R E P O R T

Green Foundation Ireland, along with the Dromineer Nenagh Literary Festival, invite you to an in-person CONVERSATION with Éanna Ní Lamhna

Biodiversity Talk

View of Lough Derg from the Ku-ee-tu boat

Venue: **Ku-ee-tu boat, Dromineer Harbour, County Tipperary**

Please note: **This event takes place at Dromineer Quay**

Wednesday 12 October 2025 – 10:30 to 12 noon

Biodiversity Talk

THEME

Our conversation focused on the topic of biodiversity with particular reference to Lough Derg, where the event took place.

This event was part of the **Dromineer Nenagh Literary Festival**

The Festival was founded in 2004 by a small group of literary enthusiasts in Dromineer, North Tipperary, by the shores of the stunning Lough Derg. Since its beginnings the Festival has grown and established itself as an important literary festival in the Irish festivals landscape. The Festival's scenic location, hospitality and care of writers and readers has made it a festival writers love.

The Festival began as the Dromineer Literary Festival and incorporated Nenagh into its name in 2019. This change signifies that many of the Festival's events take place in the town of Nenagh and without the support of the wider Nenagh community, partner organisations such as Nenagh Arts Centre and local businesses, the Festival would not be possible.

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

Éanna Ní Lamhna

Éanna is a biologist, environmental and wildlife consultant, radio and television presenter, author and educator. Éanna has one of the most recognisable voices on Irish radio and has been an expert on RTÉ's wildlife programme ***Mooney Goes Wild*** since it began in 1995. She has an honorary Doctorate in Science from the University of Galway and has served as president of both the national environmental charity **An Taisce** and the **Tree Council of Ireland**. Originally from Louth, she lives in Dublin. Éanna is the author of several popular wildlife books for readers young and not so young.

ABOUT OUR FACILITATOR

Darragh Wynne

Darragh is the Sustainability Co-Ordinator in Technological University of the Shannon. He is the founder and co-host of the **Climate Alarm Clock** podcast, an Irish news podcast which has been running since 2021. Darragh completed an MSc in Climate Change: Media, Policy and Society in DCU in 2020 and has previously worked for GOAL Global, as a part-time lecturer in Global Citizenship in DCU and on the Project Team for the Children's and Young People's Assembly on Biodiversity Loss in 2022. Darragh has a background in education and has worked as a music teacher in schools in Ireland, the UK and Kenya. Darragh has a background in education and has worked as a music teacher in schools in Ireland, the UK and Kenya.

ABOUT OUR EVENT

This conversation between Green Foundation Ireland's **Darragh Wynne** and **Éanna Ní Lamhna** took place on the Ku-ee-tu boat which left Dromineer Quay and docked on Lough Derg for the talk to begin. **Virginia O'Dowd** from the **Dromineer Nenagh Literary Festival** introduced the session. The boat's captain, Teddy Knight, spoke about Lough Derg as the boat moved towards Saint David's.

When the boat moored, Darragh and Éanna began speaking.

Éanna first spoke about her book ***The Great Irish Biodiversity Book*** *(Gill Books, 2024)* and how it came about, emphasising that the book is for everyone, not just children. Following this, she began to discuss the biodiversity that can be found on Lough Derg including kingfishers and white-tailed sea eagles. Algal blooms, their potential impacts on biodiversity and their causes, were then discussed.

Darragh asked Éanna about her communication style and she outlined the importance of making biodiversity communications accessible, fun and trying to get listeners interested in and caring about biodiversity at which point you can talk about the challenges and solutions. Éanna mentioned about the dedication in her book to her grandchildren, and the importance of current generations protecting biodiversity for future generations.

There was then a Q&A session with the audience and topics covered included the importance of hope, taking action and how Éanna first became interested in nature. There was a closing discussion about the woodlands which could be seen along the shoreline.

Darragh thanked Éanna and all the attendees, and the boat sailed back to Dromineer Quay.

*You can **listen to our podcast of the talk here**.*

*You can **see photos of this event here**.*

*All photos of this event were taken by **ODHRAN DUCIE**.*

Green Foundation Ireland ***27 October 2025***