



Generation Nature

Evaluation Report

Supported by the International Fund for Ireland (IFI), 'Empowering Communities for Climate Change' is delivered by The Fermanagh Trust and Cavan County Local Development (CCLD).

GENERATION NATURE

AT A GLANCE

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW



- 20 young people participated
- 6 schools represented
- 2 counties working together through a cross-border programme
- 8-week environmental leadership programme
- 600+ hours of collective outdoor learning

LEARNING & ACHIEVEMENT



- 100% completed the John Muir Award
- 100% achieved Leave No Trace Certification
- 30+ hours of environmental learning and practical conservation per participant
- Youth-led conservation projects including tree planting, habitat management, bird box and squirrel feeder installation

PROGRAMME IMPACT



- 4.8/5 overall participant satisfaction
- 86.7% rated the programme Excellent
- 93.3% agreed they gained confidence talking about nature and environmental issues
- 93.3% felt part of a generation committed to protecting the environment
- 86.7% felt connected to other young people who care about nature



LASTING OUTCOMES



Developed
practical
conservation
skills



Increased
understanding
of biodiversity
and local
ecosystems



Built
confidence
and leadership
through youth
led action



Formed new
friendships
and positive
cross-border
connections



Inspired long
term
environmental
stewardship

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Generation Nature was developed as a cross-border environmental leadership programme to inspire young people to connect with nature, develop practical conservation skills and become active environmental leaders within their communities.

Over eight weeks, twenty young people from counties Fermanagh and Cavan completed more than 30 hours of experiential learning through woodland exploration, freshwater ecology, biodiversity surveys, conservation activities and youth-led environmental action. The programme culminated in participants achieving both the internationally recognised John Muir Award and Leave No Trace Certification, recognising their commitment to discovering, conserving and sharing wild places while promoting responsible outdoor practices.

Evaluation findings demonstrate that Generation Nature successfully achieved all six intended programme outcomes. Participants reported increased confidence, enhanced environmental knowledge, improved practical conservation skills and stronger connections with both nature and one another. The programme also created meaningful opportunities for youth leadership, enabling participants to influence programme activities and contribute to practical conservation projects designed around their own ideas and priorities.

Overall participant satisfaction was exceptionally high, with 86.7% rating the programme as Excellent, 6.7% as Very Good and 6.7% as Good, resulting in an overall satisfaction score of 4.8 out of 5.

Beyond environmental learning, the programme strengthened cross-border relationships, built confidence, fostered friendships and demonstrated the value of youth-led environmental action in developing resilient and connected communities.

The evaluation demonstrates that Generation Nature provides a strong model for youth-led environmental education, combining experiential learning, accredited achievement and cross-border collaboration to create meaningful environmental and social outcomes.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW



Generation Nature formed part of the Empowering Communities for Climate Change initiative, delivered jointly by The Fermanagh Trust and Cavan County Local Development with support from the International Fund for Ireland.

The programme was designed to empower young people to become active environmental leaders through experiential outdoor learning, practical conservation and youth-led action.

Programme Outputs:

Generation Nature provided participants with over 30 hours of structured environmental learning and practical conservation activities across an eight-week programme. Facilitated by Tony Smith and the Oakwood Bushcraft team, activities included:

- Woodland ecology, biodiversity and climate change education
- Bat ecology and freshwater ecosystem exploration
- Water quality testing and biodiversity surveys
- Invasive species awareness
- Leave No Trace training
- Youth leadership workshops
- Tree planting and habitat enhancement
- Bramble removal and woodland management
- Wildlife monitoring
- Construction and installation of bird boxes and squirrel feeders in partnership with Belleek Men's Shed and Belturbet Men's Shed

A key feature of the programme was its youth-led approach. During an early leadership session, participants identified local environmental priorities and co-designed the practical conservation activities undertaken throughout the programme, ensuring that young people actively shaped the programme rather than simply participating in it.

