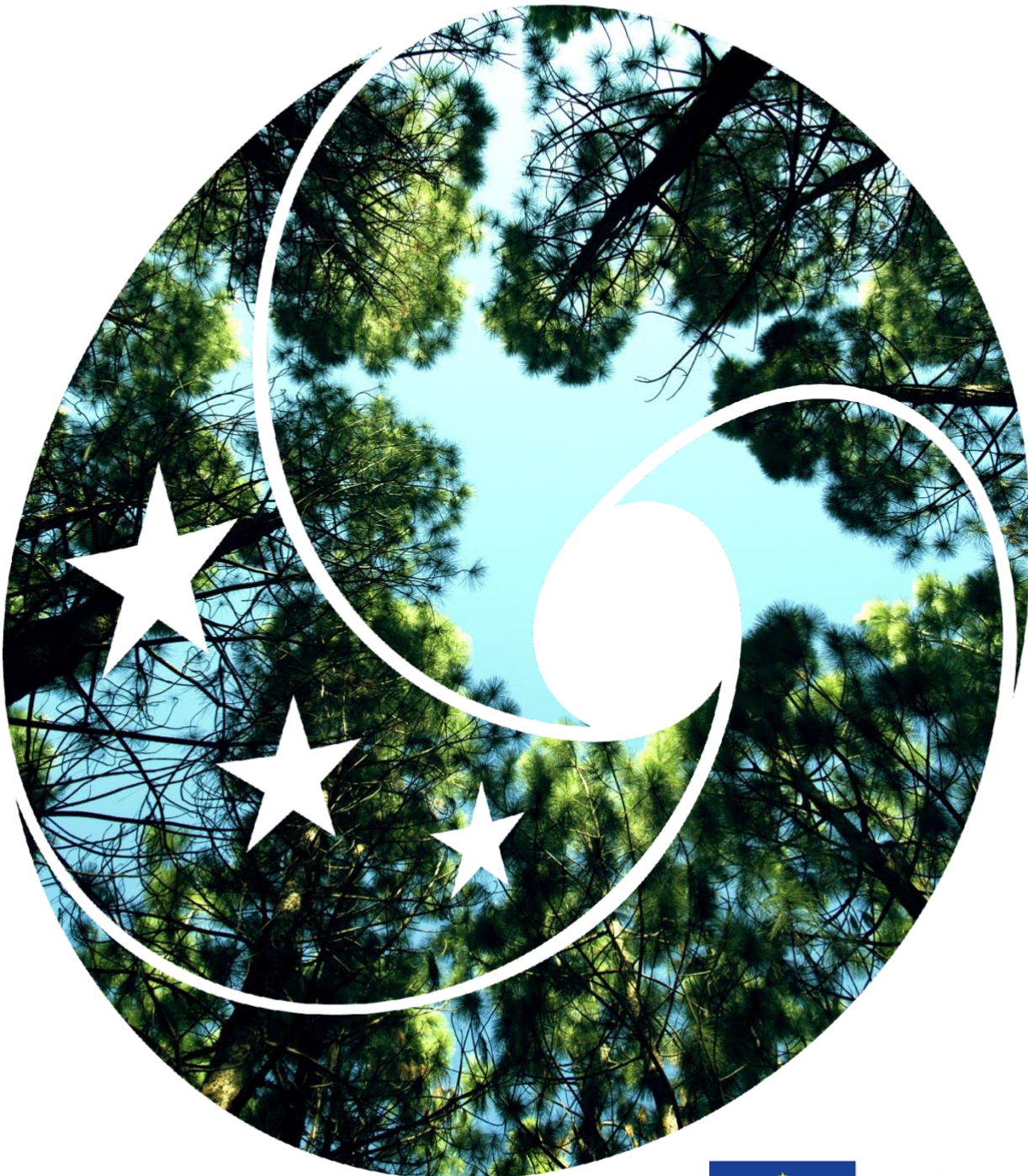




**biodiversa+**  
European Biodiversity Partnership



EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP

# Report of the use of biodiversity monitoring data in private decision making



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### What is Biodiversa+?

Biodiversa+ is the European co-funded biodiversity partnership supporting excellent research on biodiversity with an impact for policy and society. It was jointly developed by BiodivERsA and the European Commission (DG Research & Innovation and DG Environment) and was officially launched on 1 October 2021.

Biodiversa+ is part of the European Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 that aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030.

The Partnership aims to connect science, policy and practice for transformative change. It currently gathers 74 research programmers and funders and environmental policy actors from 36 European and associated countries to work on 5 main objectives:

1. Plan and support research and innovation on biodiversity through a shared strategy, annual joint calls for research projects and capacity building activities
2. Set up a network of harmonised schemes to improve monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem services across Europe
3. Contribute to high-end knowledge for deploying Nature-based Solutions and valuation of biodiversity in the private sector
4. Ensure efficient science-based support for policy-making and implementation in Europe
5. Strengthen the relevance and impact of pan-European research on biodiversity in a global context

More information at: <https://www.biodiversa.eu/>

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## Acronyms

BMCC	Biodiversity Monitoring Coordination Centre
EEA	European Environment Agency
EBV	Essential Biodiversity Variable
GBIF	Global Biodiversity Information Facility
GIS	Geographic Information System
GLOBIO	Global Biodiversity Model for Policy Support
IBAT	Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JRC	Joint Research Centre
KPI	Key Performance Indicators
MSA	Mean Species Abundance
MS/AC	Member States and Associated Countries
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PDF	Potential Disappeared Fraction of Species
SBTN	Science Based Targets Network
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprises
TNFD	Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures
UNEP-WCMC	UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre

### Introduction

As part of its work programme, Biodiversa+ aims to support and reinforce the use of biodiversity data in decision making (public and private). In this context, Biodiversa+ organised a workshop with private sector actors on 8 November 2022 in Brussels, back to back with the EuropaBON stakeholder conference, to gather perspectives from private actors on their user needs for biodiversity monitoring data. The following report is an outcome of this thematic focused workshop with representatives from business and civil society through NGOs to assess their biodiversity monitoring data needs and to identify how Biodiversa+, being strongly rooted in the MS/AC and including those ministries/agencies that steer and fund monitoring schemes, can help to overcome some of the challenges.

