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Biodiversa+
The European biodiversity partnership

General presentation

& collaboration with the CBD (incl. SBSTTA)

European Expert Meeting in Preparation of
SBSTTA-25 – 14.09.2023, Vilm

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General presentation of Biodiversa+

Biodiversa+ as part of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

legislation and guidance on **green public procurement**, the Commission will integrate criteria and monitoring to boost nature-based solutions.

3.3.3. Measuring and integrating the value of nature

Biodiversity considerations need to be better integrated into public and business decision-making at all levels. Building on existing work[74], the Commission will develop in 2021 methods, criteria and standards to describe the essential features of biodiversity, its services, values, and sustainable use.

These will include **measuring the environmental footprint of products and organisations on the environment**, including through life-cycle approaches and natural capital accounting. In this context, the Commission will support the establishment of an international natural capital accounting initiative.

3.3.4. Improving knowledge, education and skills

The fight against biodiversity loss must be underpinned by sound science. Investing in research, innovation and knowledge exchange will be key to gathering the best data and developing the best nature-based solutions. Research and innovation can test and develop how to prioritise 'green' over 'grey' solutions and help the Commission to support investments in nature-based solutions, such as in old-industrialised, low-income or disaster-hit areas.

In parallel, the Commission will promote and facilitate partnerships, including a dedicated Biodiversity Partnership, to make the bridge between science, policy and practice and make nature-based solutions a reality on the ground. The Commission will

options for ratcheting up the implementation of biodiversity commitments, with increased funding. Horizon Europe's Missions[75] will significantly contribute to filling knowledge gaps and finding solutions to improve the health of ecosystems and their contribution to human health.

In parallel, the Commission will promote and facilitate partnerships, including a dedicated Biodiversity Partnership, to make the bridge between science, policy and practice and make nature-based solutions a reality on the ground. The Commission will also establish in 2020 **a new Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity** in close cooperation with the European Environment Agency. The Centre will: (i) track and assess progress by the EU and its partners including in relation to implementation of biodiversity related international instruments; (ii) foster cooperation and partnership, including between climate and biodiversity scientists; and (iii) underpin policy development. Moreover, the Commission will increase its support to the Intergovernmental science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

To help integrate biodiversity and ecosystems into school, higher education and professional training, the Commission will propose a Council Recommendation on

[74] SWD(2019) 305.
[75] Missions on adaptation to climate change including societal transformation, on healthy oceans, seas coastal and inland waters, on climate-neutral and smart cities, and on soil health and food.

