



## BiodivRestore Knowledge hub: A pan-European Nature Restoration Knowledge Hub to strengthen the knowledge base for the implementation of the Nature Restoration Law

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### → What is the BiodivRestore Knowledge hub: A pan-European Nature Restoration Knowledge Hub to strengthen the knowledge base for the implementation of the Nature Restoration Law?

The BiodivRestore Knowledge Hub is a **thematic network** consisting of selected researchers with expertise on biodiversity and ecosystem restoration interlinkages and more specifically on the focus of the knowledge hub which is **strengthening the knowledge base for the implementation of the Nature Restoration Law**.

The knowledge hub will contribute to the **integration and sharing of knowledge, research and technological excellence, data and modelling tools**, as well as implementation of training and capacity building activities for researchers to increase the capacities of the research community in the field of biodiversity and ecosystem restoration. It will also improve communication and networking between researchers and stakeholders to **enhance research impact and knowledge transfer towards advancing the Research & Innovation Agenda**.

#### → What does the focus of the knowledge hub “to strengthen the knowledge base for the implementation of the Nature Restoration Law” cover?

The focus of the knowledge hub is related to the funded projects under the BiodivRestore joint research call, launched in 2020 by Biodiversa and Water JPI. These projects covered the following aspects:

- Studying the biological and biophysical processes at stake for conservation/restoration, and their interactions
- Assessing trade-offs and synergies between targets, benefits and policies for conservation and restoration
- Knowledge for improving the effectiveness and upscaling of conservation and restoration actions

This BiodivRestore Knowledge hub will contribute to **the integration and sharing of knowledge, research and technological excellence to support countries in the development and implementation of their National Restoration Plans**, to help ensure they can reach the targets set out in the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and Global



Biodiversity Framework. It will also improve **communication and networking** between researchers and stakeholders to enhance **research impact and knowledge transfer** towards policy and society, and feed the European research & innovation strategy on this topic.

### → Who can be part of the Knowledge hub?

The Knowledge Hub will be targeting **BiodivRestore funded projects in first priority**, but on-going **projects funded under other Biodiversa calls and relevant projects** (addressing questions of the ecosystem restoration) will also be invited. Seats could also be reserved to **specific experts**, e.g. experts engaged in the IENE network.

### → How will the Knowledge hub be organized?

The BiodivRestore Knowledge hub will be composed of two task forces:

- An **'Implementation Task Force'** focusing on strengthening the knowledge base of the implementation of the NRL.
- A **'R&I Task Force'** focusing on advancing the Research & Innovation Agenda.

**Each task force will work on a specific work plan and set of activities – that will be co-designed with the task forces** once set-up. In addition, joint activities between both Task Forces could be developed which could lead to joint outputs such as (1) a Knowledge Hub Conference, (2) Impacts of the Knowledge Hub & Lessons learned, (3) Infographics.

Each task force will be **led by two Co-Chairs**, one of them will be an early career researcher. Both will be BiodivRestore researchers or external researchers with proven links to Biodiversa-funded research projects, documented expertise and time available to conduct this role.

**Each Task Force will be composed of up to 25 participants**, encouraging gender balance, regional balance and engagement of different disciplines. Participation of early career researchers<sup>1</sup> and researchers with a small research community and with lower performance in international calls will be particularly welcome to encourage integration of these researchers in broader international research communities. This composition will remain fixed throughout the lifetime of the Knowledge Hub;

The Task Forces will be supported by the BiodivRestore Secretariat.

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<sup>1</sup> Early career researchers correspond to researchers with less than 7 years of experience after obtaining their degree (and under 40 years of age).



### → What will be the duration of the Knowledge hub?

The knowledge hub will last until the end of the BiodivRestore Action (September 2025) and will likely continue under the Biodiversa+ partnership. This prolongation will be discussed at the end of the running period.

### → What will the Knowledge hub concretely work on?

Each task Force will focus on a set of activities such as :

#### For the Implementation Task Force

- Strengthening the knowledge base of the implementation of the NRL;
- Development of science-based guidance/standards/good practices to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of restoration measures by the countries;
- Increase general knowledge about the purpose and principles of ecological restoration;
- Foster inter-and multidisciplinary collaboration;
- Provide guidance on the set up of national knowledge network hubs to help countries reach their restoration targets.

#### For the R&I Task Force

- Advance the Research & Innovation Agenda;
- Exchange of ideas for future transnational research (building of project proposals and consortia);
- Identification of knowledge gaps/research needs;
- Identification of research-implementation gaps and ways to overcome these.

In both Task Forces, specific activities for early career researchers/fellows may also be foreseen, including mobility opportunities, capacity building and network activities.

In addition, joint activities between both Task Forces could be developed which could lead to joint outputs such as (1) a Knowledge Hub Conference, (2) Impacts of the Knowledge Hub & Lessons learned, (3) Infographics.