This workshop was organised as part of the Biodiversa+ biodiversity monitoring activities ranging from defining shared priorities and needs for biodiversity monitoring; harmonisation of protocols, methods, databases and data format; promoting emerging/new methods, technologies and approaches; and support the use of biodiversity monitoring data by research, and by decision making. The main objective of Biodiversa+ regarding biodiversity monitoring activities is to establish a transnational network of harmonised biodiversity monitoring schemes building on existing national/subnational schemes, well linked with research & innovation and policy, and leading to improved monitoring of biodiversity (status and trends). More specific objectives include:

- To promote clustering of major national and sub-national biodiversity monitoring schemes across Europe, build capacity, promote harmonisation, and provide support and additional resources to these schemes;
- To guide and prioritise aspects of monitoring schemes to better inform policy makers and other stakeholders;
- To develop and deploy new technologies and approaches, to promote citizen science in close link to monitoring schemes, and to increase the use of monitoring data by R&I to better understand the relationships between the state of the biodiversity and drivers / pressures;
- To develop and deploy new technologies and approaches, to promote citizen science in close link to monitoring schemes, and to increase the use of monitoring data by R&I to better understand the relationships between the state of the biodiversity and drivers / pressures;

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- To engage relevant initiatives and set up a transnational network of national and sub-national biodiversity monitoring schemes, leading to improved monitoring of biodiversity and information on biodiversity status & trends across Europe
- To join forces with EuropaBON and other selected key bodies (including JRC, EEA) in the definition of a strategic framework that defines a common vision (end-goal) for biodiversity monitoring across Europe, as well as the major steps, collaborations and governance options to reach it.

As part of the work on the “*use of biodiversity monitoring data in decision-making (public and private)*” Biodiversa+ aims to demonstrate the usefulness of monitoring data (and of an improved and harmonised European observation network), e.g., for reporting to the Habitats Directive, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, for ecosystem accounting, for use by private actors, etc. In this workshop, the focus was placed on the private sector where Biodiversa+ has the following aims:

- Better understand the needs of the private sector on the use of biodiversity monitoring data
- Better support private actors in their use of biodiversity monitoring data
- Explore capacities to provide and share biodiversity monitoring data between public and private actors
- Promote the uptake of these needs in the development of the European Biodiversity Monitoring Coordination Centre (BMCC) whose ToR are being developed by EuropaBON in collaboration with other key actors including JRC and Biodiversa+

As this was the first workshop on this topic, we focused mainly on biodiversity monitoring data needs and tried to identify how Biodiversa+ can best provide support.

### Workshop background

#### Collaboration with EuropaBON

As mentioned above, this workshop was organised back to back with the annual EuropaBON conference, as part of the key collaboration between Biodiversa+ and EuropaBON.

The [annual EuropaBON stakeholder conference](#) is an opportunity for the wider European biodiversity community to meet and exchange. The 2022 conference had a particular focus on the future European biodiversity monitoring coordination centre, whose terms of references are being designed by EuropaBON.

This conference was split into two parts. In the morning, participants listened to talks and panel discussions on the use of biodiversity information in decision-making, related challenges as well as good practices. These talks covered a range of perspectives from public policy, member states, the private sector, non-governmental organisations, and academia.

- *Scientific framing: biodiversity monitoring in Europe* (Henrique Pereira, iDiv/MLU) | [Download as PDF](#)
- *Integrate actors and refine methods: The need for a harmonized biodiversity monitoring framework in Europe* (Vujadin Kovacevic, DG ENV)
- *The Finnish Ecosystem Observatory – challenges and success stories* (Päivi Sirki, SYKE) | [Download as PDF](#)
- *The Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme – An NGO perspective on biodiversity monitoring* (Alena Klvaňová, BirdLife) | [Download as PDF](#)
- *Private sector perspective on biodiversity monitoring* (Jacob Bedford, UNEP-WCMC) | [Download as PDF](#)
- *Meeting the challenges: How EuropaBON and Biodiversa+ collaborate to design a new European biodiversity monitoring coordination centre* (Joachim Maes, DG REGIO; Hilde Eggermont, Biodiversa+) | [Download as PDF](#)
- *The need for a European biodiversity monitoring coordination centre* (Roundtable discussion: Jan-Erik Petersen, EEA; Tim Hirsch, GBIF; Richard Gregory, RSBP)

All talks were recorded and can also be watched again [here](#).



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In the afternoon, two parallel sessions were held. EuropaBON hosted workshops aimed at drafting design, tasks and modes of implementation for a future European Biodiversity Monitoring Coordination Centre (BMCC). The results of these workshops will feed into EuropaBON's development of a proposal for such a centre.

Simultaneously, Biodiversa+ hosted a workshop on the use of biodiversity monitoring data in private-sector decision making. This workshop was attended by 27 participants from across Europe (for details see Annex 1).

The collaboration with EuropaBON for the organisation of this conference and the private sector workshop proved to be beneficial for both EuropaBON and Biodiversa+. Hosting the workshop at this event allowed for a wider mobilisation of stakeholders, particularly from the private sector. In return, the morning talks were very beneficial in setting the scene for the afternoon workshop. Finally, participants of both the EuropaBON workshop and the Biodiversa+ workshop had the opportunity to meet and exchange with at the end of the day, leading to fruitful discussions and new networks created.

