



NORTHERN
IRELAND

OVERVIEW

WWF NORTHERN IRELAND





WHAT WE DO

We're changing things for the better. The environment is in crisis. But WWF stays positive about the future.

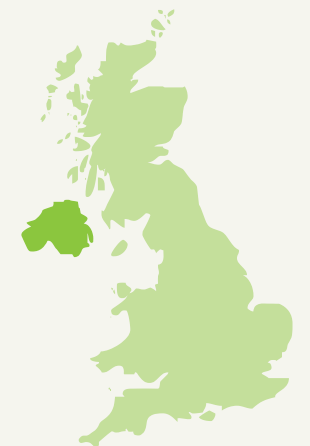
WWF Northern Ireland is part of the world's leading independent conservation organisation. And we're helping people and nature to thrive together.

That's why we're passionate about sharing the planet's resources more sustainably. Tackling global climate change. And protecting endangered wildlife.

Our key priorities in Northern Ireland are:

- Safeguarding our rivers and lakes
- Safeguarding our marine environment
- Climate change
- Sustainability

We're also keen to work with partners in the Republic of Ireland on all-island issues such as the management of rivers, seas and energy matters.



WORKING IN NORTHERN IRELAND

3X



If everyone lived as we do in Northern Ireland, we'd need three planet Earths to sustain us!

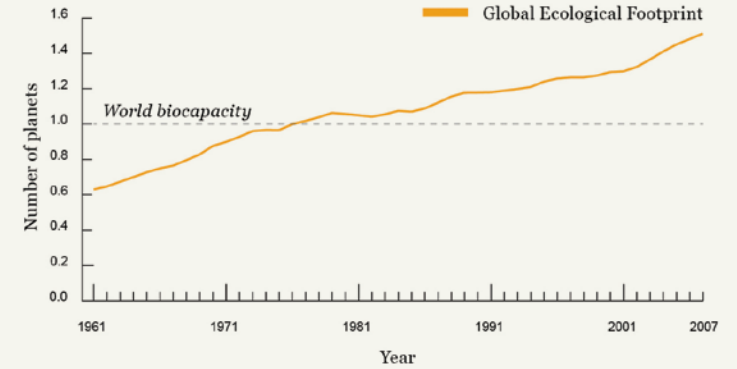
Working in Northern Ireland

We're working for a world where both people and nature thrive. However, the current runaway demand for global natural resources such as fuel for energy and land for food production is threatening the environment we all depend on. Our Living Planet Report now shows that people are using about 25% more natural resources than the planet can replace, whilst the natural world is coming under immense and increasing pressure.

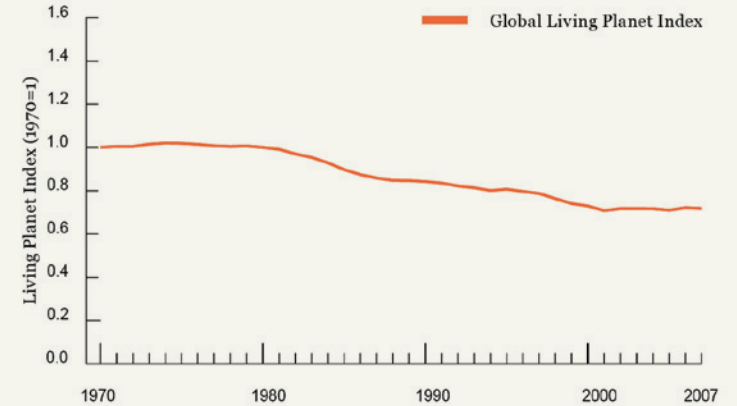
IF EVERYONE LIVED AS WE DO IN NORTHERN IRELAND, WE'D NEED THREE PLANET EARTHS TO SUSTAIN US!

WWF strives for what we call a One Planet Future – where people and nature live in harmony, thriving within their fair share of the planet's natural resources.

Global Ecological Footprint
Human demand on the biosphere more than doubled between 1961 and 2007 (Global Footprint Network, 2010)



Living Planet Index
The global index shows that vertebrate species populations declined by almost 30 per cent between 1970 and 2007 (ZSL/WWF, 2010)



HOW NORTHERN IRELAND FITS INTO THE GLOBAL PICTURE

From WWF's Living Planet Report showing a 27% decline in the populations of marine and freshwater and land based species since 1970, while human consumption of natural resources has been exceeding the earth's capacity to renewably supply them since the late 1980s

SAFEGUARDING OUR RIVERS AND LAKES

Our rivers and lakes face a range of pressures. Many relate to land management practices and pollution. Water management and consumption also presents us with major challenges.

