

NORTHERN IRELAND'S BIODIVERSITY IS DECLINING

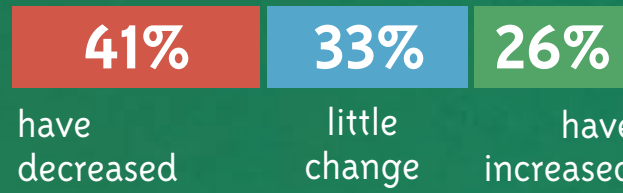


11%

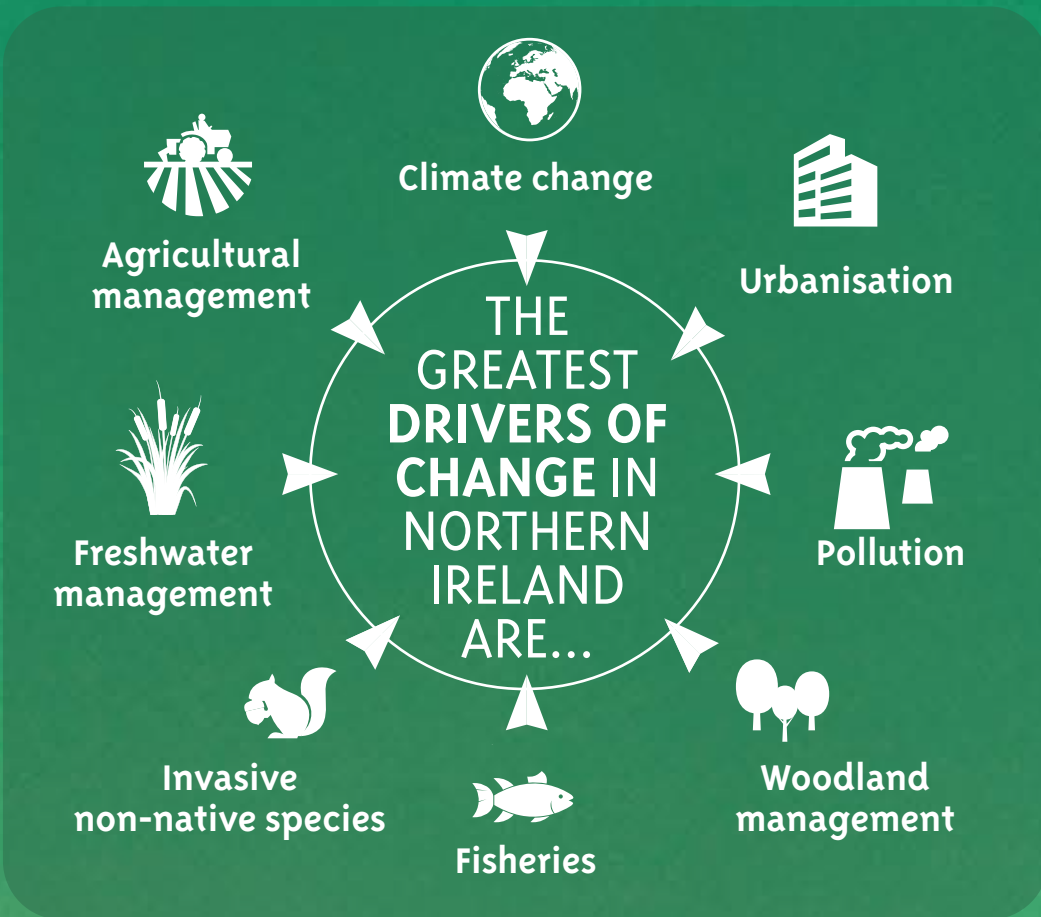
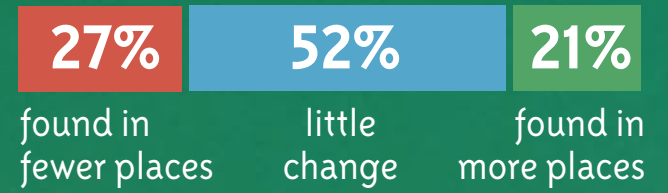
of 2,450 species assessed are threatened with **extinction** from the island of Ireland

SINCE 1970...

More species in the UK have seen their **populations decrease** than increase:



We have seen big changes in where the UK's wildlife is found:



CLIMATE CHANGE IS HAVING AN INCREASING IMPACT ON NATURE IN THE UK



40%

of moth decline is due to climate change



60%

of aphid increase is due to climate change

The UK's kittiwake population has declined by **70%** since 1986 as climate change has reduced the availability of sandeels, a key food source in breeding season



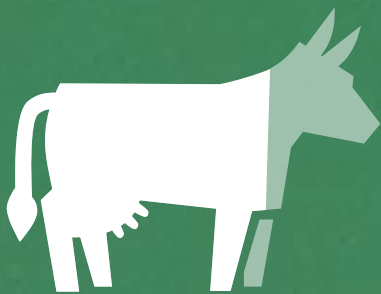
Swallows are arriving in the UK **15 days earlier** and breeding **11 days earlier** than they did in the 1960s



Great tits lay their eggs on average **11 days earlier** than they did in 1968

Migratory birds are arriving and laying eggs earlier:

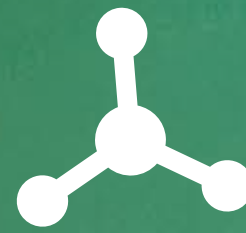
AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT HAS THE POTENTIAL TO HAVE THE BIGGEST POSITIVE IMPACT ON NATURE IN NI



75%

of Northern Ireland's land is managed for agriculture

POLLUTION



Northern Ireland produces **12%** of the UK's ammonia emissions but covers only **6%** of the land

INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES



Over **1,200** of the 31,500 species in Ireland are non-native



In 2013, the estimated cost of these to the environment was **£207 million** per year

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT



13% of UK land is covered by woodlands-**3.17m** hectares



Northern Ireland is one of the least forested regions in Europe with only **4.3%** of land area covered by woodlands...



...much of this is plantations of non-native Sitka Spruce

FISHERIES



Just **over half** of UK fisheries are assessed as being fished sustainably. The target is **100%** by 2020



The status of **18%** of UK fish stocks is unknown

57%

of UK waters have had their seafloor habitats physically damaged by bottom contact fishing gear between 2010 and 2015

PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR CONSERVATION IN THE UK CONTINUES TO GROW



Time donated by volunteers has **increased by 46%** since 2000



The financial value of their time has been estimated at **£20.5 million** per annum



18,700 volunteers are involved in structured monitoring schemes that cover bats, birds, butterflies and plants alone



As many as **70,000** volunteers submit biological records to National Recording Schemes (NRS) or to Local Environmental Records Centres (LERCs)



However, public sector expenditure on biodiversity in the UK, as a proportion of GDP, has **fallen by 42%** since a peak in 2008/9