A summary of the stakeholder conference and its main takeaways for EuropaBON can be found on their website [here](#).

### Workshop programme

Before diving into the results of the discussions held during the workshop, we want to give a summary of the workshop programme.

The workshop was split into two parts (a detailed agenda can be found in Annex 2). The first part of the workshop was dedicated to introductions as well as two talks that set the scene in addition to the presentations that the participants followed in the morning as mentioned above.

The first talk was given by Johan Lammerant, Lead Expert Natural Capital and Biodiversity from Arcadis. In this talk, he homed in on why businesses should be interested in biodiversity data and what the common trends and current challenges are. He also outlined several benefits of improved data flows between public and private level and how these could be achieved. The slides for his talk can be consulted on the [Biodiversa+ website](#).

The second talk was given by Hilde Eggermont, Biodiversa+ Chair/Coordinator. Her talk gave the participants better insights into Biodiversa+' Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda, the flagship

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programmes and Biodiversa+' different workstreams and activities, particularly as they relate to the private sector.

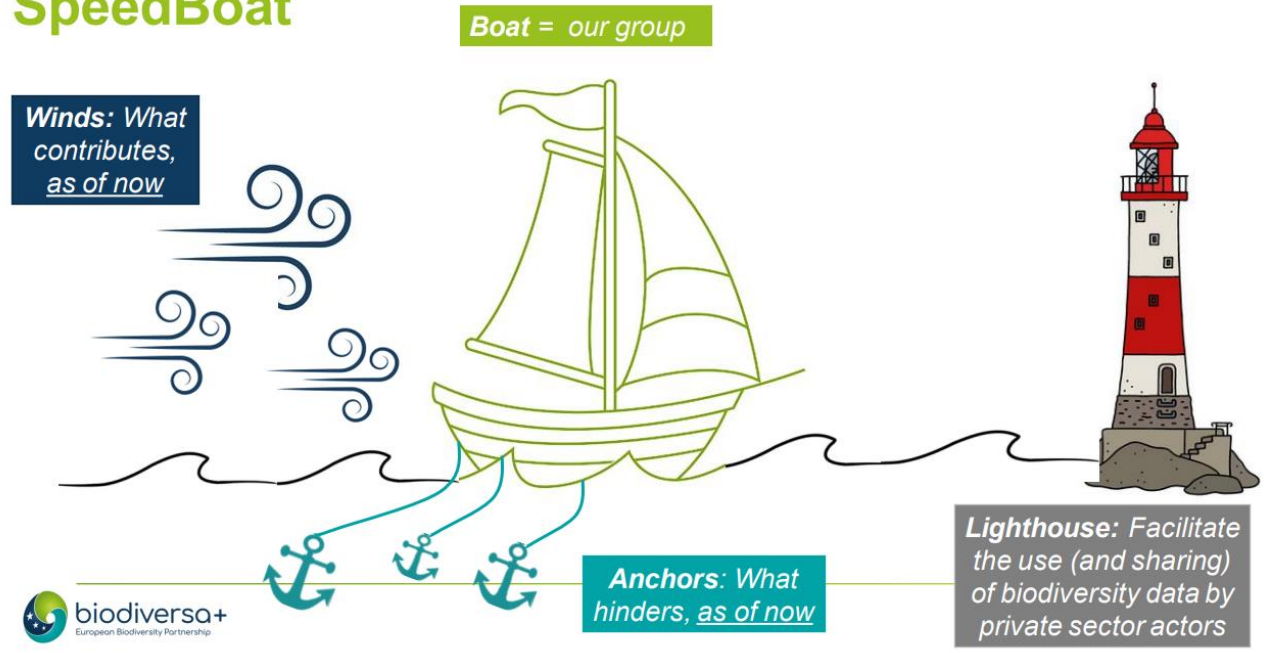
After the break, the second part of the workshop entailed a collaborative session where the participants set out to answer the following question: *What is needed to facilitate the use (and sharing) of biodiversity data by the private sector?*

As the crowd of participants was quite diverse (a list of participants can be found in Annex 1), we opted to utilise an agile technique called "the speedboat" for the collaborative part of our workshop. The purpose of this technique is to enable collective intelligence and help bring to the surface the diversity of needs and views from the participants.

The technique is utilised as a vehicle for multiple ideas:

- *The speedboat:* Symbol of the group, central element
- *The lighthouse:* The objective that the group hopes to achieve. In this case: facilitate the use (and sharing) of biodiversity data by the private sector.
- *The winds:* Strengths and assets that help the boat move towards the lighthouse. In this case: what facilitates the use and sharing of biodiversity data?
- *The anchors:* Brakes and barriers that prevent the boat from moving towards the lighthouse. In this case: what are the challenges of the use and sharing of biodiversity data by the private sector?

