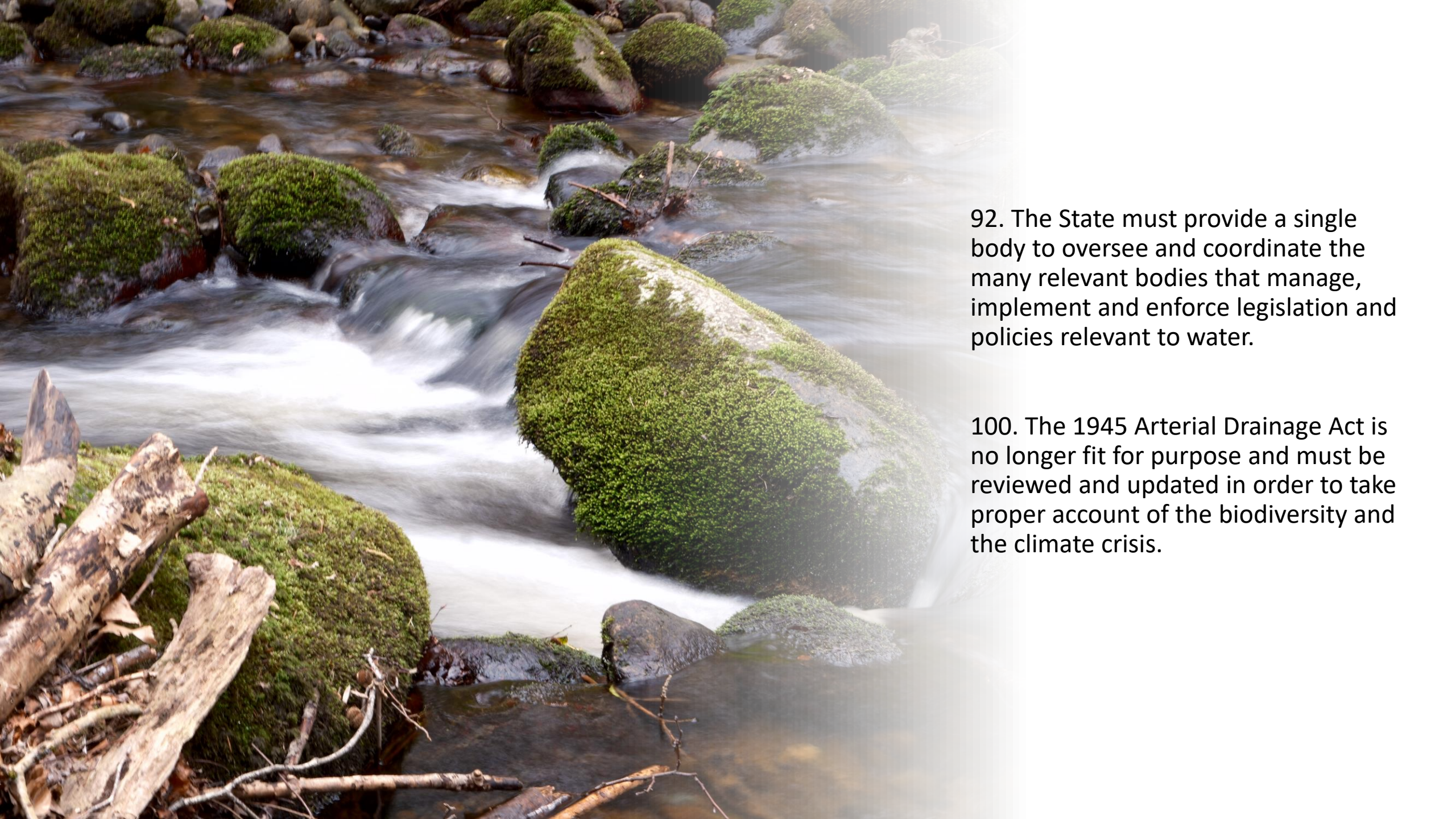
This review must take into consideration vulnerable sections of the population and ensure reasonable standards of living, and result in a plan to address these issues.



10. Ireland needs to recognise its global responsibility, including through our local actions, in terms of our consumerism, resource usage and our international biodiversity responsibilities.