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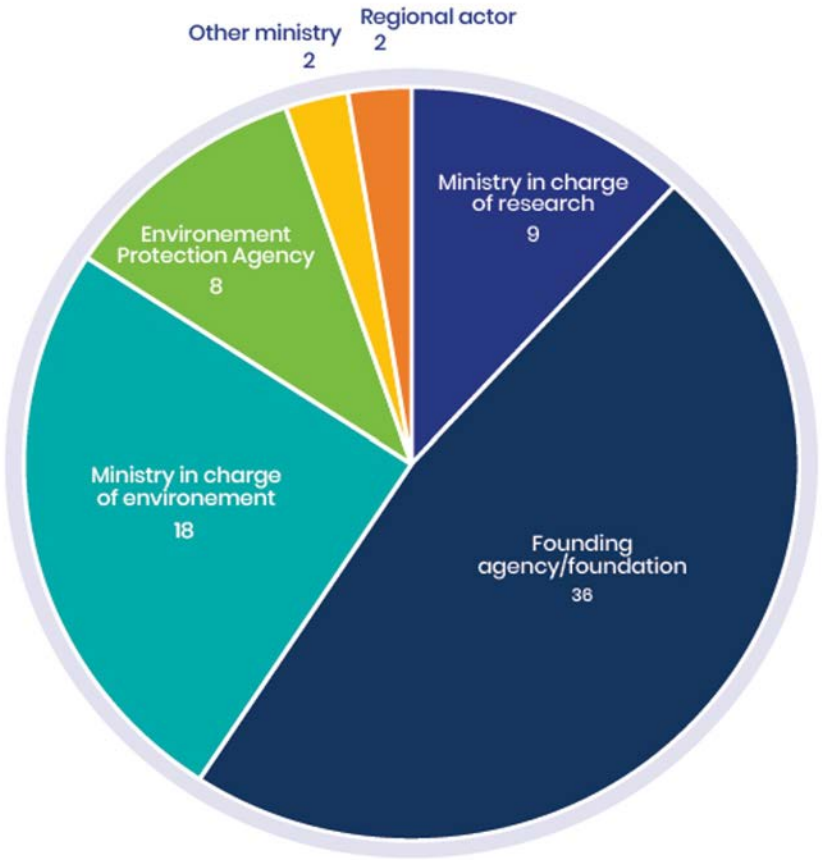
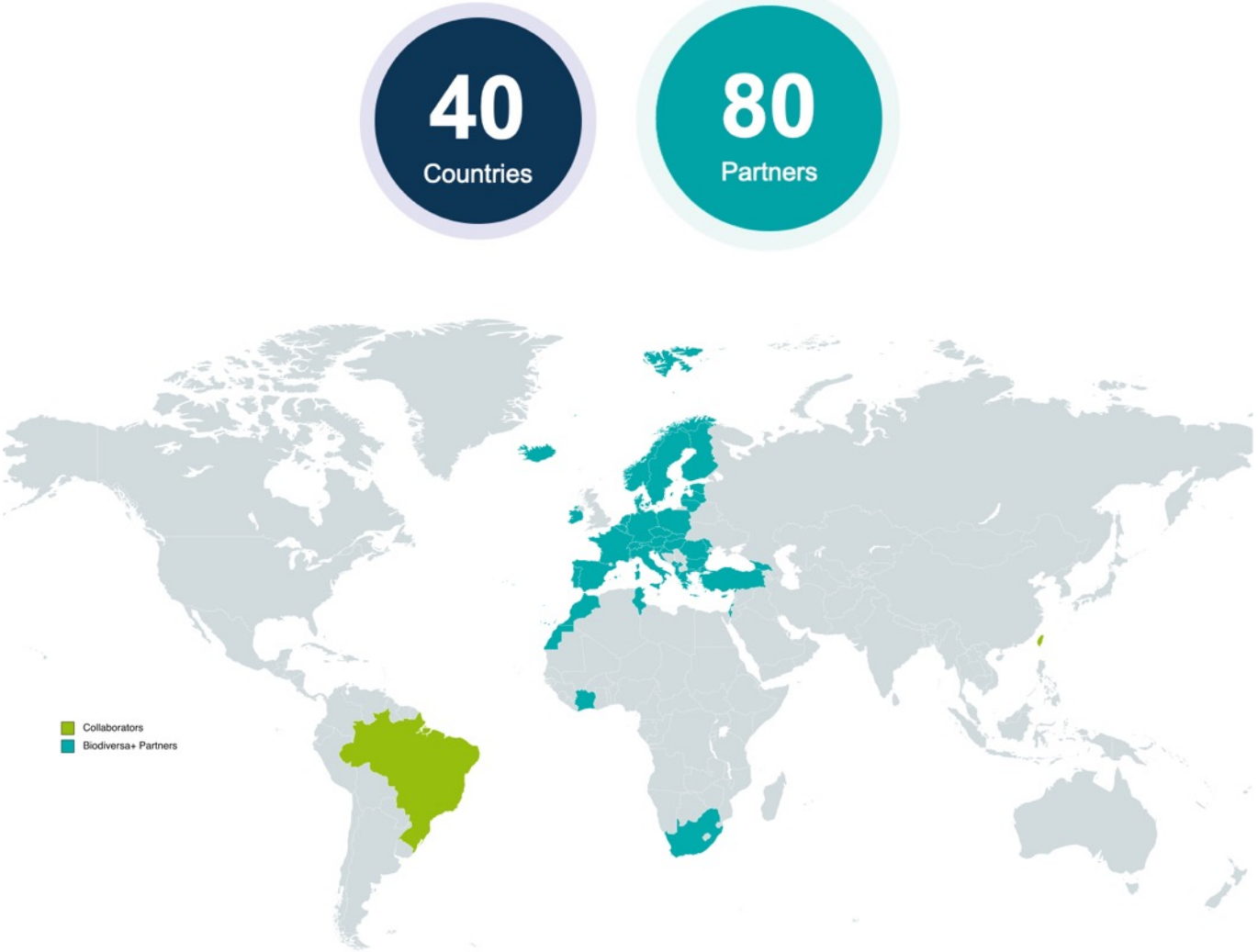
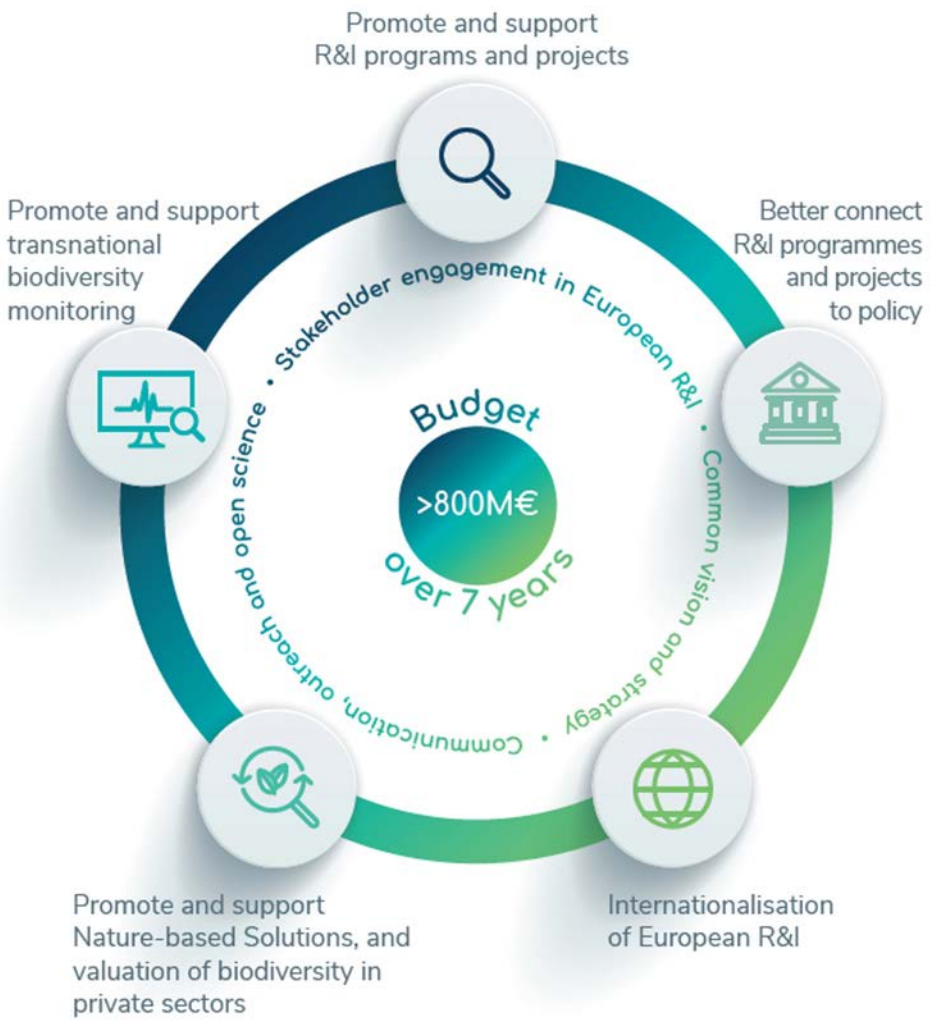
Biodiversa+ membership