# SpeedBoat



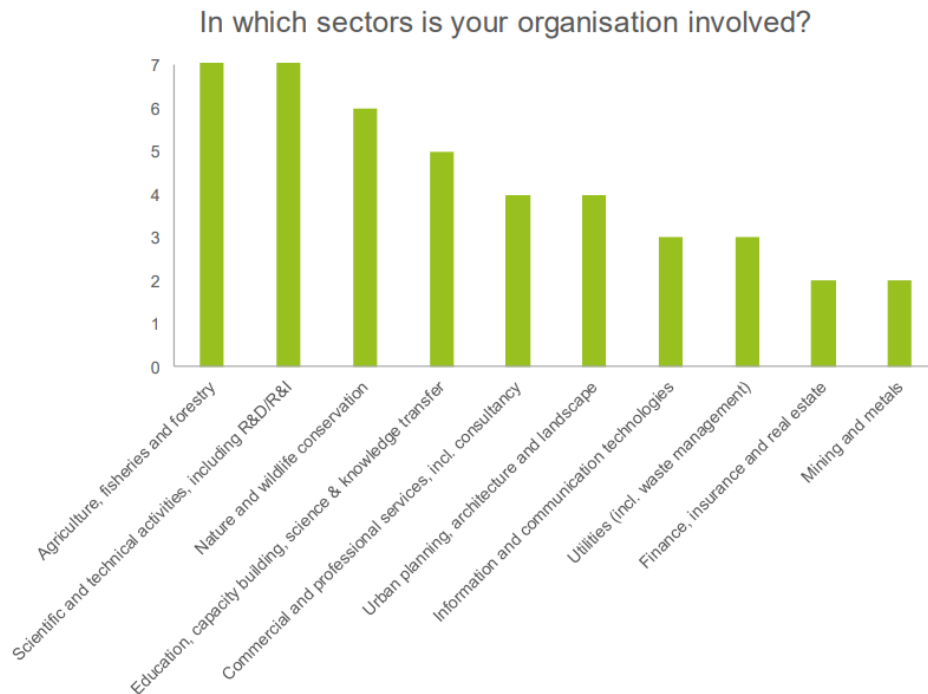
Slide that was used during the workshop to illustrate the speedboat technique.

## Results

### Pre-workshop survey

Ahead of the workshop, we invited the participants to answer a short survey on their organisations/ companies and biodiversity data.

From the 22 participants, 15 respondents answered our survey. These 15 represent the overall participant group quite well, with 13.3% NGOs, associations and international organisations for nature protection, 13.3% research collaboration organisation/initiative, 20% private company (multinational/group) and finally private company (SME) at 53.3%. These are spread across 10 different **sector** clusters see [Fig 1](#)).



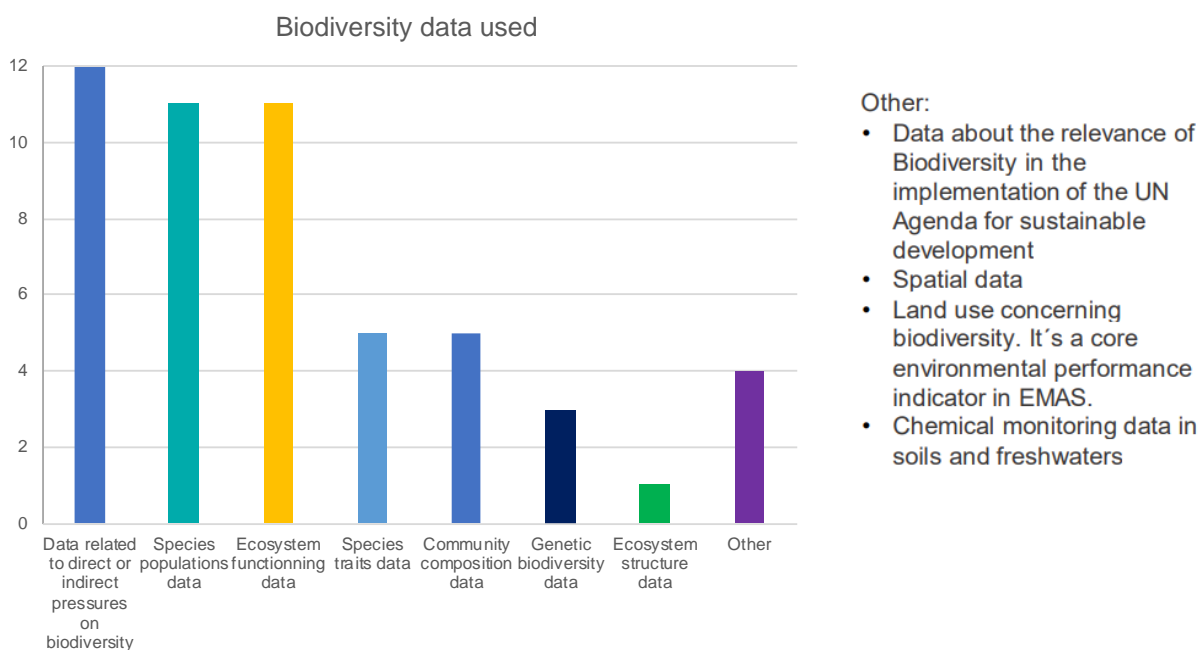
[Fig 1](#): Economic sectors covered by the workshop participants (multiple answers were possible).

Regarding the **scale on which the respondents' organisations operate** (multiple answers possible), the answers were distributed more or less evenly across the different levels, with the national level being the most important one (national (10), international (9), local and subnational (9) and European (8)). Only a few respondents' organisations operate outside of the European region (4).

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Moving on to the **type of data used**, data related to direct or indirect pressures (12), species population data (11) and ecosystem functioning (11) are the most used in the respondents' organisations.

When it comes to the use of these types of data, most indicate to be both data user and provider (61.5%), while some are exclusively data users (30.8%) and few exclusively data providers (7.7%).