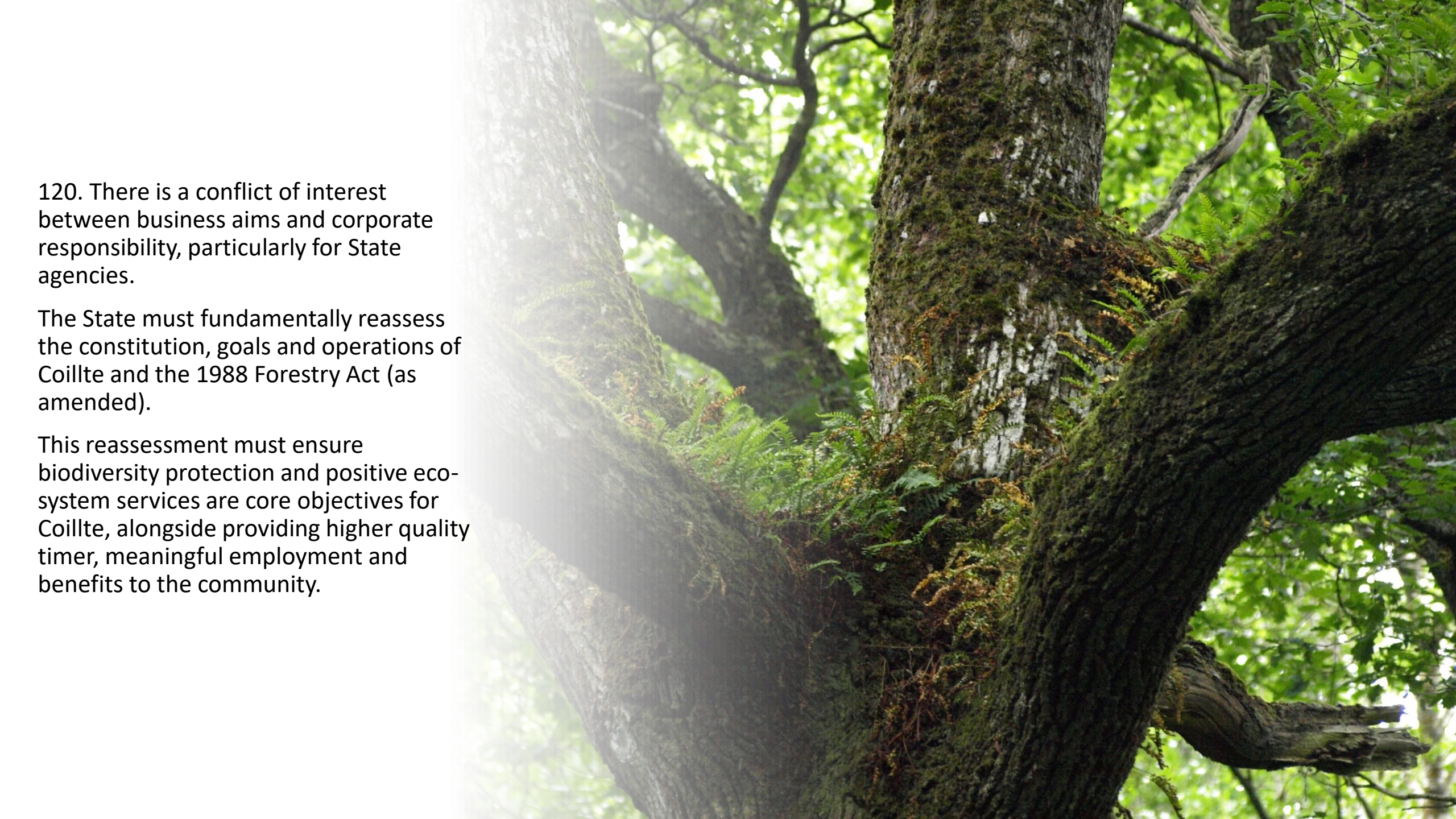
The Government should advocate for a shift in emphasis in EU and international economic policy away from GDP expansion as a goal in itself and towards the goals of societal and ecological wellbeing.





92. The State must provide a single body to oversee and coordinate the many relevant bodies that manage, implement and enforce legislation and policies relevant to water.

100. The 1945 Arterial Drainage Act is no longer fit for purpose and must be reviewed and updated in order to take proper account of the biodiversity and the climate crisis.



120. There is a conflict of interest between business aims and corporate responsibility, particularly for State agencies.

The State must fundamentally reassess the constitution, goals and operations of Coillte and the 1988 Forestry Act (as amended).

