

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Next Chapter of 'Leaders For Nature' Leadership Programme Launched at Glenveagh National Park Festival

Cross-sector, all-island leadership initiative expands for 2026-2027 following the major success of its inaugural cohort, empowering professionals to drive urgent environmental action.

DONEGAL, IRELAND — Thursday 21st May 2026 — Gathering at the *Le Chéile don Dúlra* (Together for Nature) festival in Glenveagh National Park, environmental and civic leaders today marked the official launch of The Leaders for Nature Programme for 2026–2027.

Developed in partnership by Common Purpose Ireland, Leave No Trace Ireland, and Native Events, the cross-sector, all-island programme is designed to support mid-to-senior and emerging professionals from the public, private, and non-profit sectors. It equips them with the clarity, courage, and collaborative tools required to respond effectively to Ireland's Climate Action Plan, National Biodiversity Action Plan, and the Nature Restoration Plan.

The launch of the 2026–2027 programme follows the success of its inaugural year. In its first year, the programme brought together diverse leaders from fields including national and local government, business, agriculture, conservation, finance, and community development. By fostering "Leading Beyond Authority"—the ability to drive change outside of one's direct circle of control—the program's first chapter successfully broke down traditional sector silos, creating a highly integrated and active network of climate and nature-positive changemakers across the island.

The overwhelming impact of the first year highlighted a profound truth: **reversing biodiversity loss and combating the climate crisis cannot be achieved by any single organisation or sector alone**. The programme is returning for its second consecutive year - building on successes and learnings from the initial pilot - and will expand this vital cross-boundary network, fulfilling an urgent demand for shared leadership, multi-stakeholder collaboration, and systemic action.

Speaking from the *Le Chéile don Dúlra* festival at Glenveagh National Park, **Megan Best, CEO Native Events** said:

"Two years in the making, the initial idea for the Leaders for Nature Programme was to bring leadership skills to the nature recovery sector in Ireland. Beyond our expectations, the programme succeeded in far more than that, in that it has created a mycelial-like network of support, knowledge-sharing and development for this vital community. In 2026 and 2027, we're going to build on this, deepening our impact and continuing to create the system-wide leaders that Ireland so urgently needs."

The immersive learning journey for the upcoming year will feature a unique blend of self-assessments, individual executive coaching, experiential in-person gatherings, interactive online sessions, and peer coaching. Participants will critically examine the drivers of the biodiversity crisis while sharpening their personal leadership capacity.

While the exact dates for the 2026/2027 cohort are yet to be finalised, applications and expressions of interest are officially open. Organisations and professionals who intersect with sustainability, climate resilience, biodiversity, or sustainable land and resource use are highly encouraged to apply.

To learn more about the full scope of the programme, visit:

<https://commonpurpose.org/the-leaders-for-nature-programme>.

Interested parties can register to receive updates and application details for the 2026/2027 dates here:

<https://commonpurpose.org/the-leaders-for-nature-programme/apply>.

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Media Contact:

- Name: Kate O'Neill
- Role: Communications Lead
- Email: kate@nativeevents.ie

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- [Le Chéile don Dúlra \(Together for Nature\) Festival](#)