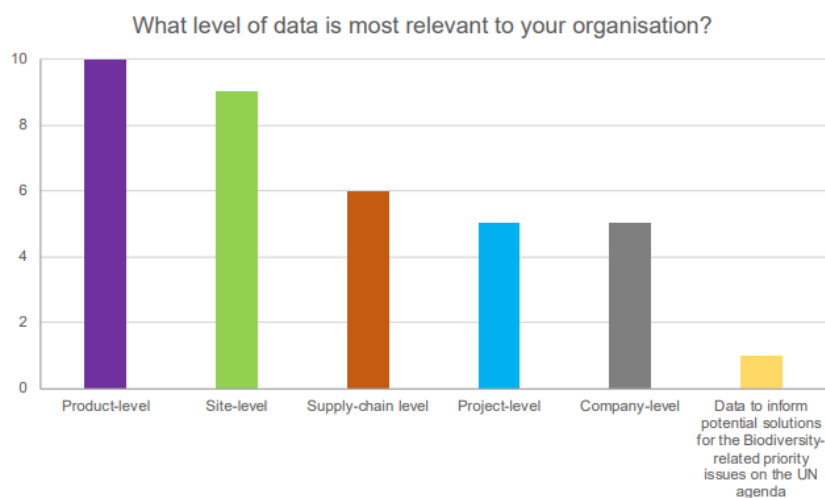


**Fig 2:** Biodiversity data used (multiple answers were possible).

When asked if there were additional data to that mentioned above that would be needed but that their organisations could not access, 66.7% of respondents indicated yes. Other types of data that would be needed according to those respondents include:

- IBAT STAR datasets (see <https://www.ibat-alliance.org/star>)
- Data on biodiversity conservation, and measures of biodiversity (parameters/metrics) - specifically species and genetic level.
- More precise and accurate data on EU Habitats
- For SMEs, more easy-to-use biodiversity indicators is needed. It was also raised that KPI can be qualitative, quantitative, or based on direct or indirect pressures on biodiversity.
- In many cases geographical distribution data is not available, or not accurate, or not available at the adequate scope / scale.
- Raw data behind EU indicators (such as those used in the EEA report)

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[Fig 3](#): Level at which data is most relevant (multiple answers possible).

The levels at which biodiversity data is most relevant for the private decision maker actors which answered the survey is mainly at product (10) or site (9) level (see [Fig 3](#)).

Through the outcomes of this pre-workshop survey we were able to confirm a set of hypotheses which guided us in the preparation of the workshop:

- The survey respondents covered a broad range of private actors (in terms of sectors, scale of action and type of organisations).
- Most of the survey respondents currently need to use biodiversity data as well as data on direct and indirect pressures on biodiversity. This need for biodiversity data will increase in the future.
- Yet, they face some difficulties to access such data.
- In addition, most of the private sector survey respondents are producing biodiversity data.
- Biodiversa+ could provide some support for data sharing among private and other relevant actors, possibly through collaboration with other actors such as GBIF
- Facilitating the use of biodiversity monitoring data by private actors, and improving the data flow between public and private sectors seem relevant functions to be explored when setting up the BMCC

### Results of workshop

#### Discussion around the objective

As stated above, the objective of the workshop was to respond to the following question: **what is needed to facilitate the use (and sharing) of biodiversity data by the private sector?**

In a first step this objective was examined with the participants. This discussion yielded some interesting inputs that should be taken into account when organising a next workshop with these types of stakeholders.

First of all, the participants insisted on a clearer distinction between data use and data sharing for the remainder of the collaborative session. Thus below, assets and barriers will be divided between those concerning data use and those concerning data provision. For data provision, the participants discussed provision/ sharing within the private sector as well as with the public sector.

In addition, the participants discussed what biodiversity data is actually used for in their different organisations and decided that the mention “to support decision making” should be added to the objective for the session. It is thus always from the angle of decision-making support that the participants approached questions of use and provision of biodiversity data during the session (see the sections below to see the outcomes of the discussions).

Also, it was clearly stated that representing the “private sector” in its entirety is hardly possible. While we had a diverse group of participants, it is evident that not all facets of the private sector were represented in our small group. Further workshops within this subtask should aim to include other types of private sector stakeholder in order to capture different perspectives.

#### Identified Assets and Barriers

Below you will find all of the identified assets and barriers during the initial work in subgroups. Those marked in bold were identified by more than one group.

*Assets identified in USE of biodiversity data to support private decision making*

- **Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBVs)**
- **Concrete ties to policy**
- **Standardisation**, which would also improve costs
- **GBIF and related biodiversity platforms**
- **More data available/ more secondary data available**

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- **New EU and national biodiversity reporting obligations for private sector (like Green Deal)**
- **Better collaborations between biodiversity conservation agencies and business sector**
- Commitments towards nature positive by 2030
- Regional lists of plant/animal/insect species are easily accessible
- Monitoring frameworks designed with private sector decision making in mind: for instance a brief GIS system (geographic information system) with common/ red listed species in the area
- Evidence-based approaches
- Innovative technologies for monitoring
- Clearer EU guidance on what/how to use data (e.g. from TNFD)
- Growing awareness of the benefits of reporting (and having knowledge) on biodiversity state
- There is an increased digitalisation

### *Assets identified in PROVISION of biodiversity data to support private decision making*

- **Trend towards open data requirements = first mover advantage which means an example to rest of industry as well as the ability to set the standard**
- **Financial incentives** e.g. data sharing clauses based on Equator Principles recommendations
- **Partnerships** with NGO and other projects that might improve their environmental performance
- Disclosure mandates and guidelines
- Provision can aid in achieving the goals/ targets
- Positive examples of what works elsewhere (like carbon transparency) can encourage
- Growing awareness in the public of the need to protect and restore natural ecosystems can fuel desire to demonstrate corporate social responsibility
- Recognition of societal benefits of data sharing
- For urban environments, data provision and monitoring by landscaping companies
- Ensure data confidentiality to decrease reputational concerns or anonymisation of company specific data info in data provision
- Precompetitive agreements
- Coalitions and system wide approaches
- Facilitate data sharing through standards
- New opportunities and business models



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### *Barriers identified in USE of biodiversity data in private decision making*