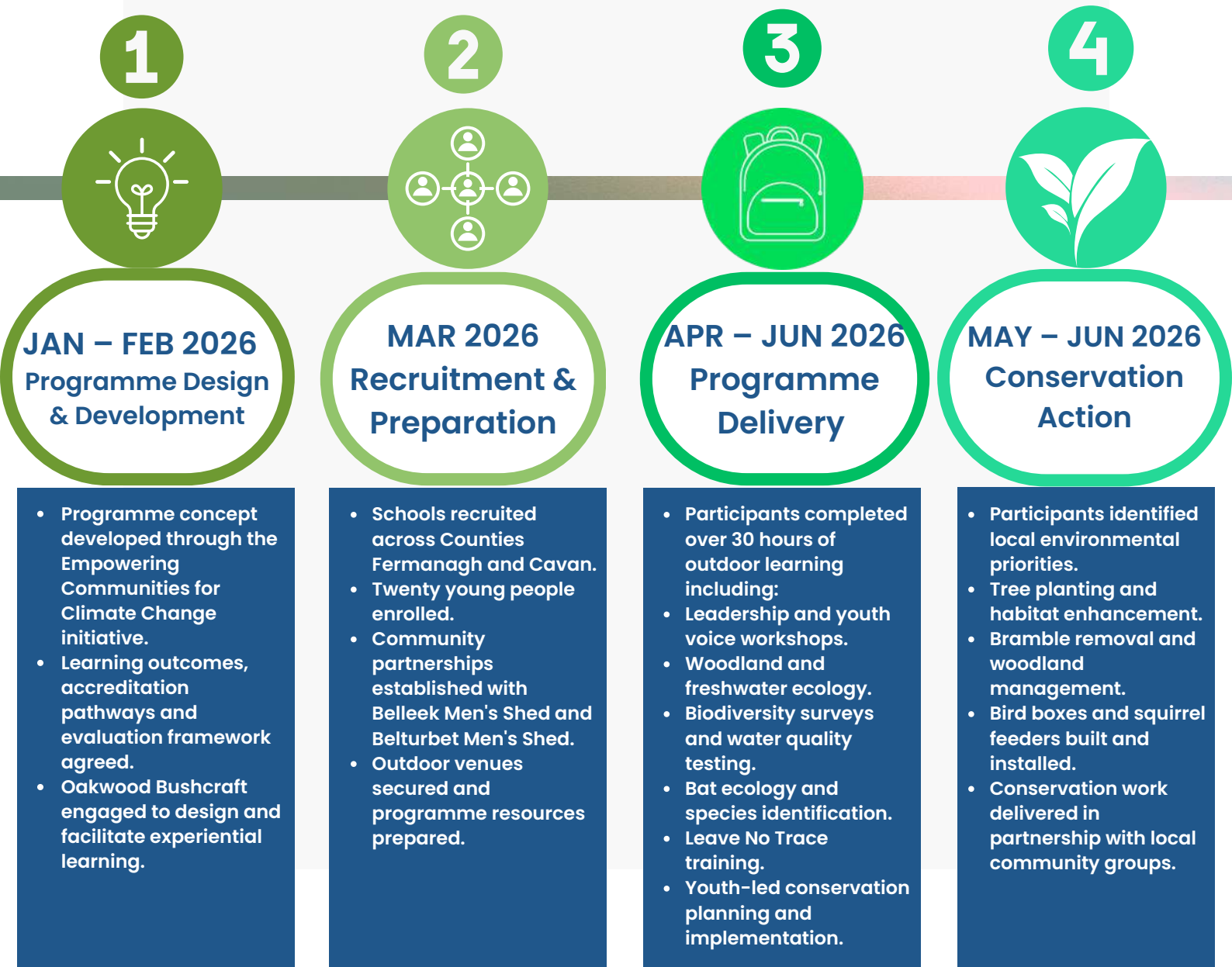
Intended Outcomes

Through these activities, Generation Nature aimed to support young people to:

- Increase their understanding of biodiversity, climate change and local ecosystems.
- Develop practical conservation skills through hands-on environmental action.
- Build confidence, leadership and teamwork.
- Foster environmental stewardship and responsible outdoor behaviours.
- Strengthen positive cross-border relationships and social connections.
- Empower young people to influence environmental action within their schools and communities.

The following sections of this report evaluate the extent to which these intended outcomes were achieved.

PROGRAMME TIMELINE



5



JUN 2026 Celebration & Accreditation

- Showcase event held at Cavan Adventure Centre.
- Young people presented their learning to family, schools and partners.
- John Muir Awards presented.
- Programme achievements celebrated.

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JUN – JUL 2026 Evaluation & Reflection

- Participant questionnaires completed.
- Facilitator reflections gathered.
- Parent and teacher feedback collected.
- Evaluation report produced.
- Recommendations identified for future programme development.

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JULY 2026 & BEYOND Sustaining Impact

- Strengthening cross-border partnerships and community connections.
- Continuing youth-led environmental action in schools and communities.
- Inspiring the next generation of environmental leaders.

"Five of our pupils from St Joseph's College joined the Generation Nature project. I was impressed by their commitment from the start. It seemed to light a spark in them and they had big smiles when you asked them about it. It certainly gave them a sense of purpose and helped with their self esteem. The range of activities gave them a greater understanding of the natural environment and working close with other young people forged new friendships. They have finished the programme with new skills and confidence and I'm sure a better connection with nature. An amazing programme and a opportunity for young people to shine! Well Done All."