Update: **81** partners

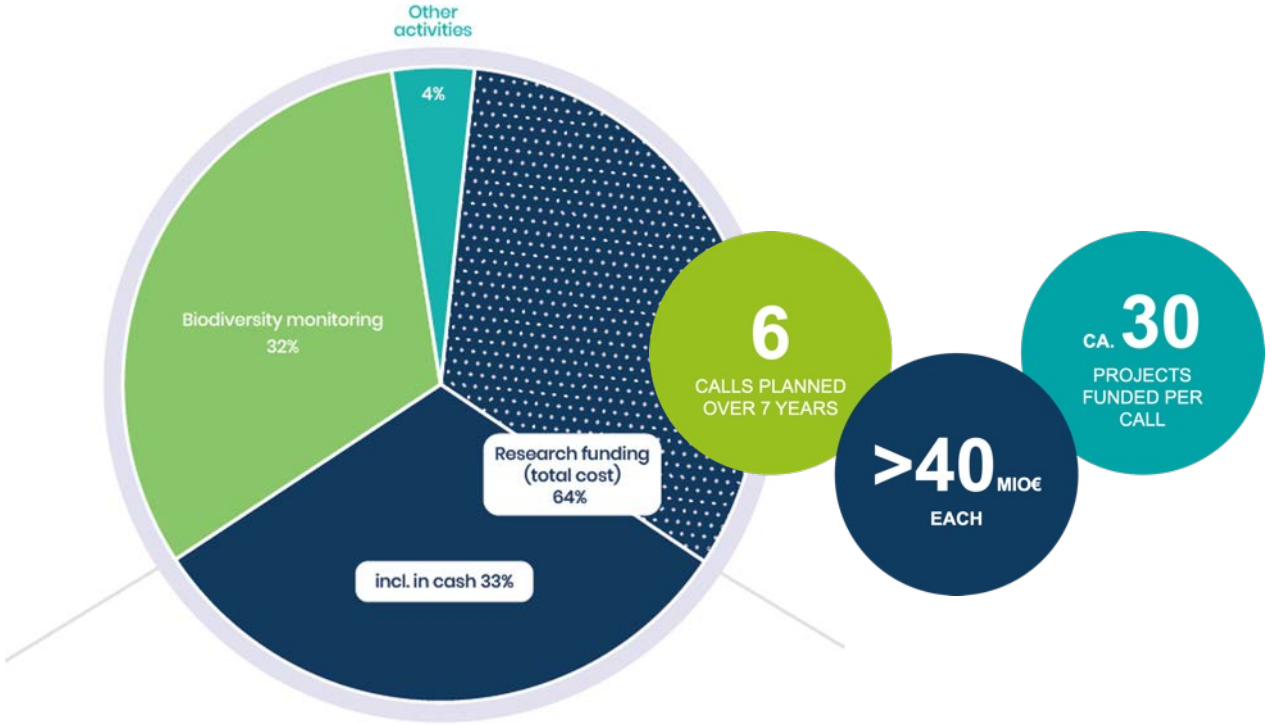




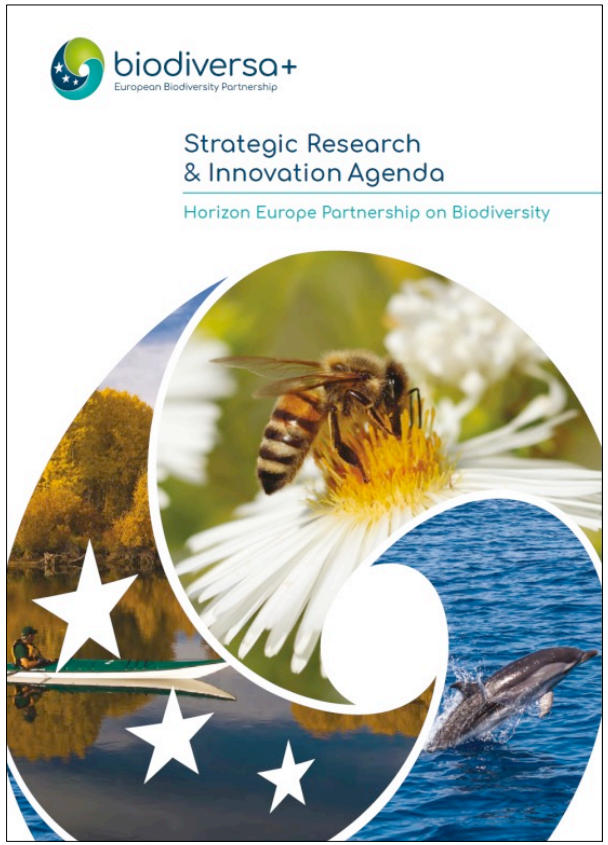
Portfolio of activities and budget amplitude