- **Fragmentation of tools**
- **User confusion on best tools for use case**
- **Data quality/reliability**
- **Inconsistency in classification systems**
- **Data is not available on relevant scales (time, place, etc.)**
- Conservatism (“no changes”)
- Scientific projects often too short for monitoring over ecologically relevant timescales
- Data created for a given purpose implies a specific data collection purpose: how fit is it then to be used for another purpose in another context
- Most data are not accessible in a structured format (scientific articles, report, grey literature)
- Companies need to create IT infrastructure to acquire data
- Meta data is often missing
- Data gaps across sectors
- IP/ Ownership of data

### *Barriers identified in PROVISION of biodiversity data in private decision making*

- **Lack of incentives**
- **Intellectual property rules, protection of own investments**
- **Biodiversity data are provided in totally different formats so no consistency**
- **Reputational risk/ competition/ sensitive information**
- **Fear or risk or exposure** (by disclosing locations of sensitive species for example)
- **Lack of awareness for available tools and standards, or technical knowledge**
- **Lack of resources**
- Lack of clarity on mainstream architectures to overcome commercial sensitivities
- Lack of trust from other stakeholder about data generated by private sector
- Strict data policies
- Data are provided by scientific community without consultation of private sector
- Missing policy framework
- Lack of regulatory obligation to share data
- Perceived cost and high technical threshold for data sharing

- Security risk (where is it stored)

It becomes immediately apparent that there is a definitive overlap between what the different participants identified individually, in subgroups and in plenary as barriers in use as well as provision of biodiversity data in private decision making, meaning that despite the diversity of the group, concerns are shared across different sectors and levels of operations. However, you can also see that the participants shared similar ideas regarding assets.

In the following section, we will present the final outcomes of these discussions by way of focusing on the key barrier clusters that are compiled of the ones you can find in the lists above. In anticipation, it can already be said that the identified assets above are firmly reflected in the way that the participants imagined solutions to those barriers.

### Proposed actions to address key barrier clusters

In the last exercise, the participants homed in on the four barrier clusters that the group deemed most important to the common objective of facilitating data use and sharing by private sector actors:

- Lack of accessibility/ availability/ findability of biodiversity data
- Lack of resources
- Lack of standardisation and actionability
- Lack of incentives

Per barrier, each group was tasked to determine the first 3 steps to address this barrier, as well as to reflect on which role Biodiversa+ could play to help achieve these steps. Finally, all groups were also asked to consider what other stakeholders would need to be included.

#### **Lack of accessibility/ availability/ findability**

This group focused on the issue of data accessibility and the issue of current limits of standard data since the FAIR (findability, accessibility, interoperability, reuse) principle is not systematically applied.

The following three steps were proposed:

1. The benefits (for instance, professional, reputational, financial) of FAIR data should be demonstrated, whether it be for use or for sharing.

Through exchanges between private and public actors, best practice example and success stories, reluctant actors can be motivated and concerns or fears from stakeholder can be addressed.

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2. Sharing according to a standard through a single access/ entry point should be encouraged.

This could be either encouraged/incentivized or done via regulatory mechanisms, to achieve faster uptake. The role of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility ([GBIF](#)) as the host for this access point is a key element here. Their role should be made known to wider stakeholder audiences.

3. Tailored training needs to be ensured so the standard can be followed without issue.

Private actors need not only to be made aware of these standards but also armed with the right knowledge to follow these standards and utilize this single access point.

Who else should be involved? Sectoral associations should be involved to ensure uptake across sectors. On a global level, the involvement of GBIF is crucial.

**What role should Biodiversa+ have?** Biodiversa+ could step in and facilitate between the different stakeholders, as well as mobilise more stakeholders, as the Partnership is rooted in national ministries/agencies that steer and fund monitoring schemes. Furthermore, the Partnership could promote and provide guidance for the use of these data standards on an accessible level. Biodiversa+ could also ensure funded support for different actions required for the three above-mentioned steps (demonstration of the benefits of FAIR data i; encouraging the sharing of data according to a standard through a single access or entry point ii; ensuring tailored training needs so that standards can be followed iii), and build-in some activities directly into its workplan.

### Lack of resources

This group focused on the issue of resources and funding. Indeed, many participants listened lack of resources or the costs related to data sharing as a major barrier. Not only might investments be necessary (in expertise, infrastructure, etc.), but also companies who make these investments can be reluctant to share what they have acquired or developed, as they might lose their competitive edge.

The following actions were proposed to address this barrier:

1. (Part of) The costs could be transferred to the customer.
2. Costs in this area can be turned into benefits or opportunities and should thus be considered from a different perspective than purely cost. Shareholders should be convinced to include other than just financial values, which would permit private actors to make investments in data sharing infrastructure that might not increase financial profit but instead increase reputation (increase

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corporate social responsibility, being a trailblazer) or afford other opportunities, like setting standards or increasing attractivity for collaboration with other organisations.

3. Governments should create incentives (tax advantages, loan structures, subsidies, etc.) for companies that invest in this area.
4. Private actors should find ways to collaborate with academia, NGOs, etc. to profit from their expertise in lieu of trying to provide everything in house.

Who else should be involved? Biodiversa+ partners, whose experts could be matched to private sectors needs via mobility schemes, as well as GBIF.

**What role should Biodiversa+ have?** To address this barrier, Biodiversa+ should share expertise and support good practices. This could possibly be done via mobility schemes, through which experts from academia, NGOs, etc. could be mobilized for the private sector. Furthermore, Biodiversa+ could provide not just expertise but could also inform at European level that more resources, for instance to help upload data to GBIF are needed. The idea being that private sector actors who are unable to secure resources for data sharing would still be able to do so through the help of Biodiversa+ and/ or relevant European initiatives.