**Deborah Morrison Teacher, St Joseph's College
Enniskillen.**

HOW GENERATION NATURE CREATES CHANGE

Programme Goal:

To empower young people to become confident environmental leaders who care for nature, take practical action, and build positive cross-border relationships through shared outdoor learning and conservation.

1



INPUTS



- The Fermanagh Trust
- Cavan County Local Development
- International Fund for Ireland
- Oakwood Bushcraft Forest School & Wilderness Living
- Community partners (Belleek Men's Shed & Belturbet Men's Shed)
- Local woodlands, rivers and natural heritage sites
- Youth participants from six schools across Cavan and Fermanagh

3



OUTPUTS



- 20 young people completed the programme
- 30+ hours of learning per participant
- 600+ hours of collective outdoor learning
- Tree planting, habitat management and biodiversity enhancement completed
- 100% achieved the John Muir Award
- 100% achieved Leave No Trace Certification

2



ACTIVITIES



- Outdoor experiential learning
- Youth leadership workshops
- Biodiversity and ecology education
- Practical conservation projects
- Youth-designed conservation activities
- Tree planting and habitat enhancement
- Water quality testing
- Leave No Trace training
- Cross-border teamwork and reflection
- John Muir Award activities

4



SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES



- Feel confident speaking up for nature
- Develop practical conservation skills
- Understand biodiversity, ecosystems and climate issues
- Experience leadership through real action
- See themselves as environmental stewards
- Build friendships and positive cross-border relationships

5



MEDIUM-TERM OUTCOMES



- **Apply conservation skills beyond the programme**
- **Demonstrate responsible behaviours through Leave No Trace principles**
- **Continue participating in environmental activities**
- **Share environmental knowledge with family, schools and communities**
- **Build confidence through leadership and collaboration**
- **Strengthen positive cross-border networks**

6



LONG-TERM IMPACT



- **A new generation of environmentally responsible young leaders**
- **Increased community participation in conservation and climate action**
- **Stronger cross-border relationships and social cohesion**
- **More resilient communities with a greater commitment to protecting biodiversity and the natural environment**

HOW GENERATION NATURE WAS DELIVERED



The programme is built upon four interconnected principles:

1. **Youth Leadership** – Young people help shape decisions and lead environmental action.
2. **Experiential Learning** – Learning through doing, reflection and real-world experiences.
3. **Environmental Stewardship** – Developing lifelong responsibility for caring for nature.
4. **Cross-Border Collaboration** – Building trust, friendships and shared learning across communities.

PLACE-BASED LEARNING

A defining feature of Generation Nature was its place-based approach to learning. Rather than delivering environmental education in a traditional classroom setting, the programme immersed participants in some of the border region's most significant natural landscapes, enabling learning to take place within the very ecosystems being explored and protected.

Activities were delivered across four outstanding outdoor learning environments: Cladagh Glen and Scouts Centre, Crom Estate, National Trust, Castle Saunderson and International Scout Centre, and Lough Oughter at Cavan Adventure Centre. Together, these landscapes include nationally, and internationally important habitats designated as Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), National Nature Reserves, and form part of the Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark.

Learning within these exceptional landscapes enabled participants to experience biodiversity and conservation first-hand. Rather than simply learning about ecosystems in a classroom, young people explored ancient woodlands, freshwater habitats, and native species in the places where they naturally occur. They investigated ecological processes, identified wildlife, monitored water quality, and participated in practical conservation activities within these protected environments. This immersive, place-based approach deepened participants' understanding of local biodiversity, strengthened their connection to the natural environment, and reinforced the importance of protecting these special places for future generations.

The diversity and quality of these learning environments provided an ideal setting for participants to successfully complete the John Muir Award and Leave No Trace Certificate. By embedding accredited learning within real conservation settings, the programme enabled participants to apply environmental knowledge through practical action, reinforcing both responsible outdoor behaviours and a lasting commitment to environmental stewardship.



EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

Programme evaluation adopted a mixed-method approach, combining quantitative and qualitative evidence.

Evidence included:

- Baseline and final participant questionnaires
- Session evaluation feedback
- Participant reflections
- Observation notes
- Facilitator reflections
- Final showcase presentations
- Open-ended participant comments

The combination of numerical data and participant voice provides a comprehensive picture of programme impact while capturing both measurable outcomes and individual experiences.

Participants

Generation Nature engaged 20 young people from six post-primary schools across Counties Fermanagh and Cavan. Participants attended:

- St Michael's College, Enniskillen
- Enniskillen Royal Grammar School
- St Joseph's College, Enniskillen
- St Kevin's College, Lisnaska
- St Bricin's College, Belturbet
- Breifne College, Cavan

The programme intentionally brought together young people from different schools, communities and jurisdictions, creating opportunities to build positive cross-border relationships through shared outdoor learning and conservation.