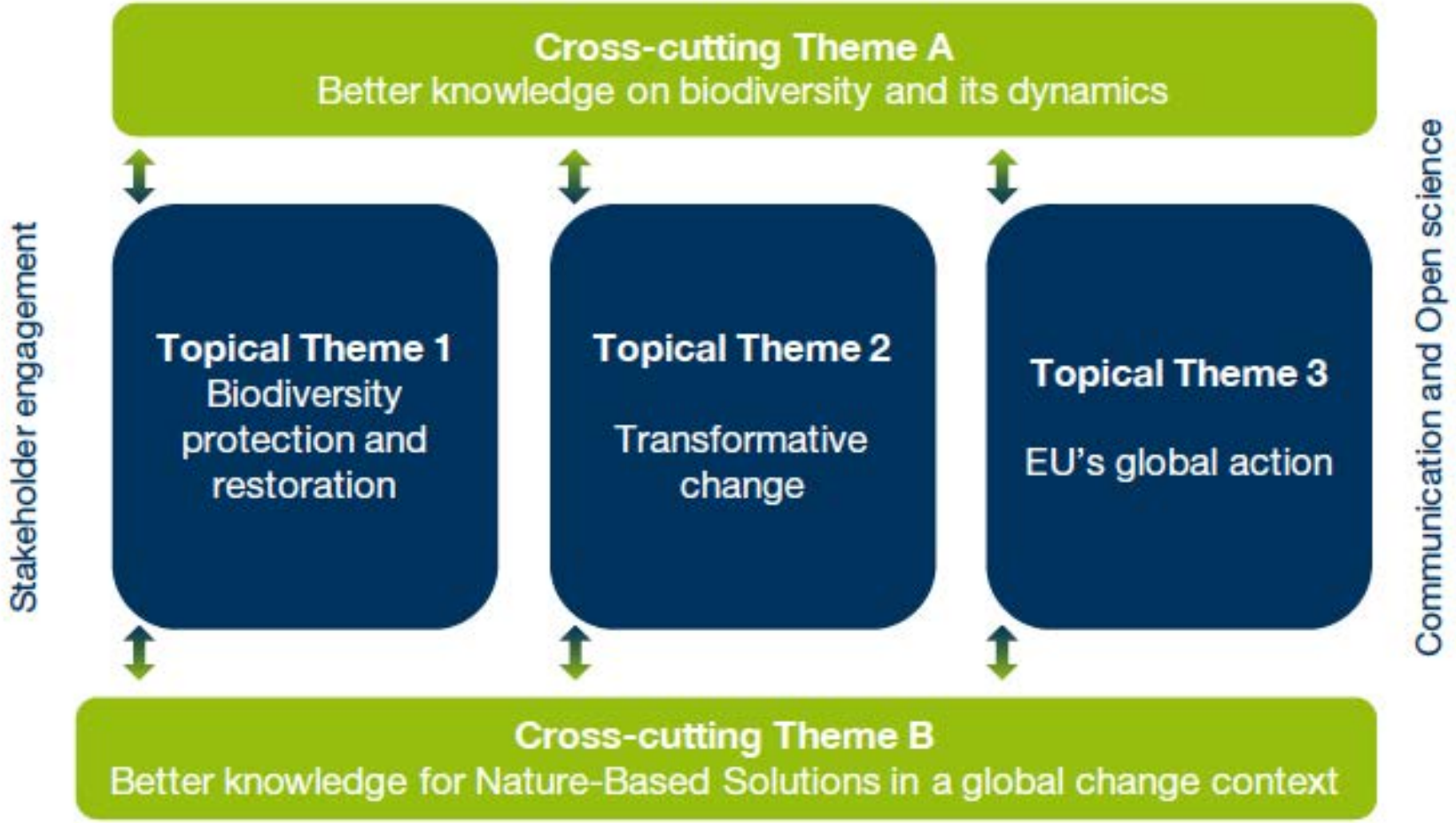


Budget of >**800 Mio €** over 7 yrs (**2021-2027**), combining in-cash and in-kind resources from its Partners and including 165 Mio € by the European Commission



The Biodiversa+ Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda (SRIA)





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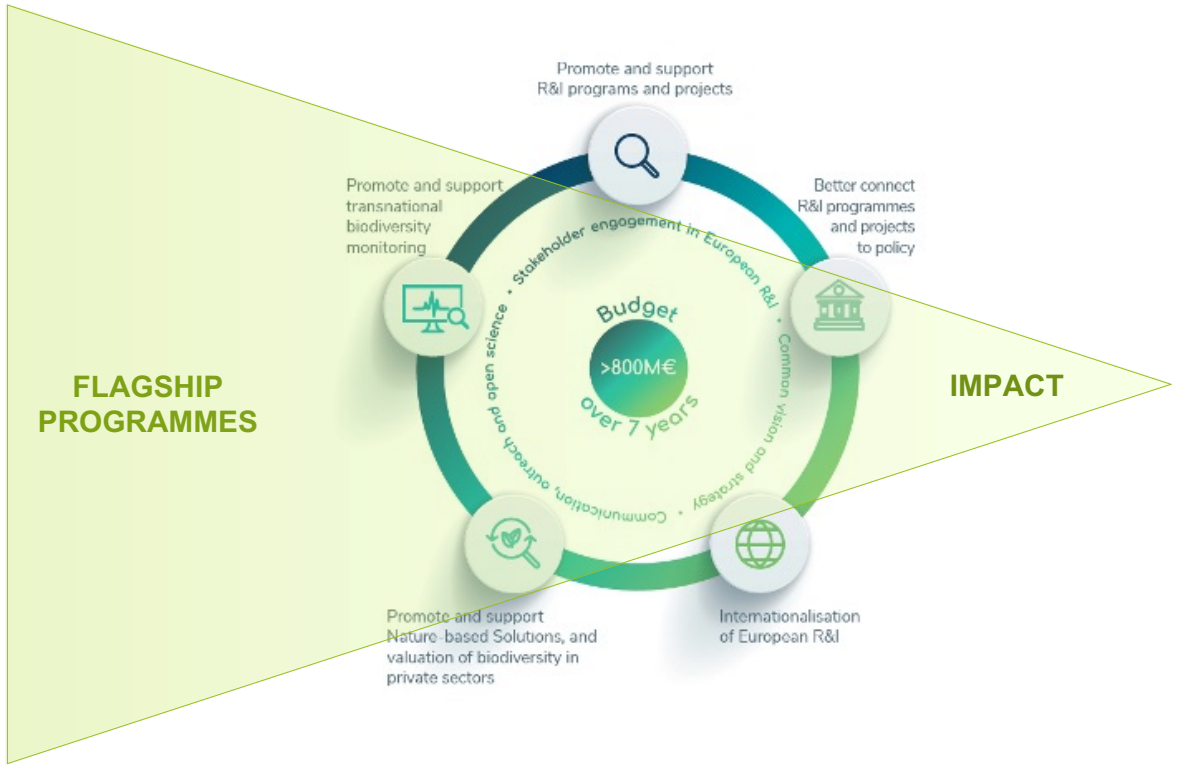
Eggermont H., Le Roux X., Tannerfeldt M. Enfedaque, J., Zaunberger, K. & Biodiversa+ partners (2021). Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda. Biodiversa+, 108 pp.