- In 2009, over 70% of Northern Ireland's rivers and lakes still failed to meet the water quality standard required by the EU by 2015
- In 2005, 62% of waste water treatment works in Northern Ireland did not comply with EU standards
- Waste water treatment compliance remains the lowest in the UK
- Removing pollutants from our sources of drinking water supply and providing water for homes and businesses is costly and energy intensive
- Northern Ireland Water is the largest electricity user in Northern Ireland
- In 2008, 63,000 homes in Northern Ireland were estimated to be lying within floodplains.



WWF solutions

- We're calling on government and others to tackle the challenges faced by our freshwater environment by:
- Developing local river basin management plans for all river basins in Northern Ireland with clear measures for improving water quality and biodiversity
- Involving local people and their expertise in the management of local rivers and water bodies
- Developing clear plans to manage the increasing risks of flooding in Northern Ireland as required by the EU Floods Directive by 2015, making use of natural and sustainable flood management techniques
- Using funding from the EU Rural Development Programme to support farmers and landowners to undertake water-friendly land management measures.



Mark Horton
WWFNI

Putting policy into practice

RIPPLE Exemplar Project

"In 2008, we entered into a partnership with WWF Northern Ireland to launch the three-year RIPPLE project (Rivers Involving People, Places and Leading by Example) to create and action a plan to care for our local Ballinderry River in Co. Tyrone. Along with WWF and partners, we are delivering RIPPLE's vision for a cleaner river, with more wildlife, better access and a river better understood by people who live near it and visit it."

Mark Horton, Ballinderry Fish Hatchery, Co.Tyrone

The project provides a practical model for how local people and other stakeholders can become actively involved in river basin management. Working with government and other agencies, they can directly contribute to meeting the EU required standard for river water quality. Europe's rivers must meet this standard by 2015 under the EU Water Framework Directive.



SAFEGUARDING OUR MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Half of Northern Ireland's wildlife – that's around 4,000 species – lives in the sea. Yet less than 4% of our waters has any form of protection.

The challenge

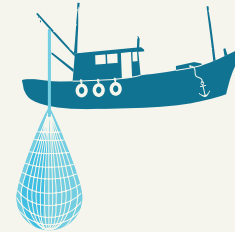
Half of Northern Ireland's wildlife – that's around 4,000 species – lives in the sea. Yet less than 4% of our waters has any form of protection. Our marine environment is under increasing pressure. From human activities including pollution, to commercial fishing, mineral extraction and energy production. The current tangle of over 100 laws governing the coast and seas around Northern Ireland creates problems for marine wildlife protection. And confusion and expense for sea users.

WWF solutions

We're calling for the urgent introduction of a Northern Ireland Marine Bill to ensure effective protection and management of Northern Ireland's seas through:

- A locally accountable Northern Ireland Marine Management Organisation
- A new system of integrated marine spatial planning and licensing of the varied activities that affect the marine environment
- The establishment of new network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and within them a suite of Highly Protected Marine Reserves (HPMRs) to protect and promote recovery of marine habitats and species.

We're also campaigning for policies and legislation to deliver sustainable fisheries management in Northern Ireland.



Putting policy into practice

Supporting sustainable fisheries and fish consumption

We support sustainable fishing and fish consumption. Our aim is for fisheries to become Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) accredited and we work with retailers and consumers to supply and consume sustainable fish.

We support the development of markets for local sustainable fish. And encouraging consumers in Northern Ireland to consume sustainably caught fish. Our sustainable fish recipe book, Dishy Fishes: Gourmet Seafood for the Ethical Irish Consumer, was developed in partnership with the former chef of the Beech Hill House Hotel, Raymond Moran.



© EDWARD PARKER / WWF-CANON

TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

Global temperatures mustn't rise by more than 2°C above the pre-industrial average if we're to avoid dangerous climate change.

The challenge

Global temperatures mustn't rise by more than 2°C above the pre-industrial average if we're to avoid dangerous climate change. The EU and UK, together with most scientists, agree about this. But we still need clearer commitments on how to stop this from happening.

WWF solutions

We're calling on the Northern Ireland Executive to:

- Introduce climate legislation committing to Northern Ireland carbon emissions reduction targets of 80% by 2050 with an interim target of at least a 40% emissions reduction by 2020
- Prepare a clear cross-departmental strategy and plan for achieving these reductions and delivering a 21st century low-carbon economy
- Develop a comprehensive long-term (to 2050) energy strategy for Northern Ireland to increase energy efficiency, reduce our over-dependence on fossil fuels, and increase energy production from renewables, taking advantage of the significant opportunities for local job creation in this sector.