This reassessment must ensure biodiversity protection and positive ecosystem services are core objectives for Coillte, alongside providing higher quality timber, meaningful employment and benefits to the community.



121. State-owned woodlands should be recognised and managed as a strategic, long-term national asset for the benefit of the common good.



114. The cessation of turf-cutting on protected areas must be fully implemented and enforced. To facilitate a true 'just transition', the State must provide adequate financial assistance to offer viable alternatives to people currently predominantly reliant on peat for heating their homes.

145. In line with international best practice, the State must increase mandatory requirements for a percentage of green spaces that support biodiversity in urban areas.



153. The State must review An Bord Pleanála and local authority legislation and practices to take full cognisance of the Aarhus Convention, create more transparency and grant citizens greater access to information and inclusion in decision-making related to environmental issues in planning.



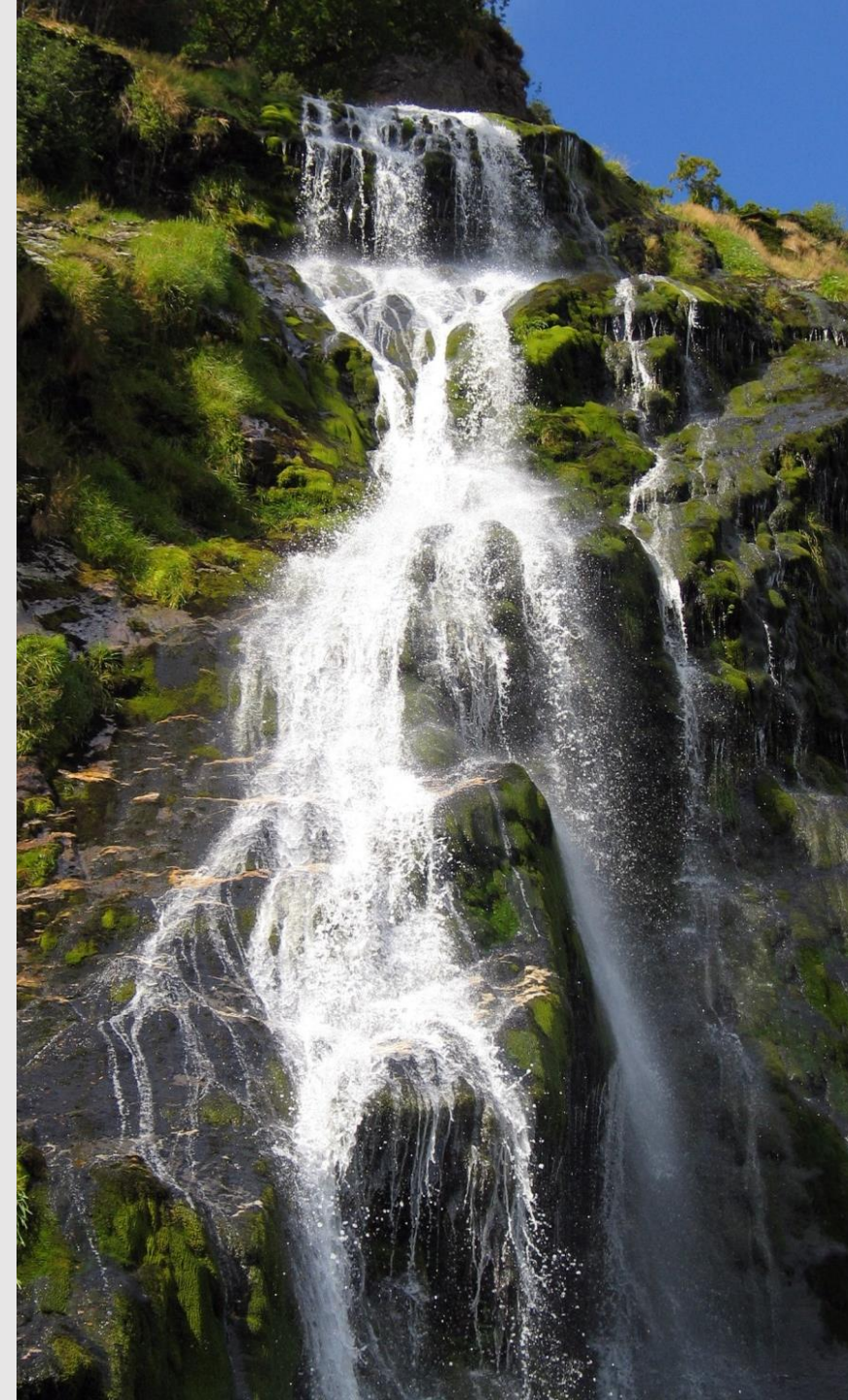


The Constitution

There should be a referendum of the people to amend the Constitution with a view to protecting biodiversity.