Biodiversa+ flagship programmes



- Multi-annual thematic programmes addressing a **particular biodiversity issue**
- Aligned with the themes identified in the **SRIA**
- Encompass a **portfolio of activities** relevant to the issues tackled and across the different Biodiversa+ work streams.
- Efficiency and impact of through **synergies and cross-linkages** between flagship programmes

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A portfolio of flagship programmes over the Biodiversa+'s life

6 to 8 thematic flagship programmes

Launched in 2021

- Supporting biodiversity and ecosystem **protection** across land and sea
- Better transnational **monitoring of biodiversity** to better characterize, understand and report on biodiversity dynamics and trends

Launched in 2022

- Better knowledge to develop, deploy and assess **Nature-based Solutions**
- Supporting **societal transformation** for the sustainable use and management of biodiversity

Next one in 2024

- Topic to be decided (e.g., Supporting EU's contribution to global biodiversity conservation)

Transnational added value of funded research projects

"**Transnational added value** is the value resulting from the transnational research project, which is additional to the value that would have resulted from research projects funded at national level (e.g., relevance to international policy statements or processes)" *BiodivProtect Call Document*

BiodivInvasives (2012-2018), see AI5

9 projects

6
Non-EU Partner countries

E.g., Canada, Norway, South Africa, Turkey, USA

BiodivClim (2019-2024), see AI6

21 projects

14
Non-EU Partner countries

E.g., Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Indonesia, Israel, Norway, South Africa, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, USA

Achievements of our previous network: BiodivERsA (2005-2021)
From excellent research to excellent & impactful research

- BiodivERsA ERANET (2005-2021) has launched **11 calls** for research projects and funded **149 projects** in the biodiversity field (219 Mio €)

- Research projects led to more than **1,600 scientific articles** (>1,200 in open access) and a number of articles in the **most prestigious journals** (e.g., Nature, Science), according to WOS
- A number of articles had a **major influence in research** (e.g., an article is ranked 95 in the most cited publications worldwide in the biodiversity field), according to WOS
- A number of funded research projects explored **innovative topics, now essential** (e.g., call on biodiversity and health from 2018, BiodivHealth)


REVIEW

Emerging fungal threats to animal, plant and ecosystem health

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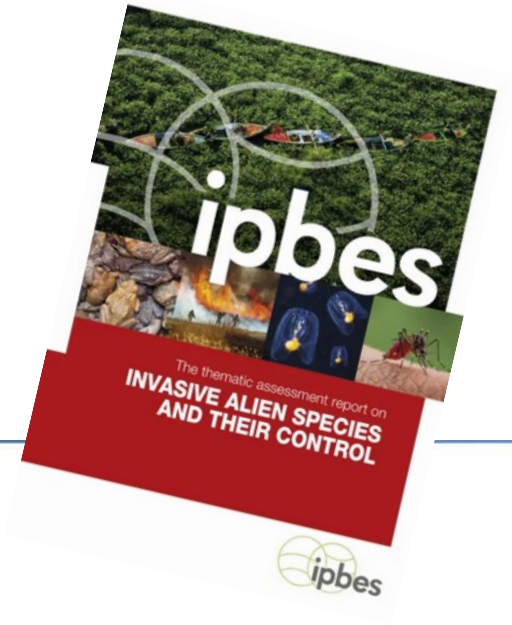
Achievements of our previous network: BiodivERsA (2005-2021)
From excellent research to excellent & impactful research

Excellent research: what's the point from a policy perspective?

- A number of articles were used in **IPBES assessments** and had a **key influence in decision-making**

Example of the IAS assessment (2023): out of 9 funded projects, articles from 5 projects were synthetised in the chapters



How to use Biodiversa+ scientific findings for SBSTTA-25?

1. **Read the Brochure of each call to see whether projects might be relevant for an agenda item (on the Biodiversa+ website)**

2. **Read scientific articles based on Biodiversa+ funded projects (through WOS)**

3. **Read Policy briefs based on Biodiversa+ funded projects (on the Biodiversa+ website)**

How to use Biodiversa+ scientific findings for SBSTTA-25?

1

UN environment programme

CBD/SBSTTA/25/1/Rev.1

Convention on Biological Diversity

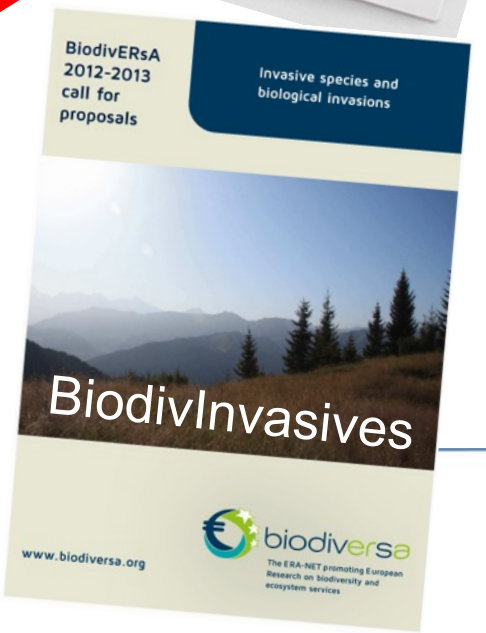
Distr.: General
3 August 2023

Original: English

Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice
Twenty-fifth meeting
Nairobi, 15–19 October 2023

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters: election of officers and adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Facilitating the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the monitoring of its progress:
   (a) Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
   (b) Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review;
   (c) Approaches to identifying scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Framework, including its implication for the programmes of work of the Convention;
   (d) Plant conservation.
4. Findings from the assessments by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and their implications for the work undertaken under the Convention.
5. Invasive alien species.
6. Sustainable wildlife management.
7. Biodiversity and climate change.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report.
10. Closure of the meeting.