**The exact work plan of the two task forces will be co-designed at the start of the knowledge hub.**

### → What is the added value for me to join the knowledge hub?

Joining the knowledge hub will allow you to



- **Inform the contents of the Biodiversa+ Strategic Research & Innovation** needs for future funding;
- Access to **opportunities for networking**;
  - For fellow / early career researcher and researchers from small research communities: have access to capacity building activities, reinforce your integration in transnational networks and increase your chance to participate in future pan-European research projects
- **Foster knowledge exchange** and transfer across research and policy domains.

### → What is expected from task force members and what is the level of investment expected from task force members ?

All experts will **serve in their personal capacity**, even if they are attached to a specific public/private (research) institute.

Task forces members will be expected to:

- Propose elements for the work plan of their task force;
- Actively participate in, and contribute to activities rolled out by the Task Force;
- Help to showcase and communicate on the outcomes and impact of the Knowledge hub

The task force Members will **meet typically 3 times per year**. They will be expected to conduct their business **by online meetings mostly**, but **one physical meeting is planned every year**.

As needed, task forces may meet in (virtual) sub-groups to advance work on specific milestones and deliverables and depending on the specific interests of the participants.

### → What is the mandate of the Co-chairs and what is expected from the Co-chairs?

**Each Task Force will be led by two Co-Chairs**, one being an early career researcher. Both will be BiodivRestore researchers or external researchers with proven links to Biodiversa-funded research projects, documented expertise and time available to conduct this role.

Co-Chairs will be **selected for the whole duration of the Knowledge Hub**. Their mandate will be renewable for one more term if the Knowledge hub is to be prolonged.

For each task force, Co-Chairs will be expected to:

- Prepare an annual work plan for their respective Task Force with input from the Task force members;
- Provide guidance on the mobilisation of resources to support the Knowledge Hub implementation;



- With support from the BiodivRestore Secretariat, organise Task Force and other meetings related to the implementation of the Task Force's workplan (physical and virtual). The Co-Chairs will set the agenda, lead and chair the meetings, and define and coordinate follow-up actions;
- With support from the BiodivRestore Secretariat and Management Committee, contribute to timely follow up of the Knowledge Hub work plan and its deliverables;
- Provide feedback to the BiodivRestore General Assembly with regards to progress made by the knowledge hub task forces (typically every year);
- Liaise with the Secretariat to ensure representation of the Knowledge Hub at external events of scientific and strategic importance, and upon request of the BiodivRestore General Assembly;
- If relevant, create synergies between the two task forces.

### → What is the level of expertise expected from knowledge hub members?

All experts participating to the knowledge hub should have:

- documented and respected scientific expertise in the field of ecosystem (or nature) restoration
- have the capacity to work in English
- good networking skills, and ability to work across cultures and disciplines
- time available for engagement in the knowledge hub
- recent/active participation in Biodiversa funded projects and/ or with proven links to ecosystem restoration projects
- interest and/or experience for science policy and / or science society interface

Experts interested in the role of senior Co-Chair should in addition meet the following set of requirements:

- visionary senior expert with recognised leadership in the field of biodiversity and climate change
- have previous Board/chairing experience, preferably in a pan-European context
- proven strategic planning and organisational management skills
- good communicator
- time available for the full discharge of the Co-Chair's duties

Experts interested in the role of early-career Co-Chair should in addition meet the following set of requirements:

- less than 7 years of experience after obtaining their degree
- demonstrate a first leadership / chairing experience, preferably in a pan-European context
- proven strategic planning and organisational management skills
- good communicator
- time available for the full discharge of the Co-Chair's duties



→ **Will I be paid if I am selected?**

**No remuneration is planned** for experts of the task forces. However, please note that the **costs related to your participation (travel, accommodation and subsistence) in the knowledge hub events will be covered** through the BiodivRestore ERA-NET COFUND Action.

For the Co-Chairs, a **remuneration of 4,500€ per year** is foreseen considering that the Co-Chairs would have to dedicate ca. 1 person/month per year to the chairing of their group. Besides, the costs related to their participation (travel, accommodation and subsistence) in the knowledge hub events will be covered.

→ **I am interested in applying: how should I proceed?**

**All applicants will need to submit their candidacy using the following online registration form: [LINK](#) by 7 March 2024.** They will have to answer a few specific questions (name, organisation, country, represented project, time they are ready to invest in the knowledge hub, expertise) and will have to submit a short CV, as well as a short motivation letter (1-page max) elaborating how participation to the knowledge hub will contribute to the researcher's career path and impact.

Experts interested to be a Co-Chair will have to submit supplementary information, as described above.

→ **When will I know if I am selected to be part of the knowledge hub?**

Your application will be reviewed by the Knowledge Hub Management Committee and BiodivRestore General Assembly. Results of the selection process will be communicated in **March 2024**.

Selected applicants will be invited to join a **first Knowledge hub meeting on 30 May– 31 May 2024** during which the task forces will agree on the knowledge hub work programme. Please **already save the date** to make sure you would be available.

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