The proposal to amend the Constitution should include:

- a. Human substantive environmental rights
- b. Human procedural rights
- c. Substantive rights of nature
- d. Procedural rights of nature





To protect ourselves we must protect Nature.





Go raibh maith agaibh.



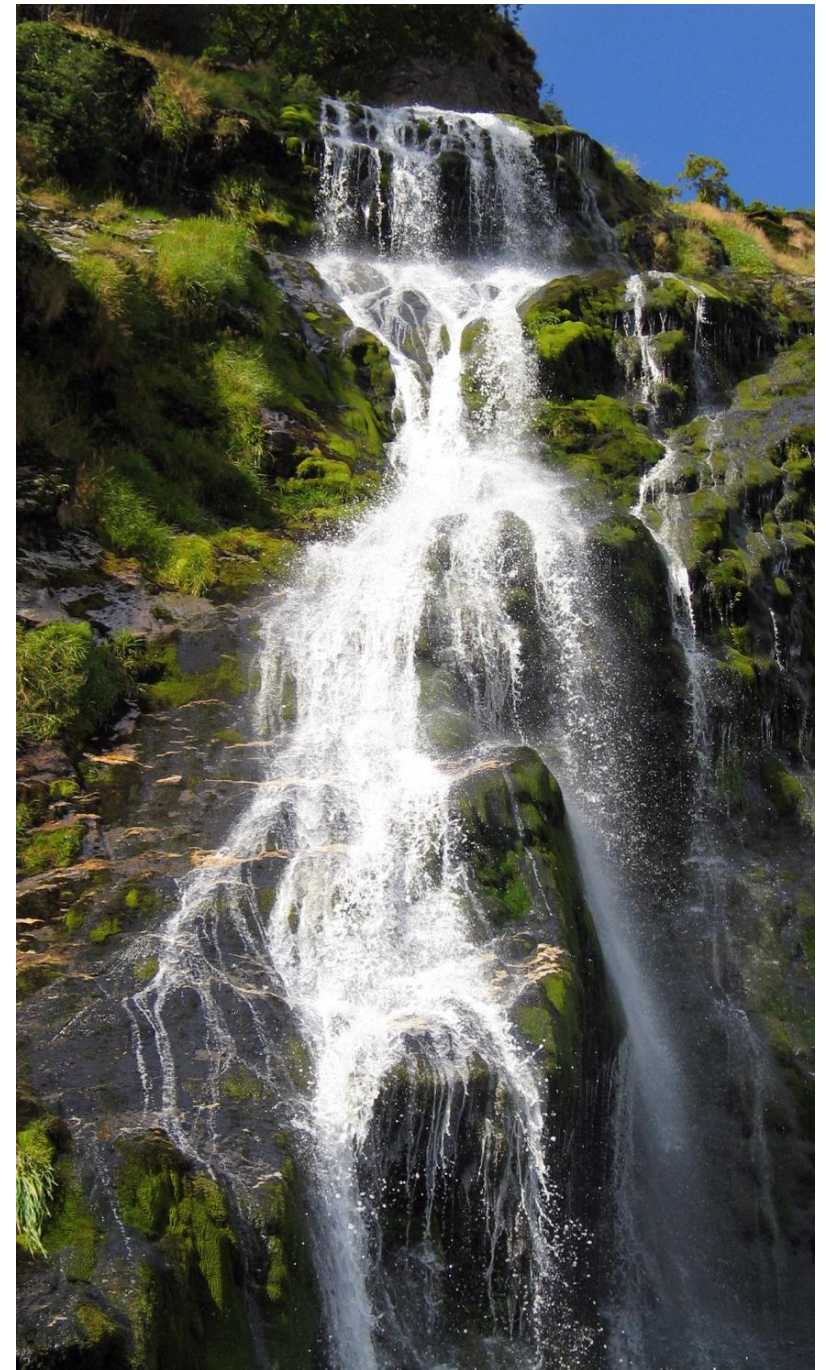
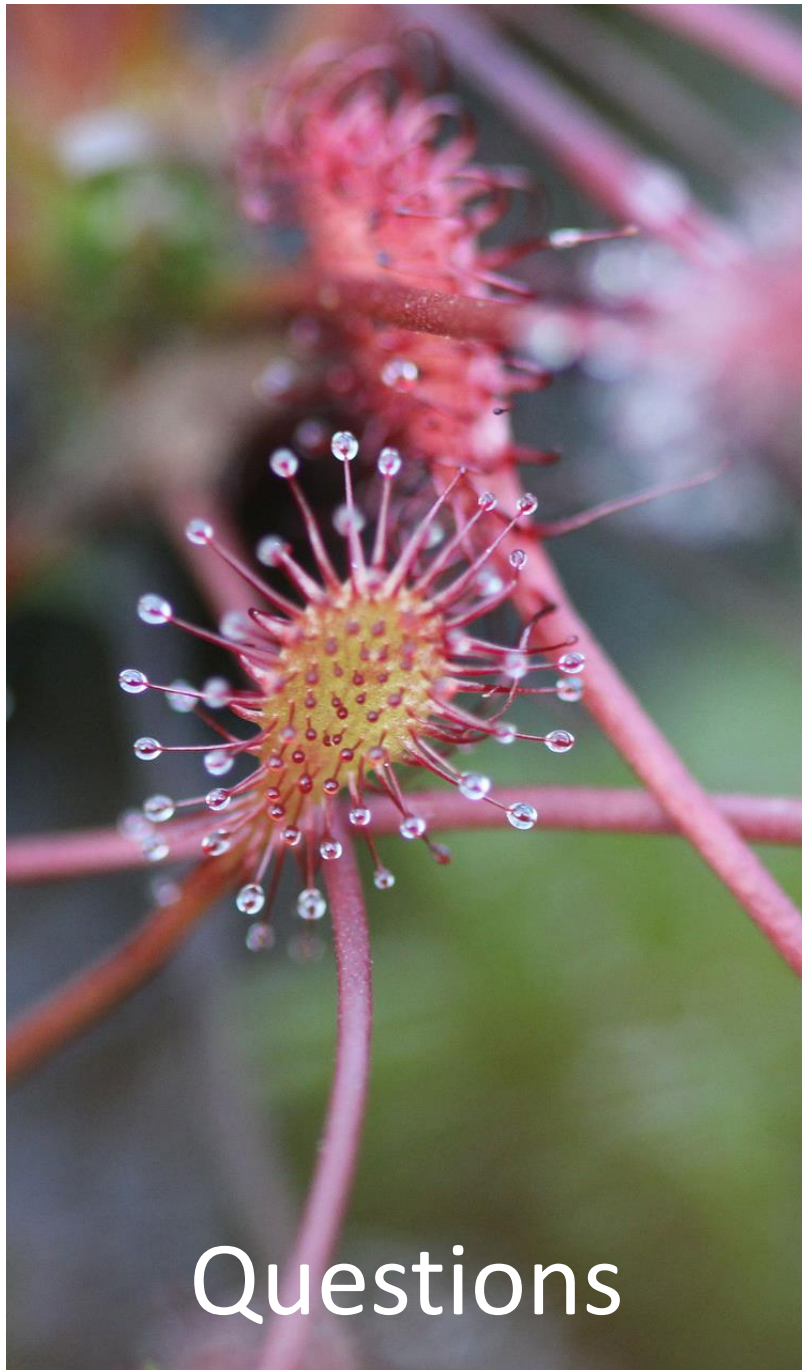
Citizens' Assembly member: Anca Cerbu





Citizens' Assembly member: Dan O'Dwyer







Habitat loss



Overexploitation



Pollution



Invasive Species



Climate Change

Five main drivers of biodiversity loss

A photograph of a narrow dirt path winding through dense green foliage. The path is the central focus, leading the eye from the bottom center towards the top of the frame. The surrounding vegetation is thick and lush, with various shades of green and some brown leaves scattered on the path. The lighting is soft, suggesting a shaded forest or garden setting.

Behaving and living ethically is foundational for radical social change.



A landscape photograph showing a vast green field in the foreground, likely a crop field. In the middle ground, there is a single, large, leafless tree on the right side. The background features a low horizon line with some distant structures and hills under a sky filled with soft, grey clouds. The overall mood is serene and somewhat somber due to the overcast sky.

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