Biodiversity or biological diversity is the term given to describe the variety of all life on earth.

The biological diversity we see today is the result of millions of years of evolution. It includes the habitats and ecosystems which support this life and how life forms interact with each other and the rest of the environment. It includes wildlife, plants, domesticated crops and animals. Biodiversity provides humans with food, fresh water and fuel, building materials and even the resources used to develop most modern prescription drugs. For this reason biodiversity can be considered as the very raw material that sustains life on earth.

All living beings, including humans do not live in isolation. We are all linked in what is known as the’ *web of life’* .This *‘web of life’* is often complex but it is possible to identify different groups of animals or plants that have something in common and can be associated together into groups known as ‘ecological communities’ or ‘ecosystems’. How your community lives or develops in the future will impact on the natural environment and all living beings around it. We as human beings are an integral part of biodiversity and we can influence it in a positive or negative way.

**Kilcummin Biodiversity Project**