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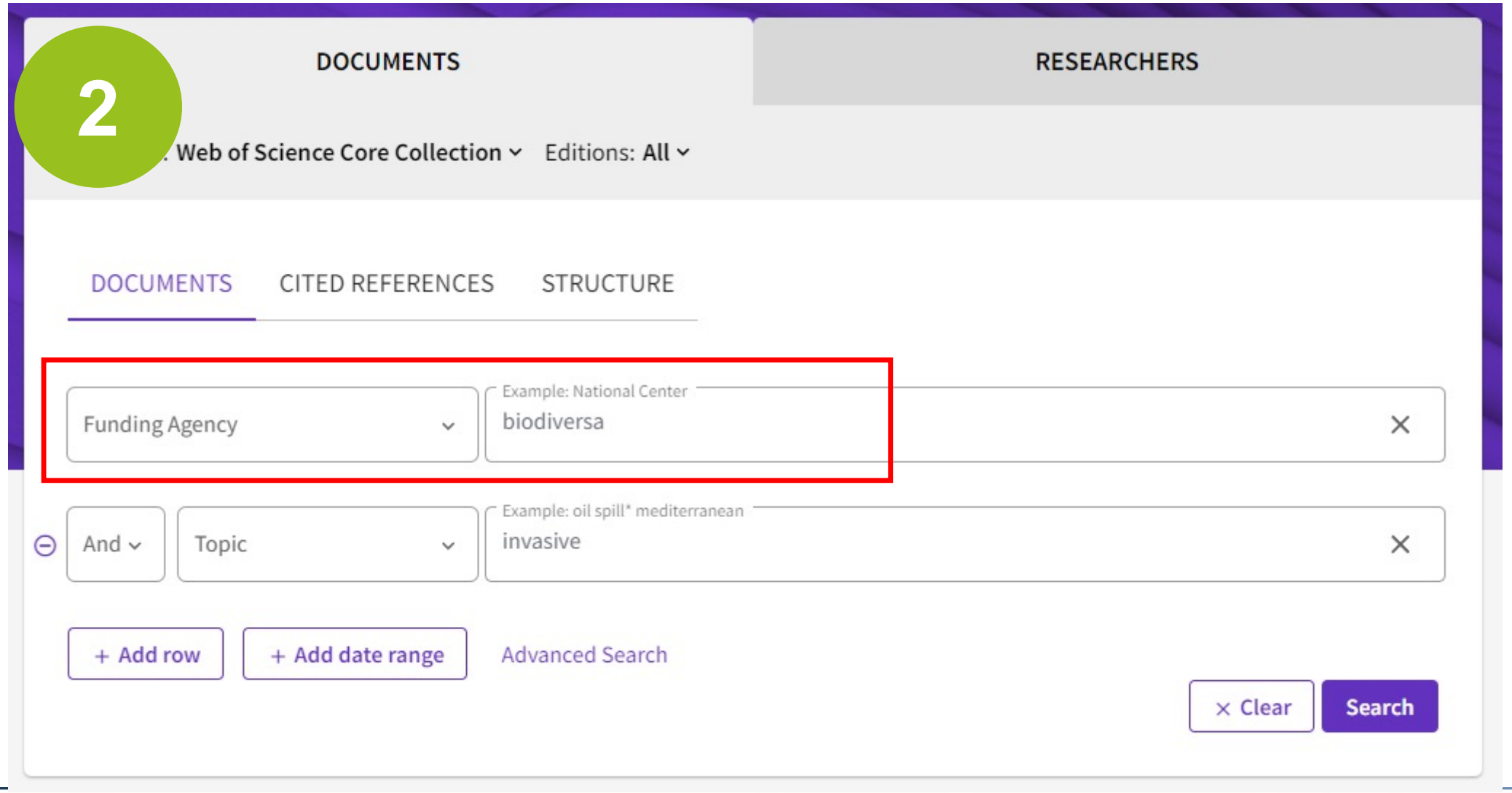
How to use Biodiversa+ scientific findings for SBSTTA-25?



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How to use Biodiversa+ scientific findings for SBSTTA-25?

3

POLICYBRIEF

Action on invasive alien species should better anticipate climate change effects on biological invasions in Europe

Main findings

Due to changing climatic conditions, the rate of change in distribution and overall range, the risk of alien species becoming naturalised, and their potential impacts may increase.

BiodivERsA-funded research has quantified how climate change determines these important components of the invasion process for contrasting organisms in Europe: the African clawed frog, an alder tree pathogen, and a variety of ornamental garden plants.

The research findings highlight the need for horizon scanning to detect species that might become invasive under future climates – whose introduction could be prevented.

Key policy recommendations

Changes in climatic conditions will increase the risk of new invasive alien species in Europe in the near future. In response to this emerging risk, BiodivERsA-funded projects propose that Invasive Alien Species policy implementation by Member States and the European Commission should:

- Include climate-distribution modelling under different RCP climate scenarios in **horizon scanning to identify alien species** that have the potential to be invasive in the future due to climate change, and to screen out species with a low risk of invasion.
- Include an assessment of the likely species range change in Europe in response to climate change in the **risk assessment of invasive alien species** identified as high priority in the EU.
- Introduce an EU-wide **early detection and rapid response system** for alien garden plants in Europe to anticipate potential invaders under future climate scenarios.

POLICY BRIEF

Small-scale fisheries and co-management schemes

Main findings

- Granting **spatially explicit use rights for fisheries** combined with co-management creates a sense of ownership and responsibility and can **improve both economic output** and **biodiversity conservation** in small-scale benthic fisheries.
- Areas with **high levels of protection and enforcement** are **most effective** at **simultaneously meeting goals** for both **fisheries and biodiversity conservation**. **Greater distance** from **human pressure improves effectiveness**.
- **Models** incorporating **within-species genetic variation of commercial fish species** with **regional physical environmental factors** can help to explain important **long-distance dispersal** events. Knowledge of fish dispersal beyond the immediate surroundings of protected areas is important for effective management of fisheries.