### Lack of standardisation and actionability

Lack of standardisation and in turn actionability was identified as another important barrier to the use and sharing of biodiversity monitoring data. More specifically, a perceived lack of standardised and harmonised approaches, as well as scattered data sets make it difficult for actors to determine what data is available or needed, or how and why to use available data. Furthermore, the number of ongoing initiatives can increase confusion on which metrics to use. Often, information is perceived as not being actionable because data lacks interoperability or is too difficult to integrate, as businesses might not have sufficient expertise to interpret available unstandardised biodiversity data.

The following steps are suggested:

1. Regarding existing data, guidelines should be provided or reinforcing easy access to existing guidelines on how data should be used to ensure alignment.
2. Regarding future data, guidance on how to generate/ collect data in the future should be provided, to make sure to have best possible data quality. This guidance should include format of data

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(including relevant data standards), key principles of generation/ collection, and ensure a link to existing key metrics and indicators so data is aligned to potential use.

3. Guidance should also be provided on best practices for action, meaning data on actions that could be taken to conserve biodiversity, or how to include/ utilize biodiversity data to measure effectiveness of actions.

Who else should be involved? Representatives of different business sectors, SBTN and TNFD for metrics, as well as those involved with data regarding article 17 of the Habitats Directive.

**What role should Biodiversa+ have?** In this capacity, Biodiversa+ would be well placed to provide an overview of the different initiatives and schemes. Given that Biodiversa+ has a proven track record of providing various guidance, participants also saw a potential for Biodiversa+ to create the specific guidance documents mentioned in the three steps above (if they are not yet available), or to facilitate access to existing guidelines.

### Two further barriers

While these two barrier clusters did not get chosen by the group to be analysed in depth, they merit a mention as they did come up quite frequently in discussions throughout the workshop:

- Facilitation of incentives / value proposition: Data sharing should be incentivised with soft (rewards like image, good publicity for example by showcasing that a private sector actor supported biodiversity science, policy and practice by sharing data) and hard (legal obligations) pathways. However, correct actions need to be taken, in order to ensure chances for long term viability of the company, while delivering “value” to society. For instance, the risks of investing in business opportunities on the emerging nature markets (carbon credits, biodiversity credits, blue bonds, etc.) should be rewarded. Simultaneously, subsidies that have nefarious effects on the environment should be eliminated to promote a level playing field the various actors. This way, companies are incentivised to create value for themselves and society, without being incentivised to engage in environmentally harmful activities by public subsidies.

Perception of risk: Various risks were identified with data sharing in particular. On one hand, actors might simply not want to freely share data that they paid for, especially not if this sharing would give advantages to competing actors. Furthermore, actors might also not have the time or financial resources to share data correctly, which could ensue in mistakes for which the actor might be held

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liable for. Finally, the participants also discussed that the risk of exposure represents a major barrier. By sharing data, actors could more easily become victim of corporate espionage. Increased transparency through data sharing might also increase legal risks (for instance by exposing harmful practices) or create issue for companies with other actors (the sharing of site-specific data could lead to restrictions on activities if for instance this site becomes protected after a certain species has been found there through monitoring).

### Considerations for future activities

In preparation for this workshop, some scoping meetings were held with biodiversity and business experts, as well as colleagues from EuropaBON. As this was the first workshop in the scope of this subtask, the decision was taken to use this workshop to get to know (some of) the private sector stakeholders and to simply begin the conversation regarding the use of monitoring data with them.

So, while some of the ideas out of these scoping meetings were a bit too technical for this first workshop, the pre-workshop survey as well as discussions during the workshop show that some of these scoped ideas merit to be used when planning future Biodiversa+ work. Below can be found some of the ideas out of the preliminary discussions:

#### *How are businesses currently measuring impact?*

According to our experts, businesses tend to favour pragmatic and simple approaches, so this is what is currently looked for in terms of measuring environmental impact. However, measuring impact is not so straightforward when it comes to biodiversity, which means that a mix of metrics is used.

Currently in use are the measuring of extent and condition of habitat and ecosystem, significance (of ecosystem or species), risk for species extinction ([IUCN STAR metric](#), [IBAT tool](#) often used by the business community to screen for risk). There are also footprint approaches which rely on models and modelled measuring (GLOBIO), relying on mean species abundance (MSA) or potential disappeared fraction of species (PDF).

Within the [EU Business and Biodiversity platform](#), they look at these metrics. Within the 'Aligning Accounting Approaches for Nature' project ([ALIGN](#)), they have checked the key parameters, extent condition and significance (ecosystem) and risk of disappearing (species).

There is also a growing number of external disclosure initiatives ([GERI](#), [CSDR directive](#), etc.). All these standards do not oblige actors to use a specific metric, so the choice of metric remains with those who measure. However, there are multiple reasons why KPI in the public and private sector should be aligned.

A future workshop could thus focus on the different metrics that are currently used to measure dependency and impact by the private sector and how these could potentially be aligned.

As mentioned above, discussions with experts prior to the workshop, as well as during the workshop touched on a variety of existing initiatives and their activities, for instance the IBAT Alliance, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC, and others in relation to this topic. Any future work in this area should make clear links to these existing initiatives.

### *EBVs?*

The concept of EBVs (Essential Biodiversity Variables) could be linked to the above-mentioned discussions of various metrics and their mixed use in biodiversity monitoring by private actors, as they are an aggregation of data. It is crucial that both the public and private sector take this concept up if it is to be used. There is a clear need for harmonisation of monitoring schemes, to make sure that data needed is more rapidly available and that it is harmonised. EBVs could address this need. EuropaBON has developed a list of EBVs that they intend to measure in Europe. They would like to test this list in a workshop to check for relevance and usefulness. EuropaBON have looked at each EBV and have tried to describe why it could be relevant to the business sector. The business sector has many players so that relevance of these EBVs can be very different depending on what sector is targeted.

