

**Kick-off meeting of the BiodivProtect Call on
“Supporting the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems across land
and sea”**

**19 April 2023, from 09:00 to 17:30 CEST
Prague, Czech Republic and Online**

- **Meeting venue:** Hotel Vienna House Diplomat, Evropská 15, Prague, Czech Republic
- **To join online,** register here: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qHUI7Gp7RjyvTP6Lz-WW4g

For your attention | In the frame of the kick-off event, meeting material (e.g., presentations, agenda, proceedings, pictures) will be recorded and uploaded on the Biodiversa+ website and Youtube Channel following prior authorization of publication by the speakers.

We may also publish pictures of the event on the Biodiversa+ website and social media (incl. Twitter & LinkedIn). Would you disagree with this, please contact Coralie Verhaegen (cverhaegen@naturalsciences.be) before the event.

From 08:30 Welcome coffee and tea & check-in

09:00 – 09:05 Welcome words & introduction to the meeting’s objectives

*By Petr Konvalinka, TA CR Chairman, Czech Republic
& Matěj Štěpánek, BiodivProtect follow-up team, TA CR, Czech Republic*

09:05 – 09:10 Welcome words by the European Commission

*By Bastian Bertzky, Policy Officer – DG Research & Innovation, European Commission
& Francisco Sánchez Crespo, Policy Officer – DG Environment, European Commission*

09:10 – 09:25 Introduction to Biodiversa+: General objectives and forthcoming opportunities for funded projects

By Hilde Eggermont, Biodiversa+ Chair & Coordinator, BelSPO, Belgium

09:25 – 09:30 Tribute to Dr. Kathy MacKinnon, former Chair of the IUCN - World Commission on Protected Areas & scientific Chair of the BiodivProtect Evaluation Committee

09:30 – 09:45 General impression of the Call and its outputs

By Judy Fisher, Fisher Research Pty Ltd Director, University of Western Australia Associate Professor & Policy/Management Chair of the BiodivProtect Evaluation Committee

09:45 – 10:05 Keynote speech – From global ambitions to national implementation: the role of science in supporting planning and implementation of area-based conservation measures

By Piero Visconti, Research Group Leader: Biodiversity, Ecology and Conservation Group at the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Austria & coordinator of the NaturaConnect project

10:05 – 10:25 Keynote speech – Influencing international conservation policy and practice: a role for Biodiversa+

By John Robinson, Joan L. Tweedy Chair in Conservation Strategy at Wildlife Conservation Society, United States of America

10:25 – 10:45 Panel discussion and interaction with the room

Moderated by Hilde Eggermont, Biodiversa+ Chair & Coordinator, BelSPO, Belgium

10:45 – 11:25 Break

[11:25 – 17:10 Presentation of funded projects

NB | There will be four sessions of presentation of the funded projects where each project representative is expected to do a 2 minutes presentation of its project, followed by a panel and Q&A session of ca. 20 minutes]

11:25 – 12:15 FUNDED PROJECTS PRESENTATION – SESSION 1

Moderated by Claire Brown, Principal Technical Specialist, UNEP-WCMC, United Kingdom

- **ALPMEMA** - ALPine Mountain Hay MEadows MAnagement: Best practices to maintain their Favorable Conservation Status against underuse under different property right regimes inside and outside protected areas, *Volker Mauerhofer*
- **BECOME** - Biospheres as Effective Conservation Measures, *Lisen Schultz*
- **BridgingVALUES** - "Just" conservation? Bridging values for equitable biodiversity governance, *Lasse Loft*
- **DarCo** - The vertical dimension of conservation: A cost-effective plan to incorporate subterranean ecosystems in post-2020 biodiversity and climate change agendas, *Stefano Mammola*
- **GreeNet** - Grassland conservation across European landscapes protecting biodiversity and ecosystem services with ecological networks, *Martin Schönhart*
- **MicroEco** - MicroEco Microbial Diversity, Ecosystem Services of the Soil Microbiome and Ecosystem Conservation, *Frank Berninger*
- **PAREUS** - Providing Adaptive knowledge for Ratcheting up the EU Biodiversity strategy for Sustainable landscapes and protected areas, *Sigrid Engen*
- **RECONNECT** - Reconciling fragmented and contested landscapes, *Erik Andersson*
- **TransWILD** - Transformative wildlife management to enhance biodiversity protection and ecosystem services provision in shared and protected multi-use landscapes across Europe, *Emu-Felicitas Ostermann-Miyashita*

12:15 – 13:40 Lunch

13:40 – 14:30 FUNDED PROJECTS PRESENTATION – SESSION 2

Moderated by Stephen Woodley, Vice Chair for Science and Biodiversity, IUCN - World Commission on Protected Areas, Canada