Comparison of baseline and end-of-programme questionnaire responses demonstrates positive improvements across all outcome areas over the eight-week programme, indicating increased confidence, knowledge, skills and environmental engagement among participants.

BASELINE AND END OF PROGRAMME COMPARISON

Outcome Measure	Baseline	End of Programme	Change
Confidence talking about nature	4.04	4.53	▲ +0.49
Practical conservation skills	3.82	4.53	▲ +0.71
Biodiversity knowledge	3.75	4.40	▲ +0.65
Leadership confidence	3.79	4.00	▲ +0.21
Environmental stewardship	3.96	4.47	▲ +0.51
Connection with other young people	3.93	4.33	▲ +0.40

EVALUATION FINDINGS

The following section presents the evaluation findings against the six intended outcomes of Generation Nature. Evidence is drawn from baseline and end-of-programme questionnaires, participant reflections and facilitator observations to assess the extent to which the programme achieved its intended outcomes.

Outcome 1

Young people feel confident speaking up for nature



One of the programme's principal aims was to increase participants' confidence in discussing environmental issues and advocating for nature.

Evaluation findings indicate that participants completed the programme with high levels of confidence discussing nature and environmental issues. Participants rated their confidence in talking about nature at an average of 4.53 out of 5, demonstrating that the programme successfully empowered young people to discuss environmental issues and communicate their learning with others.

Throughout the programme, young people actively contributed to discussions, shared observations during fieldwork and confidently presented their learning during the final celebration event.

Participant reflections demonstrate increased confidence and awareness:
"Small actions can make a difference."

"I learned the importance of woodlands and the species inside them."
"The wildlife around us and the problems we face related to nature."

The final showcase provided further evidence of participants' willingness to communicate environmental messages and reflect on their own learning journey.

Outcome Achieved



Outcome 2

Young people have practical conservation skills



Generation Nature deliberately prioritised learning through experience. Participants developed practical conservation skills through:

- Tree planting
- Bramble removal
- Habitat management
- Water quality testing
- Wildlife monitoring
- Biodiversity surveys
- Bird box construction
- Squirrel feeder construction
- Habitat enhancement

Evaluation findings show participants felt highly confident in their practical conservation abilities. Confidence in developing skills to help look after nature averaged 4.53 out of 5, while confidence participating in practical conservation activities averaged 4.47 out of 5. Participants consistently described practical activities as one of the most enjoyable and valuable aspects of the programme.

"The practical and creative aspects like building the bird houses."

"The day we looked for bats."

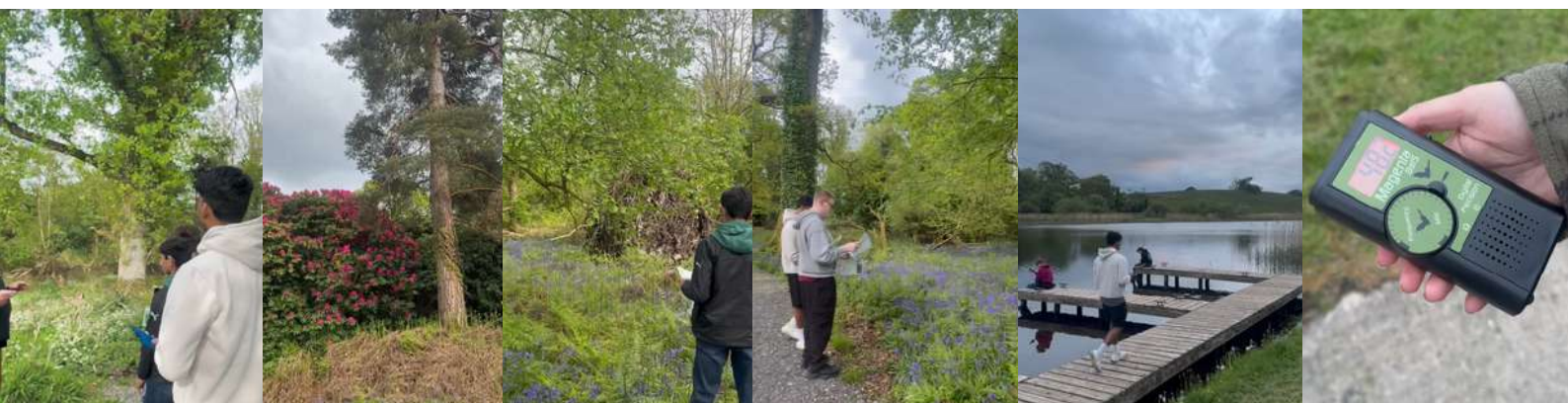
"Exploring the forest at Crom."

One participant reflected thoughtfully on learning through experience:

"I discovered the correct way to hang a birdhouse. It would seem that it is enough to simply take part and create it, but on the other hand it is useless without the correct installation."