Putting policy into practice

WWF energy efficiency rate rebate initiative

In 2007, we proposed the use of rates to help householders invest in home insulation. This encourages widespread action to improve energy efficiency, reduce carbon emissions from the housing sector, and reduce householders' future home heating costs. Our proposed energy efficiency rate rebate scheme formed part of the public consultation held in 2008 and was subsequently taken forward by the Department of Finance and Personnel and launched in 2010.



CHANGING THE WAY WE LIVE

Individuals and communities can do much to reduce their environmental impact through simple lifestyle changes.

The challenge

If everyone consumed natural resources the way we do in Northern Ireland we'd need three planets to support us. Individuals and communities can do much to reduce their environmental impact through simple lifestyle changes. But action by government and business is also essential to make the changes necessary for a One Planet Future.

WWF solutions

We're working with communities, government and business to create more sustainable lifestyles. This will reduce Northern Ireland's footprint and deliver benefits for society as a whole. It will cut wasteful, costly and environmentally damaging resource consumption. And make full use of our local resources, like renewable energy.

We're therefore calling on:

- The Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive to include clear commitments and targets in Northern Ireland's Sustainable Development Strategy to reduce our carbon and ecological footprint
- Government departments to set targets and produce clear plans for their contribution to reducing the key elements of our footprint – through, for example, energy policy and procurement policies
- Councils to adopt the use of ecological footprinting to measure their progress in meeting their statutory duty on sustainable development
- Communities and individuals to use ecological footprinting to help identify what changes and choices they can make to reduce waste, avoid unnecessary costs and lead healthier, more sustainable lifestyles.

(To measure your footprint and find out how to reduce it go to wwf.org.uk/calculator)



Putting policy into practice

Community Eco-Challenge

Working in partnership with the five councils in the Southern Group Environmental Health Committee, we developed the 'Community Eco-Challenge' project. Five pilot community groups and 100 households across Northern Ireland took part in a challenge to find ways to reduce their ecological footprint through individual and community action. We focused on the four 'big hitters' of food, energy, transport and their waste.

Initiatives developed by the groups in the course of the project included a community food garden and community cycle scheme. Through the project, the groups were able to make reductions of up to 25% in their ecological footprint and identified actions they would take to make further reductions of up to 33% (the equivalent of the resources of one planet). We developed a toolkit to enable more councils to work with local communities on similar footprint-reducing projects.





WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Government and business need to hear your voice demanding change. And we need their help to make it easier for us all to live more sustainably.

We need your help and support with our campaigning to reduce people's ecological footprint, tackle climate change, protect our stunning marine environment and preserve wildlife and their habitats. Government and business need to hear your voice demanding change. And we need their help to make it easier for us all to live more sustainably.

- To make your voice heard, become a WWF campaigner – for more information visit wwf.org.uk/howyoucanhelp
- Become a member! Help our vital work by joining WWF from as little as £3 month and receive great benefits. Visit wwf.org.uk/member

AS CONSUMERS, WE CAN ALL

As consumers, we can all buy less and buy only sustainably sourced products in order to reduce our impact on the planet.



- As individuals or as businesses, we can help safeguard our rainforests. They're an invaluable resource and home to as much as 90% of the planet's terrestrial animal and plant life. You can do this through only buying wood/timber-based and paper products from sustainable sources – look for the FSC symbol on products.



- Traditional meals such as fish and chips can still be enjoyed, but why not try alternatives such as pollock, coley, or hake instead of over-fished cod? If you have to have cod, buy only MSC certified cod from a sustainable source – look for the MSC logo when you buy seafood and visit our website ni.wwf.org.uk to download our tasty and fabulously dishy fish recipes.



- Adopting an endangered animal is one of the best ways to support it, and to protect the whole species in the wild. This makes the perfect gift and helps to directly save your chosen animal and its habitat. For more information visit wwf.org.uk/adopt



- Also visit our website to find out your impact on the planet by measuring your ecological footprint at wwf.org.uk/calculator. Our footprint calculator also offers tips on how to live more sustainably.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THE FUTURE OF OUR WORLD

We believe that together we can all make a difference to the future of our world, the preservation of wildlife and ultimately our own lives.



EMAIL US

northernireland@wwf.org.uk

CALL US

028 9033 2869
Fax: 028 9033 3401



OUR OFFICE


Second Floor
7 Exchange Place
Belfast
BT1 2NA

ONLINE

ni.wwf.org.uk

Or tweet us:
[@wwfnireland](https://twitter.com/wwfnireland)

Find us on Facebook

	<p>Why we are here To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.</p> <p>ni.wwf.org.uk</p>
---	--



John Marks
CarbonNeutral.com
CO₂ emissions reduced to net zero in accordance with The CarbonNeutral Protocol

