



# National Landscape Forum 2023

*'From Landscape Past to Landscape Future'*

Mount Congreve House, Kilmeaden, Co. Waterford

Wednesday/Thursday/Friday 27/28/29 September 2023

## National Landscape Strategy Implementation Prioritisation

### Survey Outcome

The following is the outcome of the National Landscape Forum 2023 Survey of participant's priority rating of the National Landscape Strategy's Section 3.0 - Objectives and Actions. The survey is intended to inform the future implementation process. – participants were invited to rank the objectives = actions from 1 (low priority) to 5 (highest priority).

There was not a dedicated session on this survey at the forum to minimise the risk of influencing the outcome in any way.

A total of 28 completed forms were returned, the results are illustrated below – highlighted in blue.

#### **3.1 RECOGNISE LANDSCAPE IN LAW**

The Strategy seeks to ensure that landscape is recognised as an explicit factor in decision-making under a range of existing and future legislation.(Action1)

**1 - 4      2 - 2      3 - 0      4 - 4      5 - 18**

#### **3.2 DEVELOP A NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT**

With the co-operation of a range of partners including local planning authorities, agencies and community organisations, and working on a trans-boundary basis, the landscape of Ireland will be identified, characterised and mapped in order to provide the data and qualitative information required to evaluate its current position and underpin effective spatial planning, landscape-centred decision-making and to appropriately evaluate it. This objective will complement *Northern Ireland's Landscape Charter* recently published by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.<sup>11</sup> A National Landscape Character Assessment will be undertaken. (Actions 2,3,4)

**1 - 2      2 - 0      3 - 3      4 - 6      5 - 15**

### 3.3 DEVELOP LANDSCAPE POLICIES

Policies will be developed and implemented for the protection, management and planning of the landscape in all relevant sectors of public administration. (Actions 5,6)

**1 - 2**      **2 - 0**      **3 - 3**      **4 - 4**      **5 - 15**

### 3.4 INCREASE AWARENESS

The National Landscape Strategy will promote increased public awareness and understanding about landscapes, including the linkage between its resources, layout, geology, hydrology, ecology and the well-being of its people.(Actions 7,8,9,10,11)

**1 - 2**      **2 - 1**      **3 - 4**      **4 - 4**      **5 - 15**

### 3.5 IDENTIFY EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND TRAINING NEEDS

The Strategy sets out to identify current knowledge and gaps in education, research and training in relation to the landscape to ensure an all-inclusive and effective approach to landscape management. (Actions 12,13,14,15)

**1 - 1**      **2 - 2**      **3 - 5**      **4 - 7**      **5 - 10**

### 3.6 STRENGTHEN PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation is one of the essential elements in the design and implementation of landscape objectives. The Strategy will seek effective methods of partnership, engagement and agreement between public authorities, the general public, voluntary organisations and interest groups to promote sustainable landscape change, protection and planning. (Actions 16,17,18)

**1 - 2**      **2 - 0**      **3 - 9**      **4 - 7**      **5 - 10**

## Observations on Survey Results

It is a small survey amongst citizen's with an active interest in landscape protection, management and planning, but it does appear highlight the majority high prioritisation of the need for the National Landscape Strategy to be implemented in a balanced integrated manner across all its objectives and actions.

This should not surprise anyone familiar the full text of the European Landscape Convention, Florence 2000 and the accompanying explanatory report and Ireland's National Landscape Strategy, where it is evident that the authors and experts went to great pains to formulate a convention and strategy that would embed responsible, sustainable landscape protection, management and planning into every layer of governance and society.

Results of survey collated by Terry O'Regan, Landscape Alliance Ireland

14<sup>th</sup> November 2023