These findings demonstrate that participants left the programme with practical knowledge, confidence and skills that can be applied beyond the programme itself.

Outcome Achieved



Outcome 3

Young people understand local biodiversity and ecosystems



Throughout the programme, participants explored local habitats and ecosystems while developing an understanding of biodiversity, conservation and climate resilience.

Sessions covered:

- Woodland ecology
- Freshwater ecosystems
- Biodiversity
- Species identification
- Invasive species
- Water quality
- Climate change
- Leave No Trace principles

Participants demonstrated strong understanding of local wildlife and habitats, with an average score of 4.4 out of 5, while understanding of environmental challenges averaged 4.47 out of 5.

Participant reflections included:

"I learned a lot more about biodiversity."

"The wide range of biodiversity that is found in an unpolluted river."

"I learned about different species and habitats."

The findings suggest participants developed both environmental knowledge and a stronger appreciation of the importance of protecting local ecosystems.

Interestingly, Leave No Trace emerged as a recurring theme within participant feedback.

Although it formed a relatively small component of the overall programme, several young people specifically referred to the principles in their evaluation responses, suggesting that the training had a lasting impact. The principles provided participants with a practical framework for making environmentally responsible decisions whenever they access natural spaces, supporting the development of positive attitudes and behaviours beyond the programme itself.

Outcome Achieved



Participants were asked:

"What are the key pieces of learning you have taken away from this programme?"

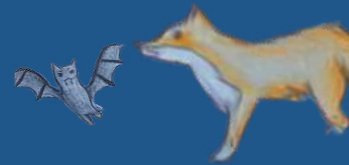
The responses are illustrated in the word cloud below.



The word cloud highlights the breadth of participants' learning, with nature, biodiversity, woodlands, water conservation, wildlife, Leave No Trace principles and climate emerging as the strongest themes. Participants also reflected on practical learning, such as the correct installation of bird boxes and understanding local habitats, demonstrating that the programme combined environmental knowledge with hands-on conservation skills.

Outcome 4

Young people experience leadership through real action



Confidence in leading or helping to organise activities averaged 4.0 out of 5, indicating that while participants experienced meaningful opportunities to contribute, there remains scope to further develop confidence in taking on formal leadership roles.

Nevertheless, participants demonstrated leadership in a variety of ways throughout the programme. Through co-designing conservation activities, collaborating with peers, sharing ideas and contributing to practical environmental action, young people experienced leadership as a shared and participatory process rather than through formal leadership positions alone.

While confidence in formally leading activities remained lower than other outcome measures, participants demonstrated growing leadership through co-design, peer support and environmental action. This highlights an opportunity to further strengthen leadership development within future programmes while building on the strong foundations established through Generation Nature.

Outcome Achieved



Outcome 5

Young people see themselves as part of a generation caring for nature



Generation Nature sought to foster environmental responsibility and develop a sense of collective stewardship, encouraging participants to recognise the important role they can play in protecting and enhancing the natural environment.

Evaluation findings indicate that participants developed a strong sense of environmental identity. Participants rated their agreement with feeling part of a generation committed to protecting nature at 4.47 out of 5, demonstrating a strong sense of responsibility towards caring for the environment.

Many participants expressed a desire to remain involved in environmental action beyond the programme, suggesting that the experience had inspired ongoing interest in conservation and stewardship.

One participant commented:

"I want to get involved in more environmental projects."

Others reflected on recognising that individual actions, no matter how small, can contribute to wider environmental outcomes and biodiversity conservation.

The programme also reinforced this sense of responsibility through practical conservation activities and Leave No Trace principles, encouraging participants to see environmental stewardship as something that can be embedded into everyday behaviours as well as larger conservation initiatives.

These findings demonstrate that participants increasingly viewed themselves as active contributors to protecting and enhancing their local environment and left the programme with a stronger appreciation of their role in caring for nature.

Outcome Achieved



Outcome 6

Young people recognise the strength found in connection and relationship building



One of the strongest themes emerging from the evaluation was the importance of friendship, belonging and positive cross-border relationships.

Participants rated their sense of connection with other young people who care about nature at 4.33 out of 5.

Comments repeatedly highlighted the value of meeting new people and building friendships.

"I enjoyed meeting new people and learning about different species."

"I enjoyed meeting new people and having fun while learning how to help nature."

One participant summarised their experience simply:

"Literally nothing? It's very, very engaging and fun. I'm really going to miss it."

The programme successfully created a supportive environment where young people from different schools, communities and counties could learn together, develop friendships and build lasting cross-border connections.

These social outcomes represent an important legacy of the programme alongside its environmental achievements.