Even though the private sector does not currently use the concept of EBVs and is not always familiar with it, it was mentioned a couple of times during the workshop which leads us to believe that this would be a topic worth exploring for a follow-up workshop. Ideally, such a workshop would not just explore EBVs on a conceptual level but go into concrete demonstrations of their use and usefulness for the private sector.

### *Life cycle assessments?*

Another idea for a future workshop would be to focus on data that is used for life cycle assessments. There one could explore what kind of data or indicators the private sector requires for life cycle analysis tools and link this up to the EU Taxonomy debate which is very important for business sustainability analysis and interesting for many business sectors.



### Concluding remarks

The feedback we received from participants regarding this workshop was quite positive. What was appreciated first and foremost by the participants was to be included in this conversation and to be invited to give input on their perspectives. It was also brought forth that the connections between the different participants were quite valuable, as they were able to exchange on difficulties encountered or to share best practices.

We can see that the private sector, or at least the participants that we invited to contribute, were all quite keen to make the necessary investments or changes in practice.

What seems to be needed is further guidance as well as capacity building which is where Biodiversa+ could step in to fulfil this role.

Regarding the collaboration with EuropaBON, this type of workshop lend itself particularly well to be held at the stakeholder conference as it allowed the private sector participants to engage further with colleagues from different (public) sectors. This was in any case positively noted by the participants. It should be considered to repeat this specific collaboration again, especially if the topic will be Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBVs).

## Annex

### List of attendees

<b>Organisations</b>
Agroamb Prodalt SL
Ca Colonna SRL
UNEP-WCMC
French Biodiversity Agency (OFB)
Systemiq (2 participants)
Eurofins MITOX BV
GreenVille service s.r.o.
Bayer Crop Science
<i>BELSPO/ Biodiversa+</i>
SEGES Innovation P/S
MCG Research&Innovation, Sustainability Architecture /Urban Planning
<b>Instituut voor Natuur- en Bosonderzoek</b>
GBIF Secretariat
EuropaBON
European Investment Bank
<i>Arcadis</i>
SGM, Consultora de servicios globales mediambientals SL

## D 2.4 Report of the use of biodiversity monitoring data in private decision making

<b>Organisations</b>
<b>FRB – Biodiversa+ (2 participants)</b>
<i>Simbiente Azores – Environmental Management and Engineering, Lta.</i>
<i>EARSC</i>
<i>Metabolic (2 participants)</i>
<i>Flanders Marine Institute/ LifeWatch</i>
<i>The EPE (European Partners for the Environment)</i>
<i>Syngenta Crop Protection AG</i>

The organisations of the facilitators are indicated in bold, those of the speakers in italics.

### Agenda of workshop

<b>Timing</b>	<b>What</b>
	<i>Before break, introductions and scene setting</i>
13:00 - 13:10	Introduction of the workshop
13:10 - 13:15	Introduction to participants <i>Assess the diversity of the group through show of hands: (Geography, Scale at which their organisation operates, which sector, producer or user of data, etc.)</i>
13:15 - 13:45	Scene setting of challenges and bottlenecks: Johan Lammerant <i>20 minutes presentation and 10 minutes Q&amp;A</i>
13:45 -14:10	Scene setting on Biodiversa+ with focus on Biodiversa+ activities: Hilde Eggermont <i>15 minutes presentation and 10 minutes Q&amp;A</i>
14:10 – 14:30	Outcomes of the pre workshop survey <i>10 minutes presentation and 10 minutes of Q&amp;A</i>

## D 2.4 Report of the use of biodiversity monitoring data in private decision making

Timing	What
14:30 – 15:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<i>After break, speedboat exercise</i>	
15:00 - 15:10	<p>Météo icebreaker</p> <p><i>1-1 discussions with neighbours on:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>What is their favourite natural landscape?</i></li> <li>2. <i>Why did they choose to participate?</i></li> </ol> <p><i>5 minutes per question</i></p>
15:10 - 15:20	<p>Introduction to speedboat exercise</p> <p><i>Presentation by facilitators</i></p>
15:20 - 15:35	<p>Define the lighthouse (objective)</p> <p><i>Show of hands (yes, not entirely, no).</i></p> <p><i>Use feedback from participants to reformulate objective together.</i></p> <p><i>Close with vote of newly redefined objective.</i></p>
15:35 - 16:20	<p>Define the winds (strengths, assets) and anchors (brakes, barriers)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>15:35 – 15:45: 5 minutes individual reflection</i></li> <li>• <i>15:45 – 16:00: 15 minutes reflection in subgroups (around 5 per group) + each subgroup determines a rapporteur</i></li> <li>• <i>16:00 – 16:20: 20 minutes in plenary in bingo format (Spokesperson of a group lists the results and if there is overlap with another group, the spokesperson from other group gets up and adds their post-it)</i></li> </ul>
16:20 - 16:30	<p>Prioritise the big picture</p> <p><i>Prioritisation exercise: Participants determine the most important anchors and winds together through show of hands</i></p>
16:30 - 17:00	<p>Focus on anchors</p> <p><i>Determine actions for most important anchors from previous exercise</i></p> <p><i>15 minutes: Split the big group in subgroups by anchor and</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>1. determine within each group the first 3 steps to address the anchor,</i></li> <li>• <i>2. determine how Biodiversa+ could help achieve these steps,</i></li> <li>• <i>3. determine who else “needs to join the boat”.</i></li> </ul>

## D 2.4 Report of the use of biodiversity monitoring data in private decision making

Timing	What
	<i>15 minutes: Report back to big group (subgroup spokesperson)</i>
17:00 -17:15	Wrap-up <i>Feedback from participants</i> <i>Presenting what will be done with results</i> <i>Check-out: All participants describe in one word how they feel leaving the WS.</i>