Key policy recommendations

- Promote local co-management and granting of exclusive fishing rights in exchange for compliance with science-based management guidelines to benefit both the fishery and biodiversity conservation.
- Include both fully and partially protected areas in networks to optimise fishery and biodiversity conservation gains. Adjacent location of fully and moderately protected areas increases the effectiveness of both.
- Use spatially explicit biophysical models and within-species genetic diversity to guide the design of fishing effort allocation and optimal placing, sizing and spacing of protected areas within networks.

Conifer Forest Site © LinkTree team

POLICY BRIEF

Adaptation of trees and forests to climate change: the importance of genetic variability

Forests cover approximately 25% of Europe, roughly 117 million hectares. They play a critical role in wood production, the conservation of forest biodiversity, maintenance of carbon sinks and the provision of many ecosystem services. They thus have great ecological, economic and cultural value. Natural forests are also reservoirs of genetic diversity for tree species, essential to the adaptation of forests - and thus of the forestry sector - to climate change.

Trees are long-lived, and maintaining resilient forest ecosystems requires more than planting new tree varieties and species. Persistence will largely depend on the ability of existing trees and populations to adapt locally. In particular, the existence of a high level of genetic diversity within stands is a key prerequisite for forest trees to adapt and be resilient to the unpredictable effects of climate change.

The BiodivERsA-funded project LinkTree examined genetic variation within forest tree populations in five European countries, and assessed how this variability and its management could help forests adapt to environmental changes. This policy brief presents some results and recommendations on how forest policy and management strategies in Europe can be improved.

Main findings

- Tree species within (semi-)natural forests contain significant genetic variation.
- Variable environmental conditions, such as temperature, light availability and drought intensity maintain and promote genetic diversity within and between (semi-)natural forests, even at short spatial scales.
- High genetic variation in forest tree populations allows for more rapid adaptation to climate change.
- Genes associated with key adaptive traits (such as trees' resistance to drought, cold or forest fires) can vary in their frequency spatially and geographically; this type of information is now easily accessible and should be included, along with neutral genetic diversity, in the adaptive forest management toolkit.
- Forestry practices can significantly modify the genetic composition and structure of forest trees and the evolution of their genetic diversity.

Key policy recommendations

- It is advised that conservation of genetic resources is promoted in the implementation of the **EU Forest Strategy** at all levels.
- Forest management plans as set out in the **EU Biodiversity Strategy** (target 3b) would benefit from incorporating measures to maintain and if necessary increase genetic variation within tree populations and stands to ensure the ability of forests to adapt to climate change. The conservation of tree genetic resources should be promoted accordingly.
- Management of the **Natura2000 *network*** should take into account that protected forests can act as gene banks.
- **Implementation of the EU Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change could be improved by** inclusion and promotion of practical guidance on adaptive forest management using genetic diversity and resources.
- The **1999 EU Directive on marketing of forest reproductive material** should be improved with requirements on how to maintain high genetic diversity within traded seed lots. Requirements include the minimum number of seed trees to collect from a natural stand, the necessity to sample seed trees from ecologically variable micro-environments within stands, and the importance of mixing seed lots within a region of provenance.

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Links between the CBD and Biodiversa+

CBD COP 12 side-event about the BiodivERsA2 INVALUABLE funded project 2014

CBD SBSTTA information document drafted by the BiodivERsA2 FFII funded project 2016

EKLIPSE workshop report 2018

"What needs to be done to better integrate R&K on biodiv. and ES from the global to the Europ. level, and vice versa?"

BiodivERsA3 Guide on Policy Relevance 2018

BiodivERsA3 in the CBD COP14 Science-Policy Forum (NbS) 2018

BiodivScen conference considered "an accomplishment" by the CBD OEWG co-chairs 2021

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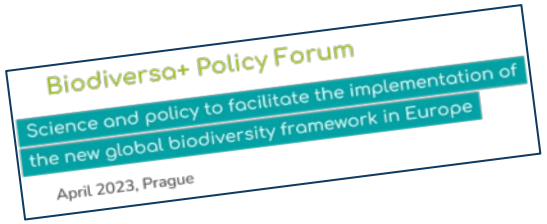
General Assembly Feb. 2022, *identify targeted MEAs*

Surveys in 2022 (one for partners and one for funded scientists), *identify needs for capacity-building*



Concept note May 2022, *draft a strategy for collaboration with MEAs*

CBD COP15.2 side-events on biodiversity monitoring Dec. 2022

Policy Forum on indicators and tools to facilitate the KMGBF implementa-tion April 2023

CBD capacity-building webinar targeting funded scientists June 2023

Focus on the collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) – **Biodiversa+ contact points**

Workstream leaders and coordinator



Rainer Sodtke, DLR – Germany

Rob J.J. Hendriks, LNV – The Netherlands (CHM NFP)

Mariem El Harrak, FRB – France

In charge of the collaboration with the CBD

Charlotte Le Delliou, MTECT_FR – France (SBSTTA expert), Task 5.3 (T5.3)

Activities carried out so far

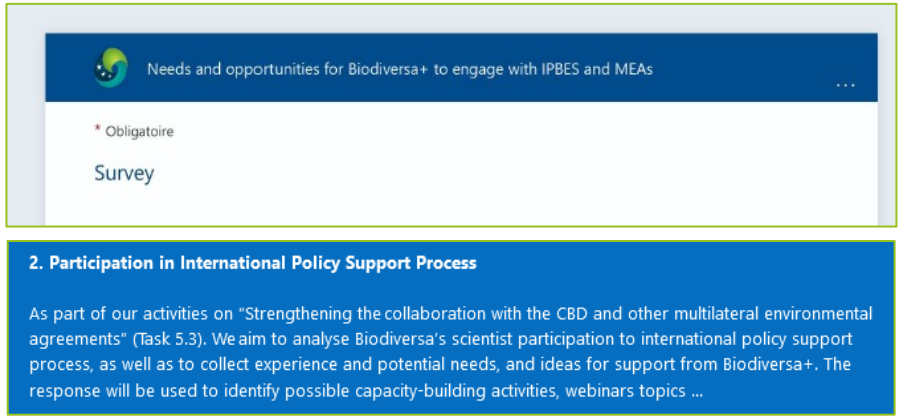
Indicators of the Global Biodiversity Framework – Expert nomination open!