Outcome Achieved 



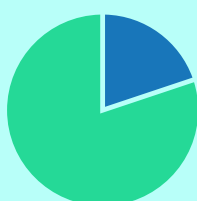
EVALUATION SUMMARY

PROGRAMME OUTCOMES	ACHIEVED
 Confidence speaking up for nature	
 Practical conservation skills	
 Biodiversity knowledge	
 Leadership	
 Environmental stewardship	
 Cross-border relationship	

OVERALL PARTICIPANT SATISFACTION



4.8/5



86.7% Excellent



**100% John
Muir Award**



**100% Leave No
Trace Certification**

OVERALL PROGRAMME SATISFACTION

Participant satisfaction with Generation Nature was exceptionally high.

- 86.7% rated the programme as Excellent
- 6.7% rated the programme as Very Good
- 6.7% rated the programme as Good

Overall satisfaction averaged 4.8 out of 5, reflecting consistently positive experiences across all aspects of programme delivery. Participants particularly valued:

- Practical outdoor learning
 - Meeting new people
 - Learning about wildlife
 - Conservation activities
 - Bushcraft experiences
 - Teamwork
 - Time spent outdoors
-



PARTICIPANT SPOTLIGHT:

SOFIA'S STORY

"When I first applied for Generation Nature, I didn't have huge expectations or a clear idea of what the programme would involve. I have always enjoyed biology, but environmental activism wasn't something I actively thought about or practised in my everyday life.

At first, I expected it to be a fun outdoor experience with activities similar to camping or scouting, where I could learn a few new skills. The first session certainly lived up to that, with engaging games and quizzes, but as the programme continued, I realised it offered so much more.

Over the eight weeks, I learned about biodiversity, water quality, local wildlife and the impact that pollution has on the environment. It was eye-opening to understand that recycling alone cannot solve many of the environmental challenges we face, and that protecting nature requires action at many different levels.

The practical activities were some of my favourite experiences. From testing water quality and identifying wildlife to building bird boxes, I learned that even small details, such as where a bird box is placed, can make a real difference. These experiences helped me appreciate nature in ways I hadn't before.

I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to take part in Generation Nature. It has changed how I think about the environment, and if I had the chance, I would happily take part in similar programmes again in the future."



**SOFIA, ST. BRIGINS
COLLEGE, BELTURBET,
CO. CAVAN**

FACILITATOR REFLECTIONS

Alongside participant feedback and survey findings, facilitators observed significant personal and social development throughout the programme. Across the eight weeks, participants became increasingly confident, engaged and willing to take an active role in both learning and practical conservation activities.

Facilitators noted that young people who were initially quieter or more reserved gradually became more confident in contributing to group discussions, sharing ideas and taking leadership roles during practical conservation tasks. Confidence grew organically through shared experiences, teamwork and the supportive outdoor learning environment, with participants increasingly encouraging and supporting one another as the programme progressed.

A particularly notable observation was the way relationships developed within the group. Participants came from different schools, communities, cultural backgrounds and both sides of the border, many having never met before. Over the course of the programme these differences became secondary to a shared purpose of learning about and protecting the natural environment. Facilitators observed friendships forming, strong teamwork emerging and a genuine sense of belonging developing among the group.

Facilitators also reflected on the value of experiential learning. Some of the most significant moments occurred not during planned teaching activities but through informal conversations, shared challenges and practical conservation work. These experiences enabled participants to build confidence, develop practical skills and strengthen their connection with nature in meaningful and authentic ways.

Reflecting on the programme, lead facilitator Tony Smith noted that the impact of Generation Nature extends beyond the awards achieved. Participants leave with new skills, increased confidence, lasting friendships and a stronger connection to the natural world, providing a solid foundation for continued environmental action and community leadership.

Tony concluded:

"When you give young people the opportunity, the support, and the space... they absolutely rise to it."



STRENGTHS OF THE PROGRAMME

The evaluation identified several key strengths:

A genuinely youth-led approach, with participants influencing programme design and conservation priorities.

High-quality experiential learning through practical outdoor activities.

Strong partnership working between organisations, facilitators and community groups.

Meaningful cross-border engagement that fostered friendships and social cohesion.

Excellent participant engagement and exceptionally high satisfaction.

Clear progression in environmental knowledge, confidence and practical skills.

Opportunities for accredited achievement through the John Muir Award and Leave No Trace Certification.

Embedding responsible environmental behaviours through Leave No Trace certification, equipping participants with practical principles they can apply in everyday outdoor activities.