- **BIO-JUST** - Biodiversity and ecosystem protection driven by Environmental JUSTice, *Jean Carlo Rodriguez-de-Francisco*
- **Climate invasives** - Minimizing the negative effects of climate change-induced spread of invasive alien species to marine protected areas, *Lena Granhag*
- **Detect2Protect** - New approaches in determining the impacts of chemical pollution to protect the biodiversity of the Baltic Sea, *Kari Lehtonen*
- **EUROSYNG** - Promoting action on broad ocean challenges by delving into the past, present and future of European syngnathids, *Nuno Monteiro*
- **FORESCUE** - Innovative approaches FOR RESCUE and management of algal forests in the Mediterranean Sea, *Jana Verdura*
- **MURFor** - Managing sustainable sea urchin fishery and marine forest conservation, *Simone Farina*
- **RecoSal** - Recovering diversity in salmon populations and cultures of fishing: the subarctic River Teno basin as a confluence and a Living Lab, *Jaakko Erkinaro*
- **SPEAR** - Scenarios for Protecting European Avian Redistributions, *Diego Pavón Jordán*
- **TRANSNATURE** - Transboundary governance models of biodiversity protection: case studies for an enhanced protection of natural resources in Europe, *Federica Cittadino*

14:30 – 14:40 Highlight of concrete achievements of the BUFFER project in linking excellent science with support to practice and policy

By Frédéric Lemaitre, Biodiversa+ senior Science-Society-Policy Interfacing Officer

14:40 – 15:30 FUNDED PROJECTS PRESENTATION – SESSION 3

Moderated by Judy Fisher, Fisher Research Pty Ltd Director & University of Western Australia Associate Professor

- **EUROPAM** - European Spatial-Temporal Large-Scale Sea Noise Management & Passive Acoustic Monitoring of Marine Megafauna, *Elena Ceretta*
- **eWHALE** - Combining environmental DNA sampling, whale watching and citizen science for stakeholder-driven marine biodiversity protection in the North-East Atlantic and the Mediterranean, *Bettina Thalinger*
- **FUNACTION** - Aquatic FUNgal biodiversity: developing knowledge and strategies to inform Conservation priorities and measures, *Jennifer Anderson*
- **INSPIRE** - INtegrated Spatial Planning across REalms for biodiversity and human development in a context of change, *Virgilio Hermoso*
- **MOVE** - Movescapes, connectivity hotspots and eco-evolutionary dynamics: protecting the functional role of predatory coastal fishes, *Esben Moland Olsen*
- **PETRI-MED** - Plankton biodiversity through remote sensing and omics in the Mediterranean Sea, *Marco Talone*
- **ProPartS** - Developing strategies for the protection of taxa consisting of interconnected sexual and parthenogenetic reproducing strains, *Hendrik Schubert*

- **RIPARIANET** - Prioritising riparian ecotones to sustain and connect multiple biodiversity and functional components in river networks, *Ralf Schulz*
- **SponBIODIV** - Marine sponge biodiversity from genes to ecosystems: delivering knowledge and tools for sustainable management and conservation, *Joana Xavier*

15:30 – 16:20 Break

16:20 – 17:10 FUNDED PROJECTS PRESENTATION – SESSION 4

Moderated by *John Robinson, Joan L. Tweedy Chair in Conservation Strategy at Wildlife Conservation Society, United States of America*

- **ARCTIC FOX EUROPE** - Identifying effective management strategies for enhancing trans-national metapopulation protection of the Arctic Fox in mainland Europe, *Nina Eide*
- **ConservES** - Living-lab approach to floral enrichment as a tool to conserve biodiversity and maximising ecosystem services in European agricultural landscapes, *Joan Van Baaren*
- **DiviN-P** - Protecting plant diversity via stoichiometric nutrient networks across Europe, *Martin Wassen*
- **FuncNet** - Improving the Functional Connectivity of Grassland Networks for Plant-Pollinator Interactions, *Tsipe Aavik*
- **G4B** - Grasslands for biodiversity: supporting the protection of the biodiversity-rich grasslands and related management practices in the Alps and Carpathians, *Robert Pazúr*
- **GaP** - Guiding expansion of protection under the EU Biodiversity Strategy: Threatened species and novel methods for Key Biodiversity Area identification, *Konstantina Spiliopoulou*
- **INTEGRADIV** - Efficient conservation of Mediterranean forests: an integrative assessment of the drivers and vulnerability of multi-taxa, multi-facet and multi-scale biodiversity patterns, *Agathe Leriche*
- **PrioritIce** - Vanishing habitats: conservation priorities for glacier-related biodiversity threatened by climate change, *Gentile Francesco Ficetola*
- **Wolfness** - Preserving the natural heritage of wolves: a multidisciplinary approach towards effective and socially acceptable management of wolf-dog hybridization across Europe, *Paolo Ciucci*

17:10 – 17:25 Follow-up & life of funded projects: what is expected from funded projects?

By *Matěj Štěpánek, BiodivProtect follow-up team, TA CR, Czech Republic*

17:25 – 17:30 Concluding words

By *Matěj Štěpánek, BiodivProtect follow-up team, TA CR, Czech Republic*
& *Hilde Eggermont, Biodiversa+ Chair & Coordinator, BelSPO, Belgium*

17:30 | End of the meeting