The Global Biodiversity Framework was adopted at COP15, along with its monitoring framework. In this context, the CBD secretariat is launching an **ad hoc technical expert group** (AHTEG) **on indicators for monitoring the Global Biodiversity Framework**, and is looking for experts from different backgrounds. The time contribution is committed on a pro-bono basis.

Biodiversa+ Partners and stakeholders are invited to nominate experts **through their own** focal points **and organisations** no later than 24 February 2023.

Find more information on this expert nomination.

- Monitoring and dissemination of relevant **notifications** to the Biodiversa+ community



- **Surveys** to Biodiversa+ partners to identify the needs and opportunities to engage with the CBD, and to BiodivERsA scientists to identify their involvement in the CBD (April 2022)

- Concept **note** (=strategy) (May 2022)

Title	Building capacity to deliver open biodiversity data for research and decisions in support of the Global Biodiversity Framework
Hosts	GBIF | OBIS | MOEJ | EC | SPREP | ACB | (Biodiversa+) | Belgian Biodiversity Platform | WCS |

- **Side-events** on biodiversity monitoring at **COP15.2** and the 8th session of the Science-Policy Forum (December 2022, replay)

CBD ten-year strategic plan	Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (2010)	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework 2022-2030 and Kunming-Montreal 2030 Global Targets (2022)
Research	Not in the text (i.e., not in the strategic goals and targets, although mentioned in Support Mechanisms)	In the text (targets 20 & 21) "Strengthen capacity-building and development, [...] and promote development of and access to innovation and technical and scientific cooperation [...] to meet the needs for effective implementation [...] fostering [...] joint scientific research programmes for the conservation and sustainable use and sustainable use of biodiversity and strengthening scientific research and monitoring capacities [...]" "Ensure that the best available data, information and knowledge, are accessible to decision makers, practicioners and the public to guide effective and equitable governance, integrated and participatory management of biodiversity, and strengthen communication, awareness-raising, education, monitoring, research and knowledge management [...]" + more broadly, "whole-of-society approach" promoted (section C)
Knowledge (broader)	In the text (target 19) "By 2020, knowledge, the science base [...] relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied."	In the text (target 21, see above)

- **Analysis** of the **implications** of the KMGBF for Biodiversa+ (e.g., knowledge gaps, indicators, Jan. 2023)

Activities carried out so far

- **Policy Forum** on indicators and tools to facilitate the KMGBF **implementation** (April 2023, replay)

- **Technical Workshop** focusing on the KMGBF Target 3 (May 2023)

- **Capacity building webinar** targeting Biodiversa+ funded scientists, focusing on the **CBD science-policy interface** (June 2023, replay)

Focus on the collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) – **Beyond WP5 and T5.3 (examples)**

WP2: Data supporting the **nat. reports** & the **global review**

WP1: Calls in line with the SCBD **priorities and agenda**

WP4: **Implementation** of the KMGBF at the Europ. & nat. levels

WP3: **Implementation** of the KMGBF at the Europ. & nat. levels

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Forthcoming activities related to the CBD and collaboration foreseen with the SCBD

What next? Activities foreseen by the end of 2023

Identifying scientific and technical needs in support of the implementation of the KMGBF: how can different regional and global initiatives foster it and complement each other?
CO-OP4CBD | France | ACB | (Biodiversa+) | EC |

- Potential **side-event at SBSTTA-25** alongside other regional scientific initiatives (EU & ASEAN, Oct. 2023)

Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity

- **Further potential side-events** presenting Biodiversa+ and BiodivERsA scientific findings supporting the CBD

- Drafting of a Biodiversa+ **KMGBF implementation strategy** (4th quarter of 2023)

Collaboration with the SCBD

- **Previous collaboration** with the SBCD in BiodivERsA ERANET (e.g., review of a SRIA)
- **SCBD** took part (Ms Jillian Campbell) in the Biodiversa+ **Policy Forum** (April 2023, Prague) and presented the KMGBF and its implications for stakeholders such as our partnership
- **SCBD** took part (three staff members) in the Biodiversa+ **capacity-building webinar** (June 2023, online) and highlighted ways to get involved in CBD processes as a scientist
- **SCBD** and Biodiversa+ organised an online **meeting** to discuss about the partnership and avenues for collaboration (great interest in its internat. dimension and its work programme)
- Biodiversa+ will give a **presentation** to the **SCBD** "**Science, Policy and Governance Unit**" in the fourth quarter of 2023 (tbc)

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Complementarity between the CO-OP4CBD project and Biodiversa+

How do CO-OP4CBD and Biodiversa+ complement each other?

- CO-OP4CBD and Biodiversa+ both funded through the **Horizon Europe programme**
- Not the same **members**: research stakeholders for CO-OP4CBD (e.g., CBD CHM), research (e.g., funders) and policy stakeholders for Biodiversa+ (e.g., ministries, EPA)
- Not targeting the same **audience**: primarily scientists for Biodiversa+ (incl. Southern Europe), primarily decision-makers for CO-OP4CBD (especially Eastern Europe)
- Biodiversa+ as a **longer and broader** project (2021-2027, and beyond, 800 Mio €), CO-OP4CBD (2023-2027, 5 Mio €)
- Not the same **portfolio of activities**: monitoring, research programming and funding, policy-making and implementation for Biodiversa+
- Existing **collaborations** between both projects (common partners, dialogue & support)

- Presentation at the **CO-OP4CBD kick-off meeting** (February 2023)

- Discussion with the **CO-OP4CBD** consortium to consider potential **avenues for collaboration** between both EU initiatives (April, June and July 2023)

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Co-funded by the European Union

Thank you!

Email us for further discussion

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