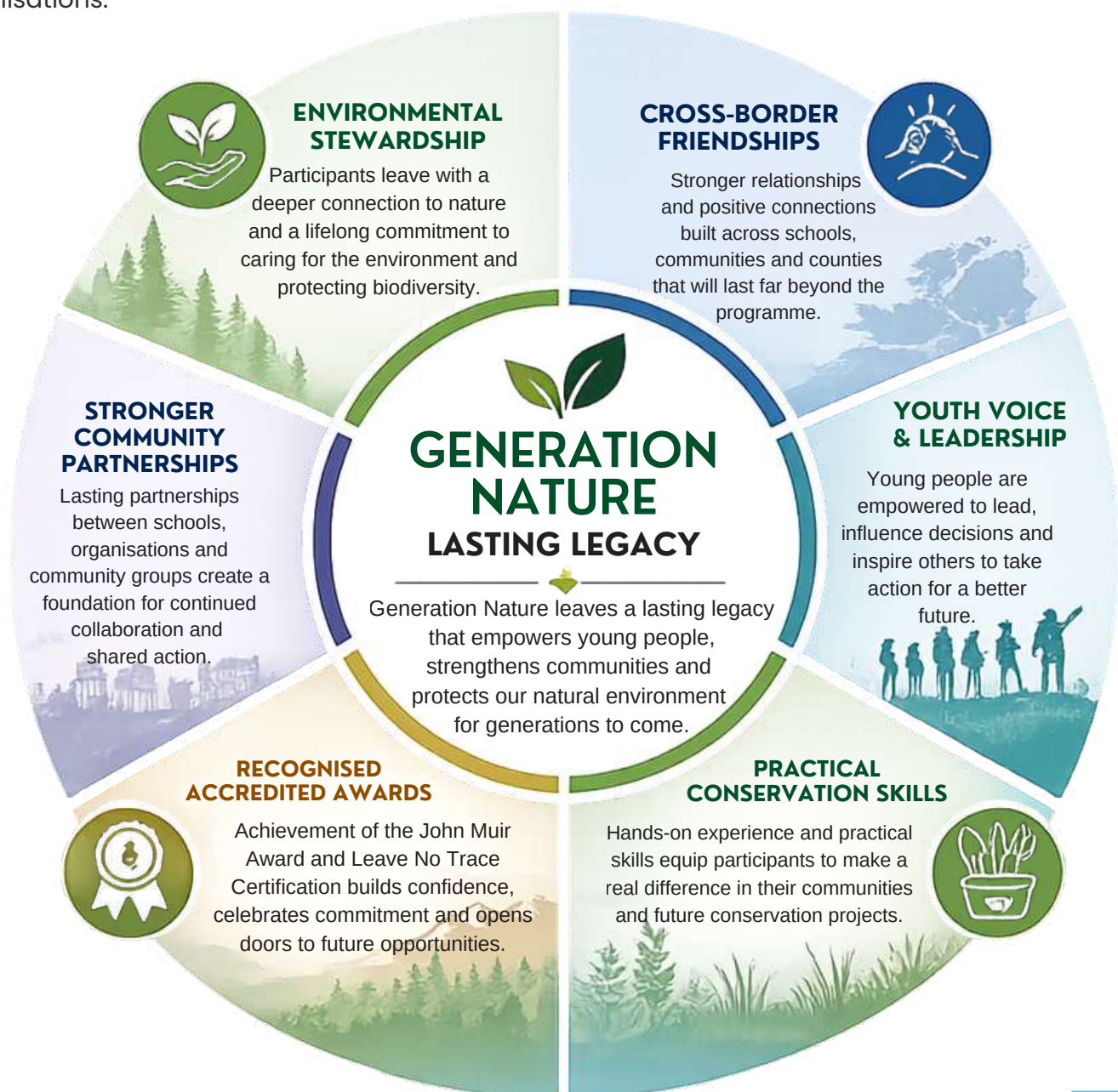
LASTING LEGACY

Generation Nature has established a strong foundation for a new generation of environmentally engaged young leaders across Counties Fermanagh and Cavan. Beyond the programme itself, participants leave with practical conservation skills, recognised environmental awards, increased confidence and stronger cross-border friendships that can continue to influence their future education, volunteering and community involvement.

The programme has also strengthened partnerships between community organisations, environmental practitioners, schools and local authorities, demonstrating the value of collaborative approaches to youth environmental leadership.

Importantly, Generation Nature has shown that when young people are trusted to lead, supported through experiential learning and empowered to shape real conservation action, they develop not only environmental knowledge but also the confidence, responsibility and motivation to become active contributors within their communities.

The programme therefore leaves a legacy not only in the habitats it has enhanced, but also in the young people it has inspired and the relationships it has created across communities and organisations.



"Generation Nature has been such a fantastic experience for Charlie. He genuinely looked forward to going every week and was always excited to tell us about what he'd been doing afterwards. It was wonderful to see him so engaged and enthusiastic about being outdoors, trying new things, and learning about nature in such a fun, hands-on way.

We've definitely seen his confidence grow over the course of the programme, and it's been great to watch him develop new skills and friendships along the way. The positive impact it's had on him has been obvious, and he would happily have kept going if he could!

A huge thank you to you and the whole team for creating such a welcoming, inspiring and enjoyable programme. It's made a real difference, and we're so grateful Charlie had the opportunity to be part of it."

Parent Perspective

EVALUATION LIMITATIONS

This evaluation adopted a mixed-method approach, combining participant questionnaires, qualitative feedback and facilitator observations to assess programme outcomes. The inclusion of both baseline and end-of-programme questionnaires enabled changes in participants' confidence, knowledge and perceptions to be assessed over the duration of the programme.

The findings presented are based primarily on self-reported participant questionnaires, supported by facilitator observations and reflective feedback. While the evaluation demonstrates clear improvements in participants' confidence, environmental knowledge and practical conservation skills, self-reported measures may be influenced by individual perceptions and experiences.

As the evaluation was conducted immediately following programme completion, it primarily captures short-term outcomes. Longer-term follow-up would be valuable to explore whether participants continue to apply their learning, remain engaged in environmental action and sustain the leadership behaviours and environmental stewardship developed through Generation Nature.

Despite these limitations, the consistency between quantitative findings, participant reflections and facilitator observations provides strong evidence that the programme achieved its intended outcomes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Building on the success of Generation Nature, future programmes should consider:

1 Develop a progression pathway for young environmental leaders

Generation Nature has demonstrated the potential of young people to become active environmental leaders. Future programmes should explore opportunities for participants to continue their involvement through volunteering, mentoring future cohorts, citizen science initiatives and local biodiversity projects.

2 Expand youth-led conservation and community action

The leadership model proved highly effective, with participants helping to identify and shape conservation activities. Future programmes should build on this by enabling young people to design, lead and deliver environmental initiatives within their own schools and communities, strengthening community ownership and civic participation.

3 Embed Leave No Trace principles throughout programme delivery

Participant feedback suggests that Leave No Trace certification had a lasting impact despite requiring relatively little delivery time. Future programmes should reinforce these principles across all practical sessions, encouraging responsible outdoor behaviours and supporting long-term environmental stewardship.

4 Strengthen partnerships with local organisations and decision-makers

Generation Nature benefited greatly from collaboration between community organisations, environmental practitioners and local partners. Future delivery should continue to strengthen these partnerships while creating opportunities for participants to engage with local authorities, environmental organisations and community groups to influence local environmental action.

5 Continue investing in cross-border youth environmental programmes

The programme demonstrated the value of bringing together young people from different communities to learn, collaborate and build positive relationships through shared environmental action. Continued investment in cross-border initiatives will support environmental stewardship while strengthening social connections, community resilience and positive cross-community relationships.

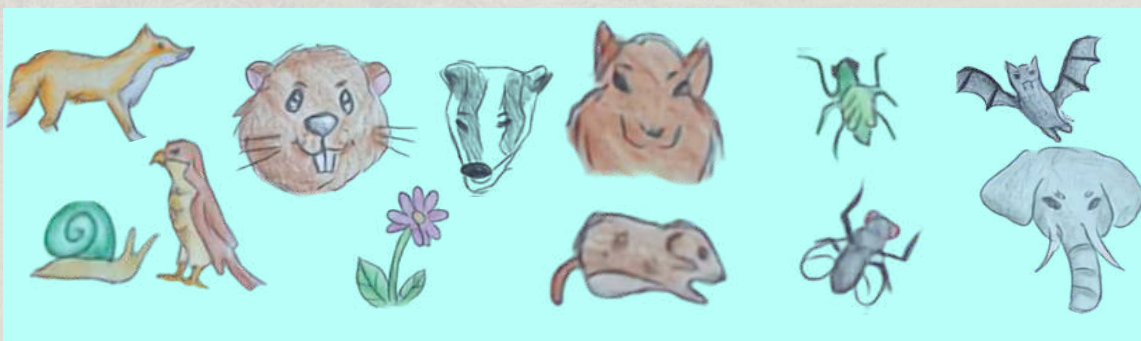
CONCLUSION

Generation Nature successfully achieved its ambition of empowering young people to connect with nature, build practical conservation skills and become active environmental leaders within their communities.

The programme delivered measurable environmental, personal and social outcomes while fostering meaningful cross-border relationships and strengthening young people's confidence, leadership and sense of environmental responsibility.

The combination of youth leadership, experiential learning, practical conservation and partnership working created a highly engaging programme that participants valued enormously.

The overwhelmingly positive evaluation findings demonstrate that Generation Nature provides an effective model for engaging young people in climate action, environmental stewardship and community leadership. The programme has not only developed knowledge and skills but has also inspired a generation of young people to recognise that they can make a positive and lasting contribution to protecting the natural environment for the future.



*Nature Artwork: credit to participant of
Generation Nation, Áine McGovern*